

Criminals of 1873. The extradition treaty between Canada and France signed on February 9, 1981 will be ratified as soon as the French authorities are in a position to do so. Negotiations with the Netherlands are continuing. The amendment proposed to the Canada-Finland Extradition Treaty, which was signed on June 21, 1978, is being considered by the Department of Justice. As soon as a decision is made, the Treaty can be ratified. The new Fugitive Offenders Act (based on the British model of 1966) which permits rendition of offenders between Commonwealth states is awaiting approval of the Canadian Parliament.

The abduction of children by one parent, often in contravention of a Canadian custody order, remains an intractable problem for many Canadian citizens. At any given moment the Department has 40 or more active cases, and the number of such cases is increasing. There is reason to believe that the majority of such cases never come to the attention of the Department. As a Canadian custody order has no extra-territorial effect, the role of the Department remains to assist in establishing contact between the parents, to obtain the names of lawyers in the other country who could be consulted with respect to initiating a custody action before the courts where the child is located, and to attempt to obtain a report as to the well-being of the child.

Normally, the Department becomes involved when a telephone call or letter is received indicating a child has been taken by a parent, who may or may not be a Canadian citizen, contrary to a Canadian custody order. If the child's exact location is known, the appropriate Canadian post will be asked to attempt to contact the abducting parent to ascertain the child's health and well-being and to enquire under what circumstances, if any, the parent is prepared to return the child to Canada. However, the Department cannot conduct searches for children in foreign countries. In addition, the Department obtains the names of lawyers engaged in the practice of family law in the particular area and requests an informal opinion regarding the prospects of success, time required, and expected cost of a custody action.

Canada is participating in two initiatives taken to ensure greater international co-operation for the resolution of such cases. First, within the context of the