

Canada/Cuba Hijacking Agreement of February 15, 1973

In 1969 the Cuban Government, which has been unwilling to become a party to the multilateral conventions dealing with various aspects of unlawful interference with civil aviation, invited any countries wishing to do so to negotiate with it on a bilateral basis. Canada, the U.S.A. and Mexico took up this invitation in 1969. A Canadian Delegation went to Havana in February, 1971 where detailed consideration was given to a Canadian draft text. As agreed during the Havana talks, Canadian officials revised the text and transmitted it to the Cuban Government in March, 1972 with an invitation to send a Cuban Delegation to Ottawa.

At the end of November, 1972 and early in December, the Cuban Government gave identical draft texts to the U.S.A., Mexico and Canada. The U.S.A. Government negotiated through the Swiss Ambassador in Havana. The Canadian Government sent a member of the Legal Bureau to Havana in December to assist the Canadian Ambassador in seeking clarification of details of the Cuban text, and sent a delegation to Havana from February 5 - 12 headed by the Department of External Affairs Legal Adviser. The Canada/Cuba Agreement and a U.S.A./Cuba memo of understanding were signed on February 15, the former in Ottawa and the latter in Washington, D.C. and Havana. Mexico and Cuba signed an agreement on June 7, 1973.

These agreements appear to be having an important deterrent effect against potential hijackings to Cuba.