

U. S. Department of Transportation

news:



Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT ON THE REPORT OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES, JUNE 26, 1980

I have received the report of the panel of experts appointed by the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the way the Federal Aviation Administration regulates the safety of aircraft design, production and maintenance.

Although I have not yet had the opportunity to thoroughly study it, I am convinced the report meets my specification for a thorough, independent, qualified review by outside experts of our certification system.

I have ordered an immediate analysis of the panel's findings with the intent of putting into effect promptly any recommendations that will improve our procedures.

The FAA has been engaged in a process of "self-analysis" for some time and over the past few months has strengthened and improved its certification procedures.

I am confident the panel's recommendations will accelerate that effort.

My thanks to George Low and his panel members for their strong commitment to greater air safety.

####