

news digest

By The Associated Press

Statement challenged

Santa Cruz De Tenerife, Canary Islands—The deputy director of Santa Cruz's airport said Tuesday the pilot of the Dutch jumbo jet that collided with a Pan American jumbo causing 575 deaths "did not receive clearance from the control tower to take off." A Dutch airline official challenged the statement. Meanwhile, a U.S. Air Force C-130 carrying 58 of the 71 survivors of Sunday's disaster took off from the airport over the wreckage of the two jumbo jets. Most of the survivors were to be flown to the U.S. Army Burn Center in San Antonio, Tex., U.S. officials said. A source close to Pan American had no comment on the statement by the airport deputy director, Juan Linares, but he indicated the last order to the Dutch pilot was "clear to hold," indicating that the pilot had no clearance when he began take off.

In Amsterdam, KLM said it was "completely unthinkable" that the pilot would have attempted a take off without proper clearance. Franz van Reyson, chief of the accident investigation branch of the Dutch Civil Aviation Authority, said clearance was given by the tower and confirmed by KLM. All 249 persons aboard the Dutch aircraft, including the captain, Z.A.V. van Zanten, died in the crash Sunday, aviation's worst disaster. Airline officials said 71 persons aboard the Pan American jet survived the collision. The survivors included 67 Americans. Of the 575 dead, 321 were Americans.

Arms control

Moscow—The Soviet Union failed to respond to American nuclear arms control proposals Tuesday as talks resumed between Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko. Vance went into the morning round prepared to discuss proposals he outlined Monday for a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). Soviet representatives asked to go over other matters instead, U.S. spokesman Hodding Carter said after the talks recessed at midday.

Carter would not say which subjects were discussed, but they were likely to have included arms sales and troop cuts in Central Europe. Carter described the talks only as "businesslike." Vance had indicated he expected a response to his SALT proposals, although Carter said there had been no set agenda for Tuesday's talks. The talks are scheduled to end this afternoon, and Vance wants to leave Moscow Thursday morning with at least a framework for more detailed negotiations on limiting and reducing nuclear arms.

Pay increases

New York—In the midst of what researchers say is a growing concern about inflation, recent pay increases to 48 White House aides are being criticized as lacking the proper symbolism for the nation. At the same time, the increases, which exceeded 25 per cent in some instances, are defended by some economists and others questioned about the consequences if ordinary workers sought similar raises.

"Another one of these cases of wanting to look for a basis for grouching and griping," said Walter Heller, chief economic adviser under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. "In substance, I think it's defensible."

Heller and others noted that White House aides had received no appreciable increases since 1969, and that a study committee representing a range of opinions had recommended that even larger increases be granted. But Jack Carlson, chief economist of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, commented that "to have such large increases across the board, irrespective of experience, is bad symbolism."

Drug arrests

The State Patrol said between 35 and 40 persons had been arrested Tuesday in a 10-county drug sweep in central Nebraska. One official described it as "the largest and most successful undercover operation ever conducted in the State of Nebraska by the State Patrol." Capt. Lynn Parks, head of the patrol's drug and criminal division in Lincoln, said about 100 arrest warrants had been issued charging individuals with the sale and possession of controlled substances. Of the approximately 100 warrants

issued, nine out of 10 were for men. A patrol spokesman said at Grand Island that the persons arrested ranged from 15 to 33 years of age. He said there had been no problem with the arrests.

Lt. Gary Hansel, head of the patrol's drug division at North Platte, said 33 warrants had been issued in Adams County. It was learned that about 35 to 37 warrants had been issued in Grand Island. Law enforcement officers said they seized what they called a "hashish making machine." The machine was said to be one of only two or three in the state.

Bills passed

The Legislature Tuesday passed seven bills, including those mandating metric measure bottling of wine and spirits, extending the time limit for collection of county

tax refunds and one restricting eligibility for welfare. Senators voted 40-7 to pass Waverly Sen. Jerome Warner's LB362, requiring all wine sold in Nebraska after 1978 and all spirits sold after 1979 to be in metric measure bottles. Adams Sen. Bill Burrows' LB245 passed 48-0; it extends deadline for collection of county tax refunds from 30 days to two years.

A bill forbidding welfare payments to those who move to Nebraska solely to live in rest homes failed to gain the 33 votes required to pass with the emergency clause. But LB480, a Public Health and Welfare Committee bill, passed without it on a vote of 28-20. Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh had requested a Justice Department opinion on that bill's constitutionality. The opinion said the department "can't say with certainty that LB480 is constitutional."

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