

71 die in DC-10 crash in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Investigators are examining cockpit recordings to determine why a Western Airlines DC-10 from Los Angeles touched down on the wrong runway and crashed at Mexico City's fog-shrouded airport Wednesday, killing 71 or the 88 persons aboard, officials said.

Three persons also were reported killed on the ground as the jetliner skidded out of control and smashed into a truck and two buildings.

Red Cross and U.S. consular officials said 63 bodies were recovered and there was no hope that the eight missing persons would be found alive.

"Some of the bodies were terribly mangled, and they're still searching the wreckage for others," one Mexican official said.

U.S. consular officials initially reported there were 19 survivors, but Western Airlines officials in Los Angeles

listed 17. Reporters checking the three hospitals where the victims were taken also found only 17, and some of those were in critical condition.

An airline spokesman said the pilot, Capt. Charles Gilbert, 53, of Rolling Hills, Calif., was among those killed.

He reported there were 75 passengers and 13 crew—including two on standby—aboard Flight 605 on its regular early morning run to Mexico City. Initial reports by the Mexican government and U.S. Embassy had said there were 89 or 90 persons on the craft.

"Everybody didn't die right away. Some were trying to get out. Some of them...they were crying 'Help, Help,' then they were either calm or something must have happened to them," said Pandora Driekersen Scott, 19, of Chico, Calif., a passenger. She said she inhaled gases that made her choke as she clawed to pull rocks and

smoldering wreckage away from her so she could escape from the torn fuselage.

Authorities said the plane struck a parked dump truck on the runway that had been closed for repairs, killing the truck driver, and then plowed into two buildings. As the huge jet broke apart chunks of wreckage cut through a slum tenement district.

Rescue workers said they did not find any victims in the tenements.

The Mexican Department of Communications and Transportation said the accident probably occurred because the plane tried to land on a runway that had been declared closed for almost two weeks. The officials said they would examine black box tape recordings of communications between the plane's crew and the control tower.

Nuke report criticized as 'Band-Aide' medicine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of the Three Mile Island commission told congressional critics Wednesday that the final report of their investigation is far-reaching, even though it does not recommend a nuclear moratorium.

John G. Kemeny, chairman of the presidential commission, told a joint congressional hearing that the day-old report recommends strong medicine for the nuclear industry and its government regulators.

But the 179-page report on the March 28 nuclear accident drew strong criticism from the chairmen of the two congressional panels that oversee nuclear power. They said the recommendations didn't go far enough.

"In the absence of a moratorium there will be a tendency to use Band-Aides where surgery is required," said Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., chairman of the House Interior Committee.

And Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., chairman of the Senate Nuclear Regulatory subcommittee, said, "I am troubled by the commission's decision not to recommend a delay in construction of new plants."

Commission member Carolyn Lewis, who had sought to get a moratorium recommendation included in the final report,

said the decision not to include one was a close decision, accompanied by "a sense of anguish" on the part of commissioners.

But Kemeny, president of Dartmouth College, contended the commission recommended what amounts to a form of moratorium. He pointed to the panel's recommendations that no new nuclear plants be licensed unless major safety improvements are incorporated, the plant operator agrees to live up to tough new standards and unless the state has an approved evacuation plan on the books.

This requirement, Kemeny testified, "may be our single most important recommendation."

And the commission chairman said while the 12-member panel was divided on the issue of a moratorium, it unanimously agreed to recommend a major restructuring of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Commissioner Paul A. Marks testified that "there has been inadequate attention to the human factor."

Marks, vice president of Health Sciences at Columbia University, said in general, the plant's equipment functioned as designed, but operators were poorly equipped to deal with the crisis.

forum

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The council candidates also discussed the PSO program, which combines the duties of some police officers and firemen.

The challengers for the council seats—Herzenberg, Tindall and Straley—all expressed reservations about the program.

The current council has been criticized for moving too slowly in implementing the program.

While Wallace said the council has had some administrative problems with the program, he expects the town will either fully get in or out of the program soon.

Incumbent R.D. Smith said he no longer favors the PSO program, even though he originally voted for it.

The council candidates also split over an Interstate 40 link near Chapel Hill during the League of Women Voters forum. Tindall, Herzenberg, Straley and Smith said they oppose the link. Many of the candidates said an I-40 link would increase Chapel Hill's growth.

Howes and Wallace said they were not opposed to the link. Howes said he would not want to set limits on Chapel Hill's growth if the link were approved.

"I don't want to call the name of the last person who moves into the community," he said, repeating a comment he had made at an earlier candidates forum.

grads

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The first part of the Rocklin bill, which would have added four new polling places, was defeated when eight CGC representatives voted against it, five voted in favor and one abstained. The second part of the bill to move the two polling places was overwhelmingly defeated by a voice vote.

"The time you are considering the referendum is just not the time that you also consider polling site changes," Black said after the meeting.

Black said she did not think it was proper in an election where a specific group will be

affected directly by the outcome, to suddenly give that group extra voting power. The federation failed to separate its own interest in seeing a broader voter turn-out from its interest in getting the referendum passed, she said.

Rocklin said he was not proposing the bill as a one-shot deal, exclusively for this election, but also for future elections.

"I fail to see how people could object to the addition of ballot boxes," he said. "The only thing someone could argue is that it will be tough to man the new ballot boxes."

News In Brief

House, Senate agree on budget

WASHINGTON (AP)—House and Senate negotiators reached agreement Wednesday on a \$547.6 billion 1980 budget that trims the Senate's demand for sharply higher defense spending by \$700 million.

The Senate had called for a 3 percent increase above inflation in defense spending. The compromise outlay for defense calls for \$129.9 billion in fiscal 1980 spending, about a 2½ percent "real" increase.

The compromise came as House and Senate negotiators voiced increasing concern about the lack of a congressional budget one month into the new 1980 fiscal year, which started Oct. 1.

The compromise proposal, which still must be approved by the House and Senate, projects a \$29.8 billion deficit, slightly higher than the red-ink spending for fiscal 1979.

Soviet vessels burn in Danish strait

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A Soviet ship carrying scientists and equipment for a polar expedition was lost in flames Wednesday after it collided with another Soviet vessel while traveling in the wrong sea lane of a busy Danish strait, officials said. One man was killed, three were missing and 95 were saved by a swarm of rescue craft.

Two Soviet crewmen suffered critical burns and four others less serious burns, officials said. All seven women aboard were saved. There was no indication if the missing persons were crewmen or part of the 41-member polar expedition, and none was immediately identified.

Grimsley to run Hunt campaign

RALEIGH (AP)—Joseph Grimsley, state secretary of administration, will take a leave of absence from his job to direct Gov. Jim Hunt's re-election campaign, it was announced Wednesday. Grimsley managed Hunt's campaign in 1976 and his earlier campaign for lieutenant governor.

Jane Patterson, assistant secretary for personnel and programs in the Department of Administration, will become acting secretary of the department when Grimsley assumes his new duties Monday.

Panel said federal workers paid less

WASHINGTON (AP)—A presidential panel, disputing a popular belief that federal white-collar workers are overpaid, said Wednesday that government salaries lag behind comparable private pay scales.

According to the committee's report, federal white-collar employees last year earned between 0.6 percent and 46 percent less than employees holding comparable jobs in the private sector.

The report also stated that since 1970, federal white collar salary scales have gone up 73 percent. During the same period, the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, has risen 97 percent.

Soviets take steps to ease Cuba situation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance said Wednesday the Soviet Union has taken steps over the past month which have eased U.S. concerns about the nature of Soviet troops in Cuba.

Vance did not specify what he meant. But other officials said the Soviet troops have adopted a "lower profile" and no longer engage in military maneuvers.



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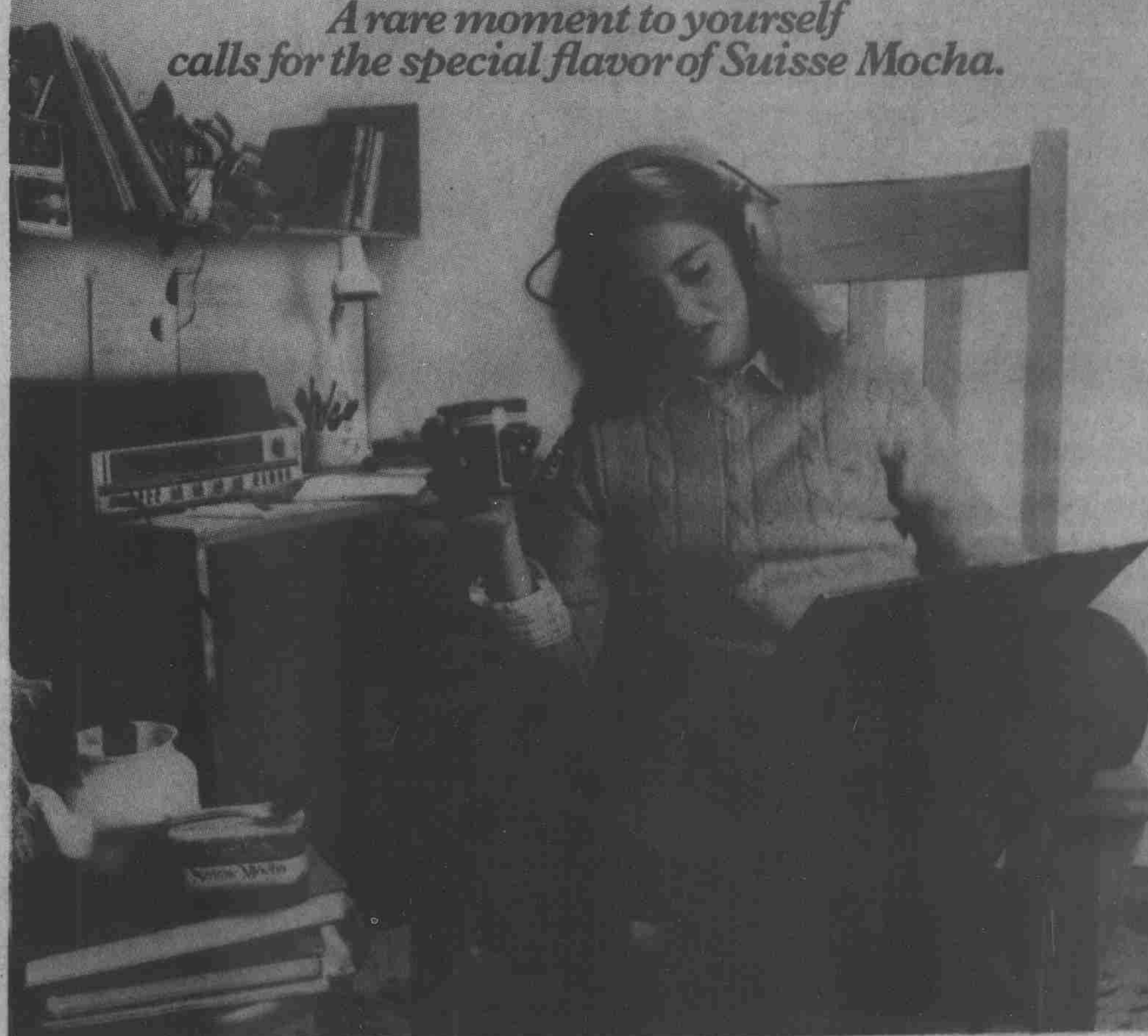
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