



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

1967 - 30 Years of Transportation Safety - 1997

Office of the Vice Chairman

June 19, 1997

Mr. Chalmers H. Goodlin  
Chairman & President  
The Burnelli Company, Inc.  
2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mr. Goodlin:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 1997, enclosing a copy of your previous correspondence, and inquiring about the possibility of a "tire fire" causing the explosion of TWA flight 800 on July 17, 1996.

The Safety Board's investigation continues and has revealed that the explosion of the center wing tank of the Boeing 747-100 resulted in the failure of the aircraft's structure. The most likely cause of the explosion was the ignition of the fuel-air mixture in the center wing tank. The ignition source has not yet been determined in the ongoing investigation.

Your information has been forwarded to the Safety Board's Office of Aviation Safety for consideration during the ongoing investigation. Thank you for forwarding this information for our review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise A. Daniels".

Denise A. Daniels  
Special Counsel to the Vice Chairman