

What worries me most is what would happen to international commercial transportation if each time an aircraft goes astray - and we know it does happen often enough - it is shot down.

It is with this in mind that my government has proposed in the United Nations Security Council that there be: first, a full and impartial enquiry carried out urgently by the Secretary General; second, be carried out by the International Civil Aviation Organization be requested an urgent and thorough investigation with a view to making recommendations for the improvements of international civil aviation regulations and practices which will preclude ever again the repetition of such an incident and, third, that compensation be paid.

We urge the Soviet Union to participate willingly and fully in these efforts to find out how this tragedy happened and by so doing to ensure that it is never repeated. We urge the Soviet Union to meet the demands of an outraged public opinion around the world by acknowledging responsibility, by expressing regret, and by offering compensation. In putting these proposals forward we are giving the Soviet Union an opportunity to contribute to international law in this area.

The Soviet action has served to underline the fragility of the confidence and stability that now exists among sovereign states throughout Europe and the world. This wanton and seemingly uncontrolled resort to the use of force raises further doubt in the minds of all those who had hoped for an improved level of trust in East-West relations.

We were to gather here, Mr. Chairman, to reaffirm our commitment to security and cooperation in Europe, and by extension, throughout the world. After three long years of negotiations we thought we had arrived at an agreement which would help to bring a greater degree of peace, confidence and security to a troubled world. We had planned to come to take note of what we have been able to achieve and to express our expectations for the future.

We arrive today with those expectations gravely diminished. What are we to make of this sad demonstration on the part of the Soviet Union of their inability to meet international obligations of the most fundamental and humanitarian kind? The challenge of cooperation which we all face here at the CSCE has been made all the more difficult as a result of this latest affront.