

"The Common Fight Against Terrorism."

December 14, 1977.

I should like to say a few words in support of the intervention that has just been made by our colleague the distinguished Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; the text he has introduced bears Canadian co-sponsorship.

Probably no country inside or outside the CSCE forum has totally escaped the phenomenon of terrorism, which in recent years has increasingly taken frightening new forms, and posed a potential threat directly to more and more of our citizens. Terrorist acts are a common threat to us all whatever the size, ideology or geographical location of our country. The fight against terrorist acts must be a common one. Furthermore, in the Canadian view, no reason, no cause can be adduced to justify these increasingly barbarous acts of violence. No matter who the perpetrator or target may be, no matter what the motive is, no matter where they take place, these acts detract from and erode the norms of civilized behaviour, of social well-being and of justice in all our countries — and, indeed, in the world community as a whole.

We do not see any distinction between political and criminal acts with respect, for example, to hijacking. Any such distinction would be inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1970 Hague Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention.

My delegation, like the other co-sponsors, believe that the Belgrade concluding document could usefully reinforce efforts being made elsewhere to combat all acts of terrorism; I refer to efforts in the UN Committee on International Terrorism and the Committee on Hostage-taking, on both of which bodies Canada serves as a member. For this reason we are co-sponsoring the text which has just been presented by the Federal Republic of Germany. We very much hope that this text will command the sympathy and support of all delegations, and that the sentiments it expresses will be reflected in our concluding document.