

Plane crash kills sixteen

Air Guard transport hits Indiana motel and 24-hour diner

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A military transport plane plunged nose-first into the ground Thursday and smashed into a motel and restaurant, spewing blazing fuel and killing at least 16 people, authorities and witnesses said.

"It looked like Pearl Harbor," said Mark Whitehead, who lives nearby and rushed to the scene.

The Lockheed C-130 four-engine turboprop plane crashed into the rear of a JoJo's restaurant and the north side of the Drury Inn motel shortly before 11 a.m. EST.

Burning fuel was sprayed hundreds of feet, sending flames 60 feet into the air and creating a tower of black smoke that was visible for miles.

At midafternoon, the fire was out except for some smoldering spots. Firefighters soaked debris with foam to prevent any reignition of fuel-soaked areas.

Five of the dead were members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Tactical Airlift Wing. They were on a pilot proficiency training mission, Guard spokesman David Altom said.

Nine people died in the motel and two others were found dead in the restaurant, said Rick Woods, chief deputy coroner for Vanderburgh

C-130 transport plane crash

C-130 Hercules
Medium to long-range military transport built by Lockheed

LENGTH: 97 ft. 9 in.
HEIGHT: 38 ft. 3 in.
WINGSPAN: 132 ft. 7 in.
ENGINES: Four T56 turboprops
CRUISE SPEED: 340 mph

RANGE: 2,450 miles with maximum payload
CREW: 5
CAPACITY: 92 troops or 42,673 lb.

Sources: "Jane's World Aircraft Recognition Handbook"; Evansville Regional Airport; Airguide Publications, Inc.

County. No additional victims were expected to be found, Woods said. At least 19 people were injured. Sandy Appler, director of marketing and public relations for Evansville Regional Airport, about a mile from the restaurant and motel, said the plane's crew was using the airport to practice landings. "They were doing exercises known

as touch-and-gos, where they touch down and fly out immediately," said Altom. "They did two touch-and-gos. And they asked permission for a low approach and were taking off when they fell into the ... hotel."

At least five people were treated and released Thursday, while 14 people were admitted to hospitals for burns and smoke inhalation.

Returned Haitians fearful

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The United States resumed its effort to return more than 10,000 Haitian boat people, delivering two shiploads of refugees to the capital's wharf Thursday for a bleak homecoming.

The repatriation came amid indications that a U.S.-supported international push for a negotiated settlement of Haiti's political crisis was stalled.

Friday marks the anniversary of the swearing-in of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, but he was in office less than eight months before being ousted in a military coup.

Aristide, in a broadcast by the Voice of America's Creole-language radio service to Haiti, said U.S. plans to loosen a trade embargo imposed in retaliation for the coup would cause his backers to "radicalize" their positions. There were signs the sanctions had been hurting the poor rather than the powerful at whom they were aimed.

At Port-au-Prince's oily, sun-drenched pier, small groups of Hai-

tians gathered to watch 508 of their compatriots descend from two U.S. Coast Guard cutters with bundles of clothing and enter a large concrete-roofed patio for processing.

"To see them return like this, truly humiliated, makes me want to give up my Haitian citizenship," said 19-year-old Nipson Isme, a high school student.

Most of the refugees were expressionless, but a few smiled sheepishly for foreign news photographers. Some expressed concern about their future treatment by authorities.

Immigrations Police Maj. Jacques Denis said the returnees have nothing to fear. He said the fingerprinting and photographing of each refugee at the processing site was a routine procedure.

"Will we be beaten?" asked Alfonso Alfred, who is from a village near the western coastal city of St. Marc. He said he had fled Haiti for economic and not political reasons, but that he feared the reaction of authorities to international publicity about the refugees' plight.

Baker gets tough

WASHINGTON — Israel owes its good international credit rating to U.S. subsidies, Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Thursday establishing a hard line on loan guarantees for the Jewish state.

Echoing that tough stance, the chairman of the Senate foreign aid subcommittee vowed that no new loans will be guaranteed this year for Israel without a strict provision that they not contribute to building or expanding settlements in the occupied territories.

The comments came on the eve of a key meeting on the guarantees between Baker and Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who just returned from consultations on the matter with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel is seeking U.S. guarantees for \$10 billion in commercial loans over the next five years to pay the costs of absorbing a flood

of Soviet Jewish emigres. When Rep. Ben Gilman, R-N.Y., pressed him to go ahead with the guarantees and cited Israel's excellent repayment record, Baker responded.

"Generally speaking, that is because we appropriate the money up here with which to repay ourselves," Baker said, with an obvious edge in his voice.

He was referring to a provision in U.S. foreign aid law since 1985 that declares it U.S. "policy and intent" that economic aid payments to Israel each year be at least equal to Jerusalem's interest and principal owed for that year to the United States.

Baker also referred repeatedly to the "generous" \$3 billion or so the United States routinely provides Israel each year, and said further aid to help absorb emigres would come only if Israel makes changes in its settlements policy.

Quayle visits Baltics

RIGA, Latvia — Baltic leaders appealed Thursday to Vice President Dan Quayle for U.S. help in getting an estimated 130,000 former Soviet troops out of their newly independent republics.

Officials in Estonia and Latvia repeatedly raised the issue during the first day of Quayle's whirlwind two-day tour of the Baltic states. Quayle meets with Lithuanian leaders on Friday.

Quayle is the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit the Baltic states since they achieved independence from the Soviet Union in September.

He delivered tens of thousands of pounds in medical aid and promised another \$18 million in U.S. assistance, underscoring Washington's

continuing support for the Baltic nations.

In Latvia, some people lining Quayle's route held signs demanding that all aid to Russia be halted until the troops issue is settled.

"Down (with) colonization and occupation," said one hand-lettered placard in English. "All war bases out of Latvia."

"The independence of no country can be real and lasting if foreign troops remain on its territory," Estonia's prime minister, Tiit Vahi, said during a joint news conference with Quayle in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

Quayle said at another news conference in Riga, the Latvian capital. "It is a challenge, but a challenge being addressed with objectivity and fairness on both sides."

Factory orders drop

WASHINGTON — Factory orders plunged 3.8 percent in December, contributing to the steepest annual loss since the previous recession nine years ago, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

"The sharp decline reinforces the expectation that a broad-based improvement in the economy is not under way and not likely to begin until spring," said Larry Meyer, head of Laurence H. Meyer & Associates, a

St. Louis economic forecasting service.

In a second report that analysts said provides more evidence of a stagnant economy, the Labor Department reported little improvement in the number of initial claims for jobless insurance in late January.

The Commerce Department report said factory orders were slashed by 2.6 percent last year, to \$2.8 trillion. It was the largest decline since a 3.5 percent plunge in the recession year of 1982 and the first decrease since a 0.3 percent loss in 1986.

Poll: JFK conspiracy

NEW YORK — Three out of four Americans believe there was an official cover-up to keep the public from knowing the truth about John F. Kennedy's assassination, according to a poll reported on the CBS News show "48 Hours."

In the CBS-New York Times poll results released Wednesday, the number of people who believe in a cover-up increased from 61 percent in a similar poll in 1988.

The poll takers said the increase could be attributed to people who had seen Oliver Stone's movie "JFK," and to adults under the age of 30 who are too young to remember the assassination.

The poll was based on telephone interviews Jan. 22-25 of a random sample of 1,231 adults. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

U.S. infant mortality rate drops, rises for blacks

ATLANTA — The United States recorded its lowest infant mortality rate ever, but black babies still die at more than twice the rate of whites, and the nation trails much of the developed world, federal researchers said Thursday.

The rate for 1989, the most recent year for which statistics are available, was 9.8 deaths by age 1 for every 1,000 live births, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said. That surpasses the record of 10.0 set the previous year.

Japan has the world's lowest infant mortality rate, 5.0 for 1987, the latest year for which complete international statistics have been compiled. Sweden was second at 5.7. The United States that year was 24th at 10.1, just behind New Zealand and just ahead of Israel.

"Our international ranking has slipped," said Dr. Marian F. MacDorman of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. "In 1980, we were ranked 20th in the world, and now we're 24th."

The CDC said increased use of

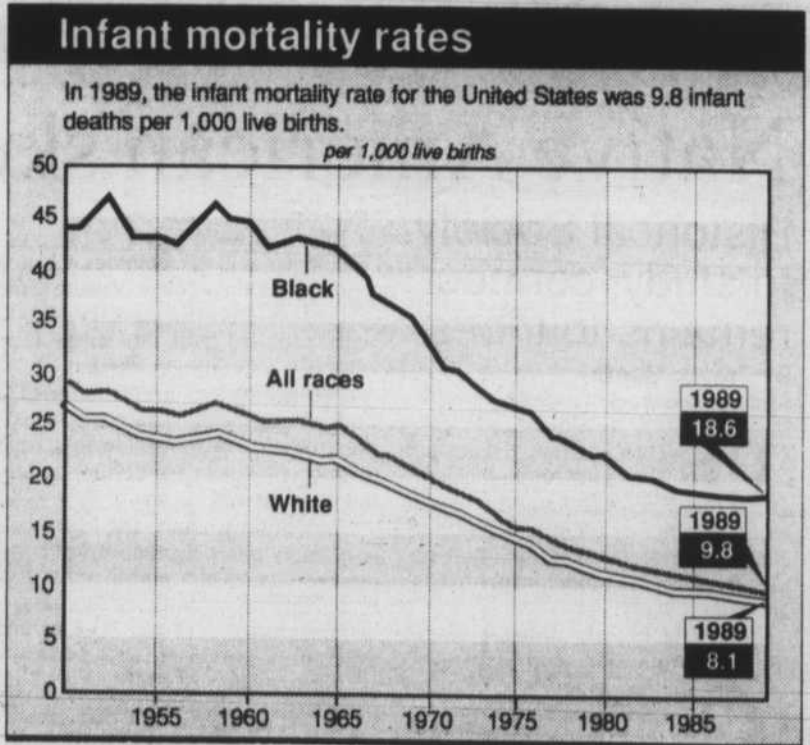
prenatal care would have the greatest impact on infant deaths from every cause other than birth defects.

The U.S. infant mortality rate has dropped significantly throughout the 20th century, although the decline has slowed in the last decade.

For 1989, the black infant mortality rate in the United States was 18.6, compared with 8.1 for whites. The leading cause of death for white infants was birth defects; for black infants, it was prematurity or low birth-weight.

"And the disparity is increasing, the CDC said. The white infant mortality rate dropped 4 percent from 1988 to 1989, from 8.5 to 8.1, while the black rate actually increased slightly, from 17.6 to 17.7.

The federal government has set goals of a white infant mortality rate of 7 and a black rate of 11 by the year 2000. Whites are on track to make it; "however, for the black population, the year 2000 objective for infant mortality is unlikely to be met if current trends continue," the Atlanta-based CDC said.



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