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CANADA CALLS FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, released today the text of the letter, dated September 1, 1983, by which Canada associated itself with the call for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider the deplorable destruction by the Soviet Union on August 31, 1983 of a civilian aircraft of Korea Airlines. It is presumed that all of the passengers and crew aboard the aircraft were killed.

The letter, which was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, acting on instructions from the Canadian government, read as follows:

"I wish to associate my Government with the request, made by the Governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, for the urgent convening of a meeting of the Security Council to consider the facts and serious implications of the destruction on August 31, 1983, by the airforce of the Soviet Union, of the Boeing 747 passenger aircraft of Korea Airlines.

The Government of Canada deplores the destruction of this unarmed civil aircraft and the killing of innocent passengers, including a number of Canadians. These actions are flagrant and unacceptable violations of the norms and practices of international civil aviation and international law.

I would request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council."