

**British  
Airports**

File

Head Office, British Airports Authority, Gatwick Airport, Gatwick, West Sussex RH6 0HZ

Telephone: 0293-517 755--Telex: 877995 BAA, HQ G  
Direct Number: 0293-595 200 International Code: +44293

Chairman Sir Norman Payne CBE

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

R13/6

12 June 1985

*Dear Prime Minister*

Before the debate on Monday 17 June, I thought you would like to have a copy of the Authority's public reaction to the Airports Policy White Paper.

*Yours sincerely*

*Norman Payne*

Enc

June 1985

**STANSTED GO-AHEAD "EXCELLENT NEWS FOR AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY"**

Sir Norman Payne, Chairman of the British Airports Authority, described the Government's go-ahead for the development of Stansted as "excellent news for the British air transport industry." He also welcomed the announcement that the BAA is to be privatised as a single entity.

Sir Norman said: "Both decisions will help keep Britain where it belongs, right at the forefront of world aviation, giving our airline and passenger customers the space and service they need."

Of the Stansted decision, Sir Norman said:

"It is one for which the BAA has striven long and hard because we believed it was the only way of meeting our duty to provide enough airport capacity in time to meet demand.

"It also puts an end to 25 years of uncertainty and gives the air transport industry the foundation for its development into the next century.

"Now we can face the future with confidence. It is excellent news for the industry."

On Heathrow, Sir Norman said:

"While planning permission has been refused for Uttlesford District Council (an Essex local authority) we do have the green light to start studies to remove the Perry Oaks sewage works and examine the problems of road and rail links to a possible fifth terminal.

"To avoid any undue delay we have agreed with the Thames Water Authority, owners of the Perry Oaks site, about the best way to proceed.

"We think there should be further studies into possible alternative sludge disposal sites and also into the removal of 1½ million tons of sludge that have accumulated on the site over the years."

"We shall now appoint consultants to carry out studies for us and we hope to have these reports by early next year."

#### PRIVATISATION

Sir Norman welcomed the Government's decision to privatise the BAA as one unit.

He said "This makes an early and successful flotation possible. It paves the way for new business opportunities, and will enable us to go to the capital markets for investment funds.

"As a result we will be able to respond more flexibly to the needs of our customers in meeting consumer demands. Furthermore it will enable our staff to participate in the fortunes of the business by owning shares. That is a just reward for their hard work and commitment in working together to secure the BAA's future success."