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TO DESKBY 270900Z F C O
TELNO 483
OF 270800Z MARCH 87

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FOLLOWING IS AGREED TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAVE TO-DAY EXCHANGED LETTERS AMENDING THE PROTOCOL TO THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT WHICH GOVERNS SERVICES ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE BETWEEN LONDON AND TOKYO VIA MOSCOW.

THE EFFECT OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS IS TO PERMIT BOTH BRITISH AIRWAYS AND BRITISH CALEDONIAN TO OPERATE SERVICES ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE. FROM 31 MAY THE TWO BRITISH AIRLINES WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE B747 AIRCRAFT TWICE A WEEK EACH NON-STOP ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE BETWEEN LONDON AND TOKYO AND ONCE A WEEK EACH WITH A STOP AT MOSCOW. THESE SERVICES ARE ADDITIONAL TO BA'S DAILY SERVICES BETWEEN LONDON AND MOSCOW AND ONCE WEEKLY SERVICE BETWEEN LONDON AND LENINGRAD.

FROM THE SAME DATE AEROFLOT'S LONDON-MOSCOW-TOKYO SERVICES WILL ALSO BE INCREASED TO FOUR IL-62S PER WEEK (OR THREE IL-62S AND ONE IL-76 FREIGHTER) AND CAPACITY WILL BE INCREASED ON AEROFLOT'S DAILY LONDON/MOSCOW SERVICES BY THE USE OF UP TO THREE TIMES A WEEK OF THE LARGER IL-86 AIRCRAFT.

PROVISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE FOR BOTH BA AND AEROFLOT TO OPERATE ONCE A WEEK EACH ON A NEW ROUTE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND MANCHESTER.

AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED ON A NEW AVIATION SECURITY ARTICLE BASED ON THE MODEL RECOMMENDED BY ICAO TO BE ADDED TO THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE OPENING UP OF INCREASED SERVICES ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE AND CONFIRMS THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UK AND THE USSR ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW.

CARTLEDGE

YYYY
FCO ADVANCE DALTON MAED
MXHPAN 8815.

AIR SERVICES

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MR SLATER
MR BRAITHWAITE
MR RATFORD

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