

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that Canada will participate in a Diplomatic Conference which is being convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, September 8 - 23, 1971, to consider the Draft Convention on Acts of Unlawful Interference against International Civil Aviation.

This Conference follows a previous one held at the Hague, December 1 - 16, 1970 which adopted the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, commonly referred to as the "Hijacking Convention". Canada has signed but not yet ratified this Convention.

The Draft Convention to be considered at the Montreal Conference covers those acts of unlawful interference not covered by the "Hijacking Convention" and will have a greater scope of application in that it will cover acts against aircraft both on the ground and in the air.

Canada played a leading role in the adoption of the "Hijacking Convention" at the Hague and can be expected again at this Conference to support measures which are compatible with the Canadian position of ensuring the maximum safety of international civil aviation.

The Canadian Delegation will be headed by Mr. P. A. Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, with supporting delegates from the Canadian Transport Commission, the Department of Justice, the Ministry of Transport and the Department of External Affairs.