



KING LOSING HIS CROWN



Earlier this year, British Airways' Chairman, Lord King attacked the government for handing four of his airline's flights into Narita Airport, Tokyo, over to Richard Branson's Virgin. Now, further inroads are being made into BA's Japanese service as high flyer Branson looks set to take another of its flights. There is currently a total of 38 flights a week to Japan, divided equally between British and Japanese carriers; BA still has the lion's share of the home market with thirteen to Virgin's six, but Lord King has problems closer to home as well as in the Land

of the Rising Sun. British Midland, the country's second largest scheduled airline, is waiting in the wings to take over BA's Heathrow to Frankfurt service.

Relations between King and the government have also deteriorated; he has already scrapped the company's donations to the Conservative Party after a series of rulings adversely affected the airline's dominance of Heathrow.

