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AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Benoît Bouchard, Minister of Transport, announced today that the Honourable Don Mazankowski, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has signed a new air services agreement between Canada and Australia.

Mr. Mazankowski signed the agreement today in Canberra in a ceremony with Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Transport and Communications, who signed on behalf of the Government of Australia.

The agreement is the eighth new or expanded air agreement that Canada has negotiated with Asia Pacific Governments during the past two years: the others being Thailand, Singapore, Korea, India, Pakistan, China and Hong Kong.

"This agreement enhances prospects for substantial growth in direct air services between Canada and Australia", Mr. Mazankowski said. "Air services will continue to make an important contribution to trade and tourism for both countries as a result of the anticipated growth in the number of flights and available destinations".

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Canadian Airlines International Ltd. and Qantas, the airlines designated by their governments to operate scheduled air services between Canada and Australia, will have improved flexibility to serve a second point in the other country. Under the terms of the new agreement, Canadian Airlines is considering adding Melbourne to its current service to Sydney and Qantas could serve Toronto in addition to its current flights to Vancouver. Either carrier has been authorized to operate to its new destination commencing April 1, 1989.

Each carrier is also entitled to add a third weekly flight to its current services. Canadian Airlines plans to add a third flight between Canada and Sydney this summer.

Mr. Mazankowski is Canada's official Bicentennial visitor to Australia and is a personal representative of the Prime Minister. His visit is a concrete expression of the friendly relations between our two countries especially in the areas of trade, transportation, tourism and culture.