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# news release

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## ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CANADA-FRANCE TREATY ON TRANSFER OF INMATES

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Solicitor General, the Honourable Elmer MacKay, announce the entry into force, on October 1, 1984 of the Agreement between Canada and France on the Transfer of Inmates and the Supervision of Persons under Sentence, which was signed in Ottawa on February 9, 1979.

The Agreement is a further example of growing co-operation between Canada and France and illustrates their mutual desire to facilitate, on humanitarian grounds, the rehabilitation of inmates by enabling them to serve the remainder of their sentences in their home countries.

Under the Agreement, an inmate who so desires may apply to serve his sentence in his country of nationality. The transfer of inmates can take place only after all rights of appeal have been exhausted in the sentencing country. No transfer will be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned and approval by both countries.

Canadian and French officials will establish the necessary procedures for transfers in the near future. In Canada, responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Agreement lies with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. There are at present eight French citizens imprisoned in Canada and ten Canadians in French prisons.

This is the sixth bilateral treaty which Canada has concluded on the transfer of offenders. Treaties with Mexico, Peru and the USA are already in force, while those with Bolivia and Thailand are awaiting ratification. Canada is also signatory of a multilateral convention of the Council of Europe on the transfer of sentenced persons; this convention will come into force after three member states have ratified it.