

a new convention or amendments to the ICAO constitution including a Nordic proposal for a new international convention, which in some respects is similar to the stronger Canada-U.S.A. proposal.

As Members are no doubt aware we have signed the Canada-Cuba Hijacking Agreement which, with its USA/Cuba counterpart, should serve as a potent deterrent to potential North American hijackers.

In the past year we have opened Missions in Lusaka, Budapest and Atlanta and have reopened our Mission in Berlin.

One purpose of these and of most of our Missions abroad is to serve the growing number of Canadian travellers. The volume of passports issued rose by 17.4% in 1972 for a total of over half a million. To keep pace with the increasing demand for passports and to provide better service in the area, two new regional passport offices were opened in Edmonton and Halifax early in 1972 and one more will open in Winnipeg in June 1973. In addition, in 1972 the Department introduced the booklet "Information for Canadians Travelling Overseas" which is being distributed to all passport applicants. The information in this booklet will be revised annually.

I have long felt that it is important for my Department to be as forthcoming as is reasonably practicable to the public and to Parliament. A notable example of the progress we have made in this field is the publication, which began last year, of "International Perspectives" replacing the old External Affairs Bulletin. The purpose of this new publication is to stimulate and encourage debate and to allow free expression of representative points of view without regard to our own policy on the issue.