

and concrete measures against all acts of international terrorism, regardless of motive, such measures to be based on the principle of "prosecute or extradite" contained in the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation and the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents.

As a result of such divergent points of view on the work of the Committee, no progress was made of a substantive nature, nor was agreement reached on a future program of work.

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, which met in New York from August 1 to 19, 1977, met with only limited success. While the mandate of this Committee provided a sharper focus than that of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism, debate in the two Committees was strikingly similar. Most Arab delegations stressed that the question of hostage-taking was an integral part of the question of international terrorism and that its underlying causes should, therefore, be examined. The most serious divergence of views, however, as was clear even at the time of the establishment of the Hostage-Taking Committee, was the question of the scope of the convention and its application to national liberation movements. Various Arab and African delegations noted that unless a satisfactory solution was found to this question, it would be very unlikely that the Hostage-Taking Committee could make progress. Nevertheless, some debate of a substantive nature did take place on relevant legal matters such as preventive measures against hostage-taking, criminal sanctions, jurisdiction and extradition, raised in the draft convention submitted to the Committee as a basis for its work by the Federal Republic of Germany. While strong differences of opinion continue to exist on fundamental issues, the Committee adopted a resolution which recommends that its mandate be renewed for another year.

In approaching the work of the Committee, Canada believes that the groundwork for international cooperation in combatting the taking of hostages has been established by the 1970 Hague, the 1971 Montreal and 1973 New York Conventions. These instruments do, however, leave gaps which should be filled by the proposed new convention. This convention should build upon these precedents without duplicating or disturbing the existing and accepted international legal framework.