

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Application of)	
)	
ORIENT THAI AIRLINES CO., LTD.)	
)	
for an exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 41301, et. seq.)	
(Bangkok-New York, Bangkok-San Francisco/ Los Angeles))	Docket No. OST-03-16064

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION OF ORIENT THAI AIRLINES CO., LTD.
FOR AN EXEMPTION

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DATED: September 24, 2003

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The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ("Port Authority") hereby wishes to demonstrate through this submission its support of the application of Orient Thai Airlines Co., Ltd. ("Orient Thai") for an exemption from 48 U.S.C. amended exemption and renewal of exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 41301 in order to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail, between points in Thailand, on the one hand, and New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, on the other hand, either directly or via intermediate points in other countries, and charters pursuant to Part 212 of the Department's regulations, as necessary. Orient Thai plans to conduct scheduled operations between Bangkok and New York twice weekly with B747 aircraft.

The Port Authority believes that the service proposed by Orient Thai will initiate a link between the United States' largest, most populous metropolitan region, home of the nation's largest financial and banking center to Bangkok, Thailand. This proposed service will be the first between the East Coast of the U.S. and that country.

The New York/New Jersey region is the largest origin-and-destination passenger and cargo market in the nation. Additionally, the development of an increased domestic service network at Kennedy achieved in the past two years, and expected to be expanded in the very near future, gives a significant feeder and distribution potential with approximately 272 non-stop flights to 50 points in the U.S. served from that airport alone. The potential is further expanded if we add the markets served by LaGuardia (540 non-stop flights to 66 points) and Newark Liberty International (545 non-stop flights to 79 points.)

Since Orient Thai is the only carrier providing or expressing interest in providing the aforementioned service, U.S. DOT acceptance of this exemption will allow expected travel of relevant businesses and of financial concerns, as well as ethnic visiting family and relatives (“VFR”) type traffic to take place.

The Port Authority respectfully urges the Department to accept Orient Thai’s application for the exemption to offer scheduled and charter service air service between New York and Bangkok, Thailand.

Respectfully,

Alan L. Reiss
Deputy Director
Aviation Department
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

DATED: September 24, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Answer was on this 24th day of September 2003 served by electronic or first-class mail, postage prepaid, on all the parties listed below.

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