

STATEMENT ON AIRPORT CONTROL RESENTED

MELBOURNE, Wed.—The statement by Capt. Harold Shelton on Monday on Essendon airport control brought strong comment from the Director of Civil Aviation (Mr. R. Williams) and the Air Operations Officers' Association today.

CAPT. SHELTON had said that approach control at Essendon airport was "highly dangerous," and that he was subject to control by people not competent to tell pilots what to do.

Capt. Shelton, pilot of the A.N.A. DC3 aircraft *Kyilla*, which crashed near Mangalore on December 29, was appealing to the Civil Aviation Appeals Board against the suspension of his first-class airline transport licence for nine months.

Mr. Williams said air traffic could

be successfully controlled only so long as the men on the ground and the men in the air co-operated as a team, and had faith in each others' ability and judgment.

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"If the system is capable of improvement then I am sure I shall be informed of it, either by the airline operators or by the Airline Pilots' Association," Mr. Williams said.

"But if we are to have recriminations and people blaming each other for mistakes, then the good relations now existing between pilots and air traffic control officers will be replaced by mutual lack of confidence and mistrust. This would endanger the safety of operations."

The president of the Air Operations Officers' Association (Mr. F. W. Collopy) said today his association resented the unfair criticism, and knew Capt. Shelton was not speaking for his fellow pilots in making the allegations.

In every case the officers at Essendon have had considerable experience with civil airline pilots or as R.A.A.F. air crew members.

"The association believes the air traffic control service in this country