INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY – 22nd SESSION

PLENARY

Minutes of the First Meeting

(Tuesday, 13 September 1977, at 1100 hours)

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

1. Opening of the Session by the President of the Council

2. Address of welcome by His Worship Jean Drapeau, Mayor of the City of Montreal

   Address by the Honourable Senator Jean Marchand on behalf of the Government of Canada

   Address by Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General

   Address by the Honourable René Lévesque, Prime Minister of Quebec

3. Interpretation into Chinese language at meetings of the Plenary and the Executive Committee

4. Agenda Item 3: Establishment of the Executive and Credentials Committees

5. Agenda Item 9: Deadline for notification of candidacies for the three parts of the Council's election

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Session by the President of the Council

1. The President of the Council, Dr. Assad Kotaite, as Temporary President of the Assembly, declared open the 22nd Session of the Assembly and spoke as follows:

   "It is a great honour to have with us at this First Plenary Meeting of the Assembly, the Honourable Senator Jean Marchand representing the Government of Canada, the Honourable René Lévesque, Prime Minister of Quebec, His Worship Jean Drapeau, Mayor of the City of Montreal and
Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, representing the United Nations Secretary General. On behalf of the Council of ICAO and Secretary General, Mr. Yves Lambert, I wish to welcome all of you and extend special greetings to those States which have joined ICAO since the 21st Session of the Assembly in Montreal 1974.

Although we have had many meetings in our new premises since we moved in July 1975, this is the first time our Assembly is being held in the new headquarters. The new facilities undoubtedly represent a great improvement over our previous accommodations and they have been further enhanced by donations from Contracting States as well as from the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal for which I wish to express our sincere thanks. I take this opportunity to say how grateful we are to the Government of Canada for its generous contribution to the cost of these premises and how much we appreciate its sustained support in matters relating to the premises. We are also very grateful to the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal for their co-operation and for the services they have provided which have facilitated the work of ICAO over the years.

The 22nd Session of the Assembly coincides with the 30th Anniversary of ICAO. The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944. Our organization began its activities in Montreal as the provisional international organization on 6 June, 1945 however, the word "provisional" was deleted from its name only on 4 April 1947 when the Chicago Convention came into force upon being ratified by the 26th State.

For the past 30 years, ICAO jointly with all its Member States has been building solid foundations in an effort to make air travel safe and efficient and to bring together the peoples of the world. Throughout all these years, from the era of the conventional propeller-driven aircraft to that of wide-bodied jets and super-sonic transport, this Organization has been the international forum for deliberations of all those who, in the administrations of their countries or in international organizations, bear the responsibility for this specialized work in the field of civil aviation. These frequent encounters and exchange of ideas, through the machinery of ICAO meetings, have made it possible for States to get to know and understand one another better. They have also contributed to developing the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to fostering the planning and development of international air transport.
The work accomplished by the organization in all fields of civil aviation has been possible thanks to the spirit of co-operation of all the Contracting States, the wisdom of its Council and of the Air Navigation Commission and to the competence and the devotion to duty of the Secretariat.

In this connection, I should like to recall here the name of Edward Warner, the first President of the ICAO Council, who is still a great source of inspiration to us. From 1957 until the end of July 1976, my predecessor, Mr. Walter Binaghi, who is with us here today as one of our honoured guests, presided over the fortunes of this organization. I should like to pay further homage to his brilliant leadership, to his dynamic personality, and to his extraordinary contribution to the work of ICAO which for 19 years has marked the entire activity of this organization during a period of enormous development for air transport.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude with a thought which Walter Binaghi expressed in Spanish, his mother-tongue, at the 1965 Assembly. "In our present day civilization, various forms of transport are essential tools of everyday life. Among them, air transport stands out as the one that can contribute most to the unity of Nations. It is only logical that man should wish to perfect it and Governments should support this aspiration. This will mean that more people will be able to live in better conditions and in peace."

Address by His Worship, Jean Drapeau, Mayor of Montreal

2. His Worship Jean Drapeau then addressed the Assembly:

"This is not the first time that I have had the honour to respond to an invitation of the President of the Council to address the International Civil Aviation Organization on such an occasion. Today, as always, I feel the same emotion. It is the permanent presence in my City of a specialized agency of the United Nations as prestigious and useful as ICAO that constantly reminds us of the role Montreal plays at an international level. While this alone would be sufficient to make my fellow citizens proud, there is still more. This presence of ICAO in Montreal enables Montreal to welcome, from time to time, delegates of countries from all over the world gathered together to work on an Agenda of the highest importance with a view to finding solutions and arranging agreements between States under the triple banner of technical progress, safety and peace - and this adds noble feelings to our pride."
The first time I had the privilege of presenting my respects and good wishes to ICAO as Mayor of Montreal was on 31 May 1955 at the opening of the 9th Session of the Assembly. This was early in ICAO's history and even then I was able to address your predecessors with the following words: 'For any Agency of the size and importance of yours, Gentlemen, ten years of existence is something that has enormous significance. In assessing, if only in summary, work done since the Chicago Convention, one cannot help experiencing a lively sentiment of admiration and gratitude to ICAO.' This was, I repeat, in 1955 - in other words more than 22 years ago. Once again, I reflect on the significance of the work done by your Organization during the period from 1955 - 1977 and I am in a position to express again the particularly firm homage which I rendered to you at that time and which I reiterate today to all the Directors and high officials of ICAO who have, both yesterday and today, devoted themselves and are still devoting themselves to a supremely eminent task. It is with a firm conviction that I now pay tribute to the work done by ICAO because, of all the international organizations, there can be few that have accomplished without much fanfare and with an admirable perseverance and a will to serve humanity what your organization has done. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, the City of Montreal is proud to be the seat of ICAO Headquarters. It is more so now because ICAO has once again re-confirmed its confidence in Montreal and its satisfaction at being here with us. This is in fact a pact of friendship, of solidarity, one of international co-operation and Montreal will keep this pact because it is to us of the greatest importance and an honour to serve the world community. It is in this spirit that I can assure you of the sincerity of our good wishes for a fruitful session and a pleasant stay in Montreal. We hope you will be able to enjoy our warm hospitality during this time and that also, you will be able to discover, or rediscover perhaps, what makes Montreal a City where the population works to put a form to the humanism imbued by the past and directed to the future."

3. The Temporary President thanked Mayor Drapeau for his kind words and recalled the long and solid friendship existing between His Worship and the Organization. The international convictions which Mayor Drapeau had in common with ICAO need not be stressed as his work had become a symbol for this and future generations. He then expressed gratitude for the many services and facilities made available to ICAO by the City of Montreal which greatly facilitated the work of ICAO.
Address by the Honourable Senator Jean Marchand on behalf of the Government of Canada

4. The Honourable Senator Jean Marchand stated it was a great honour and privilege for him to welcome delegations to the 22nd Session of the ICAO Assembly on behalf of the people and Government of Canada and said it was a particular pleasure to represent the Prime Minister of Canada and, as a former Minister of Transport, to appear before such an august body of international aviation specialists. His Government extended a particularly warm welcome to those States that had joined ICAO since the last session of the Assembly, and noted that each of the 140 member States had a unique opportunity to contribute to the creation and preservation of friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world.

He pointed out that Canada had always had a special interest in aviation. From the early days of flight aviation had uniquely influenced the development of his country. By the 1920's commercial flying had begun to meet the hazardous challenges of Canadian geography - great distances, intense cold, Arctic blizzards, mountains, remote communities, broad prairies and growing urban centres. The aeroplane soon became an indispensable vehicle for settlement, exploration, development and commerce in this country. Most recently, he recalled the difficulties faced in trying to conciliate the two opposing views, in connection with the building of the new Mirabel Airport outside Montreal - one in favour of airports located far outside the city and that view which advocated expansion of Dorval Airport closer to the city, with the arguments put forth, for each case which were of universal appeal. He was convinced that his Government's final decision would prove to be one way of solving many problems posed by modern aviation. This prominence of aviation in Canadian life explained the pride of Canadians in the choice of Canada as the permanent site of the ICAO Headquarters. He hoped that ICAO found the atmosphere an inspiration in solving the difficult problems it dealt with - air piracy, location of airports, noise and pollution to mention but a few.

His Government was always ready to collaborate with ICAO in order to achieve its objectives which were so important for the world as a whole. They realized that aviation as a means of communication contributed to solving serious problems and to doing away with prejudices between nations, ethnic groups and language groups. When peoples gathered together and experienced the culture of others, their outlook changed and in this civil aviation played an important role. Although ICAO could not solve all the problems in the world, it would create an atmosphere which would render possible the solution of many.

He expressed to delegations to the Assembly best wishes in their deliberations and the hope that their work would be fruitful.
5. The Temporary President thanked the Senator for his greetings and good wishes for the success of the Session. On behalf of all delegations, he conveyed the gratitude of the Organization to the Government of Canada for its generous and unfailing support which had contributed largely to the success of ICAO's work, and noted that the important role of aviation in Canada was reflected in the participation and contribution of its Government to all aspects, human as well as technical, of ICAO's work.

Address by Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General

6. Mr. Narasimhan first conveyed the warm greetings and wishes for a successful Assembly of His Excellency Kurt Waldheim whom he was representing. He continued:

"The celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of international civil aviation this year provides a good point of reference to look back to the time that ICAO was established and, together with other specialized agencies, brought into a relationship with the United Nations. This was part of a grand design for international co-operation conceived in the aftermath of the second World War in order to avoid the political paralysis which affected and afflicted the League of Nations. Instead of one organization covering all aspects of international activity, the founders of the United Nations decided that there should be a system of independent organizations. For example the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations were created and the International Labour Organization was brought into the system. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund became the financial institutions and then there were the technical regulatory agencies: the new International Civil Aviation Organization as well as the International Telecommunications Union and the Universal Postal Union which were already in existence. Later the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization whose work in the maritime field is complementary to that of ICAO was developed and made a specialized agency. As part of this UN system I feel ICAO has played a very important role in promoting international economic and social relations, far more important perhaps than was envisaged when the Organization was established. At that time, few people could have foreseen perhaps the tremendous growth that has occurred in civil aviation over the last 30 years. In 1947, if I recall rightly, you had only 52 members who joined together in claiming the ICAO Convention. Today there are 140 member governments, to be 141 before long, reflecting the essential role of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and although all countries participate in the civilization of the air, it is evident that without the international regulations developed by member States through ICAO,"
civil aviation as we know it today could not exist. The technical work involved in working out and enforcing the regulations may often go unnoticed. Nevertheless, the high safety record established by the commercial airlines is a striking testimony of the great achievement of ICAO. I know that in the years to come through the promotion of international civil aviation, ICAO will continue to help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among nations and peoples of the world. By increasing the opportunities for cultural exchange, ICAO will help foster further co-operation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world ultimately depends."

7. In thanking Mr. Narasimhan for his wishes for success, the Temporary President said that as a member of the United Nations family the goal of ICAO was a better world for all mankind. It was imperative that "détente" replace tension in all parts of the world, that confrontation yield to negotiation and that political crises be overcome, in accordance with the principles and Charter of the United Nations, to provide social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. As Mr. Narasimhan had said, international civil aviation was an activity which contributed greatly to the economic and social development of nations and promoted co-operation between them.

Address by the Honourable René Lévesque, Prime Minister of Quebec

Tagging the floor, the Honourable René Lévesque next addressed the Session as follows:

"I would simply like at this time to wish this 22nd Session of the General Assembly of ICAO the most cordial and warmest of welcomes. This perhaps goes without saying but there are some things that even though they go without saying are better said. The fact is that the Government and people of Quebec are fully aware of the importance of the increasingly close ties between all the nations of the world and of the essential usefulness of the role played by an organization like this: the Government, along with all Quebecers, is pleased to find you installed here and for so long so well installed on our soil in Montreal.

With its 140 contracting States, this great specialized agency is most certainly one of the most peaceful, strategic and beneficial of all the international public institutions. In this prestigious and useful field you constitute important links in aviation and provide a permanent forum for discussion, agreement and understanding here at your meetings as well as throughout the world, strengthening communications and inter-dependence between nations, which all mankind needs first to survive and also to find the true paths of progress. Your tasks in planning, establishing and supervising
standards as well as in technical assistance all demonstrate by their discreet success that it is by concrete achievements and through common efforts that the hopes of peace and development for the future will be realized. ICAO does not make a great deal of noise, but it seems to me that it does accomplish a great deal of good. And in a world where noise is very common and often aggressive and harmful, we find here in ICAO a feeling of peace, a productive oasis where noise gives way to action and where efficient service to the population, most of the time at least, eliminates wrangling and prejudice. This in fact is what the President of the Council and the Secretary General stated to me a few weeks ago when I had a brief meeting with them.

Therefore, an organization of this calibre which decided long ago to install itself in Montreal is now celebrating its 30th Anniversary, which means that, as a permanent visitor you have been here longer than Mayor Drapeau! Not only did you install yourself here so many years ago, but you have also built this splendid new headquarters housing many delegations, with its 600 permanent staff coming from all over the world, and it goes without saying that Quebecers are proud of this fact. Nothing better underlines and defines the international character of this great city, which it has merited several times over and for which it has paid the price, than your presence here.

And, more than ever, I must add, all Quebecers wish to remain open to the world and, with increasing competence wish to be useful to others everywhere. The rapid evolution and development which is going at present here, and most certainly you have heard of this, is in fact basically the normal affirmation of a specific identity and represents the confidence of a people in themselves, which is the confidence of a people who are tenacious and full of resources. We naturally feel the need to be present more than ever, to know other people and what they are doing and to let them know what we are doing, whenever our capacities and our legitimate interests call upon us. This is why, for example, in the Quebec Government, we felt it was appropriate to appoint a permanent delegate to international organizations to keep ourselves up to date. I am sure, and the Honourable Senator will confirm this fact, that in a great number of fields - education, culture, labour, the environment, which is becoming one of the most important problems of our century, housing, water, energy, agriculture and food, another crucial problem of our time - in all these fields, Quebec already has a federal system, very important competencies and responsibilities, and, of course, it has the need to know and make known, to communicate and exchange views at an increasing rate in response to the needs of our time. Therefore it is very natural, more natural than ever, that
we are pleased to see you installed on our soil, and that we are more and more interested in your work and your success. The field in which you are working is without any doubt one of the most powerful tools to be used in bringing people closer.

Therefore, in the name of the Government of Quebec, I would like to wish you the most fruitful and peaceful of meetings during the next few days. And I would like you to convey to all your States and organizations and beyond that, to all the millions of men and women that you represent across the world, the greetings and friendship of the people of Quebec."

9. In thanking the Prime Minister of Quebec for his warm words, the Temporary President pointed out that, since its inception, the ICAO Headquarters had been located in Canada, in the City of Montreal, on the soil of Quebec, whose people, traditions and dynamic nature those who worked for ICAO and visited it as delegates had grown to admire. The services provided by the Government of Quebec had aided in the accomplishment of the Organization's work which, as the Prime Minister had noted, was carried out with a minimum of publicity and he, the Temporary President, hoped that ICAO would continue to work in an atmosphere of healthy silence to serve the international community. He expressed the appreciation of the Organization to the Government of Quebec and declared how honoured ICAO was by the presence of the Prime Minister of Quebec at the opening of the Assembly.

Interpretation into Chinese Language at meetings of the Plenary of the Executive Committee

10. The Temporary President said that one of the items on the Agenda for the Executive Committee was the introduction of the Chinese language in ICAO and he informed the Assembly that the Delegation of the People's Republic of China had expressed the wish that the Chinese language be used for interpretation at meetings of the Plenary and Executive Committee of this Assembly. As this would have no bearing on the Assembly's discussion of the subject later, and in the absence of objection, interpretation was started in the Chinese language as requested.

Agenda Item 3: Establishment of the Executive and Credentials Committees

11. The Assembly agreed to the establishment of the Executive and Credentials Committees, the Temporary President asking the Delegations of Bolivia, Hungary, Iceland, Ivory Coast and Malaysia to designate one of their number to serve on the five-member Credentials Committee, which would meet immediately after the close of the Plenary.
Agenda Item 9: Election of Contracting States to be represented on the Council
Deadline for Notification of Candidacies for the First and
Second Parts of the Council Election

12. The Temporary President announced that, in accordance with Rule 57 of the
Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Contracting States wishing to stand for
election in the first or second part of the Council election must notify the Secretary
General in writing by noon on Thursday, 15 September. The first and second parts of
the election would be held at a Plenary meeting in the morning of Saturday, 17 September.
The third part of the election would take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 20 September,
and notification of candidatures for that part would be receivable from the close of the
Plenary meeting on Saturday for a period of forty-eight hours – i.e. until the same hour
on Monday, 19 September – and should be submitted in writing to the Secretary General.

13. The meeting adjourned at 1215 hours.