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May 16, 2002

Via Telefax No. 202 366 6780 and Postal Service

May 29, 2002

Mr. George Wellington
Chief, Foreign Carrier Branch
Office of International Aviation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 6412
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: Mr. Gordon Bingham

Approved by Special Airports
Authority expires June 30, 2003
Review of application
of procedures of the
Gordon H. Bingham
Chief, Office of International Aviation

Re: Request of Aero Continente Chile S.A. for a Statement of Authorization
(Long Term Wet Lease Operations for Aero Continente Dominicana S.A.)

Dear Mr. Wellington:

Aero Continente Chile S. A. ("AC Chile"), a Chilean flag carrier, applies for a Statement of Authorization pursuant to Part 212 of the Department's regulations permitting AC Chile to operate up to seven weekly round trip scheduled combination flights between Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Miami, Florida and up to seven weekly round trip scheduled combination flights between Santo Domingo and New York City, for a period from June 15, 2002 to June 30, 2003 under a wet lease arrangement with Aero Continente Dominicana S.A., a Dominican Republican flag carrier.¹ Aero Continente Dominicana S.A.'s Application for an Exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109(c) is currently pending before the Department (Docket No. OST-2002-12212). Since the proposed wet lease operation is scheduled to begin on June 15, 2002, AC Chile asks the Department to expedite action on

¹AC Chile also asks for flexibility to operate flights for Aero Continente Dominicana over additional routes or intermediate points which Aero Continente Dominicana may be authorized to serve during the effective period of the requested Statement of Authorization.

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this application. AC Chile will poll the carriers served and advise the Department of their views.

In support of this application, AC Chile states as follows:

1. AC Chile, Marchant Periera No. 367 Of. 308, Comuna de Providencia, Santiago, Chile and Aero Continente Dominicana, Av. 27 de Ferero #102, Ensanche El Vergel, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, have negotiated a wet lease arrangement, executed April 22, 2002, under which AC Chile will operate flights for Aero Continente Dominicana between Santo Domingo and Miami and between Santo Domingo and New York using Boeing 767-200ER aircraft, (Registration CC-CJP and CC-CJR and serial numbers 24150 and 28884). Authority granted to Aero Continente Dominicana by the Department will permit the Dominican Republican flag carrier to conduct scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Santo Domingo and Miami or New York using wet leased aircraft only. Grant of the authority requested herein concurrently with the grant of authority to Aero Continente Dominicana under an exemption will permit Aero Continente Dominicana to comply with the conditions of its U.S. authority and benefit travelers and shippers in the U.S.-Dominican Republic market and would be consistent with the public interest.

2. AC Chile's authority to serve the United States was granted by Notice of Action Taken - Docket OST-2000-7747 on September 18, 2000.

3. Prior approval is required for AC Chile to operate the fifth freedom service proposed in this application. In addition, approval is required pursuant to 14 C.F.R. section 212.9(b)(2) of the Department's regulations because the service involves a long term wet lease.

4. AC Chile believes that sufficient comity and reciprocity exist on the part of the government of the Republic of Chile to support approval of the proposed wet lease operation.

5. AC Chile requests a waiver of the 45-day advance filing requirements in 14 C.F.R. section 212.10(d)(20).

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For all of the foregoing reasons, Aero Continente Chile respectfully asks the Department to approve its request for a Statement of Authorization and to waive the 45-day advance filing requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence D. Wasko
Counsel for
Aero Continente Chile S.A.

cc: Parties on the Service List

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