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Dear Mr. Administrator:

I appreciate so much your memorandum on your visit to Latin America and enjoyed reading your comments. This information will be helpful in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The Honorable N. E. Halaby Administrator Federal Aviation Agency Washington 25, D. C.

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## FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY Washington 25, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR July 31, 1964 J hi

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I have just completed a two-week trip through Latin America, visiting seven countries, nine FAA groups, and participating in the OAS Conference on Civil Aviation in Santiago, Chile. In the course of this trip many very fine Country Team briefings were received, but of particular value to me was the opportunity to become familiar with the air systems of Latin America while flying the FAA Jet Star over 25,000 miles of its airways. My principal impressions are as follows:

- You have outstanding representatives in Ambassadors Gordon in Brazil, Martin in Argentina, and Cole in Chile - all experts on the Latin American area with loyalty to your ideals for progressive development of these countries.
- 2. International civil aviation can and is making a tremendous contribution to the development of Latin America, but is being held back by deficiencies in navigation aids, communications, and trained personnel. It is interesting to note that there is only one traffic control radar, only five of the 1085 airports are equipped with instrument landing systems (as contrasted with 231 in the United States), and communications are primitive.
- 3. The Latin American countries are looking to the United States for help in eliminating these deficiencies. The OAS meeting in Santiago, however, was critical of the low priority aviation projects are receiving from the Alianza as compared with other forms of transportation even more so in comparison with other developmental projects.

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- 4. It was gratifying to note that the civil aviation assistance groups in Latin America, composed of FAA experts functioning as an integral part of the Country Team, are making an important contribution to the solution of these problems. During the visit to Brazil, Ambassador Gordon announced the granting of a \$2.5 million loan to continue the aviation program with FAA assistance. I will be discussing with Dave Bell the continuing aviation development requirements in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, based on my firsthand evaluations.
- 5. There is a large potential market for a short-haul passenger/cargo transport for use on the internal routes of Latin American countries. There was great interest in the program FAA has under way to encourage the development of such an aircraft.
- 6. There is a growing realization of the potential of tourism as a foreign exchange earner, and that Latin America is lagging behind other areas of the world.

I am particularly grateful to you for permitting me to make this trip at a time which allowed Congressman Albert Thomas, Chairman Boyd, and me to become more familiar with the problems in this very important area and to generate ideas for the future.

Administrator