



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE IN
OTTAWA AND CANBERRA AT 8:00 A.M. EST,
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1954.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that during the last few weeks discussions have been held in Melbourne between representatives of the Canadian and Australian Governments for the purpose of considering amendments to the Canada-Australia Air Transport Agreement of 1946. Under that Agreement air services were established between Canada and Australia on behalf of the two countries by Canadian Pacific Airlines and by British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines respectively.

During the recent meetings discussions took place on proposals advanced by both the Canadian and Australian representatives, and discussions reached the stage where it was agreed that some time would be required for examination of the proposals by both governments. Accordingly the Canadian representatives are returning to Canada, and it is intended that the discussions will be resumed at a meeting to be held later between representatives of the two governments. It is not anticipated that there will be any immediate change in the broad pattern of operations by Canadian Pacific Airlines or British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines as a result of the recent discussions.