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DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ADOPTS PROTOCOL
PROPOSED BY CANADA FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS
OF VIOLENCE AT AIRPORTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced the signature in Montreal of a Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence at airports serving international civil aviation.

The signing ceremony for this Protocol, which took place at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), marked the successful conclusion of a Diplomatic Conference which opened on February 9 and at which 81 States were represented. This Conference, which was presided over by Canada, adopted the new Protocol by consensus - a first for a Diplomatic Conference concerning the protection of international civil aviation.

This Conference was the result of a Canadian proposal, adopted by the 26th Assembly of ICAO in September 1986, to develop a new legal instrument designed to eliminate safe havens for perpetrators of unlawful acts of violence at airports serving international civil aviation. The Canadian government had taken this initiative after the tragic attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985, in accordance with its policy of contributing to international efforts to develop supplementary measures to combat terrorism.

- 30 -

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures