

UN SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION
OF THE DESTRUCTION OF A KOREAN AIRLINES BOEING 747

Mr. President,

I am grateful to you and to the Council for giving Canada an opportunity to participate as an aggrieved party in this emergency debate, the call for which my Government strongly supported in its letter to you, Sir, of yesterday evening. In this day of international travel, we are dealing with an incident which has touched directly many members of the United Nations family and which touches, by extension, all nations. In the case of my country, at least 8 of our citizens were on board the Korean Airlines Boeing 747 flight 7 of August 31. The Canadian people, no less than their Government, are horrified and outraged by what has happened. There can be no justification, whatever might have been the circumstances, for this demonstration of the willingness of a super-power to exercise its military might against the unintentional presence in its air space of innocent civilians, and to destroy, in this instance, 269 lives.

The deliberate in-flight destruction of this civilian, unarmed, easily identifiable passenger aircraft by sophisticated fighter aircraft of the Soviet Union, no matter where it occurred, is nothing short of murder. It is a flagrant attack on the safety of international civil aviation which should never have occurred and must not be allowed to occur again. After condemning this act, the Council should begin an urgent process in an impartial and effective manner to prevent any repetition of such an insult to humanity.