

Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance. The funds consist of moneys received from Poland and Czechoslovakia, under agreements with Canada, in settlement of claims by Canadian citizens whose property had been nationalized (or otherwise attached) before the dates of the agreements.

#### Private International Law

In the area of private international law, the Department offers a variety of services to facilitate legal proceedings involving Canadian and foreign jurisdictions on the basis of conventions or by arranged procedures. With the greater mobility of individuals, social security benefits, maintenance orders and judgments and other related matters have become subjects of international co-operation. As many of these subjects fall within the area of provincial jurisdiction, liaison is carried on between the Department and the Provinces to establish and administer the necessary reciprocal arrangements.

Another area of co-operation between states involves the enforcement of criminal law; in this area also, the Department ensures the required liaison in Canada and abroad. During 1978, negotiations were conducted with the Netherlands for a new extradition treaty and work was almost completed on a draft text. A new Fugitive Offenders Bill, based on the model prepared for the Commonwealth Law Ministers meeting in London in 1966, passed the Senate in December 1978; when this Bill is enacted, Canadian legislation will be in line with fugitive offenders acts throughout the Commonwealth and with recent extradition treaties Canada has concluded with other countries.

The Department's Bureau of Legal Affairs has also become extensively involved in the international aspects of a number of civil kidnapping, or "childnapping", cases involving disputes between a mother and a father over custody of a child. The number of cases of this kind has been increasing. The Department Bureau has attempted to obtain reports on the well-being of the children involved and, if possible, has helped arrange for their return to Canada in cases where Canadian courts have already ruled on custody. Partly because of the acute personal distress often caused by such disputes, there has been considerable public interest in the role of the Federal and Provincial Governments. For their part, eight of the ten provinces have adopted model provincial legislation on reciprocal enforcement of provincial custody orders since 1975. Internationally, Canada has moved on two fronts to seek co-operation in this field. First, within the context of the Commonwealth, member countries directed that early examination be given to the possibility of greater co-operation in the enforcement of custody orders. Secondly, and again at Canada's request, this subject has been placed on the agenda of the 1980 Hague Conference on Private International Law; it is hoped that a draft convention dealing with this subject will be presented to that conference.