

conventions grant reciprocal privileges and immunities to the diplomatic and consular missions of Canada abroad, and to its missions to international organizations. The Department expended considerable effort to ensure that foreign states fulfilled their international obligations toward Canada.

Orders in Council were adopted to grant temporarily certain privileges and immunities to the participants to 13 meetings of international organizations for which Canada was host in 1987, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver and the Francophone Summit in Quebec City.

The State Immunity Act, which came into force on July 15, 1982, sanctioned in Canadian law the principle by which states can be brought before the courts of Canada for their commercial activities. This Act coincides with the general international practice favouring the principle of the restrictive immunity of states. The Department is monitoring closely certain actions brought under the Act, taking into account Canada's international obligations toward the diplomatic and consular missions of foreign states on Canadian soil.

## Treaty law

During the 1987 calendar year, Canada signed 42 bilateral agreements. In the course of the year, 19 bilateral agreements entered into force upon signature: 6 by ratification and 10 by the exchange of notifications. Canada also took action to terminate seven bilateral agreements. Details are given in Appendix II.

In 1987, Canada signed or took other measures in relation to 15 multilateral agreements. Seven multilateral conventions entered into force for Canada, including the Vienna Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Details are given in Appendix III.

The high point of the year was the successful conclusion of the negotiations for a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States. The Free Trade Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Mulroney in Ottawa on December 22, 1987, and on January 2, 1988. President Reagan signed the Agreement in Washington on December 23, 1987, and in Palm Springs on January 2, 1988.