



# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

For Further Information Contact  
Robin L. Wolfgang  
Communications Director  
TTD, AFL-CIO  
202.628.9262  
[robinw@ttd.org](mailto:robinw@ttd.org)

## **FOREIGN REPAIR STATIONS THREATEN SAFETY OF AIR PASSENGERS** *Transportation Labor Warns of Lack of Oversight and Regulations*

**WASHINGTON, DC- August 10, 2006**— *The following statement was issued today by Edward Wytkind, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), following the terror plot uncovered by British Authorities that threatened airline passengers and forced increased security measures at the nation's airports:*

"Today's announcement that authorities foiled a plot to blow up jetliners flying from London to the U.S. highlights again that air travel remains a tempting target for terrorists seeking to attack U.S. interests. Given this reality, the lack of security at the almost 700 foreign repair stations where U.S. aircraft are maintained creates a security loop-hole that could give terrorists an opportunity to jeopardize air travel without ever having to physically enter this country.

"Outsourcing of repairs and maintenance is spreading throughout the airline industry. According to the IG, in the past decade, carriers have increased outsourced maintenance from 37 percent of their total maintenance expenses to 53 percent. More than 13 percent of the repair stations used are located in foreign countries including Singapore, Hong Kong, El Salvador, China and South Korea.

"In 2003, Transportation Labor called on the Administration to temporarily stop U.S. maintenance work at vulnerable foreign repair stations. When DOT and TSA denied this petition, Congress mandated security rules be put in place and that audits be conducted. More than two years later, the Administration had blatantly ignored this mandate and failed to issue regulations or conduct on-site audits.

"Securing our aviation industry requires thinking ahead and not waiting for the next attack to identify a weakness. In light of today's news, the Administration should act without haste to issue an emergency order preventing foreign stations from working on U.S. aircrafts until security audits are conducted and rules are instituted that promote enforceable security procedures."

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### **About TTD**

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), a Washington, D.C.-based labor organization, represents several million transportation workers in the private and public sector. The 31 member unions of TTD work in aviation, bus, mass transit, rail, trucking, highway, longshore, maritime and related industries. TTD works with Congress and the Executive Branch including the transportation related Federal Agencies to protect good jobs, increase wages, defend workers' rights, increase transportation safety plus security and ensure adequate funding for our nation's transportation infrastructure. Under the umbrella of the AFL-CIO, which represents more than 9 million workers in the United States, TTD handles policy and legislative issues related to transportation. Visit [www.ttd.org](http://www.ttd.org) for more information.

**Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO**

888 16th Street, NW • Suite 650 • Washington, DC 20006 • tel: 202.628-9262 • fax: 202.628.0391 • [www.ttd.org](http://www.ttd.org)  
Edward Wytkind, President • Michael A. Ingraio, Secretary-Treasurer

