

Statement on Terrorism

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major democracies and the representatives of the European Community assembled here in Venice, profoundly aware of our peoples' concern at the threat posed by terrorism:

- reaffirm our commitment to the statements on terrorism made at previous summits in Bonn, Venice, Ottawa, London and Tokyo;
- resolutely condemn all forms of terrorism, including aircraft hijackings and hostage taking, and reiterate our belief that whatever its motives, terrorism has no justification;
- confirm the commitment of each of us to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors;
- remain resolved to apply, in respect of any state clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, effective measures within the framework of international law and in our own jurisdictions;
- welcome the progress made in international cooperation against terrorism since we last met in Tokyo in May 1986, and in particular the initiative taken by France and the Federal Republic of Germany to convene in May in Paris a meeting of Ministers of nine countries who are responsible for counter-terrorism;
- reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism both through national measures and through international cooperation among ourselves and with others, when appropriate; and therefore renew our appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international cooperation in all appropriate forums;
- will continue our efforts to improve the safety of travellers. We welcome improvements in airport and maritime security, and encourage the work of ICAO and IMO in this regard. Each of us will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines which raise security problems. The Heads of State or Government have decided on measures, annexed to this statement, to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation;
- commit ourselves to support the rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. Each of us pledges increased cooperation in the relevant forums and within the framework of domestic and international law on the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of terrorists. In particular, we reaffirm the principle established by relevant international conventions of trying or extraditing, according to national laws and those international conventions, those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

Annex

The Heads of State or Government recall that in their Tokyo Statement on international terrorism they agreed to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation. To this end, in cases where a country refuses extradition or prosecution of those who have committed offences described in the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and/or does not return the aircraft involved, the Heads of State or Government are jointly resolved that their governments shall take immediate action to cease flights to that country as stated in the Bonn Declaration.

At the same time, their governments will initiate action to halt incoming flights from that country or from any country by the airlines of the country concerned as stated in the Bonn Declaration.

The Heads of State or Government intend also to extend the Bonn Declaration in due time to cover any future relevant amendment to the above Convention or any other aviation conventions relating to the extradition or prosecution of the offenders.

The Heads of State or Government urge other governments to join them in this commitment.