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CANADA-MEXICO TREATY ON THE EXECUTION OF PENAL SENTENCES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, and Senor Santiago Roel Garcia, the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations, today signed a Treaty in Ottawa providing for the exchange of nationals under sentence of incarceration or parole or a probation order in their respective countries. The Honourable Francis Fox, Solicitor General of Canada, attended the ceremony. The Ministry of the Solicitor General will be responsible for implementation of the arrangements under the Treaty.

Mr. Jamieson recalled that Mr. Fox had signed a similar treaty with the United States of America on March 2, 1977. Mr. Jamieson stated that the present treaty exemplifies further co-operation between Canada and Mexico and represents an important experiment that is being conducted by Canada and other countries to promote the rehabilitation of offenders by enabling them to serve the remainder of their sentence in the country of which they are nationals.

In order that the Treaty can be brought into force, legislation will be submitted to Parliament as soon as practicable.

Under the Treaty, nationals who so desire would serve their sentences in their countries of origin. The transfer of persons under sentence would take place only after all rights of appeal had been exhausted in the sentencing country. No

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transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned and would be subject to approval of both countries.

At present there are thirteen Canadians incarcerated in Mexican jails and one Mexican in a Canadian jail.

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