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# Dutch comb crash site

## Workers' hopes wane as death toll mounts

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — With little hope of finding anyone alive, workers Monday cautiously searched for hundreds feared entombed in the tottering ruins of a 10-story apartment building torn by a crashing El Al cargo jet.

Officials said the death toll would likely exceed 250.

That many people were unaccounted for, according to authorities, after the pilot lost a struggle to get his crippled Boeing 747-200 back to Schiphol Airport. The jumbo jet slammed into the angle of the V-shaped building 14 minutes after take-off.

"Going down! Going down!" were pilot Yitzhak Fuchs' last words Sunday evening after reporting that two of his four engines had caught fire. He and the three others aboard perished.

Police said eight bodies had been pulled from the smoldering and still burning rubble of the building.

Firefighters began pumping out a pond next to the devastated apartment

block looking for the plane's flight and voice recorders that will help determine the exact cause of the crash.

Investigators said it was too early to tell why the two engines on the Israeli plane's right wing caught fire and tore away. Officials ruled out a terrorist bombing but not sabotage.

"Our first impression is that it was technical malfunction," Transportation Minister Hanja Maij-Weggen told reporters.

Dutch television said the plane circled twice in a vain attempt to get lined up with the runway. All four people on the jet died.

The disaster could prove to be the worst plane crash involving casualties on the ground worldwide. Hutton Archer, spokesman for the International Civil Aviation Organization in Quebec, said a Boeing 707 cargo plane crashed in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1976, killing 77 on the ground and injuring 78 seriously.

Smoldering and falling debris prevented all but the most cautious search at the cordoned-off site. Dutch television quoted officials as saying parts of bodies could be seen under charred and twisted steel, concrete and air-

craft pieces. Huge chunks of concrete plummeted onto a pile of rubble three stories high as workmen using cranes tried to shore up the crumbling edges of the 10-story structure.

Dogs were being used to search for survivors. But except for a few pets that crawled to safety, there were no signs of life in the interiors of dozens of apartments with all their furnishings eerily exposed.

"We are trying to recover victims. But because of the danger of collapse, the recovery is very difficult and will take very long," said a police spokeswoman, Ely Florax.

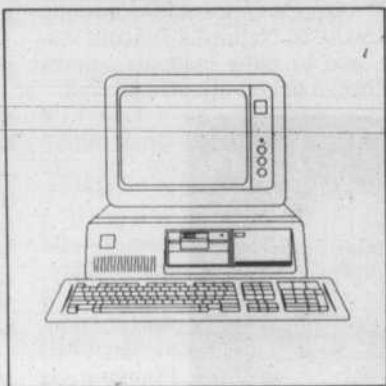
At a news conference just after dawn, a shaken Mayor Ed Van Thijn said, "At this moment, we only know that the size of the catastrophe is incredible — and shocking."

He said 209 people were missing, but Dutch radio later quoted him as raising the figure to 250.

Dutch and Israeli officials initially said they did not suspect terrorist sabotage, which could affect Middle East peace talks. But El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said it was too soon to exclude any possible cause.

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# Senate overrides cable bill veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Monday to override President Bush's veto of legislation designed to curtail rising cable television rates, sending the measure to the House for a climactic showdown.

The vote was 74-25, well over the two-thirds majority needed, and came despite an intensive last-minute lobbying campaign by a White House eager to preserve Bush's perfect veto record.

Supporters said the measure to reimpose government regulation of the cable TV industry responded to consumer anger about soaring rates.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said, "This is an attempt to embarrass the president 30 days before the election. That's what this is all about."

The Senate vote was seen as the crucial test of the president's veto

strength on the issue. Despite heavy lobbying by the president, his staff and the cable industry, the vote was identical to the original Senate roll call last month.

The cable TV bill would require the Federal Communications Commission to set rates for basic cable service in communities where cable companies operate as monopolies.

The bill also is designed to enhance competition from other companies that can provide expanded programming similar to cable.

And in a concession to the broadcast industry, it requires cable companies to negotiate with local broadcasters before carrying their signals.

The cable industry and Bush have argued that costs to consumers could go up if the bill is passed. They say cable has grown into a popular provider of quality programming that

would improve and expand faster if unregulated.

"The president says competition will not increase with this bill," Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, said. "He is wrong. If we do not pass this bill, there will never be competition to cable."

The legislation had won big majorities in both houses — 280-128 in the House and 74-25 in the Senate. Twenty-four Senate Republicans had voted for it, and Bush had tried to persuade enough of them to switch to block the override effort.

In his veto message, Bush said the bill would create costs for the cable industry that would be passed on to consumers.

"In addition, this legislation will cost American jobs and discourage investment in telecommunications," he said.

## STEPHEN LEWIS SPEAKS ON TWO CANADAS? THE QUEBEC ISSUE

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# Three-way race gets rolling; stock drop fuels challengers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The presidential race entered its final four weeks on Monday with three candidates leveling blame for the nation's weak economy, a fragility underscored by new turbulence in the stock market.

Democratic nominee Bill Clinton attributed the day's drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average to "uncertainty over President Bush's economic program."

He urged markets to "calm down," boasting that "help is on the way."

The White House shrugged off the stock plunge. "We're watching it. We don't think it calls for any action at this point," said presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

Bush campaigned in Delaware after asserting on a morning television interview show that Democrats in Congress had further endangered economic recovery by adding new taxes to a compromise tax bill.

Asked on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" if he would veto the bill, Bush replied: "I'm not sure."

Ross Perot was acting and sounding like a major contender.

The Dallas executive accused the president of being out of touch and said Clinton's support for a free-trade agreement with Mexico showed the Arkansas governor doesn't understand business.

"We're taking the best part of our worker tax base and putting it in jeopardy," Perot said.

"You can turn out the lights on trickle-down economics and open a new day for the United

States of America," Clinton told a rally at Daytona Beach. He and running mate Al Gore were on a bus tour through Florida.

When the stock market nosedived 105 points before noon, Clinton said: "I think it's uncertainty over President Bush's economic program and the performance of America."

Stock prices later rebounded to regain most of the fall. The decline clearly focused new political attention on the weak U.S. economy. Clinton said the stock market's teetering "reflects the larger trends and long-term poor economic performance."

"One of the things that I would like to say to the markets is relax. Calm down. Help is on the way," Clinton asserted.

Some analysts have suggested that uncertainty about a prospective Clinton presidency was contributing to some of the market's instability.

Said Clinton: "I think once the election is over, if we prevail, we can send a clear signal to those markets that we're going to move this country in the right direction. We're going to take the deficit down, take investment up and get economic growth going."

The bill would expand tax-deductible Individual Retirement Accounts, offer incentives for job creation in blighted areas and ladle out tax breaks to targeted groups.

The tax breaks would be paid for with a medley of minor tax increases that would bring in \$27 billion over five years.

Bush said on ABC that he liked some parts of the bill but "I'm going to have difficulty" signing it because of the new taxes.

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