

A Treaty on Extradition between Canada and the United States was signed today in Washington by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, and the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers. This Treaty is subject to ratification following its approval by the legislatures of the two countries - in the case of Canada by a resolution of approval in the Canadian Parliament and in the case of the United States by advice and consent of the Senate to ratification.

The Treaty is the result of extended negotiations between officials of the two governments culminating in the initialling of a final draft text in Ottawa in June of this year. The Treaty when ratified will expressly terminate and replace the extradition arrangements now in force between Canada and the United States which are based on a Treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States and a number of Conventions dating back to the Colonial period of Canadian history. The outdated character of these existing extradition arrangements have rendered them increasingly inadequate to deal with the reciprocal law enforcement requirements of the two countries. The new Treaty is designed to consolidate the extradition arrangements between Canada and the United States in a single instrument and at the same time revise and update the list of extraditable crimes. Generally speaking the Treaty enumerates offences in respect to which extradition may be sought by one contracting party in the territory of the other and the conditions under which a fugitive can be surrendered.

Among the more salient provisions of the new Treaty are:

- a) Extradition offences covering unlawful seizure of aircraft (hijacking) and conspiracy to commit or being a party to any of the offences extraditable under the Agreement;
- b) A stipulation that extradition cannot be refused with respect to offences against a person to whom a contracting party has the duty according to international law, to afford special protection and the offence of unlawful seizure of aircraft on the grounds that the offence was committed under circumstances making it of a political character.

The latter provision clearly establishes the resolve of Canada and the United States to refuse asylum under any circumstance to fugitives who have committed such crimes within the jurisdiction of either country and will insure prompt prosecution in the country where the main incidence of the crime falls.