ARTICLE XVI

Ground Handling

1. The designated airline or airlines of one Contracting Party shall be permitted, on the basis of reciprocity, to perform its own ground handling in the territory of the other Contracting Party and, at its option, to have ground handling services provided in whole or in part by any agent authorized by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party to provide such services.

2. The exercise of the rights set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be subject only to physical or operational constraints resulting from considerations of airport safety or security. Any constraints shall be applied uniformly and on terms no less favourable than the most favourable terms available to any airline engaged in similar international air services at the time the constraints are imposed.

ARTICLE XVII

Applicability to Non-Scheduled Flights

1. The provisions set out in Article VI (Application of Laws), VII (Safety Standards, Certificates and Licences), VIII (Aviation Security) and XXI (Non-Smoking Flights) of this Agreement shall be applicable also to non-scheduled flights operated by an air carrier of one Contracting Party into or from the territory of the other Contracting Party and to the air carrier operating such flights.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not affect national laws and regulations governing the authorization of non-scheduled operations or to the conduct of air carriers or other parties involved in the organization of such operations.

ARTICLE XVIII

Consultations

1. In a spirit of close co-operation, the Aeronautical Authorities of the Contracting Parties shall consult each other from time to time with a view to ensuring the implementation of, and satisfactory compliance with, the provisions of this Agreement and of its Annex.