

*Article 144.* Proprietors, pilots and operators of civil aircraft shall immediately notify the Ministry of Aviation of accidents which have happened to their aircraft.

*Article 145.* Air carriers shall have the duty, upon request, to supply the persons concerned with available precise information concerning their aircraft which have had accidents or which have been lost.

*Article 146.* An aircraft shall be deemed lost in the following cases:

- a) By sworn declaration of the proprietor or operator, subject to verification by the Ministry of Aviation; and
- b) When three months have elapsed from the date when the last official or private news was received from the aircraft and its whereabouts are unknown.

In either case the Ministry of Aviation shall declare the loss and shall order cancellation of the registration in the respective register.

The statutes of limitations on the respective civil actions shall begin to run from such declaration.

*Article 147.* An aircraft shall be deemed abandoned:

- a) When the proprietor or operator so states in writing to the Ministry of Aviation;
- b) When it remains on an airdrome for a period of ninety days without operating and when it is not directly or indirectly under the care of its proprietor or operator, and
- c) When it lacks a registration and the name of the proprietor and the place of origin are unknown.

In case a) the Ministry of Aviation shall issue the declaration of abandonment without any further requirement. In cases b) and c) it cause the publication of a notice in the *Diario Oficial* for three consecutive days, and when eight days have elapsed from publication of the last notice without any rights being claimed, it shall issue the declaration of abandonment and shall hold the aircraft at the disposal of the Ministry of the Treasury for sale at auction for the benefit of the Treasury.

*Article 148.* In case of air accident, any national or foreign aircraft in Nicaragua may come to the aid of the victims, but it shall have the duty to give prior notice by the fastest method to the Ministry of Aviation. When such aircraft is in foreign territory, a special permit for it shall be required.

*Article 149.* The civil and military authorities nearest to the place where an air accident has occurred, shall have the duty to send to such place assistance groups to render first aid to the victims and to post military or civilian guards until the time of arrival of the investigators appointed for the purpose by the Ministry of Aviation.

*Article 150.* When, for unforeseen reasons or because of *force majeure*, an aircraft has to make a forced landing on the national territory, the commander or the pilot of the aircraft and, in their absence, any member of the crew shall ascertain that no merchandise or baggage is unloaded, and that the passengers do not leave the place of landing without permission from the Ministry of Aviation except when it is necessary for salvage operations.

*Article 151.* Any mail which have been transported on an aircraft which has suffered an accident or which has made a forced landing, must be collected by the aircraft commander, in his absence by another member of the crew, and in the absence of both, by a responsible per-