



10-DSS-MISC-90

United States Department of State

Bureau of
International Communications
and Information Policy

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 16, 1990

Dear Chairman Sikes:

The Commission presently has before it two petitions requesting a review of its rules concerning the Provision of Aeronautical Service via the INMARSAT system: the petition filed by British Telecommunications for Reconsideration of the Commission's Report and Order in Docket 87-75 and the petition by ARINC and ATA in File No. I-S-P 90-002 for a partial waiver of that Order.

The Department of State urges a speedy resolution of the present proceedings and encourages a solution that will enable the United States to play a leading role in the application of mobile satellite services and enhancement of aviation safety. These proceedings have identified several issues impacting on the conduct of United States relations with other governments and with the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT). Accordingly, we are pleased to provide our views on these issues to assist the Commission in reviewing the domestic framework it established in the Report and Order in Docket 87-75.

The Department believes that the proceedings have confirmed the views of our respective agencies that the introduction of satellite-based aeronautical safety and passenger communications will bring substantial benefits to the aviation industry and the traveling public. In that regard, the United States accepted the aeronautical amendments to the INMARSAT Convention in April, 1988. Those amendments, which came into force in October, 1989, authorize INMARSAT to provide space segment for aeronautical safety and non-safety communications services on a non-exclusive basis. INMARSAT parties are permitted, but not required, to use the INMARSAT space segment for satellite-based aeronautical services consistent with their national law and regulatory policies.

The Honorable,
Alfred Sikes, Chairman,
Federal Communications Commission,
1919 M Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.