

be improved to deal with terrorism in Canada. (Steps to improve airport security had already been taken in January 1986) It also recommended that the Government "work through the United Nations" by, for example, striving "to engage the support for a UN Security Council resolution to deny countries harbouring terrorists the right to invoke their sovereignty to prevent international action."³

Current Canadian Position

Canada has strongly condemned international terrorism on several occasions and terrorist attacks whether inside or outside Canada have given rise to debate. The Air India tragedy gave rise to particular concern in Ottawa. In his address to the UN General Assembly on 25 September 1985, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark suggested that "terrorism must be dealt with in more detail by the UN" and noted that Canada would "actively seek, through new international instruments if necessary, to deal effectively with this scourge."⁴ On 4 December 1985, Canada ratified the UN Convention against taking hostages.⁵

Finally, on 31 January 1987, in the course of a visit to London, Mr. Clark joined with the British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in declaring that the West must not simply respond to terrorist attacks but must develop a long-term strategy for preventing them.⁶ On 6 June 1987, at the conclusion of the Venice Economic Summit the seven participating states (Britain, Canada, France, Italy Japan, West Germany and the United States) released a statement strongly condemning international terrorism and calling for increased co-operation in accordance with international law

³ SJCCIR, Independence and Internationalism, 1986, pp.63-64.

⁴ DEA, Statements and Speeches, 25 Sept. 1985.

⁵ DEA, Communiqué, 85/184, 4 Dec. 1985.

⁶ Globe and Mail, 31 Jan. 1987.