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1961 MAY 26 AM 7 40

DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT CO.
TULSA DIVISION

A-D-314 5-25-61 834P

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

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO. DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

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BY PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT JT3D ENGINES. THHIS IS THE SAME TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WHICH RECENTLY SET A NON-STOP FLIGHT RECORD OF 6,890 STATUTE MILES FROM LONG BEACH TO ROME.

WITNESSES TO THE CEREMONY INCLUDED THE HONORABLE JAIME ALBA, MINISTER AND COUNCILOR, EMBASSY OF SPAIN., COL. MIGUEL GUERERRO, SPANISH AIR ATTACHE., JAIME PINIES, MEMBER OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS., OFFICIALS OF THE AIRLINE AND DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY AND THEIR WIVES.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE LOS ANGELES SPANISH COLONY, INCLUDING THE HONORABLE MARQUEZ DE ALCANTARA, CONSUL, AND THE HONORABLE ALVARO F. MOLINAR, CHANCELLOR, ALSO WERE AMONG THE WITNESSES.

AFTER WELCOMING THE GUESTS, DOUGLAS BRIEFLY TRACED THE AMERICAN HERITAGE FROM SPAIN AND CONCLUDED..

"THOSE WHO BUILD THESE AIRLINERS AND THOSE WHO OPERATE THEM SHARE A GREAT SATISFACTION..THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THROUGH EVER-IMPROVING AIR TRANSPORT, THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE BEING BROUGHT CLOSER TOGETHER, AND THAT THROUGH THIS NEW INTIMACY MUST ULTIMATELY COME MORE GOOD WILL 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 CENTURUES 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.

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 40 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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A-D-314 5-27-61

SENT 1 U LCIGHTOWER

FROM CROSBY MAYLAND 547

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