

of the Desk's inter-provincial operations took place on August 15, 1975 and the international side of the Desk has been in operation since November 1, 1976. A member of the Section will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the Desk for the foreseeable future. The Department has been able to provide assistance both in individual adoption cases and in obtaining information on adoption procedures in foreign countries.

At present Canada has extradition treaties with some 41 countries. Most of these treaties predate 1925 and the majority were concluded by Britain on behalf of Canada in the latter part of the 19th century. The process started by Canada in 1975 to up-date existing and conclude new extradition treaties is continuing. In April, 1977 an agreed extradition treaty text was initialled with Norway. In February, 1975 extradition treaty talks had been held with authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany. Since that time discussions have continued by means of diplomatic correspondence. In October, 1977 a further round of talks was held and a draft extradition treaty text was initialled. It is anticipated the treaty will be signed presently. Extradition treaty talks were held with France in October, 1976 and a further round of talks was held in October, 1977. An agreed text was concluded and initialled ad referendum.

The Section has become extensively involved in the international aspects of "civil kidnapping" or "child napping". The Extra-Provincial Custody Orders Enforcement Act, recommended in 1974 by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, has been enacted by Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The Attorney General of Canada at the Federal-Provincial Conference of Attorneys General held at Halifax in October, 1975 urged all provinces to adopt similar legislation. The problem of civil kidnapping was discussed at the meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers held in Winnipeg in August, 1977. It was agreed that an early examination be given to greater co-operation in the enforcement of custody orders, particularly as criminal proceedings are generally unsuited for use in a family context. The delegates emphasized that their concern was for the welfare of the children and that the examination of a Commonwealth scheme could reduce the number of such distressing incidents.