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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SERVED: June 14, 1996

**Joint Application of UNITED AIR LINES, INC.
and AIR CANADA
for approval of and antitrust immunity for
an Alliance Expansion Agreement
under 49 U.S.C. §§ 41308 and 41309
Docket OST-96-1434 - 2**

NOTICE

On June 4, 1996, United Air Lines, Inc. ("United") and Air Canada, and their respective subsidiaries, filed a joint application for approval of and antitrust immunity for an Alliance Expansion Agreement ("the Agreement"). They urge that the Department grant the requested approval and immunity for a five-year term. The application was filed under 49 U. S .C. §§ 41308 and 41309.

The Joint Applicants state that through the Agreement, they intend to broaden and deepen their cooperation in order to improve the efficiency of their coordinated services, expand the benefits available to the traveling and shipping public, and enhance their ability to compete in the global marketplace. The Joint Applicants state that although they will continue to be independent companies, the objective of the Agreement is to enable the companies to plan and coordinate service over their respective route networks as if there had been an operational merger between the two companies.

Our preliminary examination of the application indicates that certain required information and data have not been provided by the Joint Applicants.¹ We are therefore deferring the otherwise applicable 21-day comment deadline until further notice. When we have determined that the record of this case is complete, we will announce an appropriate procedural schedule for reaching a decision expeditiously.

¹ United and Air Canada state that they will separately file certain required additional information, accompanied by motions for confidential treatment under Rule 39. We have reviewed the record of this case and find that Informational Items identified by the Joint Applicants as A, B, and G have not been filed. Joint Application, at 36 and 39.

ACCORDINGLY:

1. We defer the 21-day deadline for the filing of comments set forth in 14 CFR Part 303, until further notice;
2. Upon our determination that **the** Joint Application is complete, we will establish a procedural schedule for comments and such other responsive pleadings as may be determined necessary to decide this matter fairly and expeditiously; and
3. We shall serve this notice on the parties served with the application.

. By:

CHARLES A. HUNNICUTT
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

Dated: June 14, 1996

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