

with Brazil on September 24, 1979. Accordingly, extradition arrangements now exist between Canada and Brazil. A new extradition treaty was signed with France on February 9, 1979 during the visit to Ottawa of Premier Barre and is expected to be ratified in the near future. The new Canada-Denmark Extradition Treaty was ratified on February 13, 1979 and the new treaty with Finland is expected to be ratified shortly. Negotiations for new extradition treaties with the Netherlands and Italy are continuing. It is expected that a new Fugitive Offenders Act, which permits rendition of offenders between Commonwealth states, will be re-introduced in the 1979 fall session of Parliament.

The abduction of children by one parent, often in contravention of a Canadian custody order, remains an intractable problem for many Canadian citizens. At any given moment the Department has 30 or more active cases. As a Canadian custody order has no extra-territorial effect, the role of the Department remains to assist in establishing contact between the parents, to obtain the names of lawyers in the other country who could be consulted with respect to initiating a custody action before the courts where the child is located, and to attempt to obtain a report as to the well-being of the child.

Normally, the Department becomes involved when a telephone call or letter is received indicating a child has been taken by a parent, who may or may not be a Canadian citizen, contrary to a Canadian custody order. If the child's exact location is known, the appropriate Canadian post will be asked to attempt to contact the abducting parent to ascertain the child's health and well-being and to enquire under what circumstances, if any, the parent is prepared to return the child to Canada. However, the Department cannot conduct searches for children in foreign countries. In addition, the Department obtains the names of lawyers engaged in the practice of family law in the particular area and requests an informal opinion regarding the prospects of success, time required and expected cost of a custody action.

A recent example involved two Canadian children who were taken from British Columbia to California by their Canadian father contrary to a British Columbia custody order. Although it was not possible to locate the children for several months, the Canadian Consulates General in San Francisco and Los Angeles were notified to be on the alert. As a result, when the father