



news release

Date

For release

May 13, 1985

85/62

CANADA RATIFIES COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Elmer MacKay, Solicitor General of Canada, announce the ratification by Canada today of the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, signed at Strasbourg on March 21, 1983. The Convention will enter into force on July 1, 1985, and will be binding on Canada from September 1, 1985. The instrument of ratification was deposited by the Honourable Andrée Champagne, Minister of State for Youth, during her official visit to Strasbourg, headquarters of the Council of Europe. Canada is not a member of the Council of Europe and this marks the first time it has endorsed a convention developed by the Council. Drawing on Canada's experience in the transfer of offenders, Canadian experts participated actively in the drafting of the Convention.

In addition to Canada, five countries, France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, have so far ratified the Convention. Other states among the 21 members of the Council of Europe are expected to become parties to it.

Under the Convention Canadians imprisoned in countries which are party to it will be allowed to serve the remainder of their sentences in Canada. The transfer of sentenced persons will take place only at their request and after all rights of appeal have been exhausted in the sentencing country. Also, all transfers will be subject to approval of both the countries involved.

...2