

News Release

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Affairs



Ministère des
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extérieures

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SIGNATURE OF A PROTOCOL TO THE CANADA/U.S.A.

EXTRADITION TREATY

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable George P. Shultz, Secretary of State of the United States of America, today signed a Protocol to the Extradition Treaty between Canada and the United States of America of December 3, 1971.

The Protocol broadens and improves the existing Treaty. The schedule of offences for which extradition may be requested is dropped, and extradition may now be sought for any act which is an offence against the laws of both countries where the punishment is imprisonment for more than one year. Thus, extradition may now be sought for such offences as parental childnapping, tax evasion and escape from prison. In addition, the Protocol excludes serious crimes of violence, such as murder and hostage-taking, from the political offence exception. This means that a person cannot avoid extradition for such crimes on the basis that they were motivated by a political purpose.

The Secretaries, at the same time, signed an Exchange of Letters constituting an understanding between Canada and the United States with respect to the transborder abduction of persons found in Canada to the United States of America by civilian agents of bail bonding companies, so-called "bounty hunters". Such abduction is an extraditable offence. The United States agrees to provide full co-operation in deterring abductors, to assist in obtaining evidence pertaining to any such abductions and to extradite abductors to Canada for trial.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada