



communiqué

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CANADA PRESENTS CLAIM FOR \$2,100,000 TO SOVIET UNION FOR KAL 007 INCIDENT

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Canada has orally conveyed a diplomatic note to the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics claiming the amount of \$2,100,000 for damages arising out of the loss of life of eight Canadian citizens on the Korean Airlines 747 shot down on September 1, 1983 over the island of Sakhalin.

The Soviet Ambassador stated that he had no authority to accept the text of the note. The Government of Canada takes the position that the amount of the Canadian claim has now been formally communicated to the Soviet authorities and that it expects that the matter will be resolved by diplomatic negotiations.

The amount of the Canadian claim was arrived at after careful review of information submitted to the Department of External Affairs by next-of-kin of the victims. The figure is based on calculations by lawyers and actuaries in the light of both recent awards in fatal accident cases in Canada and principles of customary international law. The amount of the claim is quite separate from any recovery which next-of-kin may obtain in private legal suits against Korean Airlines.

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