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FROM H K GAGOS G-13

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FOLLOWING WAS RELEASED TO LOS ANGELES PRESS AND WIRE SERVICES.

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE., CALIF., MARCH 30-- A SWEPT-WING DC-8 JET TRANSPORT LIFTED OFF FROM EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE AT 8.35 A.M. /PST/ TODAY ON ITS FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL TEST FLIGHT.

POWERED BY FOUR PRATT & WHITNEY JTA /J75/ TURBINE ENGINES, THE JETLINER IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE 2,320- MILE FLIGHT TO FRIENDSHIP AIRPORT, BALTIMORE, IN LESS THAN FOUR HOURS.

PILOTING THE BIG, WHITE TRANSPORT WAS A.C. HEIMERDINGER, FLIGHT OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY, SANTA MONICA DIVISION. WILLIAM M. MAGRUDER WAS IN THE CO-PILOT'S SEAT AND WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN, ANOTHER DOUGLAS TEST PILOT, WAS SYSTEMS OPERATOR.

THREE DOUGLAS OFFICIALS ALSO WERE ABOARD THE JETLINER AS OBSERVERS. THEY ARE.. G.E. DONOVAN, VICE-PRESIDENT-FINANCE., C. R. ABLE, DIRECTOR OF WEAPON SYSTEMS., AND O. B. MARBLE, DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING.

THE FIRST DC-8 MADE ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT ON MAY 30, 1958, AND A TOTAL OF FIVE TRANSPORTS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN AN INTENSIVE FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM. FIRST U.S. SERVICE WITH THE DOUGLAS JET IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS FALL.

BULLETIN.. THE DC-8 LANDED IN BALTIMORE AT 3.55 P.M. /EST/ AFTER DETOURING AS FAR SOUTH AS NORTH CAROLINA TO AVOID STORMS.

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