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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY - 32ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 7: Annual Reports of the Council to the Assembly for 1995, 1996 and 1997

STRENGTHENING THE USE OF CHINESE LANGUAGE IN ICAO (RESOLUTION A31-16)

SUMMARY

In this paper, the Council, pursuant to Clause 4 of Assembly Resolution A31-16, presents a progress report on the implementation of this Resolution.

Action by the Assembly is in paragraph 5.

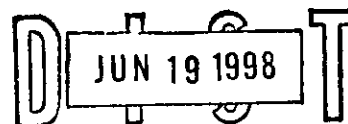
REFERENCES

Doc 9662, Assembly Resolutions in force as of 4 October 1995 (A31-16)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 31st Session of the Assembly adopted Resolution A31-16: Strengthening the use of Chinese Language in ICAO, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested:

- "1. ... the Council and the Secretary General to take the necessary measures to intensify the progressive use of the Chinese language in interpretation and translation services as soon as possible;
2. ... the Council to closely monitor these measures with the objective of achieving the utilization of the Chinese language in ICAO on the same level as the other languages in the Organization by the end of year 2001 within the resources of the Organization;
3. ... the Secretary General to prepare the Authentic Chinese text of the Chicago Convention for its adoption at an international conference convened during the next session of the Assembly; and



4. ... the Council to submit a progress report on the implementation of this resolution to the next ordinary Session of the ICAO Assembly."

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 It may be recalled that pursuant to the Council decision taken during its 140th session, a Chinese language unit starting with two interpreter/translators and one general service staff was established in October 1994 and appropriate provisions were made in the Programme Budget of the Organization for 1996-1997-1998 to progressively intensify the use of the Chinese language.

2.2 In line with the budgetary provisions mentioned above, one more Professional and one General Service post were announced and filled in April 1998, which brought the strength of the Chinese Unit in the current triennium to three Professional and two General Service staff. In order to complement the still limited capacity of the Chinese Unit, increased recourse to contractual translation was made and a Letter of Understanding was signed with a Chinese translation agency for the provision of external translation services in a camera-ready format. As a further measure aimed at strengthening the use of Chinese language at ICAO, the Council during its 152nd session approved an additional appropriation of US\$ 60 000 from the excess amounts in miscellaneous income in 1995 and 1996 to be utilized for translation into Chinese of saleable publications.

2.3 During its 151st and 152nd sessions, the Council approved the suggested method and procedure for the approval and adoption of the authentic Chinese text of the Chicago Convention and steps to be taken to that effect. It also approved the draft Chinese text of the Chicago Convention and amendments thereto as well as other documentation for submission to a Diplomatic Conference in 1998 to be held in conjunction with the 32nd Session of the Assembly.

3. SERVICE FOCUS

3.1 During the 1996-1998 triennium, the Chinese Unit continued to provide interpretation services at Council sessions and started translation of selected material and Annexes to the Chicago Convention (a list of documents and publications produced in Chinese to date appears in the Attachment to this paper). The translation services in Chinese also included translation of Council working papers containing Amendments to the Annexes that had been adopted by the Council in Chinese and produced as blue cover editions. Full Chinese interpretation services were also provided for the Directors General of Civil Aviation conference and for the World-wide CNS/ATM Systems Implementation Conference held in Rio de Janeiro. Translation is also in progress of all documentation required for the Diplomatic Conference to be convened for the adoption of the authentic Chinese text of the Chicago Convention.

3.2 To enhance the efficiency and productivity of translation, work is in progress to compile and integrate Chinese terminology to the terminology data base for on-line access. The Chinese Unit was connected to the local area network, and the necessary computer equipment and software were also acquired, including specially adapted laser printers.

4. PLANS FOR THE 1999-2001 TRIENNIUM

4.1 During its 151st Session, the Council considered a paper dealing with the programme options related to the 1999-2001 Programme budget and their projected cost implications which included, *inter alia*, proposed action for the implementation of Resolution A31-16. In view of the financial implications, and taking into account the resources of the Organization as mentioned in Clause 2 of Resolution A31-16, the Secretary General proposed to achieve the full implementation of the said Resolution over two rather than one triennium, i.e. by the year 2004. The Council accepted the Secretary General's proposal subject to the understanding that other measures would be taken and possibilities determined in order to further accelerate the strengthening of the Chinese language so that the full implementation of Resolution A31-16 could be achieved before the end of the 2002-2004 triennium.

4.2 In light of the Council's debate and guidance provided on the programme options, the Secretary General prepared the Draft Programme Budget of the Organization for 1999, 2000 and 2001 that included provisions to create progressively over the coming triennium four Professional and three General Service posts. Accordingly, the Chinese Unit will be redesignated a Section and, by the end of 2001, will be composed of seven Professional and five General Service staff.

4.3 In view of financial and hence recruitment constraints, the Secretary General intends to comply with the provisions of Resolution A31-16 through a range of measures including recruitment of regular staff as indicated in paragraph 4.2 above, temporary freelance assistance and a greater use of contractual translation, typing and proofreading. It should be noted in this regard that the Draft Programme Budget contains a specific provision for temporary language staff to service meetings which is largely intended to meet the requirements, *inter alia*, for Chinese. Therefore, it is planned, in step with the recruitment of additional staff, to expand Chinese services to include, by the end of the next triennium, full interpretation and translation services for the Council, Assembly and all Divisional or Conference-type meetings. Contractual translation will also be intensified with a view to establishing a solid documentation base and to produce Chinese versions of major regulatory and other ICAO documents by the end of 2001.

4.4 The action proposed in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 above would go a long way towards the implementation of Assembly Resolution A31-16 within the resources of the Organization and would lay a sound foundation for the full implementation of the Resolution which could be further accelerated if new technological developments, which are being explored, in the field of computer-assisted translation, voice recognition and teleconferencing prove to be effective and are introduced.

5. ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

5.1 The Assembly is invited to note the contents of this paper.

ATTACHMENT

**LIST OF ICAO DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE CHINESE
LANGUAGE OR TO BE PRODUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

1. Available Documents:

- 1) Annex 2 - Rules of the Air
- 2) Annex 5 - Units of Measurement to be used in Air and Ground Operations
- 3) Annex 7 - Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marks
- 4) Annex 9 - Facilitation
- 5) Annex 11 - Air Traffic Services
- 6) Annex 17 - Security
- 7) The ICAO Financial Regulations (Doc 7515)
- 8) Rules for the Settlement of Differences (Doc 7782)

2. Documents in the process of translation:

- 1) Annex 8 - Airworthiness of Aircraft
- 2) Annex 1 - Personnel Licensing
- 3) PANS RAC - Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Services (Doc 4444)
- 4) Manual on the Regulation of International Air Transport (Doc 9626)

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