

In signing the Agreement Canada and the United States are seeking to ensure the security of the world's most extensive and complex bilateral civil aviation relationship serving more than 13 million air travellers annually. At the same time, it is recognized that aviation security cannot be ensured, and terrorism effectively counteracted by individual states alone, but only on the basis of cooperation and united action by the international community.

The Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization, meeting in Montreal on October 1, 1986, unanimously adopted a Canadian proposal to develop a new international agreement on airport security. This resolution, co-sponsored by over 30 countries representing all geographic regions and social economic systems, reflects a growing realization throughout the international community that united action is needed to close a gap in the existing ICAO framework concerning aviation security. The Hague, Montreal and Tokyo conventions clearly govern security threats to aircraft in flight, but do not adequately cover all terrorist threats or attacks at airports.

The comprehensive bilateral aviation security Agreement signed today between Canada and the United States, not only serves to strengthen security measures between the two countries, but, hopefully may stand as a model for future bilateral agreements, and complement Canada's multilateral initiative to ensure international aviation security within ICAO.

Canada and the U.S. strongly support multilateral efforts by ICAO to improve aviation security. Both Governments will seek similar aviation security agreements with other countries.

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