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CANADA AND HUNGARY SIGN MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada and Hungary have signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

"This treaty is a concrete example of the commitment by Canada and Hungary to combat transnational crime," said Mr. Ouellet. "By formalizing the direct contact between our respective law enforcement agencies, we are building a solid framework for future co-operation in addressing criminal matters."

The treaty will allow authorities from both countries to provide each other with a wide range of assistance in criminal investigations and prosecutions. Such assistance could include the gathering of evidence in one country for use in the prosecution of criminals in the other, and the identification of proceeds of crime that may then be confiscated.

Canada has Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with 14 other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, Mexico, Austria and most recently Italy. Canada also is active in the anti-crime efforts of multilateral organizations, such as the G-7/P-8, the Commonwealth, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Organization of American States.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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