

As part of a project in the Caribbean region, security plans for 17 airports have been completed and we are now working to develop a security awareness program. Eight hundred thousand dollars of new security equipment is presently being delivered, with staff training on its application and upkeep following shortly. Courses on the use and maintenance of walk-through metal detectors were recently completed, and courses on new X-ray machines are planned for mid-February. To date, two of the three scheduled security training courses have been given to approximately 70 of the 100 planned participants. The third and final course will be offered later this month. We expect that the entire project in the Caribbean will be completed before the end of 1989.

As for our co-operation in other regions, the Canadian International Development Agency recently contracted with a Canadian firm to fulfill this mandate. This firm has already completed its first field mission to evaluate the security needs of certain local airport authorities, and plans to carry out three more before the end of the month. We will continue with this project for the next four years.

Security is also a concern of the International Aviation Management Training Institute, which was established in Montreal through a joint initiative of the Governments of Canada and Quebec. Since it opened its doors in 1987, the Institute has welcomed students from over 40 different countries. In addition to the current average of 10 hours of instruction on aviation security given in the regular curriculum, in 1988 the Institute intends to offer a 3-week course dedicated to aviation security management.

Mr. President, my intention in bringing these facts to the delegates' attention was to show that the problem of airport security is not an abstract one. Legal measures, however essential they may be, will not be enough to confront this problem. International co-operation, both bilateral and multilateral, is essential at all levels.

In this regard, I would like to express my government's concern with respect to the serious financial situation facing ICAO, which could have an impact on this co-operation. We are aware that severe contingency measures may be required to deal with this situation. While recognizing the need for restraint, we will work with other ICAO members to minimize the impact of such contingency measures on the important work of the Organization. Already, Canada has taken a concrete step in this direction by paying its 1988 assessed contribution on December 22, 1987.