

*S.O. 30*

also followed that up with a formal notice of a compensation claim to the Soviet Government.

I would like to note the action of other levels of government, unions and private citizens who decided to send a clear message to Moscow. What is very important in this particular case is that individuals and groups are acting independently of national governments to demonstrate their sense of outrage and to call upon the Soviet Government to come clean and take their responsibilities to the world and to provide the required compensation. I would like to mention a few among the private actions taken. For example, the Alberta Minister of Economic Development cancelled an imminent business promotion visit to Moscow; Vancouver Deputy Mayor Bill Yee cancelled the visit of a cultural delegation he was taking to Odessa; Canadian airline pilots and longshoremen have spoken out and taken action to emphasize their solidarity and concern. Canadians from every walk of life in many cities gave vent to their outrage by demanding that facilities for the Moscow Circus be withdrawn.

It is clear that Canada led the way on this issue and that this is recognized by a range of countries who have taken parallel action or who are supporting our efforts in multilateral fora. The United States administration has taken steps to wipe clean the slate of any vestige of Aeroflot activity in the United States. The United Kingdom has announced a 14-day ban on flights to and from the Soviet Union. Japan has announced boycott measures and is expected to take further action. Of course, the Republic of Korea has taken a very strong position in multilateral fora and in bilateral consultations with many states in the interest of concerted international action. The pilots association in Scandinavia and Switzerland have decided on 60-day partial boycotts on flights to the U.S.S.R.

At the United Nations, from the beginning of this tragic episode, the Government has clearly recognized the vital importance of concerted action through the Security Council of the United Nations. When the first details of this shocking act began to emerge on Thursday, September 1, Canada in co-operation with the Governments of Japan, the United States and Korea immediately approached the President of the Security Council to call an emergency session to consider the problem. Of the 13 speakers who spoke on September 2, only Canada put forward a comprehensive plan of action which included first, a full and impartial inquiry to be undertaken immediately by the Secretary General.

● (2030)

Second, a request that the International Civil Aviation Organization carry out a thorough investigation with the aim of improving international civil aviation regulations and practices to preclude any repetition of this horrible act and to demand that the Soviet Union offer immediate compensation to the families of the victims.

Canada, as a co-sponsor of the resolution, has worked diligently with like-minded states to devise a resolution incorporating these points. We have made representations to interested parties both in Ottawa and in capitals in other countries.

We have worked unceasingly in New York to ensure the broadest possible support for the resolution. A vote was taken on the resolution at the Security Council not many minutes ago. I am sorry to report to the House that despite our efforts I have just learned that the Soviet Union coldly and deliberately vetoed the resolution. The vote was nine to two, with four abstentions. Only the U.S.S.R. and Poland voted against the resolution. This unsurprising but nevertheless inhuman action was taken for one reason only, to save face in spite of the undeniably legitimate demands of the majority. Their decision to veto this resolution calling for an international inquiry under the leadership of the Secretary General now rests with the court of world opinion. But the Soviet veto in New York will not stop nations like Canada in pressing forward their legitimate claims and in taking further action.

At the International Civil Aviation Organization based in Montreal, Canada as an aggrieved party has, with the Republic of Korea, been instrumental in calling a special session which begins later this week on September 15. Our aim at this meeting will be twofold. First, to assign responsibility for the tragedy because the Soviet Union has not accepted responsibility at all up to the present time for what has happened. Second, to develop practical and useful procedures to avoid any chance of a repetition of this terrible action.

We will speak out as strongly as required and we hope constructively. We have drafted a strong resolution for consideration by the special session. We will work energetically and tirelessly to improve the mechanisms of civil aviation to ensure that no passenger, wherever he or she flies in this world, will not have to live with the fear that heat seeking missiles could be aimed at the destruction of passenger aircraft. That is the human objective of all our efforts, not only to feel the sorrow for those who have lost their lives and to share this sorrow with their bereaved families but also to ensure that this terrible event will not occur in the future.

There have been some suggestions that we take broad economic sanctions against the Soviet Union. We have not so far adopted this course. It is important to distinguish between things which are satisfying to say and those which are effective to do. First, we think it is important to keep the Soviet Union enmeshed in the international system, not driven further into siege mentality. Second, the lessons of economic sanctions are that their effectiveness is impaired by damage to ourselves by the actions of others which tend to undercut the sanction, and in the case of the Soviet Union by the continental almost autarkic nature of the Soviet economy. I want to remind you that Afghanistan and Poland have demonstrated to us the difficulties of co-ordinating a sanctions policy among differing countries with different interests and policies. Thus the measures we are pursuing are selective, restricted to the civil aviation sector and managed within a time frame permitting review, extension or withdrawal depending upon events and the behaviour of the Soviet Union.

We have served notice to the Soviets that a claim for compensation is imminent. We have personal contact with the families of the victims, seeking the information we need in the