



Prime Minister (2) *and*
To note X
AM 27/9

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Miss Dinah Nicholls
PS/Secretary of State for Transport
Department of Transport
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB

26 September 1984

MF

Dear Dinah

The Financial Secretary had meetings with most of the top Wall Street banks and brokers during his recent visit to the United States. His discussions included the topic of the privatisation programme generally. British Airways was singled out on several occasions during the course of the meetings and the Financial Secretary thought the Secretary of State might be interested to hear the views that were expressed - even though they are based only on limited discussions on a subject where his was a listening brief.

There was considerable enthusiasm for BA and the impression given was that there was likely to be considerable demand in the US for BA equity provided there was sufficient education and communication prior to the sale. There was a very general feeling that the Spring of 1985 would be a good time for approaching the US market.

A further point which the Financial Secretary noted was the absence of any reference at any point to the "Laker" anti-trust suits. This issue appears to be having no perceptible impact on the US appetite for BA.

I am copying this letter to Andrew Turnbull, David Peretz (Chancellor of the Exchequer) and Callum McCarthy, (Secretary of State for Trade and Industry).

Yours sincerely
F P Bogan

MISS F P BOGAN
Assistant Private
Secretary

27 SEP 1994

