

Mr. President,

It is not enough to look back in anger and sorrow; the international community must move forward together. The most fitting monument which we can construct to the memory of these innocent victims is one of safer international civil aviation procedures which will forever prevent a repetition of this tragedy. To this end, Canada has supported the call for a special session of the ICAO Council. Safer civil aviation procedures and those of the military will surely benefit everyone. We, therefore, expect positive, constructive results from the forthcoming deliberations within ICAO. Canada will work actively to this end.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution before us recognizes the plight of the bereaved, the right to compensation and the need for a full and adequate explanation of the incident. It reaffirms the relevant principles of international law. The resolution both deplors this tragedy and calls on the international community to strengthen the safety of international civil aviation through the ICAO. It invites the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough investigation with the full cooperation of all states, which is intended to include, of course, the Soviet Union. The thrust and content of this resolution thereby reflect the concerns and objectives of the Canadian Government. We have listened carefully to all the speakers in this debate and we believe that the resolution reflects equally the comments of other concerned countries. This is not a rhetorical resolution; it is intended to be, and in our judgment it is, positive and balanced.

Mr. President,

My Government believes the resolution before us merits the support of all members of the Security Council and the wider international community.

Thank you, Mr. President.