

NORWAY - EAST EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT  
AIR FLOW \*

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"Evenes is given status as an international airport while Bardufoss becomes a domestic airport. This was decided by the Ministry of Communications today after Cabinet consideration. The other airports retain their present status. Furthermore, the government has decided East European charter flights will be allowed, as a temporary arrangement for 1985, to make use of Evenes and Bodoe airports subject to prior clearance of times of landing. This means that the charter companies, Vingereiser and Arctic Express, will be able to carry through their planned flights this year. The two last named airports will, however, not be open to East European charter flights after 1 January next year.

The government has also given its authorisation for access for aircraft from certain countries to the international airports, Flesland, Gardermoen, Sola, Vaernes and Torp, to be restricted during certain periods of the year. The aviation authorities will, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, determine these periods in good time in order that this will not create any problems for the plans of tour operators."

The Royal Norwegian Embassy has provided the following additional information.

"It should be noted that these measures do not entail any general embargo on the use of Norwegian airports by East European aircraft but only mean that certain restrictions have been introduced on the use of these airports by East European charter flights.

The reason is that Norway has a considerable number of airports which serve military as well as civilian purposes. This is due to special geographic conditions as the country has considerable length north/south and is sparsely populated. In many places it is therefore not practical to have separate airports for civilian and military purposes. In recent years Norwegian tour operators have increasingly made use of Eastern European airlines for charter flights to southern Europe, and it has caused concern that Eastern European aircraft have thereby gained access to airports which also have important military functions."

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\* This is the text of a press release dated 1 February 1985 of the Norwegian Ministry of Communications supplied by His Excellency, Mr Olav Lydvo, Ambassador of Norway, Canberra.