

questions of an economic nature whenever such agreement will facilitate the international operations of airlines. Similarly, it deals with legal questions in cases in which the differing positions of national codes of law are likely to handicap air operations. The results of its legal work usually appear in the form of international conventions open for ratification by all member states.

In the field of technical assistance, ICAO serves as an executing agency for the United Nations Development Program for projects involving civil aviation. ICAO experts have provided technical assistance, including training, in almost every branch of civil aviation, and 600 to 700 fellowships are awarded annually. The Organization also sponsors a number of regional training centres and makes a major contribution in the provision of civil aviation equipment.

In recent years, unlawful interference with international civil aviation, especially hijacking and air sabotage, has become of increasing concern. ICAO has been active in combating such offences, and three important international conventions (Tokyo, 1963, The Hague, 1970, and Montreal, 1971) have been adopted under its auspices. In 1973, an extraordinary session of the Assembly was held in Rome to consider proposals to amend the Chicago Convention to deal with these questions, but no significant agreement was reached.

Canadian participation

Since the time they became commercially feasible, aircraft have been of great value in developing the more remote parts of Canada and in bringing the various regions closer together. The size of the country provided unusual opportunities for the development of air services. Canada, as a major trading nation, is interested in the development of fast international transportation, while its geographical position astride important air-routes entails considerable responsibility. The Canadian Government was, therefore, keenly interested in developments leading up to the Chicago Conference, and took a significant part in its proceedings. The choice of Montreal as the site for ICAO headquarters was partly in recognition of Canada's contribution at Chicago.

Canada has been represented on the ICAO Council since its creation as a state of major importance in air transport. Similarly, there has always been a Canadian member of the Air Navigation Commission, and recently the commissioner nominated by Canada served as its president. Canada has always played an active role in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. It has made significant contributions to the development of the technical annexes to the Chicago Convention. It is party to the 1956 agreements on the joint
