

TELETYPE

TO JESS HIGHTOWER
FROM HU GAGOS

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LONG BEACH, CALIF., AUGUST 22--THE DC-8 JETLINER RETURNED TO THE DOUGLAS LONG BEACH PLANT TODAY FOR ITS FIRST INSPECTION PERIOD SINCE THE MAIDEN FLIGHT ON MAY 30.

WHEN THE WHEELS OF THE BIG, WHITE TRANSPORT TOUCHED DOWN, IT HAD ACCUMULATED A TOTAL OF 72 HOURS OF AIR TIME IN 23 FLIGHTS. EXCEPT FOR ONE PREVIOUS TRIP TO LONG BEACH FOR INSPECTION BY MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE AERONAUTICAL SCIENCES, ALL PROVING FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FROM EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE.

AFTER THE LAY-UP, SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS, THE DC-8 WILL BE RETURNED TO EDWARDS.

IN ADDITION TO INSPECTION, NORMALLY PERFORMED ON TEST AIRCRAFT AFTER EACH 30 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME, PRINCIPAL WORK TO BE PERFORMED AT LONG BEACH INVOLVES THE EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION INSTALLED FOR THE TEST PROGRAM.

IT INCLUDES RECALIBRATION OF SCORES OF INSTRUMENTS AND GAGES, RE-LOCATION OF TELEMETERING ANTENNAE AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR MORE ADVANCED PHASES OF TESTING. SOME MECHANICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND MINOR MODIFICATION OF COMPONENTS WILL ALSO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

R. L. HOSKINSON, DIRECTOR OF THE DOUGLAS TESTING DIVISION, SAID PROVING FLIGHTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE GENERAL FLYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JETLINER UNDER VARYING CONDITIONS.

"AS IN EVERY NEW TYPE OF AIRPLANE, " HE SAID, "WE MOVE FORWARD IN EASY STAGES -- INCREASING THE SPEED AND ALTITUDE AS WE DETERMINE THE FULL CAPABILITIES OF THE DC-8."

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HOSKINSON SAID THAT SEVEN PILOTS, INCLUDING THE FIRST FLIGHT CREW HEADED BY A. G. HEIMERDINGER, HAVE FLOWN THE DC-8 AND ALL ARE HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HOW THE AIRPLANE HANDLES.

"I WOULD SAY THAT THE PILOTS' REACTIONS PLUS THE CONSTANT AVAILABILITY OF THE AIRPLANE FOR FLIGHT ARE BOTH UNUSUAL FOR THE EARLY STAGES OF FLYING AN ENTIRELY NEW TYPE OF AIRPLANE," HOSKINSON CONCLUDED.