International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group Coalition pour la surveillance internationale des libertés civiles

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May 29, 2007

The Right Honourable Steven Harper P.C, M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Building
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa K1A 0A2

Sent by Fax 941-6900

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Use of the U.S. No-fly list by Canadian airlines

The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (*see list of members attached*) is a coalition representing a broad sector of Canadian civil society deeply preoccupied by the impact of Canada's anti-terrorism agenda on the rights and freedoms of Canadians. It was set up in May 2002 as a national roundtable to monitor the application of the legislation and its impacts on communities and groups, both in Canada and overseas.

We are writing to you today to express serious concerns following the recent admission by the vice-president of the Air Transport Association of Canada and the chief of air security at Transport Canada that Canadian airlines will continue using the United States no-fly list for purely domestic flights even after the Canadian government implements its own no-fly list program next month.

Although we already oppose Canada's Passenger Protect initiative on several grounds (including the fact that it does little to increase security, that it has the potential to violate privacy and mobility rights of Canadians, and that it has been shielded from any Parliamentary debate), it is doubly distressing to learn that it will be totally redundant since the U.S. imposed list will continue to dictate who will be allowed to board a plane on domestic flights in our own country.

Consequently we urge you, Prime Minister, to immediately introduce regulations that prohibit the use of foreign no-fly lists for domestic flights in Canada. We also ask that the implementation of the Passenger Protect initiative be put on hold until Parliament has

an opportunity to debate and hold public hearings about the raison d'être and the appropriateness of this initiative that has been introduced by the "backdoor" on the basis of discretionary powers granted to the minister of Transport by the *Public Safety Act*.

On behalf of all the members of ICLMG, thank you for your attention in this urgent and important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Barr Co-Chair of the ICLMG and President-CEO Canadian Council for International Co-operation

C.C.: Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs