

Is it naive to demand an enhanced spirit of co-operation and acceptance of responsibilities in the Council? One wonders in the light of recent events. The world will not forget that the Council was prevented from taking action on the destruction of a civil aircraft by the Soviet Union. We cannot write off the Soviet veto as a harsh fact of life. This exercise of the veto was callously irresponsible. It frustrated the Council from taking action to preserve the safety of international civil aviation.

Canadians continue to be outraged by the tragedy of September 1. On September 12, the Canadian House of Commons unanimously condemned "the unwarranted attack on and destruction of the Korean airliner on the orders of Soviet authorities". The House demanded "a full and truthful explanation of this brutal act from the Soviet Government". It demanded "that the Soviet Government co-operate fully in any impartial investigation under the auspices of the United Nations and of the International Civil Aviation Organization to prevent any repetition of such a tragedy". And it demanded "that the Soviet authorities immediately offer full and generous compensation to the families of all victims, including Canadians". The text of this resolution was distributed on September 13 as a document of the Security Council and is available to all UN members.

Canadians are dismayed by the continuing failure of the Soviet Government to respond to official Canadian communications on this matter. A Tass report is an insulting response to a reasonable request for information.

One UN agency - the International Civil Aviation Organization - is undertaking an urgent and impartial investigation to determine the facts of the incident. It is also reviewing ways of preventing a recurrence of this tragedy. Canadians expect the Soviet authorities to cooperate fully with ICAO.

The ineffectiveness of the Council in dealing with the Korean Air Lines incident demonstrates once again the need to find more flexible and creative ways for Council members to address disputes. I would hope that agreement could be reached, among Council members, on the following specific measures:

- First, the Secretary-General should make greater use of his authority, under Article 99, to bring current or potential crisis situations to the attention of the Council. To do this, he requires a greater "fact-finding capacity".