

stymied by the Soviet Union, that the United States had prearranged a major propaganda effort against the Soviet Union even to the preparation of speeches prior to the event. So I do not think that one can be satisfied with this response.

At the beginning it is an acknowledgement that indeed the Soviet fighter "stopped" the civilian aircraft to use their expression, presumably that means shot it down, because that is what happened. We still have to continue our efforts particularly to insist upon a full and impartial international investigation. Because if you read this statement there are allegations made about weather conditions, about the lighting on the plane, quite different to those that were made last night by the President of the United States and these allegations can only be settled and determined by a full and impartial international investigation. We have called for that in the United Nations Security Council and we will be looking forward at the International Civil Aviation Organization."

Questions and Answers

Q.: Have you received the TASS reply officially or have you just read it from wires?

A.: I have not received it yet, but I'm reading from what is distributed as a statement in the name of the Government of the Soviet Union.

Q.: Would you say it was a step in the right direction?

A.: Yes. I think it has to be regarded as a move. The move, now in the form of a statement in the name of the Soviet Government, a move in that the Soviet Government acknowledged that its fighter aircraft "stopped" the civilian aircraft. Those are moves, long delayed but necessary at this stage.

Q.: (inaudible)

A.: If we base it upon what has happened there has been, in a sense, an evolution in the disclosure, and in the acknowledgement.