

Each nation, it is generally recognized, is primarily interested in the carriage of "home" traffic travelling to or from its own territory. Also it is agreed that on long through routes traffic travelling between points other than the home territory of the service is essential to the economic operation of the air line. Yet if this "Fifth Freedom" traffic becomes too large it infringes upon the home traffic of some other nation's air line.

The countries primarily interested in long through operations naturally wish that all traffic rights be given freely with little restriction. Canada has made a condition for the giving of these complete traffic rights on a multilateral basis (or on a basis which as a result of a multilateral commitment compels each nation to give them bilaterally, which is the Geneva proposal). This condition is that in return for such rights definite rules would ensure reasonable operation of all routes, fair competition, no discrimination and no inroads on the originating or "home" traffic of each nation. So far these principles have not been provided and no agreement has been reached.

In the most recent discussions at Geneva, the proposal was made that routes should be exchanged through bilateral agreements but that these agreements should include full traffic rights (both "home" and "Fifth Freedom" traffic). The Canadian contention was that these agreements must be paralleled by a set of principles which would not only cover matters of capacity, rates and competition (which was done) but would also give to each nation a reasonable assurance that it would not be refused reasonable routes by other countries (which was not done).

As a result of the tremendous expansion of Canadian flying during the last war, many modern airports similar to that at Edmonton shown below were built or greatly improved. Through Edmonton pass some of the shortest air routes across the roof of the world to the Orient. More commercial air freight goes in and out of this airport than any other on the continent. Canadian air policy encourages unrestricted flying throughout the globe.

