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Reference: C.N.1500.2001.TREATIES-10 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES  
NEW YORK, 17 DECEMBER 1979

SAUDI ARABIA: COMMUNICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary,  
communicates the following:

The above communication was received on 11 December 2001.

..... An English translation of the communication is attached herewith. (*The annex is transmitted in  
hard copy format only.*)

8 January 2002



C.N.1500.2001.TREATIES-10 (Annex)

[Translation] [Original: Arabic]

Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

UN/SG/603

Sir,

In implementation of article 7 of the 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, I have the honour to inform you [of the following].

A request was received from the Russian Federation for the extradition of the persons who hijacked a Russian aircraft on a flight from Atatürk International Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, to Moscow and forced it to land at Prince Muhammad Bin Abd al-Aziz International Airport in Medina, Saudi Arabia, on 15 March 2001. Saudi Arabia informed the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Riyadh that, in conformity with the international conventions that guide the actions of both Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation, the Kingdom preferred the hijackers to be prosecuted by its own judicial authorities in the light of the provisions of article 7 of the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, article 7 of the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and article 5 of the 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages. All of these provisions recognize the right of the State where a hijacking is committed to choose whether to bring the hijackers to trial in its own jurisdiction or extradite them to the relevant countries.

Accordingly, the two were tried before the competent court in Saudi Arabia, and the action concluded with their [being sentenced to] imprisonment; one, Deni Supyan Arshayev, a Russian national, to a term of six years from the date of his arrest on 16 March 2001; and the other, Iriskhan Supyan Arshayev, a Russian national, to a term of four years from the date of his arrest on 16 March 2001. The verdict was confirmed by the Court of Appeal.

*(Signed)*  
Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed Shobokshi  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
to the United Nations

Secretary-General of the United Nations