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Press Release No. 34  
Tuesday, November 10, 1970

Statement in the Sixth Committee on  
Hijacking by the Canadian Representative,  
Mr. J.A. Beesley.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Communiqué No. 34  
Le mardi 10 novembre 1970

Déclaration prononcée par  
Mr. J.A. Beesley, représentant canadien  
à la Sixième Commission sur le déroutement  
par la force d'aéronefs civils en vol.

VERIFIER LORS DU DISCOURS

**CANADIAN DELEGATION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DELEGATION DU CANADA  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is a co-sponsor of the Resolution before us because Canada believes that aerial hijacking and other acts of unlawful interference with international civil aviation pose a grave threat to the safe and orderly development of civil air transport and it is, therefore, a subject of serious concern to the international community. It will be recalled that the Canadian delegation was also a co-sponsor of Resolution 2551 on the forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight adopted in the XXIV UNGA last year. Regrettably since that time, there has been a number of incidents which have placed more civilian lives in jeopardy and undermined the confidence of the public in air travel to a greater extent than ever before. The world community is justifiably concerned about this serious problem and looks now to the General Assembly to condemn such reprehensible acts and to point the way to deterring and preventing such acts in the future so that the innocent public can travel between lands without fear.

It is clear to my delegation that the means to combat this

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lawlessness in the skies must take the form of energetic and forceful efforts to implement efficient security measures with respect to aviation facilities and to develop internationally agreed measures to deter and prevent unlawful interference with civil air transport. In this latter connection the United Nations has a significant role to play as does the International Civil Aviation Organization. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution just referred to and the Security Council Resolution 286 of September 9 on Interference with International Civil Air Travel have had an important influence in furthering the development of the international legal framework. Recently, the International Civil Aviation Organization has also acted on a number of fronts to deal with the increasing threat to international air safety. In particular it has elaborated a new Draft Treaty on the Unlawful Interference with International Civil Aviation (other than hijacking) and has taken the landmark decision of "calling upon contracting states, in order to ensure the safety and security of

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international civil air transport, upon the request of a contracting state to consult together immediately with a view to deciding what joint action should be undertaken, in accordance with international law, without excluding measures such as suspension of international civil air transport services to and from any state which, after unlawful seizure of aircraft, detains passengers, crew and aircraft or fails to extradite or prosecute persons committing acts of unlawful seizure". Operative paragraph 8 (formerly operative paragraph 7) takes into account this far-reaching decision of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

It is the view of the Canadian delegation that the present resolution which clearly condemns hijacking and interference with civil air travel by threat or use of force and acts of violence against civil air transport, and which calls upon and urges specific action on the part of states, deserves the widest possible support. Accordingly, we are gratified that a generally favourable consensus prevails once again

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in this Committee in support of this important resolution which will serve to further and enhance international efforts to combat menace presented by illegal acts directed against international civil aviation.