

The Canadian Government and, I believe, the Canadian people are outraged by this latest massive outbreak of air piracy which has brought the lives of hundreds of innocent, non-involved people into acute danger and caused unnecessary suffering and distress.

Criminal acts of this kind which menace the security of air travel everywhere are of vital concern to Canada and a direct threat to the safety of Canadians who are among the world's most extensive travellers.

At a time of ceasefire when there is room for cautious hope for a resolution of the Middle Eastern conflict these hijackings can only act as a further irritant to a situation already tense and difficult.

Canada is pursuing, as a matter of the utmost urgency, the search for a solution to the problems posed by air piracy and air sabotage. We are deeply involved in the initiatives taking place at the United Nations and particularly in ICAO, where we have been playing an active part. Effective international agreement to end these dangerous and cowardly acts is essential as is effective international co-operation to help the national governments involved to deal with criminal acts of this kind.