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Limerick

Tuesday, October 27, 1992

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Bourke who said, "It's very unlikely that a cabinet would go against a senior minister after such an announcement."

"We can relax for Christmas," said a delighted Cllr Bourke. "For the past two years, we have been campaigning and agitating for the retention of the Shannon status. Now there will be a new confidence in the area. Industrialists will look at the region and say, 'Yes, this is a place where we should set up'."

The Minister last night defended the controversial Transatlantic stop-over and accused Aer Lingus of using it as a 'red herring' in its own financial troubles.

Now she is expected to recommend to her Cabinet colleagues, today, that the stop-over should remain as part of a major new regional development project in which Shannon will have a new role.

Earlier yesterday, the first indication that good news was on the way, came from SIGNAL, the Shannon's workers lobby group which announced that the region was on the threshold of new era of growth, opportunity and job creation.

Mr Paddy O'Sullivan, SIGNAL co-ordinator, said: "We are heartened that the Minister for Transport and Communications has obviously listened close to the case put forward for the Shannon gateway."

Earlier indications that

LIMERICK HAILS SHANNON STANCE

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

A CLOUD has been lifted from Limerick and the region, the president of Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Eddie Butler, declared today, as the Cabinet seemed set to support Transport Minister Maire Geoghegan Quinn's proposal to retain Shannon airport's special status.

But Mr Butler said that the Chamber would not be exulting until the actual Cabinet decision was made.

"We are taking nothing for granted," he told the *Limerick Chronicle*. "But the situation does look very hopeful."

"A cloud has been lifted from Limerick and the region, and potential investors will be able to look at the region again with confidence," he went on.

In general, the city and the region breathed a huge sigh of relief as the news broke and one man who wasn't containing his joy was city councillor Jack

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