

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.



STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP,
DECEMBER 18, 1973

"ROME AIRPORT TRAGEDY"

I know that all Canadians share with me my feeling of shock and horror at the terrible tragedy which has been perpetrated on innocent people at Rome Airport by misguided individuals who seek to use human hostages and lives to further their political aims. I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and to the injured.

The world community must respond to these acts by making it clear to such malicious individuals that, whatever their goals, attempts to hold governments to ransom with the lives of innocent people cannot be tolerated. I made a strong plea in the United Nations a year ago that there can be no truce with terror, and again, last September, I reminded the United Nations that although international efforts to combat terrorism have gathered some momentum, the problem of terrorism has not been eliminated.

Canada has been in the forefront of those nations urging international adoption of measures to prevent hijacking and air sabotage. We regret that our efforts and those of like-minded nations to have adopted more effective measures at the extraordinary I.C.A.O. assembly held in Rome last September were unsuccessful. Canada will continue its efforts within I.C.A.O. and elsewhere to develop measures to prevent a re-occurrence of these tragedies. The fundamental principle that all nations must apply is that there can be no safe haven for perpetrators of such crimes.