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CANADA AND AUSTRALIA SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SHARING CONSULAR SERVICES ABROAD

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and His Excellency Robert Stephen Laurie, High Commissioner of Australia today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Sharing Consular Services Abroad. The Memorandum of Understanding contains practical arrangements for implementing the Agreement concerning the sharing of Consular Services Abroad signed in Vancouver on August 7, 1986 by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Bill Hayden, Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs. It takes effect immediately.

The consular sharing agreement, Mrs. Landry stated, gives formal status to the excellent cooperation in consular matters which has developed between Canada and Australia over the years. It is a major component in the government's policy of providing consular protection and assistance to Canadians in as many parts of the world as possible, while reducing expenditures on representation abroad.

The Memorandum of Understanding provides that Australia will extend specified consular services to Canadians at Honolulu Hawaii and Denpasar, Island of Bali, Indonesia, while Canada will assist Australians at Lima Peru, Oslo Norway and Tunis Tunisia. Further locations may be included after mutual agreement by both parties.

Among the services included are assistance in cases of illness or hospitalization, lost or stolen property, local registration of nationals and, if required, their evacuation, and the issuance of emergency travel documents. A detailed list of services to be provided is attached. For other services, citizens of both countries will be referred to the missions of their own country responsible for the territories concerned.