

IN 1988, THREE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS WERE CONCLUDED, ALL AIMED AT PREVENTING AND PUNISHING TERRORIST ACTS NOT COVERED BY PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS. THE FIRST WAS THE PROTOCOL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AT AIRPORTS, ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS BY A CONFERENCE CONVENED IN MONTREAL, AT CANADA'S INITIATIVE, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ICAO. WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, FOLLOWING AN INITIATIVE TAKEN BY AUSTRIA, EGYPT AND ITALY, A CONFERENCE HELD IN ROME UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IMO ADOPTED, ALSO BY CONSENSUS, THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF MARITIME NAVIGATION, AND THE PROTOCOL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF FIXED PLATFORMS LOCATED ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

THIS YEAR, ON JUNE 14, WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION WHICH PRIMARILY CONCERNED THE MARKING OF SHEET OR PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETECTION, AND CALLED FOR VARIOUS STEPS BY STATES AND, AGAIN, BY ICAO, IN THIS AREA. IT ALSO CONDEMNED ALL ACTS OF UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION, AND CALLED ON ALL STATES TO CO-OPERATE IN DEVISING AND IMPLEMENTING MEASURES TO PREVENT ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM. ON JULY 31, THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY A RESOLUTION INITIALLY COSPONSORED BY CANADA AND FINLAND, CONDEMNING HOSTAGE-TAKING AND ABDUCTION. THIS RESOLUTION CONTAINED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS INCLUDING THE DEMAND THAT ALL HOSTAGES AND ABDUCTED PERSONS BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. THE COUNCIL ALSO APPEALED TO ALL STATES IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE HOSTAGE-TAKERS TO RELEASE THEIR VICTIMS, AND CALLED ON STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO TO BECOME PARTIES TO THE RELEVANT CONVENTIONS.