

TO THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION

1. I have the honour to transmit, at the direction of the Interim Council, the second annual report of the Interim Council, which has been prepared in accordance with the terms of Article III, Section 6 of the Interim Agreement and Article 54 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

2. The report comprises a review of PICA0 activities during the period which has elapsed since the First Interim Assembly and supporting documentation for the various items upon the agenda of the Assembly and its Commissions. It is presented in four parts :

- I - Review of the events of the past year, to which this letter of transmittal is immediately attached
- II Provisional agenda for the Assembly and its several Commissions, and documentation for the various items of the agenda
- III Comments of the Interim Council on the structure and procedures which may be adopted by ICAO, in the light of experience in the Provisional Organization
- IV Budget estimates for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1948, presented for the Assembly's consideration in accordance with the terms of Article 61 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

3. The Interim Council has been composed, since the last Interim Assembly, of representatives of the twenty-one States :

Australia	Czechoslovakia	Mexico
Belgium	Egypt	Netherlands
Brazil	El Salvador	Norway
Canada	France	Peru
Chile	India	Turkey
China	Iraq	United Kingdom
Colombia	Ireland	United States

During the period covered by this report, it has held three sessions - the fifth from June 17 to 28, 1946, the sixth from September 4 to November 18, 1946, and the seventh from January 7 to April 2, 1947.

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4. It has appeared that some of the events of the past year were of greater interest in connection with the discussion of particular items in the agenda of the various Commissions than as a part of a general historical record. In such cases, the subjects have been treated only in a very summary form in Part I of the Report, a more detailed account being reserved for the documentation intended for the Commissions (Part II of the Report).

5. Because of their special nature, particular attention should be directed to two items of the agenda. The first is the item for Commission No. 1 concerning the draft agreement between ICAO and the United Nations. The Interim Council has recommended by resolution that this agreement should have the highest priority on the Assembly's order of business and should receive immediate consideration.

6. The second matter for special mention is the presentation on the agenda of Commission 4 of two draft conventions on private air law, relating respectively to the recording of rights in rem in aircraft (formerly known as the draft Convention on the Recordation of Title to Aircraft and Aircraft Mortgages) and to the legal status of the aircraft commander. The Interim Council has recommended that these conventions be considered and acted upon by a special meeting, to be called during the Assembly but not to be strictly a part of the Assembly, with all States invited to the Assembly in any capacity participating in the work of the meeting on equal terms. The Interim Council has also indicated its hope that national delegations will be sent to the Assembly in possession of powers to sign the new conventions, on behalf of their Governments, in the forms in which they may finally be approved.

7. In presenting the budget, the Interim Council has been obliged to make some assumptions regarding the internal structure of the secretariat of ICAO. It has become apparent in the past twenty months' experience that some improvements can be made in the structure which has existed in PICA0, but the Interim Council has not wished to present any specific recommendation on this point to its successor. The internal structure shown in the budget statement is therefore to be regarded purely as an assumption, based on proposals for the future that have been presented to the Interim Council by the Secretary General. The Interim Council presents to the Assembly, as its recommendation, the estimates of the total expenditures required to carry on the work which ICAO ought to do during the coming fiscal year and the distribution of this expenditure among the several main branches of ICAO activities, but it takes no position with respect to the distribution of these functions and the staffing therefor among departments and sections of the Secretariat.

8. It is appropriate that this letter of transmittal close with a declaration adopted by the Council, expressing the spirit in which the work that is now being presented has been undertaken :

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"The Assembly will be aware that the documentation includes much detailed discussion of matters for which responsibility is assigned to the Council under the Convention. The Interim Council believes, however, that on such matters, concerning which no formal action by the Assembly may be necessary or appropriate, the material provided in the documentation will facilitate an exchange of views in the Assembly on many points where such an exchange will be helpful to States and to the incoming Council. At the same time the Interim Council, while fully conscious of the Assembly's general responsibility for supervising the work of the Organization, and of its particular and primary responsibility in regard to certain matters, would suggest that the Assembly should move cautiously on proposals which might tend to hamper the healthy development of the work which will be entrusted to the Council."

Edward Warner
President, Interim Council

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