

the investigation, which shall include a hearing to the parties in interest, is terminated, the Secretariat shall determine the probable cause of the accident and, in the respective cases, shall levy the penalties and decide what administrative liability is in order. Should there be grounds for such liability, the facts shall be brought to the notice of the competent authorities.

*Article 359.* Search and salvage operations, in the case of accidents to civil aircraft, shall be of public interest and therefore the authorities, air carriers and private parties shall be under the obligation of taking part in it within the scope of their capabilities and facilities, pursuant to the regulations governing search and salvage operations and the following rules:

I. Search and salvage operations shall in all cases be carried out under the direction and control of the Secretariat of Communications, and the expenses incurred for the rescue of the victims of aviation accidents shall be for account of the carrier operating the aircraft.

II. Any person having knowledge of an aviation accident shall notify the nearest authorities, who are under the obligation of advising the Secretariat of Communications by the quickest possible means. Lacking a commander of the aircraft or competent aeronautical authority, the first authority arriving at the place of the accident shall take responsibility for the aircraft, baggage, freight, and mail and provide whatever is necessary for the protection of and help to the passengers and crew.

III. Aeronautical inspectors, or if there be none, the commander of the nearest airdrome, shall be under the obligation of going personally to the place where the accident has taken place, of taking the necessary measures, and of sending immediately a detailed report to the Secretariat of Communications.

IV. The Secretariat shall establish auxiliary search and salvage centers throughout the country.

V. The owners or possessors of aircraft, or their legal representatives or agents and the pilots in charge of the respective aircraft, shall be under the obligation of notifying the Secretariat of Communications of any accident to their aircraft.

VI. Air carriers shall be under the obligation of furnishing a report to people interested in any accident once they have specific information in regard to any accident to their aircraft or whenever they consider it lost.

*Article 360.* Aircraft shall be considered lost in the following cases:

I. When the owner or possessor makes such a declaration under oath, subject to verification of the Secretariat of Communications:

II. After three months have elapsed from the date on which the last official or private news were received from the aircraft and its whereabouts are unknown:

In both cases the Secretariat of Communications shall declare the aircraft lost and cancel the registration.

*Article 361.* The Secretariat of Communications shall declare such aircraft abandoned and, with the assistance of the other competent