



communiqué

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CANADA-MOROCCO TREATY ON THE TRANSFER OF INMATES: SIGNATURE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Solicitor General, the Honourable James Kelleher, announce the signing at Rabat on May 4, 1987 by the Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Landry, and H. E. Moulay Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui, Moroccan Minister of Justice, of an Agreement between Canada and Morocco on the Transfer of Persons Incarcerated under Sentence.

The Agreement is a good example of the cooperative relationship which exists between Canada and Morocco 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 Agreement, 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.

Canadian and Moroccan officials will establish the necessary procedures for transfer subsequently to entry into force of the Agreement. In Canada, responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Agreement lies with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. There are at present no Moroccan citizens imprisoned in Canada, and no Canadians are being held in Morocco.

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This is the seventh bilateral agreement which Canada has negotiated on the transfer of offenders. Treaties with Bolivia, France, Mexico, Peru, and the USA are already in force; the treaty signed with Thailand awaits ratification. In addition, Canada is party to the multilateral Convention of the Council of Europe on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America have so far ratified; prisoner transfers between Canada and any of those nine countries are accordingly possible under the terms of this Convention.

Enquiries on the Agreement should be directed to Consular Policy Division, Department of External Affairs (613) 992-5313, or to the Special Assistant, Media Relations, Ministry of the Solicitor General, (613) 991-2852.