



ICAO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIO 10/96

INSTITUTE OF AIR AND SPACE LAW OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY RECIPIENT OF 1996 EDWARD WARNER AWARD

MONTREAL, 25 October 1996 – The 30th Edward Warner Award, the highest honour in the world of civil aviation, was conferred **by** the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill University, of Montreal, in recognition of the Institute's highly significant contribution to the development of international air law. Edward Warner was the first President of the Council of ICAO, from 1945 to 1957.

In making the announcement at a special ceremony also marking the 45th anniversary of the Institute, the President of the Council of ICAO, Dr. Assad Kotaite, stressed the close relationship between the two organizations. "For the past 50 years, ICAO has established the technical standards which have provided a regulatory environment that has encouraged the growth of international civil aviation. In a similar fashion, the Institute has been at the forefront of a parallel effort to provide a legal framework or structure for the development of air transport."

The Institute was founded in 1951 by John Cobb Cooper, an aviation advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt and a U.S. delegate to the Chicago Convention of 1944, which created ICAO. Professor Cooper had proposed a full-time graduate programme in the field of air law. It was accepted by McGill University and initially funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and other U.S. sources. In 1958, the Institute added to its programme studies and research of the law of space applications and was renamed the Institute of Air and Space Law.

According to Dr. Kotaite, Mr. Cooper was a visionary who recognized the great potential of international civil aviation, particularly in the post-WW II environment, for peaceful development and reconstruction. "He also recognized that aviation transcended the jurisdictional boundaries of individual states and required international regulation and standards, and unification of law."

- MORE -

Today, the Institute is the only academic institution which offers specialized full-time graduate education in international air and space law. Its more than 750 graduates from some 120 countries have achieved positions of high responsibility in airlines, national civil aviation administrations, international organizations, academia, and in various aspects of legal practice.

The volume and quality of research produced by the Institute is unmatched in the world and has contributed significantly to the knowledge and practice of aviation law. The Annals of Air and Space Law, spirited by Dr. Nicolas Matte, Emeritus Director of the Institute and published since 1976, has become a basic source of reference on international air and space law applications. The Institute also organizes international legal seminars and training workshops in various parts of the world.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Kotaite emphasized the role of the Institute in the development of air transport which "has given the world another dimension, another time scale, new attitudes and new ties between countries."

"In a world torn by passions, overwhelmed by ideological turmoil and conflicts impregnated with political, philosophical, religious, economic and social considerations, it is fitting to pay tribute to such a seat of learning, whose work has always stressed the traditional values of international law without which there can be no solid and durable international community."

ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. A specialized agency of the United Nations, it sets international standards and regulations necessary for the safety, security, efficiency and regularity of air transport and serves as the medium for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 184 Contracting States.