

occupant of an aircraft has been killed or seriously injured, or aircraft or goods therein have been seriously damaged, or persons not on the aircraft have been killed or seriously injured or goods not on the aircraft have been seriously damaged, whether directly or indirectly, by an aircraft ; and includes any incident in consequence of which the safety of the occupants of the aircraft has been seriously endangered, or the safety of any person not on the aircraft has been seriously endangered by an aircraft.

(2) Whenever a Sudanese civil aircraft, or a foreign civil aircraft within Sudanese territory, is involved in an accident, an inquiry shall be held into the causes of that accident.

(3) Such inquiry shall consist of a preliminary investigation and a public inquiry.

49. (1) The preliminary investigation shall be undertaken by an Accident Investigation Officer (hereinafter in this Chapter called "the Officer") who shall be a senior officer of the Department of Civil Aviation appointed by the Minister.

Preliminary
Investigation.

(2) The Officer shall have power :—

- (a) to summon and examine all such persons as he thinks fit, to require such persons to answer any question or furnish any information or produce any books, papers, documents, and articles which the Officer may consider relevant, and to retain any such books, papers, documents and articles until the completion of the investigation ;
- (b) to take statements from all such persons as he thinks fit, and to require any such persons to make and sign a declaration of the truth of the statement made by him ;
- (c) to have access to and examine any aircraft involved in the accident and the place where the accident occurred, and for that purpose to require any such aircraft or any part thereof to be preserved unmoved or unaltered pending examination ;
- (d) to examine, remove, test, take measures for the preservation of, or otherwise deal with the aircraft or any part thereof or anything contained therein ;