AIR TRANSPOR T

The lata code for Stansted has been changed from STV to
STN.

Boeing studies of a variable-geometry transonic transport with a single-pivot "scissor" wing of the type pioneered by Dr Robert T. Jones of Nasa "show promise." Supported by a $300,000 Nasa grant, Boeing wind-tunnel tests showed that a design representing a commercial transport had a lift:drag ratio of 20:1 at Mach 0-98 with 45° wing sweep.

Excursion fares between Australia and Asia were reduced by between 30 and 40 per cent on January 1. The fares were proposed by Qantas and were agreed to by the six Asian air-lines flying to Australia. The lower rates are available from Australia to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore, Bombay and Madras.

A British Airways cargo 707 was forced to land in Manila on December 2 by the Philippine Air Force. The 707 was held at Manila airport for lhr 25min. The interception is believed to have resulted from a mix-up over names; British Airways was still known as BOAC and the air force and air traffic control were unsure of the aircraft's identity.

An unofficial strike by 530 British Airport Authority staff at Gatwick on December 23 closed the airport for 24hr during one of the busiest parts of the year. The strikers are demand-ing compensation for working in the capital. Although an arbitration board is being set up and is due to meet this month, a decision was taken on December 22 not to turn up for work. Passengers were being diverted through Stansted, Bournemouth, Luton and other airports.

In a debate on the HS.146 in the Commons on December 12, Mr Michael Meacher, Under-Secretary of State for Industry, said the new nationalised aircraft company would make up its own mind about the prospects for the aircraft. "We also want to allow enough time for the present difficult worldwide economic climate to settle down," he said. "I should have thought that we should therefore anticipate a review around the middle of 1976."

Pan Am has withdrawn from the Airlines' Mutual Aid Agree-ment whereby American carriers give financial assistance to strikebound members. The agreement requires a year's notice from any of the 16 signatories and Pan Am's withdrawal from the pact will only take effect, therefore, from January 1 next year. In announcing its decision Pan Am said that circumstances which made withdrawal "appropriate" did not apply to other companies. "Management and employees have a new attitude with respect to going forward together; an attitude and philosophy that management, employees and unions are determined to preserve in their common interest. Also, in recent years the economics of participating in the agreement have not been advantageous to Pan Am."

fLIGHT International, 2 January 1975

Aeroflot aircraft were involved in 113 recorded birdstrikes in 1972 and 152 in 1973.

Air-India made a net profit of Rs3 million ($0-15 million) during 1973-74 compared with a loss of Rs9-4 million in 1972-73.

CP Air will re-enter the North Atlantic charter market this

year with services to Britain, West Germany and the Nether-lands. DC-8-50s and DC-8-63s will be used.

Lufthansa is to wet-lease a 747 freighter from Flying Tiger from January 24 to March 1 while the German carrier's 747F is being overhauled.

British Airways and American Airlines have signed an agree-ment for cargo pallet interchange. It will allow European shippers access to 20 additional American cities, says British Airways, and provides increased capacity and frequency to the commercial centres of Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. British Airways 747s or 707s will carry cargo to the gateway destinations of New York, Washington, Chicago, Miami, Boston and Detroit, for transfer to American Airlines aircraft.

Preston Air Traffic Control Centre, which is responsible for aircraft movements over central and northern England, is to be closed on January 30. All aircraft from the English Channel to 55 °N will become the responsibility of the London ATCC from that date. A new sub-centre, at Manchester Air-port, will be brought into operation to handle traffic in the Manchester Terminal Area and along certain lengths of air-ways below flight level 130. Flight information for aircraft outside controlled airspace will be available from London, the region being divided into three areas, each with a dis-crete VHF frequency.

The International Air Transportation Conference sponsored by the Air Transport Division of the American Society of Civil Engineering, with co-operating sponsors which include the Airport Operators' Council International, the International Air Transport Association, the Air Transport Association of America, the Federal Aviation Administration and the American Association of Airport Executives, will be held at the Hyatt on Union Square, San Francisco, between March 24-26. The six half-day technical sessions will discuss the "energy crisis," short-haul air transport, noise, airfield capacity, terminal access and passenger processing, and planning. Further details are available from Mr Wes Starratt, International Engineering Company, 220 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Telephone (415) 397 4071.

Boeing is now using a 4,200ft runway at Boardman field in Northern Oregon to train 737-200 aircrew. The company says that 737s powered
by JT8D-I7 engines are regularly operating into runways as short as 5,000ft in Hawaii, Madagascar, Alaska and British Columbia. The photographs show the aircraft rotating (right), lifting off (centre) and passing the end of the runway (left)