

PRESS RELEASE



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CANADA SIGNS EXTRADITION TREATY WITH AUSTRIA

An Extradition Agreement between Canada and Austria was signed in Ottawa on Thursday, May 11 by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and by His Excellency Dr. Lujo Toncic-Sorinj, the Foreign Minister of Austria.

The purpose of the Agreement is to provide for the reciprocal extradition between the two countries, under the terms and conditions set out in the Agreement, of persons accused or convicted of offences in Canada or Austria. The Agreement will come into force after it has been ratified by both Governments and an exchange of Instruments of Ratification has taken place.

It is note-worthy in that this was one of the first comprehensive extradition treaties which Canada negotiated with any foreign state entirely on its own behalf, although recently another, more recent and similar, Extradition Treaty was signed with Israel. Canada is bound by extradition treaties with approximately 10 other countries but all of these are in whole or in part older British treaties, which were extended to apply to Canada in the 19th Century or in the early part of the 20th Century.