



communiqué

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CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY

In response to a telegram from the Canadian Airline Pilots Association which urged the Canadian Government to implement the terms of the 1978 Bonn Agreement and to demand that other signatory States take similar action in light of the serious threats to civil aviation posed by events of the past week in Lebanon, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today replied:

"The Canadian Government strongly condemns the hijacking of TWA flight 847 and shares the concern of the Canadian Air Line Pilots Association concerning the threat to civil aviation security. In response to the resurgence of airline hijackings which has occurred over the past six months, Canadian representatives have already made proposals to their partners within the Economic Summit to strengthen the provisions of the Bonn Declaration on Aircraft Hijacking, and to work to improve air security measures within ICAO. The current tragic developments reinforce the need for both governments and industry organizations to deal vigorously with this problem.

Canada believes that all parties to the Chicago, Hague and Montreal Conventions, including Greece and Lebanon, have special obligations to ensure that the highest priority on a continuing basis is accorded to the security of airports, aircraft and passengers. The Canadian representative to ICAO has been instructed to underline this view in the ICAO Council. Moreover, I can assure you that Canada will hold consultations upon the conclusion of the TWA crisis with its partners within the Economic Summit to deal with the specific proposals which you have made."