

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and His Excellency Dr. Erwin Bernath, Ambassador of Switzerland, have signed today in Ottawa an Air Transport Agreement between Canada and the Swiss Confederation, which replaces the 1958 Agreement between our two countries.

This new Agreement increases and expands the number of routes granted to the two designated airlines of both countries. New traffic points will be served, such as Toronto in Canada and Geneva in Switzerland.

The Swiss designated airline, Swissair, will be allowed, in addition to points already served under the present Agreement, to have access to Toronto and to exercise intransit rights to Boston, New York, Guatemala, Panama, Quito, Guayquil and Lima. It will also be allowed, with intransit and stopover rights, to serve Havana, Caracas and Bogota. All these points will have to be served from Montreal only.

The Canadian designated airline, Air Canada, will be allowed to serve Geneva (from April 1977), in addition to Zurich, plus 14 points beyond Switzerland to be named by Canada with 5th freedom rights, i.e., rights to take on passengers, cargo and mail at the Swiss points. These points include 4 points in Europe, 5 points in Asia including a point or points in India, and a point in Kenya plus 4 other points in Africa.

This new Agreement will expand the air services between Switzerland and Canada and thus will improve the services to the travelling public, reinforcing by this the close and friendly relations which have long existed between our two countries.