BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Washington, D.C.

Application of
TACA DE HONDURAS, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")
for an exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109(c)

Docket No. OST 97-2677

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF EXEMPTION
TACA De Honduras, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")

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NOTICE: Answers in support of or in opposition to this application may be filed with the Department of Transportation on or before September 17, 1999.

September 2, 1999
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Application of

TACA DE HONDURAS, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")

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Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109(c) and Subpart D of the Department's Rules of Practice, TACA De Honduras ("TACA De Honduras") hereby applies for renewal of exemption authority under the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement between the United States and Honduras. These authorities were first granted by the Department in its Notice of Action Taken on October 17, 1997 for a period of two years. TACA DE Honduras invokes the automatic extension provisions of Section 5 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 558(c) as implemented by Part 377 of the Department’s Regulations to continue the subject authorities in force pending the Department’s final action on this Application for renewal.
TACA De Honduras is requesting full authority as provided for in the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement signed by the United States and Honduras on May 8, 1997 and granted by the Department on October 17, 1997. The authority requested is:

1) to perform scheduled international air transportation a) from points behind Honduras via Honduras and intermediate points to a point or points in the United States and beyond, b) for all-cargo service or services, between the United States and any point or points, and c) all other rights and privileges conferred by Annex I of the Agreement; and

2) to carry international charter traffic of passengers (and their accompanying baggage) and/or cargo (including, but not limited to, freight forwarder, split, and combination (passenger/cargo) charters) with all other rights and privileges conferred by Annex II of the Agreement:

   a) between any point or points in the territory of Honduras and any point or points in the United States; and

   b) between any point or points in the territory of the United States and any point or points in a third country or countries, provided that, except with respect to cargo charters, such service constitutes part of a continuous operation, with or without a change of aircraft, that includes service to Honduras for the purpose of carrying local traffic between Honduras and the territory of the United States.

The existence of the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement is in and of itself sufficient to establish that the authority sought is in the public interest as was confirmed by the Department's Notice of Action Taken on October 17, 1997. Moreover, the Government of
Honduras has routinely granted authority to U.S. carriers through its longstanding adherence to the principles of comity and reciprocity.

TACA De Honduras is designated and licensed by the government of Honduras to provide all of the services permitted under the Open Skies Air Transport Agreement.

WHEREFORE. TACA De Honduras, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras") respectfully requests that its existing "Open Skies" authority be renewed for a period of two years.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

John R. Brimsek, Counsel for
TACA De Honduras, S.A. DE C.V.
("TACA De Honduras")

September 2, 1999