

PRESS RELEASE

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CANADA - NETHERLANDS AIR SERVICES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, has been officially informed that the Netherlands Government is seeking authority under its constitutional procedures to terminate the Bilateral Air Agreement with Canada. Under the provisions of the Agreement, termination would become effective one year from the date on which notification of termination is given.

The Air Transport Agreement between Canada and the Netherlands was concluded in 1948, and in the view of the Canadian Government has provided a sound basis for development of air services between the two countries. Under the Agreement, the Netherlands airline, KLM, may operate between any point in the Netherlands (including the Netherlands West Indies) and Montreal, while the Canadian airline, CPAL, may operate between any point in Canada and a point in the European territory of the Netherlands.

Commenting on the statement by the Netherlands Government that changes in the pattern of international air traffic since the Agreement was concluded in 1948 have placed the Netherlands airline in an unfavourable competitive position, the Secretary of State for External Affairs observed that KLM has consistently obtained more than equal benefits under the Agreement. The most recent available statistics indicate that KLM is still carrying a somewhat larger proportion of the total passenger