

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT NO. 1/89

REPORT ON THE AIRMISS BETWEEN THE TRISTAR G-BBAH AND THE TUPOLEV LZ-BTE NEAR LYDD ON 6 FEBRUARY 1988

The Inspector's report on this airmiss incident was submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport on 4 January 1989. He has agreed to its publication and the report is now available from HMSO bookshops and accredited agents.

The airmiss took place at Flight Level 180, 12 nautical miles south-south-west of the Lydd VOR beacon when the captain of the BA Tristar took violent evasive action on seeing the TU 154. It occurred during a complex and unusual traffic situation exacerbated by a combination of runway closures which resulted in more aircraft than normal being required to hold before approaching Gatwick.

The report concludes that the primary cause of the airmiss was a lack of communication and co-ordination between two Air Traffic Control Officers who were controlling the two aircraft, in the same section of airspace, but on two different radio frequencies.

Other causal factors were the lack of sufficient warning of impending traffic peaks, the lack of dual monitoring requirements between controllers, the lack of a conflict alert warning system, and the lack of formulated procedures to co-ordinate pre-planned runway closures with forecast in-bound traffic flow.

There are thirteen safety recommendations. Six concern operational matters, five recommend equipment changes, and two touch on the collection and use of statistics.