

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

The problem was also discussed by the Interpol general assembly in Mexico City, by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations, by ICAO and by IATA during the autumn of 1970. All the resolutions passed demanded action. On December 15, 1970, ICAO approved an international convention known as the Hague convention which could make hijacking and related acts criminal offences, with severe penalties, and which ruled out political motives as an excuse. It was provided that the convention would come into force when ratified by ten countries. This happened last week when the United States became the tenth country to ratify the convention.

Although Canada approved the convention last December, we have not yet ratified it, nor have we introduced a bill to make this serious offence a crime. I hope that the minister or somebody on his behalf will assure us tonight that this will be done shortly, not only for the safety of pilots and crews of aircraft but for the protection of the many passengers who travel by aircraft throughout the world.

**Mr. Albert Béchar** (*Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice*): Mr. Speaker, before the Canadian government can ratify the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, known as the Hague convention as requested by the Canadian Airline Pilots Association in its telegram of September 9, there will have to be certain jurisdictional amendments to the Criminal Code. The preparation of these amendments is in hand and the Ministry of Justice expects that they will be introduced in the House within a few weeks. In the meantime it should be borne in mind that there are provisions in the Criminal Code at present dealing with the hijacking of aircraft which, while not as sweeping as the Hague convention, deal with the problem to a considerable extent. I refer the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) and all hon. members of the House to the 1959 amendments, section 5A. It is the intention of the government to ratify the Hague convention as soon as Parliament has enacted the appropriate legislation.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.05 p.m.

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