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PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

September 30, 1971

OFFICE OF
CONSUMER ACTION

Mr. Francis M. Hammond
Higher Education Facilities Program Officer
Department of Health, Education & Welfare
Region II Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Earl Estwick and I have chatted since my return from vacation, and I must apologize for not having been more responsive to your original letter.

Our Senior Manager-Flight Service Personnel was in Johannesburg in August, and made a preliminary check of the situation at that time. He goes back in October for a final check, and shortly after that a decision will be made as to whether the African runs should be opened up to bids by black crews.

He has determined positively so far that there would be no discrimination at the airport hotel (as you have seen for yourself), nor any on local transportation between Jan Smuts Airport and town. There would be difficulty in some restaurants downtown, but not all.

Still to be determined is the attitude of local authorities, in the event any of our people run into difficulty. Our Senior Manager-Flight Service Personnel will be seeking unequivocal assurances on this aspect from the U. S. Ambassador in South Africa, from the local police authorities in Johannesburg and from the South African Consulate General here in the States.

His final findings will then be presented to our Staff Vice President-Flight Service for his personal review and decision. A factor that Staff Vice President-Flight Service will have to take into account additionally is some kind of sensible protection for both the airline and our national diplomacy against individuals using an open bid policy for personal purposes of provocation. (This can happen in any arrangement arrived at on grounds of good sense, and we have had some discomfiting precedents of it in the Middle East, to nobody's benefit or advantage whatsoever.)

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