

## *International Civil Aviation Organization*

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), whose headquarters are in Montreal, was established in 1947 to study problems of international civil aviation and the establishment of international standards and regulations for civil aviation. It encourages the use of safety measures, uniform regulations for operation, and simpler procedures at international borders. To promote the use of new equipment and technical methods, it has evolved a pattern for meteorological services, radio beacons and ranges, traffic control, communications, search and rescue organization, and other facilities required for safe international flight. Since its inception, ICAO has been successful in achieving simplification of government customs, immigration and public health regulations as they affect air transport. The Organization also drafts international air law conventions and is concerned with many of the economic aspects of international air transport.

ICAO carries on its operations through its Assembly, Council, and Secretariat, as well as through a number of commissions and committees. The Assembly, which consists of all of the member states of ICAO, is convened at least once in a three-year period to decide on policy, vote on the budget, and deal with any question not specifically referred to the Council. The Council, composed of 27 states elected by the Assembly, is the governing body of the Organization. It carries out the directives of the Assembly, appoints the Secretary-General and administers the finances of the Organization. It creates standards for international air navigation and collects, examines and publishes information concerning air navigation, and supervises the work of its subsidiary technical committees. It may also act as a tribunal for the settlement of any dispute arising among member states relating to international civil aviation. The Council is assisted in its responsibilities by an Air Navigation Commission and by four committees: Air Transport, Legal, Finance, and Joint Support of Air Navigation Services. The Secretariat is appointed and directed by the Secretary-General of ICAO – at present Bernard T. Twigt of the Netherlands, who succeeded Ronald M. Macdonnell of Canada in 1964. The Organization has field offices in Mexico City, Lima, Paris, Cairo and Bangkok to help maintain liaison with its 110 member states, and its budget in 1965 was \$6,429,671.

ICAO held the fifteenth session of its Assembly in June and July 1965 in Montreal. In his address of welcome to the delegates, the Honourable J. W. Pickersgill, Minister of Transport for Canada, pointed out how much the average international air traveller was indebted to ICAO for the service he enjoyed: