



**VIRGIN ISLANDS
AERO CLUB**

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TO: Mr. Max BISHOP, FAI Secretary General
FROM: Mr. Jacques W. SOUKUP, President
Mr. Kirk S. THOMAS, Secretary General
Virgin Islands Aero Club
DATE: 4 December 1995
REF: NOMINATION OF ALAN & VICTOR FRAENCKEL
FOR MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMA

Dear Max,

The Virgin Islands Aero Club officially nominates Mr. Alan Fraenckel (Virgin Islands) and Mr. Victor Fraenckel (USA) for the Montgolfier Diploma for a major contribution to the sport of ballooning in general. In accordance with FAI By-law 10.1.1.2., please also find enclosed a letter of permission from the President of the USA Aero Club, the National Aeronautic Association, for the Virgin Islands Aero Club to nominate Victor Fraenckel.

The late Alan Fraenckel, along with his brother Victor, created what has to be the greatest advance in safety in ballooning since the modern hot air burner, which is the Windreader portable theodolite. Ballooning involves the boundary layer of the atmosphere, which is usually ignored in aviation weather forecasting as it is normally geared to fixed wing-aircraft. The lower layer is very difficult to predict due to thermal mixing, etc. However, with the Windreader in use, balloonists and ballooning events can have an instant and accurate survey of wind speeds and directions for every 100 feet of altitude up to and beyond 5000 feet AGL. This portable theodolite they invented is spreading everywhere that balloonists fly worldwide, and has a major impact on pilot and event director decision making.

One reason the Windreader has spread so quickly among balloonists, other than the fact that it is a useful and valuable device, is that the Fraenckel brothers were and are true gentlemen in the sport. They would go out of their way to help anyone that asked, not only with the Windreader, but with other electronic devices as well, particularly in use of the GPS. Their admirable behaviour made them valued friends of all balloonists.

The members of the Virgin Islands Aero Club respectfully request that the FAI Ballooning Commission agree to this nomination at their forthcoming meeting in Vienna.

With best regards,

Jacques W. SOUKUP, President
Virgin Islands Aero Club

Kirk S. THOMAS, Secretary General
Virgin Islands Aero Club



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