

Daydream believers

A new era in commercial aviation began in October when ANA (All Nippon Airways) put its first 787 into revenue service, with a special charter flight from Narita International Airport in Japan to Hong Kong.

"If it performs as promised, it's the iPod of the aircraft world," Richard Aboulafia, an industry analyst with the Teal Group, told an Associated Press reporter writing about the 787 flight.

Judging by the comments from passen-

gers on ANA flight 7871, the Dreamliner will be a big hit with air travelers. They spoke glowingly about the many new features that make the 787 flying experience more pleasant and comfortable, such as bigger windows with electronic shading and higher cabin humidity.

At one point during the four-hour flight, the 787's mood lighting splashed the cabin with disco-like colors, creating an appropriate atmosphere for the

celebration that was taking place on a flight into the history books.

The flight came on the 53rd anniversary of the 707's first commercial flight by Pan Am, Oct. 26, 1958. ■

PHOTO: All Nippon Airways staff and spectators wave at an ANA 787 as it receives a water cannon salute at Narita International Airport in Japan shortly before taking off on the first commercial passenger flight. ASSOCIATED PRESS



"I have seen the future and it's flying. That's worth clapping."

– Peter Hughes, the *Telegraph* (United Kingdom), Oct. 26

"The windows are absolutely amazing. You're not confined. You've got the outside inside."

– Passenger Stephanie Wood of Davie, Fla., who was on the flight with her husband, Dean, as reported by the Associated Press

"It's really comfortable, and my ears don't hurt. It would be great if I could do all my business trips on 787s."

– Passenger Yohei Konishi, a systems engineer who said he flies most weeks, as reported by the *Seattle Times*

"For an aviation enthusiast, this is as high as it gets. It's like going to a movie on opening day."

– Passenger Thomas Lee of Los Angeles, who was 17 years old in 1970 when his parents took him on the inaugural flight of Boeing's 747, as reported by the Associated Press