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MONTE CARLO, July 14 -- Olympic Airways and the Douglas Aircraft company announced today that Ionian Ltd. has placed an order for two DC-8 jet airliners with an option for a third on behalf of the A. A. Onassis interests.

The two Douglas DC-8s will be used on Olympic Airways international routes beginning in 1960 and will cost a total of \$12,000,000.

Onassis commented, "It gives me pleasure to know that Olympic Airways is being equipped with the best airplanes built, DC-6Bs now and DC-8s when the jet era begins in 1960. Olympic Airways will assure its passengers the three essentials of air travel: speed, luxury and comfort."

The DC-8 will cruise at more than 550 miles per hour and have a range of more than 4500 statute miles with full payload.

Olympic Airways is the 14th airline to order the giant jet transports from Douglas. Firm orders, not including options, now total 123.