BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Washington, D.C.

Application of

TACA DE HONDURAS, S.A. DE C.V.
("TACA De Honduras")

for an exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109(c)

Docket No. OST - 97-2677

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION
TACA De Honduras, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")

Communications with respect to this document should be sent to:

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NOTICE: Answers in support of or in opposition to this application may be filed with the
Department of Transportation on or before July 17, 1997.

July 2, 1997
APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION
TACA De Honduras, S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109(c) and Subpart D of the Department's Rules of Practice.

TACA De Honduras ("TACA De Honduras") hereby applies for exemption authority under the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement between the United States and Honduras.

TACA De Honduras is requesting full authority as provided for in the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement signed by the United States and Honduras on May 8, 1997. The authority requested is:

1) to perform scheduled international air transportation a) from points behind Honduras via Honduras and intermediate points to a point or points in the United States and beyond, b) for all-cargo service or services, between the United States
and any point or points, and c) all other rights and privileges conferred by Annex I of the Agreement: and

2) to carry international charter traffic of passengers (and their accompanying baggage) and/or cargo (including, but not limited to, freight forwarder, split, and combination (passenger/cargo) charters) with all other rights and privileges conferred by Annex II of the Agreement:

   a) between any point or points in the territory of Honduras and any point or points in the United States; and

   b) between any point or points in the territory of the United States and any point or points in a third country or countries, provided that, except with respect to cargo charters, such service constitutes part of a continuous operation, with or without a change of aircraft, that includes service to Honduras for the purpose of carrying local traffic between Honduras and the territory of the United States.

The existence of the "Open Skies" Air Transport Agreement is in and of itself sufficient to establish that the authority sought is in the public interest. Moreover, the Government of Honduras has routinely granted authority to U.S. carriers through its longstanding adherence to the principles of comity and reciprocity.

TACA De Honduras is designated and licensed by the government of Honduras to provide all of the services permitted under the Open Skies Air Transport Agreement.
WHEREFORE, TACA De Honduras. S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras") respectfully requests that the "Open Skies" authority sought be granted for a period of two years.

Respectfully submitted.

[Signature]

John F. Brimsek, Counsel for TACA De Honduras. S.A. DE C.V. ("TACA De Honduras")

July 2, 1997