

REMARKS PREPARED FOR
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
DOT REVOKES MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES'
AUTHORITY TO SERVE UNITED STATES
JUNE 26, 1985

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. I HAVE, THIS MORNING, REVOKED THE AUTHORITY OF MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES (MEA), A LEBANESE FLAG CARRIER, TO OPERATE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES.

MEA HOLDS TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT VARIOUS SERVICES TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES. IT HAS SCHEDULED AUTHORITY BETWEEN LEBANON AND NEW YORK, WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS IN PARIS AND LONDON. WE HAVE ALSO PERMITTED MEA TO SERVE CYPRUS INSTEAD OF LEBANON ON THESE FLIGHTS BECAUSE OF ONGOING HOSTILITIES AROUND BEIRUT AIRPORT. I HAVE TERMINATED THIS MEA SCHEDULED AUTHORITY TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THESE OPERATIONS CURRENTLY POSE AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO THE U.S. PUBLIC.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ACTION MAY CAUSE SOME DISRUPTION TO TRAVELLERS' AND SHIPPERS' PLANS, AND TO MEA. NONETHELESS, I FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC.

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