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# news release

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CANADA-USA MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY  
IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

The Honourable John Crosbie, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Elmer McKay, Solicitor General, today announced the signing by Prime Minister Mulroney and United States President Reagan of a Treaty between Canada and the United States on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. This treaty, when implemented, will provide a framework for improved cooperation between the two countries in the investigation and prosecution of international narcotics trafficking, organized crime and other criminal activity.

The treaty fills an historic gap in the framework of cooperative arrangements between Canada and the United States. It provides simplified channels for making available the law enforcement machinery of one country to assist criminal investigations or prosecutions in the other country. Assistance may range from providing publicly available information to locating people or obtaining testimony and records under a subpoena or search warrant. Similar agreements will be negotiated with other countries.

Ministers emphasized that the treaty, by providing alternative, cooperative channels for obtaining evidence, and obliging both countries to use them, should lessen the potential for the United States to resort to unilateral, extraterritorial measures.