

No: 5/90

Ref: EW/G89/06/39

Category: 1a

**Aircraft Type and Registration:**

1. Boeing 757-236, G-BMRH
2. Boeing 747, HS-TGB

**No & Type of Engines:**

1. Two Rolls Royce RB211 535C turbine engines
2. Four General Electric CF6-50E2 turbine engines

**Date of Manufacture:**

1. 1989
2. 1979

**Date and Time (UTC):**

27 June 1989 at 0939 hrs

**Location:**

Heathrow Airport, London

**Type of Flight:**

1. Scheduled passenger
2. Scheduled passenger

**Persons on Board:**

Crew -1. 8 2. 14 Passengers -1. 111 2. 360

**Injuries:**

Crew - Nil Passengers - Nil

**Nature of Damage:**

1. Damage to outboard 6 feet of right elevator
2. Damage to outer 4 feet of left wing

**Commander's Licence:**

1. Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
2. Details not provided

**Commander's Age:**

1. 45 years
2. Details not provided

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:**

1. 11,080 (of which 49 were on type)
2. Details not provided

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by commander of G-BMRH and reports by airport police and air traffic control officers

At 0938 hrs the Boeing 737, callsign Speedbird 392, was holding in Block 92 awaiting clearance to enter runway 27R to take off not before 0947 hrs. Another aircraft was also waiting in Block 92, ahead of Speedbird 392. In order to achieve its departure time bracket of between 0935 and 0941 hrs, a Boeing 747, callsign Thai Inter 915, was instructed to taxi through the compass base and to line up after a departing aircraft that was already on the runway.

As Thai Inter 915 taxied through the compass base, he advised ATC that he was unable to pass a Boeing 757 holding in Block 92. ATC accordingly asked Speedbird 392 to move forward. Speedbird 392 moved forward until further movement was blocked by the aircraft ahead of him. During the Thai

aircraft's attempt to pass, the outer 4 feet of its wingtip collided with the right elevator of Speedbird 392. Both aircraft returned to their respective stands.

The local Heathrow ATC instruction that aircraft are not to be instructed to pass each other in the same block does not apply to Block 92, which is the designated holding point for runway 27R.

Thai International Airways did not respond to a request from the AAIB for a report on the accident.

