

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis deals with the case of the hijacking of the MÁLEV Hungarian Airlines aeroplane. This took place at Prague Ruzyně Airport on March 29th 1989 where the aircraft Tupolev Tu-154 B2 on the scheduled flight MA640 from Budapest to Amsterdam had a stopover. This thesis further deals with the issue of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation and with Czechoslovak legislation relating to these unlawful acts. The thesis provides an overview of unlawful acts of civil aviation that occurred in Czechoslovakia between 1948 and 1991. The course of the hijacking, profiles of the hijackers, sequence of the investigation in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as well as the sequence of investigation in the Federal Republic of Germany, where the plane landed and where the hijackers were arrested, investigated and ultimately judged is also analysed. The main objective of this thesis is to analyze the motivations of the hijackers. In conclusion, I attempt to clarify the causes of hijacking as well as I attempt to justify or disprove the current hypothesis that the main reason for the hijacking was not the socialist regime in Czechoslovakia.

Key words: hijack, Prague Ruzyně Airport, Frankfurt - Rhein-Main Air Base, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, 1989