

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

As you can see, Kennedy International Airport is one of the nation's finest airports.

As you can hear, Kennedy is also one of the nation's noisiest airports. It is one of 26 major U.S. airports that have serious noise pollution problems.

Seven years ago the nation decided to cut in half the perceived noise of jet aircraft. For the last two years, all new jet planes have met these standards.

But the biggest part of the airport noise problem here at Kennedy and elsewhere is caused by 1550 older planes which fail to meet, and are not now required to meet, proper noise standards.

Therefore, I am today instructing the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to extend current noise standards to all domestic U.S. commercial aircraft. These standards will begin to become effective January 1, 1977 and will be phased in over the next eight years.

We will also begin immediately the necessary steps to make certain that all international airlines flying into the U.S. meet these same standards.

One reason U.S. commercial airlines have been unable to meet FAA noise standards is that some airlines could not afford to, because of the outmoded regulatory approach of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

A year ago I proposed aviation regulatory reform to make airline service more competitive and thereby improve service to passengers, reduce fares and strengthen the financial condition of the airlines. Congress refused to pass that legislation, which would have made it possible for the airlines to modify or replace their noisy jet aircraft.

I am now putting Congress on notice that I will not accept its failure to act. I want the members to know that aviation regulatory reform will be on their doorstep when they come back in January.

In the interest of the airline passengers and the airline industry, it is imperative that Congress act on this reform within 90 days after the opening of the new Congress.

Further, I am also directing Secretary Coleman to begin public hearings promptly to consider whether further financing arrangements may be necessary to ensure that all U.S. air carriers can meet the noise standards on time.

Solving the airport noise problem is an environmental imperative for the millions of Americans who live in neighborhoods around our major airports. With the steps I am announcing today we will be able to quiet our nation's skies, conserve vast amounts of energy and improve the quality of life for many millions of Americans.

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