

The original documents are located in Box 131, folder “Porter, Roger” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: ROGER PORTER *RP*

SUBJECT: Briefing on U.S. International Aviation Policy Statement

Secretary of Transportation William Coleman and Deputy Secretary of State Charles Robinson are scheduled to brief interested members of the White House Press Corps, trade press reporters, and some embassy officials today at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 EOB. The briefing will focus on the new U.S. International Air Transportation Policy Statement which the President has adopted and is issuing today.

In 1963 and in 1970 the White House issued international air transportation policy statements designed to serve as policy guidance for government officials in dealing with international aviation matters. Changed circumstances have given rise to problems that were either nonexistent or considered negligible when the most recent statement was issued in 1970.

Early last year, the Economic Policy Board established a Task Force, chaired by the Departments of Transportation and State, to review U.S. international aviation policy with a view to preparing a new policy statement. The Economic Policy Board, after considerable discussion and deliberation, approved a policy statement and recommended to the President that he adopt and issue it.

The importance of issuing a new International Air Transportation Policy Statement to serve as policy guidance for U.S. government officials and to clearly outline U.S. policy objectives to foreign governments is illustrated by the fact that air services negotiations between the United States and the United Kingdom begin tomorrow in London. On June 22, 1976, the United Kingdom renounced the U.S.-U.K. air services bilateral agreement (commonly called the "Bermuda Agreement"), stating that, because its share of benefits is only half of ours, a new agreement is needed to assure equal benefits for each side. Japan and Italy have similar concerns. The State Department feels that a clear and forward-looking policy statement will strengthen the U.S. negotiating posture vis-a-vis these nations.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 14, 1977

Dear Ron:

I appreciated very much your thoughtful letter and want you to know how much I have enjoyed working with you in the White House Press Office. I have always felt that you and your staff had a genuine interest in providing clear and accurate answers to inquiries regarding the President's economic policies and that you were most receptive to our ideas and suggestions.

I shall always treasure our association and retain many fond memories of our experiences together during the past two and one-half years. I consider the opportunity to associate with individuals like you one of the great benefits of my period of public service.

I sincerely hope that our paths continue to cross frequently during the coming years and that you will include me among those whom you keep advised of your activities.

Warmest personal regards,



Roger B. Porter
Special Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Ronald H. Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.