

In recognition of the international aspect of the terrorist problem Canada has been active in seeking broadly based agreement for practical measures to halt the challenge to international order. One of the principal Canadian initiatives has been the effort to end aerial hijacking. We have joined with the United States in putting forward ideas in the International Civil Aviation Organization to make it tougher for hijackers to get away with their criminal acts. These proposals have been under discussion by a special ICAO sub-committee in Washington. We also consider it important for states to enter into bilateral commitments or treaties to prevent hijacking or other forms of terrorism and Canada is engaged in such bilateral negotiations.

A separate proposal to draft a convention aimed at protecting diplomats from acts of terrorism has also received positive consideration by the Canadian Government. At the Conferences studying questions of Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Canada has actively promoted the extension of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the Protection of War Victims to cover conflicts not recognized as being international in character. The purpose is to provide better protection of civilians against the effects of hostilities, including terrorists activities.

Although the attack on terrorism should be focussed on concerted international action, the Canadian Government has shown that it will not countenance terrorist activity in this country. Canada is endeavouring by all means possible consistent with our concepts of civil liberties to improve the effectiveness of its security measures in dealing with potential terrorist activity.