

human rights within the Commonwealth, subject to agreement on financing the unit. They also took note of the working party's proposals for an advisory committee for the protection and maintenance of human rights and asked that these should be further considered by the next meeting of Commonwealth law ministers. In 1982, the Secretary-General will be consulting further with member governments on an agreed upon definition of human rights within the Commonwealth context, as well as on the unit's functions.

International legal measures against terrorism

In March 1981, a Pakistan International Airlines aircraft, with some Canadian citizens on board, was hijacked from Pakistan to Afghanistan and finally to Syria, where the incident ended. The Canadian government took various steps with a view to ensuring that the hijackers were either extradited or prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the 1970 Hague convention for the suppression of the unlawful seizure of aircraft. After it became known that the hijackers had fled to Afghanistan where they proceeded to harass Pakistani diplomats in Kabul, Canada co-sponsored a resolution at the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on June 26, 1981. This noted in part the recent particularly grave incidents of unlawful seizure of aircraft and called upon states in the territory of which alleged offenders were found, to take the necessary steps immediately to comply fully with their solemn obligations under the 1970 Hague convention. At the Economic Summit meeting in Ottawa, the heads of state and government of the countries involved declared on July 20, 1981 that they proposed to suspend all flights to and from Afghanistan in implementation of the 1978 Bonn hijacking declaration unless the Babrak Karmal regime took steps to comply with Afghanistan's international obligations. On November 30, 1981 the Prime Minister's office released a communiqué stating in part that, since no reply had been received from the Afghan authorities, France, the FRG and the UK (which were the only countries among the seven to whose territories ARIANA Afghan Airlines flew) had decided, in agreement with the other members, to denounce their air services agreements or arrangements with Afghanistan. The communiqué added that the Canadian government considered the repudiation of bilateral air agreements to be a serious course of action in international affairs, indicating a high degree of dissatisfaction with the state involved.

Other resolutions of the ICAO Council supported by Canada in 1981 relating to unlawful interference with aircraft included one in November that condemned the criminal sabotage perpetrated against Cairo International Airport causing death and injury among ground staff and damaging some parts of an Air Malta aircraft and urged contracting states to ensure that the perpetrators of the incident were brought to justice in accordance with the 1971 Montreal convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation. A second resolution supported by Canada condemned the hijacking of an Air India aircraft in the Republic of Seychelles and reaffirmed the need for member states concerned to implement appropriate measures as provided by the relevant international civil aviation conventions. The alleged offenders in the Seychelles incident were subsequently prosecuted in South Africa.