

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

ICAO LONDON MEETING: International co-operation to finance and operate essential civil air navigation facilities and services in Greece, the Faeroe Islands and on the North Atlantic Ocean will be the object of a special meeting in London, beginning April 20, it was announced at International Civil Aviation Organization headquarters on March 7. ICAO is treating these cases on a "joint support" basis -- that is, nations which benefit from these facilities will be asked to supply the financial support and the technical assistance necessary to operate them.

The joint support request made to ICAO by the Government of Greece involves mainly necessary construction work and new installations which will be required during the next five years to allow the civil airport at Ellinikon, near Athens, to handle safely large modern aeroplanes. Estimates place the cost of this work at approximately \$2,000,000. Also to be considered are other air safety and navigation facilities needed in Greece, such as meteorological and communications services and radio aids to navigation.

The London meeting will take up the request of the Danish Government for aid in financing a LORAN (long range radio navigation aid) station in Skuvanæs, Faeroe Islands. As the

LORAN facilities are used by the airlines of many countries, the Danish Government feels that their maintenance should not be a charge on Denmark alone.

Remaining item on the London agenda is the North Atlantic ocean weather ship network. At present, under ICAO auspices, 10 Atlantic nations maintain these ships, which are primarily used for meteorological reporting, and which play an important part in providing trustworthy weather forecasts for North Atlantic crossings. The ocean stations also provide communications and search and rescue services.

An ICAO conference in London in September, 1946, led to a 10-nation agreement to provide the ocean weather stations. Since that time the network has gradually come into operation. At present 11 stations are manned, and the remaining two will be manned before the end of June. Next month's London meeting is required to renew the agreement, and to make any changes found necessary as a result of experience gained in the operation of the weather ships.

Other ICAO joint support projects now in effect include the financing of a LORAN station, and of meteorological, area traffic control and communications services, on the island of Iceland.

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"Well, I am convinced that if we take the proper steps to make ourselves and the Charter respected, the democracies will convince the Communist leaders that it would be impossible for them to win any war which they might precipitate; and, realistic as they are, they will launch no war which they are not confident of winning.

"What I wish to emphasize again, what I wish to say once and for all, is that if we want to be strong, it is not with the intention of waging a war but solely of preventing it.

"The tragedy of the subjugation of one nation after the other by a dictatorship must not repeat itself. Should it happen again, the sufferings of invaded peoples and the losses of the liberating armies would be much more considerable than in the last conflict.

"A new conflagration would ruin us economically and would shatter the whole economy of the world; but the ruins it would accumulate would not be confined to the economic sphere. With atomic and bacteriological weapons a new war would probably bring about the destruction of civilized mankind.

"If, unhappily, war should again break out, the United States and the Soviet Union would inevitably be involved. In such an event, we could not remain neutral. We are in fact situated between these two Great Powers and,

whether we like it or not, war would be at our doorstep.

"But it would not be merely a conflict between these two states. It would be a conflict between a communistic and atheistic world and our democratic and Christian civilization. Between these two ways of life we have no choice.

"The religious persecutions which are now prevailing with increased fury in the countries behind the iron curtain are painful evidence that Communist expansion is the most serious threat to our religious and civil liberties.

"I do not want Canada to become a new Hungary. And it is because we wish to do everything in our power to ensure the preservation of our dearest institutions and our most sacred traditions that my colleagues and I are advocating the conclusion of the North Atlantic Security Pact. We are doing this frankly and openly in all provinces of Canada and in both languages.

"We want peace. We want security. We want to be able to go on devoting our resources and energies to the preservation of the welfare and prosperity of our country.

"It is in this spirit that we must envisage the North Atlantic Security Pact, the purpose of which, and the only purpose, is to ensure peace and brotherhood among men."