increasing numbers. Meantime, it is attempting to streamline procedures by visa standardization.

Yet another innovation being studied by the Organization is **Advance Passenger Information Systems**, known as API. Such systems, which are currently operational in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand, enable governments or airlines to electronically alert authorities at the destination point about passengers on the flight. These authorities can then determine which passengers to target for intensive examination, enabling the others to get faster clearance.

Also, ICAO actively promotes the development of automated cargo clearance and door-to-door express cargo services.

In addition to reducing procedural formalities, the Organization's efforts are also aimed at providing adequate airport facilities for passengers and their baggage as well as for air cargo, with all related services.

STANDARDIZATION A TOP PRIORITY

One of ICAO's chief activities is standardization, the establishment of international standards, recommended practices and procedures covering a myriad of vital components of civil aviation. These comprise technical fields, licensing of personnel, rules of the air, aeronautical meteorology, aeronautical charts, units of measurement, operation of aircraft, nationality and registration marks, and airworthiness.

There are about 40,000 civil aerodromes in the world today, of which over 1,000 are used by international civil aviation.

Others are aeronautical telecommunications, air traffic services, search and rescue, aircraft accident investigation, aerodromes, aeronautical information services, aircraft noise and engine emissions, security and the safe transport of dangerous goods.

After a Standard is adopted, it is put into effect by each ICAO Contracting State in its own territories. As aviation technology continues to develop rapidly, these Standards are kept under constant review and amended as necessary.

In keeping pace with the rapid development of international civil aviation, the Organization is conscious of the need to adopt in its specifications modern systems and techniques.

In recent years, for example, extensive work has been undertaken by ICAO in the areas of reporting aircraft traffic accident and incident data, all-weather operations, automation of air traffic services, the application of computers in meteorological services, aircraft noise, engine emissions and the carriage of dangerous goods by air.

By the year 2010, when a satellite system will have largely replaced current ground-based navigational aids, today's "highways in the skies" will change dramatically. Becoming shorter and more direct. The savings in time, fuel, maintenance of navigational aids, avoidance of congestion, and other benefits, are roughly estimated at US $5 billion annually.

It has also dealt with the subject of unlawful interference with civil aviation and with questions regarding aviation and the environment.

Futuristic architecture of Denver's new airport terminal reflects the Rocky Mountains skyline in the distance.