

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced to-day that Canada and Cuba have reached agreement on the substance of a bilateral hijacking treaty covering both aircraft and vessels. He stated that this was accomplished during the round of negotiations just held in Havana from February 5 to 12.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Dr. Rene Anillo, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. J. A. Beesley, Legal Advisor to the Department of External Affairs, and included Mr. K. C. Brown, the Canadian Ambassador in Havana, and representatives of the Departments of Transport, Justice and External Affairs, as well as of the Canadian airlines.

Mr. Sharp said that both sides were very pleased concerning the results of the talks, which took place in an extremely cordial and positive atmosphere, reflecting the friendly relations between Canada and the Republic of Cuba. It was agreed that the Cuban Government would send a delegation to Ottawa in the very near future with a view to concluding the negotiations and signing the agreement.