



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
ANDREW H. CARD JR.  
ON COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT  
ON AIRLINE CAPACITY THIS SUMMER  
May 5, 1992

The U.S. regrets the decision by the French government to revoke the long-standing bilateral aviation agreement between the two nations. We believe that the airlines and economies of both countries have benefited greatly under this agreement, which has been amended a number of times since 1946 and as recently as July 1990. The existing agreement will continue in effect now for one year while negotiations are conducted to fashion a new bilateral.

We have reached a compromise with the French, however, for the coming summer season regarding the number of seats that U.S. airlines can offer the traveling public. Although that number will be reduced by 255,000 below the number originally proposed, the carriers will still be permitted to expand their service by nearly 30 percent over last summer's capacity. This compromise should ensure that air travel in the robust U.S.-French market will continue to be available at reasonable fares.

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