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#### NAA CALLS FOR MORE AIRCRAFT RECORD ATTEMPTS

A special committee of high-ranking aviation leaders, appointed by NAA President Jacqueline Cochran, recently met to review the current aircraft record files. After some study, it called for the U. S. to step up its efforts in breaking world aircraft records now held by other countries and to develop crack U. S. teams to take part in international aviation competitions.

The 53 member nations of F.A.I. now hold a total of 422 aircraft records. Of these, the U. S. holds 115 and Soviet Russia holds 105. More than half of Russia's records are with payloads. The committee noted that most U. S. record attempts were being made in the more spectacular categories and expressed hope that more emphasis would be put on the many special categories. In soaring, the U. S. holds five of the eight open, single-place records while Russia has but two, and the U. S. has four of the eight open, multi-place records while Russia has three. Of the 16 feminine soaring records, the U. S. has but one and Russia two, leaving considerable room for improvement.

The committee gave special attention to U. S. participation in international aviation competitions, such as soaring, ballooning and parachuting. These forms of aviation are much more important in other countries where they are the only ones within the means of the average person. It is also important to these countries that the U. S., as a world leader, participate in the international competitions held in their countries. The committee concluded that it is in the best interest of our country to encourage and support U. S. participation in these events and for America to host them as often as possible.

#### DEC. 17th DESIGNATED AS WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY

On September 22nd, the U.S. Congress designated December 17, 1961, as "Wright Brothers Day," in commemoration of the first airplane flights on that day in 1903. It is hoped that the day will be observed throughout the nation with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The National Aeronautic Assn. has been instrumental in having the Congress each year designate December

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17th as "Wright Brothers Day." Their aim is to have it made a permanent designation for each year hereafter rather than counting on a new Public Law being passed every year.

NAA is urging each of its Divisions (including SSA) and Chapters to plan appropriate events on or near December 17th to honor the Wright Brothers and their contributions to aviation. SSA in turn encourages its Chapters and members to pay tribute to the Wright Brothers at their club or other civic meetings. The Brothers built and flew gliders before putting an engine and propellers on one and making it into an airplane. Years later they built another glider and one of them soared it at Kittyhawk for 9.7 minutes to establish a duration record that stood for over 10 years. These were important firsts in U.S. gliding and soaring.