



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, October 4 has remarks by the Federal Aviation Administrator.

The United States has gone for nearly a year without a successful hijacking of a scheduled air carrier. Speaking to the International Association of Airlines Security Officers in Denver, Federal Aviation Administrator Alexander P. Butterfield talked about the reasons for the anti-hijacking success:

"Our success on the domestic scene so far can be attributed to many factors, including:

"First: the effective implementation of meaningful security programs by the air carriers and the airport operators. They have done an absolutely magnificent job.

"Second: Excellent law enforcement support provided by both local and Federal governments, and I include here the FBI and, in fact, the entire Department of Justice.

"Third: The exemplary actions of flight crews involved in hijacking incidents. These crews have been both alert and courageous -- and ever conscientious and conscious of the safety and general welfare of their passengers.

"Fourth: The tremendous support of the anti-hijacking program provided by the air travelers themselves -- the general public. As a matter of fact, without the patience and understanding of the people at large, we could not have begun to be effective."

"Nevertheless, despite all of these factors contributing to our success, the risk of aircraft hijacking and the dangers facing passengers and air crewmembers remain very real. We cannot relax our vigilance or reduce our standards. And when I say 'we' I am referring to the police officers on the airport beat, the airline security expert, the FAA, the flight crews, and everyone who has any stake at all in aviation security.

"The ultimate solution is international agreement, and this effort is being pushed on a number of fronts. The convention negotiated in the Hague in December of 1970 is gaining strength with 57 nations having ratified the agreement to extradite or prosecute hijackers. A companion agreement, known as the Montreal Convention, has been ratified, thus far, by 35 nations. It calls for the prosecution of other criminal acts against civil aviation -- notably sabotage. Then there is the Tokyo Convention, requiring immediate return of hijacked passengers, crew, and aircraft. It has been ratified by 64 nations. Soon there will be no place to hide."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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