



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20591

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 27, 1970

Honorable John H. Shaffer
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Department of Transportation
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Shaffer:

The National Transportation Safety Board understands that the United States is now considering a formalized proposal to ICAO that Annex 2 be amended to establish international standardization regarding aircraft speed restrictions. These speed restrictions, similar to those prescribed by section 91.70 of the Federal Aviation Regulations are to be extended to include certain designated areas over the high seas.

The same reasons which were given to justify the application of FAR 91.70 to the airspace within the United States have been offered as justification for this proposal, and are considered equally apropos. Aircraft speed restrictions have provided a significantly higher level of safety for the airspace users within those areas currently affected by FAR 91.70. A concurrent application of these restrictions is an operational necessity for the achievement of a comparable level of safety in the international airspace adjacent to high-density terminal areas.

While we anticipate a positive response from ICAO in regard to this matter, we also anticipate that the administrative processes which are involved in modifying international standards will prove to be lengthy and time-consuming.

In the interim, while formal ICAO action is pending, we recommend that:

The Federal Aviation Administration initiate action to institute a policy of voluntary compliance by the airspace users of an extension of FAR 91.70 to selected

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and defined areas off the coastal waters of the United States. This would encompass areas of the high seas adjacent to the airports at New York, Miami, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Puerto Rico, the Virgin and Hawaiian Islands, and such other areas as you may determine to be appropriate.

The Safety Board deems it important to extend these aircraft speed restrictions on a voluntary basis without delay and until such time that applicable directives from ICAO are published and implemented.

We are forwarding information copies of this letter to the major organizations representative of the various aviation user groups. This will alert all interested parties as to our views in regard to this matter, and we are hopeful that they will voluntarily adopt the restrictions at an early date.

In accordance with established procedures, this letter will be placed in our public docket at the end of the five working-day period commencing the day after the date of this letter. It is understood, therefore, that there will be no public dissemination of this letter until that time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Reed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John H. Reed
Chairman