

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
UPON PRESENTATION OF THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR  
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT TO CAROLINA L. MEDEROS  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1986  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TWO CORE BELIEFS--PERSONAL PRINCIPLES, IF YOU WILL--GUIDE EACH AND EVERY DAY I AM PRIVILEGED TO SERVE AS SECRETARY. THE FIRST IS THAT SAFETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, MY HIGHEST PRIORITY. AND THE SECOND IS MY FEELING THAT PUBLIC SERVICE OFFERS A GREAT PRIVILEGE, THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE--A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE--IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE "GOLD MEDAL," GOES THIS YEAR TO A DOT EXECUTIVE WHO NOT ONLY EXEMPLIFIES THESE TWO PRINCIPLES, BUT HAS UTILIZED THEM TO PRODUCE SOME VERY DRAMATIC RESULTS.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS AWARD TODAY TO CAROLINA MEDEROS, IN RECOGNITION OF HER OUTSTANDING WORK AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP AS THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SAFETY REVIEW TASK FORCE.

THE TASK FORCE HAS BEEN OPERATING UNDER HER DIRECTION FOR LITTLE MORE THAN ONE YEAR, AND ALREADY THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE AVIATION, RAILROAD AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION MODES. FOR EXAMPLE, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND A "WHITE GLOVE" INSPECTION OF THE AIRLINES, THE FAA DEVELOPED A NATIONWIDE, COMPREHENSIVE SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR ITS INSPECTORS,

REQUIRING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF ALL ASPECTS OF AIRLINE AND AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE FAA IS CONDUCTING DETAILED, IN-DEPTH INSPECTIONS OF EVERY MAJOR CARRIER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE TASK FORCE'S REPORT ON THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION MADE SEVERAL STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ENFORCEMENT AND THE NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INSPECTION WORK FORCE, BOTH OF WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN FURTHER PROGRESS IN SAFETY. IN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, THE TASK FORCE MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WILL BOOST THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DOT ENFORCEMENT EFFORT BY SIMPLIFYING THE RULES, SETTING UNIFORM PROCEDURES, AND TARGETING INSPECTION RESOURCES.

AND IN FEBRUARY, I ASKED CAROLINA TO UNDERTAKE, IN ADDITION TO HER SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES, A COMPREHENSIVE, NATIONWIDE REVIEW OF DOMESTIC AVIATION SECURITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. AND AGAIN, SHE CAME THROUGH WITH REAL RESULTS, A NUMBER OF WHICH I RECENTLY ANNOUNCED TO THE PUBLIC.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE, UNDER CAROLINA'S DIRECTION, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HAILED AS OBJECTIVE, AND "ON THE MARK." THEY HAVE HELPED SET THE TONE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S SAFETY PROGRAMS. HER EFFORTS HAVE IMPROVED THE MARGIN OF SAFETY IN VIRTUALLY EVERY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION. AND HER WORK HAS BEEN MARKED BY A HIGH LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION BY THE OPERATING ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE INDUSTRY ITSELF. DOT'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS OF SELF-EXAMINATION IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUALLY EVALUATE OUR

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AND TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES WHEN AND WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED.

CAROLINA'S SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE ALWAYS CARRIED OUT WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM. AND PERHAPS MOST EXTRAORDINARILY, SHE ACHIEVED THIS WITHOUT ANY FORMAL RESOURCES, HAVING TO RELY ON A SMALL, BUT VERY TALENTED TEAM OF LOANED STAFF. TO THOSE SUPERVISORS WHO SO GENEROUSLY PROVIDE THIS SUPPORT, I DO THANK YOU.

RECENTLY DURING A PARTICULARLY HEAVY WORK LOAD -- CAROLINA HAD TO UNDERGO MAJOR SURGERY. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO HER DEDICATION THAT THE MOMENTUM OF THE TASK FORCE DID NOT SKIP A BEAT. WHY? BECAUSE SHE CONTINUED TO DIRECT ITS EFFORTS FROM HER HOSPITAL BED! I'LL BET THERE ARE MEDICAL PERSONNEL BACK AT THAT HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW STILL SORTING OUT A STACK OF CAROLINA'S TELEPHONE MESSAGES.

IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS, CAROLINA, YOU HAVE BEEN A TRUE CREDIT TO THE DEPARTMENT. I PERSONALLY THANK YOU AND, NOW, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS "GOLD AWARD," --OUR HIGHEST HONOR--WITH MY MOST SINCERE AND BEST WISHES.