

**PRESS RELEASE**



**COMMUNIQUÉ**

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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OUTER SPACE TREATY ON ASTRONAUTS AND  
SPACE OBJECTS

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Canada has signed the Treaty on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In accordance with procedures adopted for the signing of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in April 1963 and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space in January last year, this new Treaty on astronauts and space objects was opened for signature by the three depository countries, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, on April 22. It was signed today on behalf of Canada by our High Commissioner in London, C.S.A. Ritchie, our Ambassador in Washington, A.E. Ritchie and our Ambassador in Moscow, R.A.D. Ford.

The Outer Space Treaty, which came into force in October 1967 and to which Canada is a party, solemnly affirms important principles relating to international co-operation in outer space. One of the significant concepts underlying the Space Treaty is that there should be no legal or political barriers to prevent the swiftest and most effective help possible being extended to any astronaut who