



news release

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For release

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CANADA-BOLIVIA AGREEMENT

ON THE TRANSFER OF INMATES: ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Solicitor General, the Honourable Elmer MacKay, announce the entry into force, on May 22, 1985, of the Treaty between Canada and Bolivia on the Transfer of Inmates and the Supervision of Persons under Sentence, which was signed in La Paz on March 6, 1980.

The Treaty is a good example of the cooperative relationship which exists between Canada and Bolivia and illustrates their mutual desire to facilitate, on humanitarian grounds, the social rehabilitation of inmates by enabling them to serve the remainder of their sentences in their home countries.

Under the Treaty, an inmate who so desires may apply to serve his sentence in his country of nationality. The transfer of inmates can take place only after all rights of appeal have been exhausted in the sentencing country. No transfer will take place without the consent of the individual concerned and approval by both countries.

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Canadian and Bolivian officials will establish the necessary procedures for transfers in the near future. In Canada, responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Treaty lies with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. There are at present four Bolivian citizens imprisoned in Canada, and in Bolivia there are three Canadians in jail and two on parole.

This is the sixth bilateral agreement which Canada has concluded on the transfer of offenders. Treaties with France, Mexico, Peru and the USA are already in force, while the treaty with Thailand awaits ratification. Also, Canada has ratified the multilateral Convention of the Council of Europe on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which was the subject of news release 85/62 of May 13, 1985.

Enquiries on this Treaty should be directed to Consular Policy Division, Department of External Affairs, (613) 996-9872, or to the Special Assistant, Media Relations, Ministry of the Solicitor General, (613) 996-0220.