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TO JESS HIGHTOWER
FROM H K GAGOS

FOLLOWING FOR RELEASE TO PAPERS DATED MARCH 6, 1958...

SANTA MONICA, CALIF., MARCH 5 -- THE PURCHASE OF FOUR LONG-RANGE DC-8 JETLINERS BY ALITALIA-LINEE AEREE ITALIANE WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY NAT PASCHALL, VICE PRESIDENT-SALES FOR DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY.

COST OF THE 580-MILE-AN-HOUR TRANSPORTS, WITH SPARE PARTS, WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$27,000,000.

PASCHALL SAID THE AIRLINE WILL RECEIVE DELIVERY IN TIME TO PROVIDE SERVICE ON ITS INTERCONTINENTAL ROUTES DURING THE SUMMER OF 1960. POWERED BY FOUR TURBOJET ENGINES, THE DC-8S TO BE CONSTRUCTED FOR ALITALIA WILL BE CAPABLE OF CARRYING A FULL PAYLOAD NON-STOP FROM ROME TO NEW YORK AGAINST A 60-KNOT WIND.

THE DOUGLAS EXECUTIVE SAID THE ITALIAN AIRLINE SELECTED THE DC-8 AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ALL AVAILABLE JET TRANSPORTS, INCLUDING AN INSPECTION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES. IT BECAME THE 16TH AIRLINE TO ORDER DC-8 JETLINERS.

PASCHALL SAID THE CONTRACT, SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, RAISES THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DC-8S ON ORDER TO 138.

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