

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
AIR & SPACE MUSEUM RECEPTION FOR  
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN  
JUNE 16, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

President Yeltsin, on behalf of President Bush and the Department of Transportation, it is an honor for me to welcome you to the National Air and Space Museum. In the brief time we have had to tour this magnificent museum, we have walked through more than 100 years of history of flight -- from man's first tentative steps above the treetops in hot air balloons to his conquest of space.

It is perhaps ironic that, in reaching out for the stars, the people of Earth are drawn closer together. For when viewed from the vantage of the farthest reaches of the universe, it is clear that Earth herself is but a single space ship that we all must share.

Here on Earth, transportation is the thread that binds nations and economies together. It makes possible the multitude of business, cultural, and social exchanges that enrich all peoples' lives.

The transportation challenges the United States and Russia confront have much in common. We are both heavily populated, continent-spanning nations whose transportation systems must bridge vast expanses of time and distance.

As the Russia-United States political and economic relationship evolves, so does our transportation relationship. And today, to make that relationship work, our two countries are cooperating more closely than ever before -- in air and shipping service, in air traffic control ventures, in the introduction of new intermodal freight services, and in space, science and exploration.

To discuss these and other important issues, in the past year my Department has had the pleasure of hosting your Minister of Transport, Mr. Efimov, and -- just yesterday -- your Deputy Minister of Transport, Mr. Bevzenko. I look forward to our cooperative efforts growing in the years ahead.

President Yeltsin, I hope you have enjoyed our Air and Space Museum, and will similarly enjoy meeting some of the key executives of our transportation and commercial space industries during this brief reception in your honor.

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