

AVIATION CONVENTIONS SIGNED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that Canada had ratified the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft signed at the Hague, and the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation. Instruments of ratification of the two conventions, which were adopted by conferences convened under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), were deposited in the three depository capitals of London, Moscow and Washington.

The Hague Convention provides for effective legal measures to deter acts of unlawful seizure of aircraft, i.e. hijacking. Under the Convention a contracting state is obliged either to extradite hijackers located in its territory to a state wishing to prosecute, or itself to prosecute the offenders. Recent revisions to the Canadian Criminal Code, adopted by Parliament, render hijacking a crime in Canada. The Hague Convention, which entered into force on October 14, 1971, has already been ratified or acceded to by 33 countries.

The Montreal Convention, which is not yet in force as an international agreement, provides for effective legal measures to deter acts of sabotage, armed attacks and other forms of violence, other than hijacking, directed against civil aviation and air-navigation facilities. Like the Hague Convention, the Montreal Convention imposes an obligation on contracting states either to extradite or prosecute persons charged with offences described in the Convention. Canada is among the first states to become a party to the Montreal Convention.

Canada played an active role in the negotiation of these two Conventions, whose purpose is to ensure that as among subscribing states no person who hijacks an aircraft or commits other acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation goes unpunished because of jurisdictional technicalities.

LOANS TO TUNISIA

Canada has agreed to provide Tunisia with more than \$14 million in the form of three long-term development loans, the Canadian International Development Agency announced recently.

A loan of \$9.3 million will enable the country to purchase 22 diesel-electric locomotives assembled by the Montreal firm of MLW-Worthington, with spare parts, tools and related equipment. This agreement was signed recently by Canada's Ambassador to Tunisia, D'Iberville Fortier and Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Masmoudi.

A second, for \$2 million, will enable Tunisia to modernize its radio-communications network in the

regions of Kairouan, Sbeitla, Kasserine and Sousse. This project is an extension of Canadian activities in the central area, where a broad study is under way to develop agriculture and hydro-electric potential. Jacques Gérin, vice-president of CIDA's bilateral programs, signed this agreement on Canada's behalf. The project is similar to ones being developed in the north and south of the country, with the aid of France and Britain.

The third loan, for \$3 million, is to enable Tunisia to buy raw materials from Canada.

CANADA IN IDB

Stronger ties with Latin America — one of the main goals set in the recent federal review *Foreign Policy for Canadians* — have developed through a series of events in 1971 and 1972.

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced in May that Canada had become a full member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and would in the next three years subscribe \$40 million (U.S.) to the Bank's capital stock and \$60 million to its Fund for Special Operations. With bilateral assistance, this will raise Canada's Latin America program to about four times its former level.

Canada's representative on the IDB Board of Governors is the Minister of Finance, John Turner; Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of CIDA, is alternate governor for Canada.

David B. Laughton, Canadian Consul General in Seattle, has been appointed Canada's first IDB executive director. The eight-member Board of Directors manages day-to-day activities of the Bank. Mr. Laughton, a native of Nelson, British Columbia, was director of the Agriculture and Fisheries branch of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce from 1964 to 1970.

H. Dennis Madden, director of CIDA's Latin America Division, becomes alternate director for Canada. Born in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Mr. Madden has worked in Venezuela and was previously director of CIDA's Financial Institutions Division.

OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- (1) Early in 1971 Canada began a bilateral technical assistance program with Central and South American countries.
- (2) In September 1971 Canada joined the Pan-American Health Organization, making its first contribution (\$982,992) in December.
- (3) On February 2, 1972 Canada was granted permanent observer status by the Organization of American States.
- (4) The appointment of Alfred John Pick, Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, as Ambassador and Permanent Observer to the OAS was announced late in April.