

P r e f a c e

This is the third in the series of 'accession kits' for international Conventions in the field of private international law, designed to keep Commonwealth Governments, who are not already parties to the Conventions with which they deal, fully informed of relevant international developments and to facilitate accession should they wish to do so. The first two 'kits' deal with The Hague Conventions on the Service of Process, the Taking of Evidence and Legalisation; and a series of Conventions in the field of succession.

This present 'kit' on The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction has been prepared for the Commonwealth Secretariat by Mr. John Eekelaar, a Fellow of Pembroke College, University of Oxford. Mr. Eekelaar is also a Research Fellow of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Wolfson College, Oxford and Vice-President of the International Society of Family Law. He was the author of a major study which formed the basis of the discussions on the subject by Law Ministers at their Meeting in Barbados and which is published separately along with other memoranda produced for that meeting. He also participated in the deliberations of the 14th Session of The Hague Conference which culminated in this Convention. Ministers on that occasion paid tribute to Mr. Eekelaar's scholarship and we, for our part, record our own very great indebtedness to him in all that he has accomplished.

Copies of all three 'kits' are available from the Commonwealth Secretariat on request.

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