

Biggest Sale In Aviation History Made

NEW YORK (AP) — Frederick B. Ayer & Associates, worldwide aircraft dealer, is buying 45 DC-6 airplanes from American Airlines for \$30 million.

President Frederick B. Ayer and C. R. Smith, president of American Airlines, termed the deal the biggest of its kind in aviation history. The planes, from two to eight years old, will be resold or leased.

American Airlines is converting to jets and has arranged to sell more than 114 piston planes. Ayer has contracted to buy a total of 75.

The first of the DC-6s will be delivered shortly. Some of the planes carry 80 passengers and five are cargo aircraft. Ayer and Smith said all 45 planes in the latest purchase have less than 500 hours on engines, propellers, and airframes.

Ayer added that his firm expects to open permanent sales offices in Europe and Latin America.

"In addition to offering Convairs and DC-6s on a direct sales basis to airlines that wish to upgrade their fleets," he said, "we will act as a commercial aircraft center for the world's airlines by leasing planes on a short-term basis, taking trade-ins, arranging financing, and offering a variety of tailor-made equipment transactions."