

→ARK

cc: D. Bernier-PAP

JLB

SGC

HGC

PAM

GLN

RAP

J. Nelson

J. Rupp

P IFAA

March 21, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pottorf

FROM: John Lyons

RE: International Flight Attendants Association

As we have discussed, I attended the Fifth Annual International Aircraft Cabin Safety Symposium in Oakland, California, in late February.

While there, I made contact, per your recommendation, with Peter Tronke, president of the International Flight Attendants Association. I spent a substantial amount of time with Tronke and two of his Condor Flugdienst colleagues, pilot Wolfgang Stroh and flight attendant Wera Krause. We had a very pleasant, leisurely dinner one evening and a productive lunch the following day.

Tronke, a prolific talker, made the following key comments:

1. IFAA is very pleased with PMI's corporate sponsorship and looks forward to further cooperation. IFAA was extremely reluctant to enter the relationship prior to Arjuna Kannangara's and Paul Maglione's meeting with it's heard last summer. IFAA's board was very impressed by these gentlemen.
2. IFAA considers "smoking aboard airliners" a non-issue, that the system of providing separate sections for smokers and nonsmokers works well and need not be changed.
3. IFAA also believes that airline smoking bans are unwise because they would reduce fire safety by increasing surreptitious smoking in lavatories.
4. In addition, IFAA believes that at this time there are no scientific data to support claims that environmental tobacco smoke is harmful to nonsmokers. Thus, an airline smoking ban cannot be justified on "health effects for nonsmokers" grounds.
5. Dr. Maria Simonson, a psychiatrist on the faculty at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, consults for IFAA on a variety of issues. She strongly opposes airline smoking bans for fire safety reasons. Dr. Simonson is a former smoker in her late 60's, in less than perfect health, with an ailing husband.

2026174040

Mary Pottorff
March 21, 1988
Page Two

However, she's still very active -- teaching and conducting research. She's well known in the aviation community -- she has participated in numerous National Transportation Safety Board investigations of aviation accidents.

6. Patricia Robertson-Miller, former president of the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), is the North American representative to IFAA. She is an active flight attendant flying for Piedmont out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. She too opposes airline smoking bans on fire safety grounds. (As you know, AFA was principally responsible for pushing the two-hour ban through Congress last year. She has not been president since at least 1984, maybe earlier.)

We discussed the U.S. situation at length. Tronke stated repeatedly that he could not comprehend how the U.S. airline smoking ban came about. Moreover, he could not understand how the tobacco industry could let it happen. I tried to explain. I also explained in general terms the industry's intention to continue the fight on this issue, including our hope to work with flight attendants on cabin air quality and other issues of concern.

Tronke suggested that I contact Dr. Simonson and Ms. Robertson-Miller, using him as a reference. When I phoned Dr. Simonson March 11, she was very receptive. She described interviews she has conducted with smokers seated in airline smoking sections which lead her to conclude that surreptitious smoking in lavatories will be a significant problem under the ban.

Dr. Simonson agreed to set up a meeting of herself, Ms. Robertson-Miller and me. She will contact me as soon as the arrangements are set. I will let you know how the meeting goes. (Incidentally, Dr. Simonson and Ms. Robertson-Miller both live very near where I grew up, so I agreed to go visit them.)

Tronke and I promised to keep in touch. In fact, I sent him some information earlier this week.

If you have questions, please let me know.

2026174041