

Building international expertise and capacity to counter growing cross-border threats

Terrorism

■ The events of September 11, 2001 painfully demonstrated that terrorism respects no boundaries. Terrorist actions endanger the safety of people and the political, social and economic stability of countries throughout the world. A truly effective global response to terrorism requires all states to act domestically and in concert with each other.

■ Canada's laws and policies are based on the premise that terrorism must be prevented, that all perpetrators of terrorist acts must be brought to swift justice and that there must be no sanctuary or support for terrorists. Combatting terrorism requires international co-operation and co-ordination. For more than 20 years, Canada has worked in various international fora, principally the G7/8 and the United Nations, to develop legal tools and international standards to combat terrorism. In addition to signing and ratifying

all 12 UN counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, Canada has implemented UN Security Council Resolution 1373, which requires states to enact specific counter-terrorism measures. Both our domestic and international counter-terrorism efforts are grounded in a comprehensive approach to security that integrates respect for human rights. Canada helps to build international expertise, capacities and instruments to counter the growing threat to the safety of people and critical infrastructure posed by terrorism; our support for the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Aviation Security Mechanism is one example. Our counter-terrorism approach also includes providing technical and legal assistance to build the capacity of other regions. In this vein, Canada supported a conference initiated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. At the conference, Central Asian government representatives and experts explored methods of combatting terrorism and extremism in the region.

■ Effective responses require that all countries work through international, regional and bilateral channels to combat terrorism. In addition to the measures outlined above, Canada supports the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to implement non-proliferation, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety projects.

Model counter-terrorism legislation

Canada's Human Security Program supported the development of model legislation to help Commonwealth countries implement UN counter-terrorism conventions and UN Security Council Resolution 1373. Carried out by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the initiative focussed on strengthening the capacity of developing countries to bring their domestic legislation in line with international norms and standards.

CP (Richard Lam)



September 12, 2001: Planes diverted as a result of the previous day's terrorist attacks on the United States sit stranded on the tarmac of Vancouver International Airport.