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CANADA-U.K. AIR SERVICE NEGOTIATIONS

The Canadian and British Governments agreed today on a new arrangement for air services between the two countries at negotiations which began in Ottawa on September 10. The successful conclusion followed four rounds of talks held between the two governments over the course of the past year.

One of the essential features of the new arrangement is the opportunity now open for British Airways to start direct services to Western Canada across the Atlantic from the United Kingdom and for a yet to be designated British airline to start services to Western Canada from Hong Kong. At the same time, Canadian airlines will have the opportunity to expand their services through points in United Kingdom territory. Air Canada will be able to develop and extend its services for both passengers and cargo on routes through London to a range of destinations in Europe, Africa and Asia, while CP Air will be able to extend its services for both passengers and cargo on routes through Hong Kong to Southeast Asia.

It is expected that the new range of air services offered by the British carriers to Western Canadian travellers will be introduced as early as next spring.

The new arrangement was initialled this morning in Ottawa by the two delegation leaders, Christopher Roberts of the United Kingdom Department of Trade, and R. Harry Jay, Canada's Chief Air Negotiator.