Mr. K.K. UNNI APPOINTED MANAGING DIRECTOR

Air Marshal to retire on February 14

R.K.K. Unni has been appointed the Managing Director of Air-India by the Government of India from February 14, 1973. He will succeed Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi, who retired from the Corporation on February 14, 1973, on reaching the mandatory retirement age. This is the first time that a senior executive of Air-India has been selected to fill the post of Managing Director. Mr. Unni is presently Assistant Managing Director, a member of the Board of Air-India, The Hotel Corporation of India Limited and Air India Charters Limited.

Mr. Unni, 53, joined the Corporation in October 1960 from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Government of India where he was actively associated with civil aviation and the working of the two Air Corporations from the time air transport was nationalised in 1953.

Mr. Unni entered the Government of India Service on the basis of the All India Competitive Examination held in 1942 by the then Federal Public Service Commission. In 1952 he was deputed by the Government of India to the United States of America under the Point Four Programme for training in Administration in the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Unni was an officer of the Central Administrative Pool set up to non senior administrative posts in the Government before joining Air-India. He is also a member of the panel for top executive posts in Public Sector Undertakings. He is actively connected with the Management movement in India and is a member of the Council of the All India Management Association.

Mr. Dastur succeeds Mr. Kooka

R. Nari H. Dastur, 49, has succeeded Mr. S.K. Kooka, as Air-India's Commercial Director. Mr. Kooka has retired from the Corporation after 34 years service.

Mr. Dastur has been appointed Director of Air-India Sales and also Director of the Hotel Corporation of India and the Air-India Charters Limited, the two wholly-owned subsidiaries of Air-India.

Mr. Dastur has returned to India after 22 years abroad, the last six of which as our Regional Manager - Continental Europe in Geneva. He was posted to Geneva in 1950. He was Manager, Germany from 1960 to 1964 and Manager, Italy from 1964 to 1966, before taking over as IOM-CE.

Before joining Air-India in 1947, Mr. Dastur was with the Indian Army having been commissioned in 1942. He was posted to the 5th Maratha Light Infantry, instructed trainees in a jungle training camp at Chhind-wara, Madhya Pradesh for some time and after a stint as adjutant of his battalion, he left the Army as a Captain.

Farewell to Mr. Kooka

At a farewell party given to Mr. S.K. Kooka by the staff at the Air-India Building on November 10, 1972, Mr. N.H. Dastur, the newly appointed Commercial Director, is seen presenting a wine cooler with a bottle of champagne in it to Mr. Kooka. (See and more pictures on page 4 and 5.)
Brig. Joseph takes over new Dept.

A new Civil Works and Properties Department has been set up with Air-India from October 5, 1972. The Department takes over the present functions of the Civil Construction Division of the Engineering Department and will be responsible for the Corporations' works activities in India and the Far East. The new Department will handle all the property matters, like hiring of accommodation and furnishing it.

Brigadier M.P. Joseph

Brigadier M.P. Joseph, 51, has been appointed as the Controller of Civil Works and Properties.

Brig. Joseph, who holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Mumbai, had been with the Army for the past 28 years, serving the Corps of Engineers popularly known as ‘Engineers’.

The new Department will be based at the headquarters in New Delhi, under the direct control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Tennis player

A keen tennis player, Brig. Joseph says he does not find much time for it now because he has a very busy schedule. “There are a few problems which are taking up all my time at the moment, especially the budget,” he says. “One this phase is over I should be able to play tennis in the morning.”

Brig. Joseph is a member of the Indian Army Tennis Association.

Mr. Dastur succeeds Mr. Kooka

(Continued from page 1)

empty. But we are trying to tackle this.

About discrimination. “You must look at this in perspective. The number of such complaints is not large. More and more Indian passengers are now travelling and it is not really a big problem. Swissair and Lufthansa, to name only two airlines, go out of their way to be nice to their foreign passengers. Let me ask you a question. Why does a Swiss or German national choose to fly with Air-India? He has his national airline, but he still prefers to come to Air-India. We should do something for him.”

About second gateway. “Studies for new routes are always being made. The second gateway to the U.S. is bound to be opened. But not just yet.”

About tourism. “More and more Indians are coming into Europe because India is a drop in the ocean. About 100 million affluent Europeans take holidays each year. Tourists from Europe are ready and willing but we are not ready yet. The idea of developing our beaches is just catching on but a lot more needs to be done.

Mostly the Europeans take their holidays in July and August, particularly the French, and the number of (European) tourists coming to India in July at present is about the same as in December and January. In the case of France more tourists come (to India) in July and August than in December and January.

We should therefore launch a project to promote India all the year round. Mass tourism, however, will not be a success until and unless Air-India, Indian Airlines, the Railways and the travel agents work hand in glove with one another.”

The Maharajah Mia

By Meher Heroyce Moos

(Mia Moos, one of our heartbeats, is a princess. She wrote this poem while on a flight between Addis Ababa and Bombay on October 29, 1972, and gave it to Mr. Kooka, who was on the same flight. Two of her poems have previously appeared in the Magic Carpet.)

Your saucy smile and benign bow,
Has got me smitten quite somehow;
Dartive Cupid with his dart,
Must have trained you in his art.

No matter what your garb or gear,
You set the trend and style each year;
Dazzling all with change of robe,
As you girdle round the globe.

In any clime — on any stage,
You triumph — become the rage;
Hero, villain or damsel fair,
All roles you play with equal flair.

On the local front you oft display
The burning topic of the day,
And scorch a badd's eye every time,
Man of few words, you just need mime.

The wonder — just to all you bring,
As wonders of the world you sing;
Breathe your speedbird up on high,
With "majesty" you skirt the sky.

Upon the clouds you prance and dance,
With gay abandon you entrance;
All traveller's along their way,
And with your.sparkle light their day.

With winsome ways you weep and won,
Acclaim, applause, from everyone;
Like the Hamlyn "piper" of yore,
Child and adult you charm to your door.

"Maharajah Mia" — oh marvellous, into your crystal — look I scan;
And see your future bright with fame,
The world resonating with your name;"
LONG SERVICE MEMENTOS, MERIT AWARDS FOR STAFF

LONG, service mementos and Merit Awards for 1970-71 were presented to staff by Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi, Managing Director, at three separate functions last month. The functions were held on November 2, 16 and 24, 1972, in the first floor canteen hall at the Technical Building at Santa Cruz.

Because of the large number of staff who had completed 25 years service in 1971 and 1972 (till August 31), it would have been impossible to complete the presentation at one time. The Personnel Department therefore had no other alternative but to choose three different dates.

On November 2, 1972, 142 staff received their watches and 42 staff their Merit Awards. On November 10 and 24, 1972, the remaining 318 staff received their watches.

Earlier, Mr. Umni made a reference to Air-India's 40th Anniversary and said that it is a matter of pride that there are now 650 staff with Air-India who have completed 25 years service. "They form the hard core of Air-India and of every department."

He paid a tribute to Capt. K. Vishwanath, Director of Planning (Technical), and President of Air-India 25 Years Club, who he said, "is still happily with us and who was responsible for setting such high standards of flying." He said that it is a happy feeling that so many staff will be receiving their service mementos.

Capt. Vishwanath expressed his happiness on behalf of those who had received their long service mementos and said: "For those of us who have been with the organisation for 25 years or more Air-India has become a part of us".

He thanked the management for extending the passage facilities for retired employees and suggested that staff should be allowed to encash their accumulated leave at the end of retirement, "so that the blow of finding yourself suddenly out of work without the means of supporting yourself is softened!"

In his welcome speech Mr. N.R. Kshatriya, Personnel Officer (Welfare), explained the reasons for holding three functions in quick succession and said that thereafter there would be an annual function. Mr. Kshatriya also gave a background to the merit awards and said that Air-India is one of the few undertakings in this country which has this system and which has been in force for over 17 years.

Miss Parveen Vachha, Deputy Chief Air Hostess, presenting a bouquet to Mr. Karan Singh at the entrance to the Cabin Crew Training School. Mr. K.G. Appusamy, Director of Engineering is in the centre and Mr. S.K. Dewan, Commercial Manager-Customer Service in the left.

The crowded canteen hall at the Technical Building on November 2, 1972 when Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi presented the Long Service Mementos and Merit Awards.

"You symbolise country's traditional hospitality"

Dr. Karan Singh, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, photographed at the controls of our Boeing 747 Simulator during his 15-minute ride. He was on his first ever visit to our Operations Training School and Cabin Crew Training School.

A 15-minute flight in our Boeing 747 simulator and a quick tour of our Cabin Crew Training School were the highlights of a first ever visit by Dr. Karan Singh, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, to our Technical Base on October 26, 1972.

Dr. Karan Singh, accompanied by Mrs. Karan Singh, was on his way back to Delhi after attending the Tourism Development Council meeting in Goa. He spent a couple of hours during the stopover at our Base.

He was received at Bombay Airport by Air Marshal M.S. Chaturvedi, Managing Director, and Mr. K.K. Umni, Assistant Managing Director. On arrival at the Boeing 747 simulator, he was met by Captain R.V. Goday, Operations Manager (Central Division) and Capt. C.R.S. Rao, Dy. Operations Manager (Training Division). Among those present on the occasion were Mr. K.G. Appusamy, Director of Engineering, Mr. C.V.R. Rao, Financial Controller and other senior officers of the Corporation.

For his brief flight in the simulator, Dr. Karan Singh occupied the left hand seat and was able to see for himself just how realistic a ride in the simulator could be. Captain Goday, who was in command, did two take-offs and landings. The Minister was impressed with the simulator and asked several searching questions about pilot training.

Later visiting the Cabin Crew Training School nearby, where he was met by Mr. N.N. Dewan, Commercial Manager-Customer Service, he went round the class rooms, saw the trainee hostesses and pursers before going to the Boeing 747 mock-up to have tea in the Maharajah Lounge.

Addressing the trainee hostesses and pursers in the spacious cabin of the 747 mock-up, Mr. Karan Singh said: "Although I have been flying Air-India for the last twenty years and have been closely involved with the growth and development of Air-India in the last five years as the minister, this is the first time I have had an opportunity to visit this training establishment and see something of the hard work that goes into training hostesses and pursers!"

He said that Air-India has an extremely creditable record in the air transport industry. If Air-India has been able to maintain its pre-eminent position in this highly competitive field it is because its service is considered among the best. It is a matter of great pride that it has maintained its old tradition, despite generally falling standards all over. He congratulated the Corporation, and particularly its younger staff.

"You are the ambassadors of goodwill for this country!", he told the trainees. "In your behaviour you symbolise this country's traditional hospitality and courtesy. You have a rewarding career ahead of you. Every passenger comes in contact with you first and so it is your responsibility to do a good job."

"CCT School"
Mr. Kooka's speech

I am deeply moved at the many kind words said about me today. I am grateful to the Air Marshal, to Mr. G. T. S. N. and Mr. Hilbert, Mr. Work in the Booking Office today find that there is nothing wrong with the facilities, that 24 additional toilets have been provided. On the other hand, if we have six elevators when we could conveniently have four more. Our "Express" elevators are designed to stop at 4 intermediate floors before they hit the 16th floor. I must apologise on behalf of all of us that we are now the tenants of our building for the inconvenience suffered by them and by all of us.

S.K.K. presented with a locket, very appropriately presented from the Managers.

Great day

What else shall I say? It was a great day in early 1943 when Capt. K. G. took over the first Lockheed "C" into Santos Cruz—a wonderful sight! The first modern plane we had purchased—new. Even in those days, our counterparts were atLucknow, and even at Adil Gauhar, who achieved so much for this great nation—our leader. On a longer age, the Chairman, Figg was there, and I remember the episode of me trying to see the ship fly over in our first international flights to London. The roar of the engines had never been heard before. When the manager was concerned, the gentleman on my right had played an active part! (This reference is to the M.D.)

The Chairman, the managing director, and General Manager, was present at the Managers’ Committee’s dinner at the Air India Headquarters on 15th November, 1972 at the staff party and of the Chair.
say shapash - Chairman's speech

Chairman's speech

First of all let me remind you all that you have not been invited here to enjoy yourselves. This is a fare-
well function. As I have often reminded before, a French poet has said: “To dis-
ter one’s self is to die a little.” The appro-
priate behaviour at a farewell party is thoughtful and generous – not only what makes it difficult to maintain a reason-
able standard of consump-
tion is a missed opportunity.

On that fateful day in May, Mr. Koko-
appeared in the residence of Mr. Kota,
pointing out the deficiencies in the Tata
Oversea Airlines. As far as I was con-
tinued to be in Tata’s pay. I asked him: What is the company’s position?

I don’t know how many of you there are, but I have not been invited in the events of the company’s position?

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The members of the IA Delhi Team which won the championship in the Air-India/Indian Airlines joint table tennis tournament (from L to R) Mr. K.P. Narayan, Mrs. Senapati, Mr. Prem Bhat, Miss S. Vanamala, Mr. Gantam R. Divan (Chief Guest), Mr. B.D. Bajracharya (Ambassador), Mr. A. Kamath, Mr. Vignes Grover, Mr. G.D. Sharma and Mr. Anand Prakash.

**Triple crown to Jyoti Karnik**

Delhi team wins Championship

JYOTI Karnik of our Bombay Booking Office won the triple crown in the Third Joint Air-India/Indian Airlines Table Tennis Tournament which was held at our Recreation Centre at Santa Cruz from November 14 to November 17, 1972. The team championship was won by IA Delhi and Air-India team were the Runners-up.

The tournament was declared open by Mr. D.P. Nimbalkar, Chairman, Sports Control Committee and on the final day Mr. Gantam R. Divan, former National Table Tennis Champion, was the chief guest.

Five teams - Air-India and four Indian Airlines teams representing Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras participated in the tournament.

Matches for the team Championship were played on the league basis while matches for the individual championship were played on knock-out basis.

Jyoti Karnik and Irla Desai of Air-India won the Ladies Doubles title. Miss Karnik went on to complete her triumph by clinching the Mixed doubles title with S. Raneepree by beating the Delhi pair.

The members of the Air-India team are (L to R) Mr. S.D. Kelbeskar, Mrs. N.V. Gandhi, Mr. S.S. Sawant Desai, Mr. Gantam R. Divan (Chief Guest), Mr. N. Iyer, Miss Jyoti Karnik, Miss Irla Desai and Mr. S. Raneepree.
Panthackey wins Chess title for third time

Mr. K.N. Panthackey of our Transport Division retained the Air-India Inter-departmental Chess Championship for the third year in succession. He defeated Mr. S.Y. Karkik of our Accounts Department. Panthackey was lucky to have managed a draw in the first of two games in the final round. Karkik, unwilling to continue the game after a keen tussle lasting over three hours, accepted Panthackey’s proposal for a draw. But in the second game Panthackey exploited Karkik’s error and from the start had an upper hand. He maintained his position till Karkik resigned.

Poor financial results in 1971

The scheduled airline industry’s financial results for 1971 are disappointing. After achieving an operating profit of 9.6 per cent in 1965, which was slightly below the profit targets established by the U.S. CAB for domestic services and the level of return required for international services, the airlines have experienced a steady decline in profitability, due mainly to inflationary cost trends, declining revenue yields and lower load factors. The preliminary 1971 financial results for the world’s scheduled airlines indicate that the downward trend in profitability was maintained with an estimated increase in operating losses of 0.6 per cent on 1970’s return, producing a net loss of 2.1 per cent on revenue.

Serious consequences

The industry was unable to fully cover its non-operating losses and both 1970 and 1971. This situation cannot continue without serious consequences for the airlines, the travelling public, the manufacturers, financing institutions and the sectors of the national economies that depend upon air transport.

On scheduled international operations in 1971, IATA Members had a 1.1 per cent loss on operating revenue before capital charges. Operating profit for 1972 may show a small improvement over the previous year but will still not be sufficient to cover capital charges.

One of the major problems facing the airlines is worldwide inflation and its effects on airline profitability. Since 1968 the rate of general price increases in most countries has been about double that of the early 1960s. Despite a slight recession in certain leading nations, an anti-inflationary measures taken during the last two years, the overall inflation rate for the major industrial countries was 5.3 per cent in 1971.

A recent IATA analysis of airline cost trends for the 10-year period ending 1970 clearly indicates the gradual decrease in unit costs per RTH which reflect declining load factors.

WE regret to report the deaths of four Air-India staff. They are: Mr. S.B. Panchal, Sr. Technician (Carpenter), Engineering Department; Mr. H.T. Vaikar, Dresser in the Medical Clinic at Santa Cruz; Mr. A.K. Thawer, Cleaner in the Catering Cabin Service Division and Mr. F.J. Gouria, Sr. Plant Technician in the Engineering Department. We send our sincere condolences to the members of their families.

Obituary

Mr. R. Panchal who was 55 at the time of his death, joined Air-India in 1955. He had been with Air-India Limited between 1947 and 1955 and later went to work with Bombay Garage and Jagannath Khura for three years. He worked in our Maintenance and Jet Overhaul Divisions and became a Sr. Aircraft Technician in February 1962. His health, however, deteriorated in May 1970 and he had been hospitalized for prolonged treatment. Although he returned to work for some time, he had to be hospitalized again. He died in September 1972.

Mr. R. Vaikar, who died of Bronchopneumonia at 50, joined Air-India as a Dresser on October 1951. A keen social worker, he devoted many hours of his spare time to rendering medical assistance to people in slum areas. He was also a devoted member of the Varkari Sect and had trekked on foot to several holy places, including those in the Himalayas.

Mr. A. R. Thawer

Mr. Thawer joined the Corporation in November 1967 and died after a brief illness at the age of 50, before joining Air-India he had worked for 25 years in General Motors and Parle Biscuit Factory. He was appointed as a Mechanic in May 1957 and was re-categorised as Sr. Plant Technician in April 1964. He had been in indifferent health since 1967. He died only a few days before he was to receive his long service memento on November 2, 1977. Before his death, he was received by his daughter. (See picture on page 1 and Story on page 3).

Mr. F. J. Gouria

Mr. Gouria joined the Corporation as a Cleaner in 1946 and died after a brief illness at the age of 50. Before joining Air-India he had worked for 25 years in General Motors and Parle Biscuit Factory. He was appointed as a Mechanic in May 1957 and was re-categorised as Sr. Plant Technician in April 1964. He had been in indifferent health since 1967. He died only a few days before he was to receive his long service memento on November 2, 1977. Before his death, he was received by his daughter. (See picture on page 1 and Story on page 3).