

1975 VIENNA CONVENTION ON THE REPRESENTATION OF STATES
IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

On March 13, 1975, the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations was adopted by a United Nations Plenipotentiary Conference in Vienna. This Convention was designed as the last of a set of international conventions in the field of diplomatic privileges and immunities. Its purpose was to establish the privileges and immunities to be accorded to permanent missions accredited to international organizations and the privileges and immunities of delegations to international conferences. The other related conventions are, of course, the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1969 New York Convention on Special Missions.

Unfortunately, during the Conference divisions emerged between the traditional host states which, generally speaking, wished the Convention to provide satisfactory safeguards against abuse for host states, and other states that wished to have a maximum of privileges and immunities. The latter group used its voting strength to eliminate or weaken those provisions which afforded to host states safeguards similar to those enjoyed by receiving states in bilateral diplomacy. The result is a Convention which is largely unsatisfactory from the host state point of view, and Canada was not able to vote in favour of it in Vienna.