



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

No

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SIGNATURE OF AUSTRALIA - AUSTRIA
EXTRADITION TREATY

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, and the Austrian Ambassador His Excellency Dr Franz Pein, today signed an Extradition treaty in Canberra on behalf of their respective countries.

The Prime Minister said that the Treaty was the second treaty on reciprocal arrangements for the surrender of fugitive criminals signed with a foreign government in the past fortnight: a similar treaty was signed with Sweden on 20 March this year at Stockholm. It is expected that further treaties will be signed with other countries in the near future as part of Australia's overall revision and modernisation of its extradition arrangements.

Mr Whitlam said the Treaty with Austria contains special provisions directed against the hijacking of aircraft and related offences, trafficking in drugs and the crime of genocide. It is expected that this Treaty will come into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification later this year.