

No. 2922

**BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK,
FRANCE, ICELAND, etc.**

Final Act (with annexes) of the Fourth International Civil Aviation Organization Conference on North Atlantic Ocean Stations. Done at Paris, on 25 February 1954; and

Agreement (with annexes) on North Atlantic Ocean Stations. Done at Paris, on 25 February 1954

Official texts: English, French and Spanish.

Registered by the International Civil Aviation Organization on 13 September 1955.

**BELGIQUE, CANADA, DANEMARK,
FRANCE, ISLANDE, etc.**

Acte final (avec annexes) de la quatrième Conférence de l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale sur les stations océaniques de l'Atlantique Nord. Fait à Paris, le 25 février 1954; et

Accord (avec annexes) sur les stations océaniques de l'Atlantique Nord. Fait à Paris, le 25 février 1954

Textes officiels anglais, français et espagnol.

Enregistrés par l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale le 13 septembre 1955.

No. 2922. FINAL ACT OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE ON NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN STATIONS. DONE AT PARIS, ON 25 FEBRUARY 1954

The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela,

HAVING accepted the invitation extended to them by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be represented at a Conference, held in Paris, for the purpose of considering the revision and renewal of the International Agreement on North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations signed in London on 12th May 1949¹ and extended in the Protocol thereto signed in Montreal on 28th May 1952,²

APPOINTED as their representatives :

[See p. 258 to p. 261 of this volume.]

In addition, the following International Organizations, which had accepted invitations extended to them by the Council to be represented as observers, participated :

[See p. 261 of this volume.]

The Fourth ICAO Conference on North Atlantic Ocean Stations was opened in Paris, at the UNESCO House, on 9th February, 1954, by Dr. Edward Warner, President of the Council of ICAO. Mr. E. M. Weld acted as Secretary-General and Mr. M. A. Bierens de Haan as Secretary of the Conference.

Mr. A. P. Dekker, Head of the Netherlands Delegation, was elected Chairman of the Conference, and Messrs. D. Haguenau, Head of the French Delegation, and A. H. Winberg, Head of the Swedish Delegation, were elected First and Second Vice-Chairmen, respectively.

At the first meeting on 9th February, 1954, the Conference established :

a Technical Committee which elected Commandant M. Meaux (France) Chairman. Mr. G. J. W. Oddie and Mr. C. S. H. Tsiang of the Secretariat of the International Civil Aviation Organization assisted the Committee ;

a Financial Committee, which elected Dr. O. G. Sutton (United Kingdom) Chairman. Mr. M. A. Bierens de Haan and Mr. C. S. H. Tsiang of the Secretariat of the International Civil Aviation Organization assisted the Committee ;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 101, p. 91 ; Vol. 108, p. 322, and Vol. 124, p. 331.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 150, p. 380.

a Drafting Committee, which elected Brig. C. S. Booth (Canada) Chairman. Mr. K. Stoesen of the Secretariat of the International Civil Aviation Organization assisted the Committee.

The final meeting of the Conference was held on 24th February, 1954.

I

The Conference approved the text of an Agreement on North Atlantic Ocean Stations (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement), which was opened for signature in Paris on 25th February, 1954.¹

II

The Conference recommended :

- (a) that each Government signatory of the Agreement should implement it as far as practicable on or about 1st July, 1954, and should appropriately coordinate with the other signatory Governments any measures taken for this purpose ;
- (b) that each Government signatory of the Agreement should inform the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization of any action taken by it pursuant to (a) and that the Council should forthwith notify all other signatory Governments of any such information received by it ;
- (c) that the Council take note that the assessment by this Conference of the theoretical responsibilities of Spain, amounting to £ 23,467 annually, and of Iceland, amounting to £ 6,474 annually, has not proved immediately acceptable to these Governments, which propose to examine their positions further ;
- (d) that the Council take note of the hope and belief of this Conference that these Governments will accede to this Agreement in accordance with Article XVII thereof as soon as possible after 30th April, 1954, and that the Council negotiate with these Governments with this object in view ;
- (e) that the Council should endeavour to obtain the accession to the Agreement, in accordance with Article XVII thereof, of the Governments of Colombia, Cuba, and any other country which benefits from the operation of the network of Ocean Stations.

III

The Conference further recommended :

that the Council of ICAO be requested, in consultation with the States concerned and with international agencies as appropriate, to explore all possi-

¹ See p. 249 of this volume.

bilities of further improvements in the efficiency and economy of the Ocean Stations network, and of less expensive ways and means of obtaining a sufficiently high standard of meteorological information in the North Atlantic.

IV

The Conference also adopted :

the Report of the Technical Committee (NAOS-IV-WP/52, GEN/15) ;

the Report of the Financial Committee (NAOS-IV-WP/57, GEN/20) ;

and decided that the recommendations contained in the Report of the Technical Committee be brought to the attention of the Governments concerned and of the Council.

V

The Conference took note of the statements made by the Representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, and the United States, as set out in Annexes A, B and C, respectively, to this Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the following Representatives, duly accredited, affixed their signatures¹ to this Final Act.

DONE in Paris, the twenty-fifth day of February in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-four, in the English, French and Spanish languages (all three texts being equally authoritative), in a single copy which shall be deposited in the Archives of the International Civil Aviation Organization. It shall be the responsibility of the Council of the Organization to resolve any difference of interpretation arising between the English, French and Spanish texts. Certified copies of this Final Act shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General of the Organization to each of the Governments represented at the Conference.

ANNEXES

— A —

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE

The Delegation of the United Kingdom wishes to place on record the following views regarding the assessment of the non-aeronautical benefits derived from the operation of ocean stations contained in the Final Report of the Technical Committee.

- (a) The United Kingdom Delegation has agreed for the purposes of the present Conference that non-aeronautical benefits should be taken into account in assessing the obligations of Contracting Governments, and has accepted an assessment for the United Kingdom as shown in Appendix B to the Final Report of the Financial Committee.

¹ See p. 264 of this volume.

- (b) The United Kingdom Delegation does not consider, however, that the assessments made by this Conference or the methods by which they have been reached can be regarded as exact, final or scientifically established. In this connection, the Delegation draws particular attention to the phrase "arrived at by empirical methods and compromise" in paragraph 3.1 of Section III of the Final Report of the Technical Committee, and to the sharp division of opinion recorded at paragraph 2.4.1 of Section I of the same Report.
- (c) For the foregoing reasons, the Delegation wishes to reserve the right of the United Kingdom to reopen the discussion of the question of the non-aeronautical benefits derived from the ocean stations network at any future conference at which it may be appropriate to do so.

— B —

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVES

The Norwegian and Swedish Delegations concur with the United Kingdom Delegation in the statement made by the United Kingdom Delegation at Annex A, and reserve to their Governments the same rights as the United Kingdom Delegation has reserved to the United Kingdom Government.

— C —

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

The United States Government operates on the basis of a fiscal year ending June 30, a date which coincides with the termination date of the Agreement drawn up at this Conference. In view of this fact, it may prove necessary for the United States to effect withdrawal of its vessels during the last month of its participation in this Agreement.