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HR70-14



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5678

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SUBJECT: AIR AMERICA MAINTENANCE FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG

REF: STATE 33115 SEPT 7

FOR SIMMONS FROM MENDENHALL

1. IN VIEW OF FACT CONCURS AIR AMERICA OPERATIONS UNDER 342 CONTRACT ARE EXEMPT FROM FAR PART 121 WE FEEL RESUMPTION OF PASSENGER TRAVEL ON MAINTENANCE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM HONG KONG DCs

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AND VIENTIANE SHOULD BE REESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) AIR AMERICA MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISORY, TRAINING AND ENGINEERING PERSONNEL ARE FAA APPROVED. (2) PILOTS HOLD VALID U.S. COMMERCIAL LICENSE OR ATR RATINGS. (3) ALL C-46 AIRCRAFT UNDER 342 CONTRACT HAVE TACAN AND ADF INSTALLED AS WELL AS AMPLE LOW FREQUENCY VOICE RADIOS. (4) CAPTAINS POSSESS FROM SEVEN THOUSAND TO TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME. (5) PILOT PROFICIENCY CHECKS ARE CONDUCTED EVERY SIX MONTHS SET TO THE SAME RIGID STANDARDS AS U.S.

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Vertical handwritten notes on the left side of the page, including 'Action', 'ESEP', 'WV', 'ECO', 'EMAS', 'ABIA', 'CC', 'ELL', 'AS', 'CIF', and 'DT'.

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COMMERCIAL AIR CARRIERS. (6) ALL PILOTS HOLD CLASS ONE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE WITHOUT WAIVER. (7) ENROUTE WEATHER IS PROVIDED BY TAIPEI OFFICE EMPLOYING QUALIFIED METEOROLOGIST AND HONG KONG TERMINAL WEATHER INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM USAF SOURCES AT DANANG. (8) SUFFICIENT FLotation RAFTS AND INDIVIDUAL LIFE JACKETS WILL BE CARRIED ON ALL MAINTENANCE FLIGHTS. (9) MGTW WILL BE REDUCED TO FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS FOR ADDED SAFETY IN EVENT OF SINGLE ENGINE OPERATION OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

2. FROM BOTH AN OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE STANDPOINT WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION AIR AMERICA'S CAPABILITY TO PERFORM THESE FLIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR NORMAL HIGH STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE.

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