

NIP IN THE AIR

The Japanese have arrived in a big way over the past few years; not content with having the world's largest trade surplus, they are busy building factories everywhere. They also have the world's eighth largest airline in terms of passenger volume, *All Nippon*. In 1990, ANA carried more than 33 million passengers, eight million more than BA. Launched in 1952 as the *Nippon Helicopter and Aeroplane Transport Company*, it merged with Osaka-based *Far East Airlines* in 1957. Today it operates over a hundred aircraft on 87 scheduled routes which include destinations in North America, Asia, Australia and Europe. The ANA Group has also control of tour operators, real estate, finance companies and hotels, including on the United States.

There are seven flights from London to Tokyo every week, and for the business class traveller, there is Club ANA which provides separate in-flight films – Western and Japanese, video games, ergonomically designed seats to maximise comfort, extra wide tables, overnight kit, an in-flight magazine, and gourmet meals of the finest Oriental and Western cuisines. Wines and beverages are also available. Air Nippon can be contacted at 2nd Floor, 6-8 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3TA, telephone 071-495 7667.

