

# Transport

Press Notice No:

84

19 February 1987

AVIATION MINISTER PUTS FINISHING TOUCHES TO  
LONDON CITY AIRPORT RUNWAY

The short take off and landing strip at Docklands new City Airport is now complete and the project is on schedule for full operation by October, Michael Spicer, Minister for Aviation, announced today.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the completion of the runway he said:

"This is another example of private sector investment in national infrastructure. The Government welcomes such investment. Everyone benefits, the travelling public who in this case will have a new airport and the chance of new routes. The investor, who receives a sound commercial return, and the tax and ratepayer who in the past has had to finance major transport projects. We already have the Dartford Bridge and the Channel Tunnel financed in this way; and we are looking for ways to extend private finance involvement.

"I am most impressed to see how much progress has been made since I visited last May. I see that in addition to the runway, which is now structurally complete, the terminal building is also well advanced.

"Great strides have been made over the past nine months to bring London's new airport closer to becoming a reality. This reflects the drive and enthusiasm of the operators, who are working hard to get the airstrip fully operational by October.

"I am most excited about the project. A number of airlines have already expressed interest in serving both domestic and European routes out of London City. I'm sure that it will soon realise its potential to businessmen as a viable alternative to London's other busy airports.

"That success will not be gained at the expense of the environmental interests of local residents. From the outset there will be strict limits on both the number of flights and on aircraft noise levels."

Press Enquiries: 01-212 0431      Public Enquiries: 01-212 3434  
Out of hours:      01-212 7071.      ask for Public Enquiry Unit.