



# Statements and Speeches

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## TOWARDS THE PREVENTION OF AVIATION TERRORISM

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Donald F. Mazankowski, Minister of Transport, to the International Civil Aviation Organization, Montreal, June 27, 1985.

We are here today for many of the reasons that led to the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) almost 41 years ago.

The importance of civil aviation to the peace of the world was recognized by ICAO's founders when they wrote these words in the preamble to the Chicago Convention: "Whereas the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world, *yet its abuse can become a threat to the general security.*"

That abuse is with us today. Canadians are mourning the loss of 329 passengers and crew — most of them Canadian — in the apparent explosion of Air India flight 182 from Toronto and Montreal last Sunday. We grieve for the Japanese citizens who also lost their lives or were injured that same day when a bomb from the luggage of CP Air flight 003 exploded at Narita International Airport. Nor can we forget the recent tragedy at Frankfurt. We add our prayers to those of all nations that the current hostage crisis in Beirut will be resolved without further loss of life.

Canada has always strongly condemned the scourge of terrorists and their activities. As my prime minister said earlier this week: "Terrorism is the tragedy of our times. It is the most cowardly and reprehensible act known to man where innocent people are held hostage around the world and are killed or maimed, simply in the name of international terrorism."

In the days since the Air India and CP Air tragedies, many ICAO and international aviation experts have said that the security measures at Canadian airports are among the best in the world. These are heartening words. But they do not erase the fact that these disasters have claimed 331 lives. The government of Canada has imposed even more stringent security measures since these events.

The prime minister has ordered our Security and Intelligence Committee to examine all aspects of airport and airline security. This committee will report in the shortest possible time on what changes should be made to our security systems to minimize the possibility of such horrible recurrences in the future. Our government will share these findings and recommendations with the international aviation security community through ICAO.

As an immediate measure, we have enhanced security precautions at our airports, providing additional screening measures for passengers and baggage as well as a 24-hour quarantine on non-perishable cargo. To improve our screening capability in the future, we have already ordered 20 more X-ray machines