DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

CANADA-ITALY SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs, in co-operation with the Department of National Health and Welfare, announced today the signature in Toronto of a Social Security Agreement by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The Agreement, which co-ordinates the main Canadian and Italian social security programmes, will enable residents of both countries to combine credits from each country in order to qualify for social security benefits from one or both countries. Until now, people who did not meet the minimum qualifying period under the legislation of one country or both were unable to claim benefits based on the partial credits they had accumulated in either country.

Before the Canada-Italy Social Security Agreement can go into effect, the two governments must agree on the detailed arrangements for administering it. Officials of the two countries will start work on these shortly. When these arrangements are completed, the Agreement will be submitted for ratification to the Parliaments of both countries.

This is the first international agreement reached by Canada following changes to the Old Age Security Act which took effect on July 1, 1977 and which make such agreements possible. It will co-ordinate the operation of the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act in Canada with those general compulsory social security programmes in Italy which are concerned with old age, invalidity, survivors' and tuberculosis benefits.

Several thousand Italian residents living in Canada will now become entitled to receive Italian pensions in Canada, based on the partial credits earned through contributions paid to the compulsory Italian programmes while they worked in Italy. Furthermore, an estimated 4,500 former Italian

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