

AN HISTORIC OCCASION IN CIVIL AVIATION

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International Civil Aviation Celebrations*

On November 1, 1944, an international meeting opened in Chicago which laid the cornerstone of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the first Conference of which was held the following year on August 15 in Montréal. On October 24, 1947, ICAO was officially recognized as an agency of the United Nations Organization.

Since then, civil aviation has enjoyed constant growth, to the point where it is today one of the largest industries in the world. Montréal cannot let pass in silence the 50th Anniversary of ICAO, which remains the only agency of the United Nations to have its Headquarters in Canada.

In addition, 1994-1995 marks the anniversaries of other important institutions, organizations and companies related to the aviation sector and the aeronautics industry. Notably those of IATA, Canadair, and the International Aeronautic Federation (IAF). The General Secretariat for the International Civil Aviation Celebrations will mark these anniversaries with many special large-scale events.



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Large international organizations have also expressed their wish to be associated with these celebrations, including Airports Council International (ACI) and the Société internationale de télécommunications aéronautiques (SITA).

It goes without saying that Montréal will play a central role in these celebrations, notably through the participation of aeronautic and aerospace companies with a worldwide reputation and which form one of the essential bases of the industrial infrastructure. The world capital of civil aviation, Montréal is home to more than half of Canada's aeronautics and aerospace industry.

Several objectives have served to form the program of the General Secretariat. First and foremost, to make better known ICAO and its role throughout the world since 50 years. Also, to underline the anniversary and function of IATA in the field of air transport. Finally, to welcome to Montreal, through international conventions, worldwide representatives of civil aviation and the aeronautics industry from both the public and private sectors.

In this perspective, the celebrations will involve two major orientations. One will see the invitation of the general public to enter into the extraordinary universe of air transport. The other, will see "rendez-vous" being given in Montréal for the biggest number of world specialists in aviation, who will be there to grapple with current themes in their profession.

One cannot insist too much upon the following aspect of these celebrations. Several thousand men and women, specialists in management, technology, aeronautics, air transport and related disciplines, all at the leading edge of their field of specialization, and many of whom will see Montréal for the first time, will begin in our city the second half-century of ICAO and IATA. One can rightfully speak of an historic event.

Also, the General Secretariat has put together a program of events directed at the general public, which will cause them to know better the world of civil aviation. To this end, diverse manifestations are foreseen, which will lead the population to familiarize itself, in a very direct way, with all aspects of this worldwide enterprise. ➔