

12- Law of Treaties

When the first paper on "Some General Issues of International Law..." was being prepared by the then Legal Division of the Department of External Affairs, the Law of Treaties itself was a particularly important area of activity. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties had been adopted approximately a year earlier and the Canadian Delegation had played an active role at both the 1968 and 1969 sessions of the Conference. Now the Convention has been signed by some 47 countries and has been ratified or acceded to by 15, including Canada, which acceded on October 14th, 1970. While there remain certain still-to-be-resolved issues arising out of the question of the right to become a party to the Convention, these issues are now essentially of a political nature rather than legal. They were included in the draft agenda of this year's XXVII General Assembly as provisional agenda item # 92 "Declaration on Universal Participation in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties". When considered by the General Committee when it met after the opening of the General Assembly, however, this item was deferred until the next session.

Canada Treaty Series

Naturally, the Treaty making activity of states has continued undiminished, both in the multilateral and bilateral fields. The Treaty Section of the Legal Advisory Division of the Department continues to maintain the Canada Treaty Registry, which records Canada's own activities in this field. In recent years, the programme of bringing the Canada Treaty Series into print had fallen badly behind schedule. This situation, however, has now been rectified and the texts of treaties coming into force for Canada are being printed and made available much more rapidly. Thus, all volumes of the Canada Treaty Series covering the period up to the end of 1971 are already with the Queen's Printer and it is expected that they will soon be available to the public through Information Canada. University libraries should also be receiving their copies in the near future. It is now expected that, as a general rule, the printed texts of future Canadian treaties will become available through the Treaty Series approximately six to nine months after they have come into force.