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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM  
IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

AERIAL HIJACKING OR INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AIR TRAVEL

Letter dated 28 September 1970 from the representatives  
of Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia,  
Japan, Laos, Luxembourg, Nepal, the Netherlands, Panama,  
Peru, the Philippines and Thailand to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as an additional item of an important and urgent character under rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, of an item entitled "Aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Pierre HARMEL (Belgium)	André PHILIPPE (Luxembourg)
João Augusto de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil)	Padma Bahadur KHATRI (Nepal)
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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. At its twenty-fourth session, the General Assembly considered agenda item 105 entitled "Forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight" and approved resolution 2551 (XXIV), which, inter alia, expressed deep concern over acts of unlawful interference with international aviation, called upon States to ensure that their respective national legislation provide effective legal measures against all acts of unlawful interference with civil aircraft in flight, and urged support for the efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organization towards the preparation and implementation of a convention declaring the unlawful seizure of civil aircraft a punishable offence and providing for the prosecution of those who commit that offence.

2. Since the action of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, there have been more than forty additional cases of hijacking or forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight. These cases have occurred in different parts of the world, involved airlines of different countries and endangered the lives of passengers of different nationalities.

3. On 9 September 1970, the Security Council adopted a consensus [resolution 286 (1970)] expressing grave concern "at the threat to innocent civilian lives from the hijacking of aircraft and any other interference in international travel" and called on States "to take all possible legal steps to prevent further hijackings or any other interference with international civil air travel".

4. The increasing number of cases of hijacking calls for urgent action by the General Assembly to consider the matter within the framework of the concern of the international community for the protection of human life and for the promotion of respect for human rights.

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