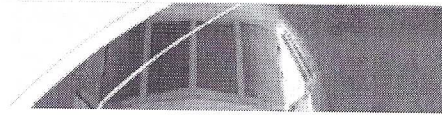


► Concorde

Cabin plan - Passion for Concorde



Roissy, 7 November 2001 - Press release

Statement by Jean-Cyril Spinetta, Chairman of Air France, November 7 (Air France Head Office)

15 months after the tragic accident on July 25th, 2000, Concorde is back in service. This is a moving time for all of us at Air France.

Getting Concorde back in the air was a hugely daunting task, and was achieved through exemplary teamwork (on both sides of the Channel). Everyone concerned - EADS, Michelin, civil aviation authorities, British Airways and Air France - has worked hand in hand for Concorde's airworthiness certificate to be reinstated.

I particularly appreciated the constant support from the Transport Ministers of our two countries. Jean-Claude Gaysot's optimism and determination were a source of great encouragement for all of us.

I would also like to congratulate our entire Concorde family of engineers, mechanics, pilots and cabin crews, without whose dedication Concorde would not have been able to return to service today.

I had decided straight after the suspension of flights to do everything possible to enable Concorde to fly again. In my opinion, this is the greatest tribute we can pay to the 113 people who lost their lives, and to whom I dedicate this flight.

In a few moments Concorde will take off for New York. This is an opportunity for us to symbolically salute the courage of the American people - and particularly New Yorkers who were hardest hit - and their amazing determination to rebuild their city. Mayor Giuliani paid a personal visit to our offices in New York after the Concorde accident last year to offer his condolences and support. We will always remember this. Today it is our turn to show our sympathy and support to the people of New York.

I don't need to tell you that airlines worldwide are going through an unprecedented crisis at the present time. In this context, you might ask whether the resumption of Concorde service is appropriate. I have always said that, if there were technical solutions to the problem, then we would resume Concorde flights. Over and above the symbolic nature of this aircraft, meeting this commitment today is a sign of our confidence in the future of air transport.