

CANADA SIGNS HIJACKING TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Alfred J. Pick, had signed, subject to ratification, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft. The Convention was adopted by an International Conference on Air Law held in The Hague, from December 1 to 16.

This diplomatic conference was convened under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization, (ICAO), at the invitation of the Netherlands Government, to consider a draft instrument elaborated by ICAO's Legal Committee. The new anti-hijacking treaty defines the offence of "unlawful seizure" and requires contracting states to establish criminal jurisdiction over hijackings occurring on board their registered and leased aircraft; when an aircraft lands in their territory with a hijacker on board; and where, in certain circumstances, a hijacker escapes or otherwise arrives in their territory. By providing that all hijackers must either be extradited to a state wishing to prosecute or must be submitted to prosecution by the authorities of the state where they are, the Convention goes a long way towards ensuring that no hijacker will go unpunished

because of legal technicalities.

The Canadian delegation to The Hague Conference played an active role in promoting a generally acceptable treaty and was particularly instrumental in securing adoption of the strong provision on prosecution.

With all the articles having been approved by an overwhelming majority of 77 national delegations participating in the Conference, the Canadian Government believes that this Convention is capable of attracting support from all members of the international community.

The Unlawful Seizure Convention was also signed on behalf of a number of other governments that participated in the Conference, and was opened for signature by all other states in London, Moscow, and Washington after December 31, 1970. It will come into force after ten of the states that participated at The Hague Conference have ratified it.

The Canadian Government will now make a close study of the Convention with a view to ascertaining what national legislation will be required. When the required legislation has been enacted and other steps necessary to permit ratification have been taken, it is expected that Canada will become a party.

COMMONWEALTH CHIEF IN OTTAWA

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Arnold Smith, visited Ottawa in November, when he met with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Justice, Mr. John Turner and the Secretary of State, Mr. Gérard Pelletier. Mr. Smith also held extensive discussions with other senior Government officials, including the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie. Discussions covered general Commonwealth issues and programs as well as the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference to be held in Singapore from January 14 to 22, 1971.

HOUSING FELLOWSHIPS

Mr. Robert Andras, Minister responsible for Housing, recently announced Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation's annual program of graduate fellowships for 1971-72. The program will amount to \$925,000 in support of 200 fellowships.

Graduate students seeking masters' and doctoral degrees in various fields of urban affairs, including



Commonwealth Secretary-General Mr. Arnold Smith