

co-operate fully in any impartial investigation under the auspices of the United Nations and of the International Civil Aviation Organization to prevent any repetition of such a tragedy". And it demanded "that the Soviet authorities immediately offer full and generous compensation to the families of all victims, including Canadians". The text of this resolution was distributed on September 13 as a document of the Security Council and is available to all UN members.

Canadians are dismayed by the continuing failure of the Soviet government to respond to official Canadian communications on this matter. A Tass report is an insulting response to a reasonable request for information.

One UN agency – the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] – is undertaking an urgent and impartial investigation to determine the facts of the incident. It is also reviewing ways of preventing a recurrence of this tragedy. Canadians expect the Soviet authorities to co-operate fully with ICAO.

The ineffectiveness of the Council in dealing with the Korean Air Lines incident demonstrates once again the need to find more flexible and creative ways for Council members to address disputes. I would hope that agreement could be reached, among Council members, on the following specific measures:

– First, the Secretary-General should be encouraged to make greater use of this authority, under Article 99, to bring current or potential crisis situations to the attention of the Council. To do this, he requires a greater "fact-finding capacity".

– Second, the Council should meet informally to avert potential crises by examining incipient disputes during in camera sessions with the Secretary-General.

– Third, the Secretary-General requires additional personnel and resources for more effective use of his "good offices" in the resolution of disputes.

These are not revolutionary steps. They can be taken on the basis of existing authority and by re-allocating resources. But they would be useful and concrete.

They would facilitate the tangible progress on specific problems that is so urgently required. The Secretary-General has assumed his responsibilities in exemplary fashion. He does not, however, possess supernatural, nor alas supra-national, powers. We, as member governments, must also assume our responsibilities.

The Secretary-General has just reported on one problem that is crying for a solution – Namibia. It is almost five years to the day since the Security Council adopted Resolution 435. The outstanding issues regarding its implementation have, in substance, been resolved. All the parties have made concessions to achieve this result.

There is no excuse for further delay. South Africa's pre-condition to implementation, the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, cannot legitimize its illegal occupation of Namibia. The question of principle is clear. Namibia should have its independence regardless of what happens or does not happen in Angola.