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# news release

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## QUELLET SIGNS CO-LOCATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AUSTRALIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the High Commissioner for Australia, His Excellency Francis Conynghame Murray, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on co-location. Both governments will benefit from the arrangement, which provides diplomatic representation at less cost to the taxpayer by sharing premises in missions abroad.

"The co-location arrangement reflects a long history of co-operation between Canada and Australia, including the provision of consular and communications services for each other in emergency situations. It's an excellent example of governments working together to reduce the costs of diplomatic representation," said Mr. Ouellet.

Changing regional priorities and down-sizing of mission staff has resulted in excess space in both Canadian and Australian chanceries. Under the terms of the new agreement, Canada has placed an officer in the Australian chancery in Phnom Penh, while excess space in Canada's High Commission in Bridgetown, Barbados will be used by Australia. In early 1994, the Australian High Commission will locate two officers and locally engaged support staff in the Canadian chancery in Bridgetown.

Both countries are seeking similar co-location agreements in other countries. While several European countries have begun to share missions abroad, this is the first time that either Canada or Australia has agreed to do so.

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