

adopted by the government of the People's Republic of China between October 1, 1979 and August 20, 1981 in return for the payment of \$340,000, as a lump sum settlement of those claims.

When a lump sum settlement has been negotiated and a fund thereby created, all claims are referred to an independent body -- the Foreign Claims Commission -- for a report and recommendation to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance, as to who are eligible or not for awards out of the fund and the amounts of such awards.

During 1981, the Commission began its work in connection with Cuban and Chinese claims. Regulations governing the disposition of the proceeds of the Cuban settlement were passed and a number of claims under this program were processed. The Commission also began its examination of the claims against the Chinese settlement.

Private international law

In the area of private international law, the Department offers a variety of services to facilitate legal proceedings involving Canadian and foreign jurisdictions on the basis of conventions or by arranged procedures. Social security benefits, maintenance orders and judgments and other related matters have become subjects of international co-operation due to the greater mobility of individuals. As many of these subjects come under provincial jurisdiction, liaison is carried on between the Department and the provinces to establish and administer the necessary reciprocal arrangements. In 1980, the Department had published a booklet entitled International judicial co-operation in civil, commercial, administrative and criminal matters. This publication, aimed at assisting Canadian lawyers and law enforcement officials with international legal problems, was given wide distribution in 1981.

Another area of co-operation between states involves the enforcement of criminal law. In this area also, the Department ensures the required liaison in Canada and abroad. It is expected that the new Extradition treaty signed with France in 1979 will be ratified in the near future. It was expected also that an Extradition treaty with the Netherlands would be signed shortly. The new Extradition treaty between Canada and Italy was signed on May 6, 1981 and is awaiting confirmation from the Italian authorities that they are in a position to ratify. Discussions continued with the American authorities concerning possible amendments to the Canada-USA extradition treaty. By the end of 1981, the House of Commons had not dealt with the new fugitive offenders bill which passed the Senate in December 1978. It was expected that, once enacted, the bill would be merged with the Extradition Act under that general name.

In 1981 as before, the Department was extensively involved in the international aspects of a number of civil kidnapping, or "childnapping", cases involving disputes between a mother and a father over custody of a child. The Department has attempted to obtain reports on the well-being of