

documents and in arranging for rogatory commissions in Canada, and authenticates signatures on Canadian documents required for use abroad.

With the increase in travel and the greater mobility of individuals, social-security benefits, maintenance orders and judgments and other related matters have become subjects of international co-operation. Many of these subjects fall within the area of provincial jurisdiction, and liaison is carried on between the Bureau and provincial attorney-general departments to establish and administer the necessary reciprocal arrangements.

Another area of co-operation between states involves the enforcement of criminal law. To facilitate extradition of persons to and from Canada, and of fugitive offenders in Commonwealth countries, the Bureau is in contact with police forces at all levels and with provincial and federal departments of government, as well as with Canadian and foreign diplomatic missions. During 1977, negotiations were conducted with Norway concerning a new extradition treaty. Extradition treaties were signed with the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark that are expected to be ratified and brought into force in the near future. It is also expected that new extradition treaties with France and Finland will be signed and ratified shortly. A new Fugitive Offenders Act, based on the model prepared for the Commonwealth law ministers conference in London in 1966, is to be introduced into Parliament shortly. When this act is passed, the 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 Bureau also performed an advisory function in the lawmaking activities of international law organizations such as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The Bureau has 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 on the rise. The Bureau has attempted to obtain reports on the well-being of the children involved and, if possible, has arranged for their return to Canada in those cases where the Canadian courts have already ruled on custody. Partly because of the acute distress often caused by such disputes, there has been considerable public interest in the role of the Federal Government, and of the Department of External Affairs in particular. The subject of "childnapping" was raised at the federal-provincial conference of attorneys-general in October 1975, at which time the provinces were urged to adopt model provincial legislation on reciprocal enforcement of provincial custody orders. Since that time, eight provinces have enacted the model legislation. Internationally, Canada has moved on two fronts to seek co-operation in this field. At Canada's request, "childnapping" was considered at the Commonwealth ministers meeting held in Winnipeg in August. The ministers directed that early examination be given to the possibility of greater co-operation in the enforcement of custody orders. Also 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 sort of kidnapping will be presented to that conference.

During 1977, officials of the Bureau participated in the negotiation of treaties with the United States and Mexico on the execution of penal sentences. Treaties were signed with these countries to permit, on a reciprocal basis, Canadian citizens sentenced to imprisonment in these countries to serve their sentences and parole in Canada. On December 21, the Transfer of Offenders Act was introduced into Parliament. This legislation, when passed, will permit Canada to carry out the obligations assumed in the treaties. At the year's end the possibility of negotiating similar treaties with other foreign states was being considered.