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MESSAGE CONCERNING THE ITALO-CANADIAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he transmitted on December 4 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Dr. Emilio Colombo, a message concerning the Italo-Canadian Social Security agreement which came into force on January 1, 1979.

This representation was made further to the concern expressed by many Canadian citizens of Italian origin regarding delays encountered in the payment of their pensions from Italy. Since implementation of the Agreement, the Canadian Government has forwarded to the Italian authorities some 7,200 requests for pensions. To date, however, only 550 persons have received payment.

Despite an improvement in the rate of payment over the past few months, Dr. MacGuigan considered it useful to bring to the attention of his Italian counterpart a situation which is a major preoccupation of Canadian citizens of Italian origin.