

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, has announced that, through an Exchange of Notes which took place in Santiago on October 4, the Governments of Canada and Chile entered into an Agreement between the two countries which will allow the amateur radio stations of Canada and Chile to exchange messages or other communications from or to third parties subject to the conditions set down in the Exchange of Notes. These conditions are that the amateur stations are not paid any direct or indirect compensation and that messages shall be of a technical or personal nature, where recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified.

Canadian radio amateurs are at present authorized to communicate with radio amateurs throughout the world in compliance with the International Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunications Union and with the Radio Act and Regulations of Canada, provided that communications are made in plain language and limited to messages of a technical nature. Radio amateurs generally are not permitted to use their stations for communications on behalf of third parties. However, the International Radio Regulations recognize that countries may conclude special agreements to permit amateurs of the countries concerned to exchange third party communications. This will be the sixth agreement of this type to which Canada is signatory, the others being with the United States of America, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico. The Canadian Government is at present negotiating similar agreements with a number of other countries.

The conclusion of this Agreement was marked by an exchange of greetings between the Chilean Minister of Economy, Reconstruction and Development, Dr. Luis Escobar, and the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Honourable George Hees. The messages of greeting were exchanged through amateur radio stations in Santiago and Ottawa. Mr. Hees spoke through the facilities of station VE3BGJ, operated by Mr. D.V. Carroll of Ottawa.