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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 15, 1997

**PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES ROBERT O. HARRIS, ANTHONY V. SINICROPI
AND HELEN M. WITT TO PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD**

President Clinton announced today that effective February 15, 1997, Presidential Emergency Board No. 233, will convene to investigate and make recommendations for settlement regarding the current dispute between American Airlines and its employees represented by the Allied Pilots Association.

Mr. Robert O. Harris was selected to serve as Chairman. Mr. Anthony V. Sinicropi as Member and Ms. Helen M. Witt as Member of the Presidential Emergency Board. Mr. Harris, a resident of Maryland most recently served as Chairman of the Special Board established by Congress to resolve the national railroad labor dispute in 1991. He is the former Chairman of the National Mediation Board, a position he held from 1979-80 and 1982-83.

Mr. Anthony V. Sinicropi of California is professor Emeritus of the University of Iowa and is a member of the American Arbitration Association, the American Economic Association and the National Academy of Arbitrators, where he served as President from 1991-1992.

Ms. Helen M. Witt of Pennsylvania served as a Member and Chair of the National Mediation Board from 1983-1988. She is a member of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service and the American Arbitration Association.

The President, by Executive Order, established the Emergency Board on the notification of the National Mediation Board. The situation appears to the President to be critical. A strike at American Airlines would have an immediate and adverse effect on the traveling public. Consequently, the President invoked the Emergency Board procedures of the Railway Labor Act, which provides that the Board will report its findings and recommendations for settlement to the President.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

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ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY BOARD TO INVESTIGATE A DISPUTE
BETWEEN AMERICAN AIRLINES AND ITS EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED
BY THE ALLIED PILOTS ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, a dispute exists between American Airlines and its employees represented by the Allied Pilots Association; and

WHEREAS, the dispute has not heretofore been adjusted under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151-188) (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the National Mediation Board, this dispute threatens substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree that would deprive sections of the country of essential transportation service,

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 10 and 201 of the Act, 45 U.S.C. 160 and 181, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of Emergency Board ("Board"). There is established, effective February 15, 1997, a Board of three members to be appointed by the President to investigate this dispute. No member shall be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any organization of airline employees or any air carrier. The Board shall perform its functions subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2. Report. The Board shall report to the President with respect to the dispute within 30 days of its creation.

Sec. 3. Maintaining Conditions. As provided by section 10 of the Act, from the date of the creation of the Board and for 30 days after the Board has submitted its report to the President, no change in the conditions out of which the dispute arose shall be made by the parties to the controversy, except by agreement of the parties.

Sec. 4. Records Maintenance. The records and files of the Board are records of the Office of the President and upon the Board's termination shall be maintained in the physical custody of the National Mediation Board.

Sec. 5. Expiration. The Board shall terminate upon the submission of the report provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this order.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
February 15, 1997.

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