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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY — 35TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14: Aviation security

ACTS OF TERRORISM AFFECTING CIVIL AVIATION

(Presented by the Russian Federation)

SUMMARY

In the light of the recent terrorist acts related to civil aviation activities in the Russian Federation, this paper presents a draft Assembly Resolution, which calls for the continuation of global actions to ensure aviation security. The draft has been prepared taking into account proposals presented by representatives on the Council during unofficial contacts and in earlier adopted papers.

Action by the Assembly is in paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

Doc 9790, *Assembly Resolutions in Force* (as of 5 October 2001)
A35-WP/48

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The events of 24 August 2004, which consisted in two acts of terrorism committed on board Russian civil aircraft on domestic flights from Moscow to Volgograd and Sochi, were subject to wide media coverage.

1.2 In compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), a Commission chaired by the Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation, was established to investigate the aviation disasters. Representatives of the Interstate Aviation Committee, the Federal Transport Oversight Service, the Federal Aviation Authority, the Federal Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the aviation industry and other departments were included in the Commission's membership.

1.3 The Commission carried out a series of measures, including some at the sites of the disasters. Once the flight data recorders were located, the decoded data revealed that the flights of both aircraft were conducted under normal conditions and without deviations. The TU-154 aeroplane exploded in the Rostov region, whereas the TU-134 aeroplane exploded in the Tula region. As shown by the investigation, the explosive devices were detonated during flight, virtually simultaneously at 10:53 p.m. and 10:54 p.m. by the terrorists-suicide bombers, who had carried them on their bodies into the passenger cabins of the aircraft. Information on the flights is provided below.

- a) Domodedovo-Sochi - TU-154 RA-85556 “Sibir”, 38 passengers and eight crew members;
- b) Domodedovo-Volgograd - TU-134 RA-65080 “Volga-Aviaexpress”, 35 passengers and nine crew members.

1.4 As a result of these terrorist acts, 73 passengers and 17 crew members were killed.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The terrorist acts of 24 August 2004 were the first instance in which civil aircraft were destroyed by terrorists-suicide bombers who detonated explosive devices on their bodies. This has resulted in a new and very serious threat to civil aviation. The terrorist acts were carefully planned and carried out through coordinated actions by a group of criminals. This is also confirmed by the monstrous acts of terrorism which followed in Moscow and Beslan, perpetrated against children and completely innocent citizens, including hundreds who were killed and wounded.

2.2 Such acts of terrorism pose a new threat to civil aviation and require urgent international reaction. In the world today, the requirement to ensure flight safety and aviation security in civil aviation is acquiring greater importance. This has become a global issue which seriously affects the safety, efficiency and regularity of international and domestic civil aviation. Accordingly, the existing provisions on aviation security should evidently be refined and updated in the light of the new challenges. Having taken the aforementioned into account, the draft Assembly Resolution has been prepared with the goal of giving an impetus with certain purposefulness to the work ahead in the field of aviation security.

3. ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 The Assembly is invited to review and adopt the draft Resolution presented as an Appendix to this working paper.

APPENDIX

DRAFT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Acts of terrorism and destruction of Russian civil aircraft resulting in the deaths of 90 people - passengers and crew members

Whereas the terrorist acts committed on 24 August 2004 on board Russian aircraft on scheduled passenger flights represent, in principle, a new form of terrorism which uses terrorists-suicide bombers who carry explosive devices on their bodies on board aircraft,

Given the need for unification of international efforts to combat the threat which uses terrorists-suicide bombers to carry out terrorist acts, both on aircraft and in other public areas,

Aware of all the difficulties in detecting explosive devices on the human body,

Convinced of the need to adopt adequate measures to counter such acts of terrorism, which would demonstrate the resolve of all States to prosecute the organizers and perpetrators of such acts,

Recalling its Resolutions A22-5, A27-9, A33-1 and A33-2,

The Assembly:

- 1) *Condemns* the terrorist acts on board Russian passenger aircraft that took numerous human lives;
- 2) *Extends* its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of those who perished as a result of these acts of terrorism;
- 3) *Urges* Contracting States to prosecute the organizers, perpetrators and accomplices of terrorist acts who may hide in their territories, and to cooperate in preventing and stopping acts of international terrorism in accordance with international law;
- 4) *Calls upon* the world aviation community to give increased attention to the study and introduction of such procedures and methods for detecting explosive devices, which will allow their detection in areas inaccessible to modern screening methods, and in particular, on the human body.

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