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TO JESS HIGHTOWER
FROM CROSBY MAYNARD G13

FOLLOWS TEXT OF RELEASE 61-63.

FOR RELEASE 11 AM PDT

MAY 29, 1961

LONG BEACH, CALIF., MAY 29 -- IBERIA AIR LINES OF SPAIN TOOK DELIVERY OF ITS FIRST JET TRANSPORTS TODAY IN A CEREMONY WHICH BEGAN WITH THE BLESSING OF THREE DC-8S.

THE BENEDICTION, TRADITIONAL IN SPAIN, WAS PRONOUNCED BY THE RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR BERNARD J DOLAN, PASTOR OF ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, LONG BEACH, REPRESENTING HIS EMINENCE JAMES FRANCIS CARDINAL MC INTYRE OF THE LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE.

FOLLOWING THE RELIGIOUS BLESSING, TITLE TO THE THREE HUGE JET TRANSPORTS WAS TRANSFERRED BY DONALD W. DOUGLAS, BOARD CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER OF THE AIRCRAFT COMPANY, TO CESAR GOMEZ LUCIA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SPANISH AIR LINE.

THE IBERIA DC-8S ARE THE NEWEST TURBOFAN SERIES 50 MODEL POWERED

U. S. GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COMPANY.

SAGRISTA, HERE FROM NEW YORK FOR THE ACCEPTANCE CEREMONY, SAID
THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE OPERATED ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC NON-STOP FROM
NEW YORK TO LISBON AND MADRID AND ON TO ROME.

THE DC-8S ALSO WILL SERVE HAVANA, SAN JUAN, CARACAS, BOGOTA,
RIO DE JANEIRO, MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, SANTIAGO DE CHILE AND
MEXICO CITY.

IMMEDIATE PLANS CALL FOR ONE OF THE THREE JETLINERS TO BE FLOWN
NON-STOP FROM LONG BEACH TO MADRID, WITH THE TAKE-OFF TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON.

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AND PEACE."

IN ACCEPTING THE AIRCRAFT, GOMEZ LUCIA REPLIED, IN PART..

"FOR ME IT HAS BEEN PROFOUNDLY MOVING -- AS IT WILL BE FOR ALL SPANIARDS WHEN THEY LEARN OF IT -- THAT THESE PLANES HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY MONSIGNOR DOLAN IN THE SAME PLACE WHERE TWO CENTURIES AGO SPANISH MISSIONARIES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BLESSED THE NATIVES OF THESE LANDS." THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF IBERIA AIR LINES THEN TRACED HIS COMPANY'S USE OF EARLIER DOUGLAS TRANSPORT MODELS BEGINNING WITH THE DC-2, ADDING..

"WE ARE SURE THAT THE DC-8 WILL GIVE US THE SAME FINE SERVICE AND SAME SATISFACTION AS ITS OLDER BROTHERS."

THE NEW SKY GIANTS ARE NAMED AFTER FAMOUS SPANISH PAINTERS., EL GRECO, VELASQUEZ AND GOYA.

"IBERIA CONSIDERS THAT THESE ARTISTS, SO TYPICAL OF THE ESSENCE OF SPAIN WILL, BY LENDING THEIR NAMES TO OUR AIRCRAFT WHICH WILL FLY OVER OUR WORLD-WIDE NETWORK, HONOR OUR COMPANY," SAID JOSE M SAGRISTA, U. S. GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COMPANY.

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