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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 26 June 1996 from the Secretary-General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization addressed to the
Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 21 July 1995 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which has been submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 as document E/1996/15, and, more specifically, to the suggestion of IMO concerning the periodicity of the publication of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

At the 15th meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP/15, Montreal, 17-26 October 1995), the members discussed this issue and the consequential periodicity of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc. 9284). The Panel confirmed its opinion that the present two-year cycle should be the maximum period between amendments to the United Nations Recommendations, noting that the issue of the transport of dangerous goods was a dynamic subject and that, for industry, changes needed to be reflected as quickly as possible.

Without encountering any of the difficulties mentioned in document E/1996/15, ICAO has published the Technical Instructions from 1984 to 1986 on an annual basis and biennially since 1987. Therefore, as the Dangerous Goods Panel has strongly advised, the present two-year cycle will be maintained.

(Signed) Philippe ROCHAT
