

A LEADER IN WORLD AIR TRANSPORT

"Need I tell you that Canada intends to play a leading part in world transport by air," declared the Right Honourable C.D. Howe, for many years Canadian minister responsible for civil aviation, before a historic meeting of representatives of the chief flying nations of the globe.

This speech welcomed to Montreal on August 15, 1945, shortly after the surrender of Japan, the first meeting of the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICAO). In it, Mr. Howe noted the Canadian Government's emphasis on the importance of international air transport in relation to world security. The objectives of the delegates, he said, were to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world. All present realized the effectiveness of aviation in the foundation of a sound peace, the dreadful threat of a misguided air power, and its potency as a weapon in war.

"Next to the United States," continued Mr. Howe, "Canada is the largest operator of domestic air services in the world. It also maintains an all-the-year-round service across the North Atlantic to Britain. We are only awaiting a peacetime economy to greatly extend our air operations. Our geographical position is such that it is inevitable that Canada will occupy an important place among the nations of the world. The short international routes between the centres of population of the Northern Hemisphere, almost without exception, pass over Canadian territory."

Realizing its vulnerable as well as strategic geographical position in the air world, Canada took a leading part in the formation of PICAO as the postwar agency empowered to