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CANADA SIGNS UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced that Canada signed the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances at a ceremony held today in Vienna, Austria. The Convention was negotiated over the past three weeks during a United Nations Conference attended by 104 countries.

In accordance with the concerns addressed by the National Drug Strategy announced in May, 1987, the Canadian delegation took a leading role in negotiating this international treaty against drug trafficking.

The new Convention greatly enhances world-wide cooperation by making international criminal offences of drug trafficking, money laundering and the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants. It also establishes procedures to facilitate extradition of drug offenders and the confiscation of proceeds derived from drug offences. Mutual legal assistance and other forms of cooperation among police forces, customs agencies and health officials are strengthened.

The Canadian delegation to the Conference was led by the Department of External Affairs, and also included representatives from the RCMP and the Departments of Justice, Health and Welfare, National Revenue and the Solicitor General's office.

- 30 -

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada