Boeing 747 SP, A40-SP, 20 August 1996

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 747 SP, A40-SP

No & Type of Engines: 4 Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7A/7J turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date & Time (UTC): 20 August 1996 at 1440 hrs

Location: Stand M31, London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 3 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to No 4 engine inlet cowl

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 8,600 hours (of which 1,000 were on type)

Last 90 days - 160 hours

Last 28 days - 20 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and

report from the Handling Company

It was reported that a large number of empty containers and 'dollys'were on and around stand M31. A ramp serviceman had parked avehicle as far to the left as he could, however, it was in the path of the aircraft as it taxied onto the stand, using the AzimuthGuidance for Nose In Stands which was switched on and serviceable. A ramp engineer saw that the No 4 engine cowl was about to hitthe vehicle and tried to warn the crew by moving to the left sideand giving the 'STOP' hand signal. Unfortunately, the crew didnot see the warning and the aircraft struck the vehicle.