

International Civil Aviation Organization

FIFTEENTH ASSEMBLY

MONTREAL was the site in June 1965 of the fifteenth session of the Assembly, the plenipotentiary body of the International Civil Aviation Organization, which meets every three years.

The opening ceremonies on June 22 had special significance, since this was the twentieth anniversary of ICAO. Many persons prominent in Canadian public life, as well as in international affairs, attended. The Honourable J. W. Pickersgill, the Minister of Transport, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Government of Canada. He was accompanied by Dr. Stanley Haidasz, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Other speakers included Madame Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, the Minister of Transport and Communications for the Province of Quebec, and Monsieur Jean Drapeau, Mayor of Montreal. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, was represented by Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs. In addition, Sir William Hildred, Director-General of the International Air Transport Association, and Mr. Adolph A. Berle Jr., Chairman of the Chicago Conference of November-December 1944 which founded ICAO, were present.

The meeting was attended by delegates from 102 of the contracting states. Five countries that are not members of ICAO and 14 international organizations were represented by observers. During the Assembly, Roumania joined ICAO, bringing the total membership to 110.

Brigadier C. S. Booth, leader of the Canadian delegation, was unanimously chosen President of the Assembly. Brigadier Booth who, until his recent retirement, was Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Transport, is well-known in ICAO and international civil aviation circles.

Welcoming Address

In his address of welcome to the delegates, Mr. Pickersgill pointed out how much the average international air traveller was indebted to ICAO for the service he enjoyed:

I wonder how many of the people who travel the international air routes at great speed — and in safety and comfort — realize how much of this they owe to ICAO through its development of international standards. I am sure that the average airline passenger is inclined to think that breakfast in London and lunch in Montreal come about because of a difference of time zones and the technical miracle of subsonic flight. What he does not realize is that the most efficient aircraft flying at the greatest speed could not give him that service without great strides having been made in the fields of international co-operation and standardization. The international traveller now accepts as commonplace what would no doubt still be only an idea without the quiet accomplishments of the International Civil Aviation Organization over the past 20 years.