

Haitian boat sinks, at least 1,000 die

PETIT GOAVE, Haiti—A packed ferry carrying up to 1,500 people sank in stormy seas off Haiti, and only 285 people were known to have survived, the Red Cross said Thursday.

Survivors told how they clung to floating objects, in one case a bag of charcoal, to stay alive.

"The sea was full of people," said one survivor, 29-year-old Madeleine Julien, from her hospital bed in this coastal town. "I kept bumping into drowned people."

The ferry Neptune went down late Tuesday off Petit Goave, 60 miles west of the capital. Communications are so crude outside the capital it took a group of about 60 survivors a day to first report the accident.

U.S. aircraft and vessels dispatched Thursday to help in search-and-rescue efforts reported "lots of debris and lots of bodies," said a Coast Guard spokesman, Cmdr. Larry Mizell.

The Coast Guard said it had found more than 100 bodies floating off Petit Goave.

Coast Guard Cmdr. Larry Mizell said there was "no correlation between this and the boat people," referring to the tens of thousands of Haitians who have fled their homeland by sea since the army ousted elected

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

Haiti's military approved flights by U.S. aircraft over the disaster scene and allowed two Coast Guard cutters in the region to help in the rescue effort, said Cmdr. Mizell, the Coast Guard liaison in Port-au-Prince.

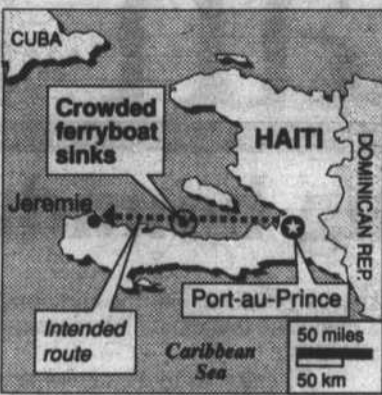
"We made the offer, and they jumped on it," Mizell said. U.S. vessels routinely patrol international waters off Haiti for boat people, and have increased their presence in recent weeks.

As two Haitian navy ships searched for survivors Wednesday, relatives of those aboard traveled to the site of the sinking to await news about their loved ones.

Destina Momrosier, a seamstress from Port-au-Prince, said her brother and a cousin were aboard the Neptune when it pulled out late Tuesday from Jeremie, a port city 180 miles to the west.

Momrosier, 42, said she had taken the boat several times, usually with 500 to 600 other passengers, but as many as 1,500 probably could fit aboard.

"It's generally overloaded," she said. "It sways from side to side with people standing, sitting, even up on



Source: U.S. Coast Guard AP

Soldier surrenders after hijacking plane from Haiti to Miami

Passengers suffer no injuries in flight

DC-3 hijacked from Haiti to U.S.

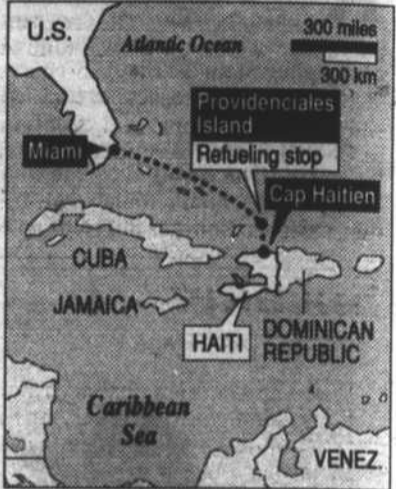
MIAMI — A Haitian soldier hijacked an American missionary group's plane at an airport in Haiti and diverted it to Miami on Thursday, but surrendered when the plane landed.

The hijacker shot a hole in the ceiling of the plane before it took off, but no injuries were reported, said Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta.

The hijacker had given his gun to the crew during the flight, a federal law enforcement source said on condition of anonymity.

The plane was carrying nine passengers and two crew members plus the hijacker and a woman hostage he had seized on the ground, a Haitian government official said. Everyone but the hijacker was American, other sources said.

Moments after the plane landed at Miami International Airport, the man



AP

walked out the door of the plane with his hands behind his head as about 10 uniformed officers crouched nearby. The man then laid down on the tarmac and the officers surrounded him.

President's plan unravels 12 years of Reaganomics

WASHINGTON — As more details of President Clinton's policies surface, it's becoming clear just how fundamental a change he is proposing in the way government does business.



The unraveling of the Reagan legacy is written across scores of Clinton program changes, large and small. "Did I hear that right?"

Reagan wrote in an opinion piece in Thursday's New York Times.

"I'm afraid so," the former president said. "Do they really believe that those who have worked hard and been successful should somehow be punished for it?" Reagan asked.

From huge cuts in defense spending and the scaling back of expensive but popular projects like the

space station, to increases in programs for women, infants and children, to widespread tax increases hitting the wealthiest the hardest.

Clinton's spending proposal includes dozens of items such as: more funds to help restore dilapidated public housing, more money for health care for veterans, increasing the number of federal meat and poultry inspectors.

"There is a dramatic difference in philosophy that is reflected in Clinton's program and his approach to governance. The contrast is stark," said Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies at Brookings Institution.

It may have been just too much for the nation's 40th president, who wrote from his retirement in California: "In less than one month of his presidency, (Clinton's) promise of a tax cut has not only been broken but it has been reversed into a tax increase for middle-income workers."

Clinton and staff take to road to win support for economic plan

WASHINGTON — President Clinton led his administration on a blitz across the map of America Thursday to enlist the nation's support for a pain-then-gain economic plan that he said would keep America's children from having to settle for a "lesser life."



A new release of fine print from the White House indicated the administration's deficit cutting to be less dramatic than first portrayed. Clinton brushed off questions about new deficit projections and set out for the Midwest to generate grass-roots support that will be vital if his plan is to survive attacks by powerful interests, criticism by Republicans and reluctance by some fellow Democrats.

In his maiden appearance before Congress Wednesday night, the president proposed raising taxes for most Americans. His ideas would also cut spending in 150 programs but increase it elsewhere. And, to reinvigorate a soft economy, he would cut some business taxes and undertake a quick public works spending program.

This amounted to "reinventing our government," Clinton told the lawmakers. Failure to take painful steps now, he said, would amount to "condemning our children and our children's children to a lesser life than we enjoyed."

The new figures from the White House showed that when full account is taken of the impact of spending increases and pro-business tax cuts, the four-year reduction in deficits would not add up to the half-billion dollars ballyhooed by the administration. Instead, there would be a net reduction of \$325 billion.

Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole called it "very heavy on the tax side

and very weak" on reducing spending.

Former President Reagan said it resurrected "the failed liberal policies of the past." In The New York Times, Reagan said Clinton "has begun to sound like an 'old Democrat,'" not the "new Democrat" he campaigned as.

Ross Perot called the program "a good artist's sketch."

"In the next 90 days, lobbyists are going to collect more money than probably in the history of man, because that's the way the system works," Perot said.

Administration officials fanned across the country, scheduling appearances Thursday and Friday in 28 states. House GOP Leader Bob Michel of Illinois called this "the biggest propaganda campaign in recent political history."

Clinton, aboard Air Force One, flew to St. Louis to address a crowd at Union Station.

U.N. votes to punish Yugoslav war criminals

UNITED NATIONS — The five permanent members of the Security Council agreed Thursday that an international court should be set up to punish war criminals in former Yugoslavia.

Agreement by the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China virtually assured passage of the resolution, which was to be taken up by the full council Friday. British Ambassador David Hannay said he believed it would be adopted Monday.

One goal of the effort is to deter

further atrocities in Bosnia and other former Yugoslav states by raising the possibility that war criminals will be pursued.

A commission set up to study the idea of a court blamed Serbs for the bulk of the war's atrocities.

Then-Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger named Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in December as possible war criminals. He also released a list of seven Serb and Croat military leaders accused of

atrocities.

The move toward a war crimes court could also further complicate efforts to forge peace in Bosnia, where 10 months of war has left 18,000 dead.

The resolution would authorize the creation of the court and ask Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to study ways to set up its legal machinery. The court's jurisdiction would be strictly limited to atrocities arising from the fighting that has accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia.

The draft text said war crimes committed after Jan. 1, 1991, would be punished by the court.

In October, the Security Council authorized a commission to gather evidence of war crimes.

The U.N. commission, led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Poland's first post-Communist premier, has said it was overwhelmed by reports of atrocities. It said crimes were committed by all sides in the Balkan conflict, but blamed Serbs for the bulk of them.

Police departments are letting gays serve

LOS ANGELES — As some in the military fight to keep homosexuals out, police departments in many big cities are officially opening their doors.

Gay activists have taken note, hoping to use the growing police support as ammunition against those who oppose President Clinton's moves to lift the military ban on homosexuals.

Yet even in such cities as Boston and Los Angeles, which have strict anti-bias rules after years of traditional hostility, only a handful of police officers have come forward to say

they are gay. In many other law enforcement agencies, especially those in smaller towns, homosexuality remains taboo.

Los Angeles police Officer John Smith is one of six on the 7,688-member force to go public with his sexual orientation.

"It was cumbersome for a while, but it's not anymore," said Smith, who made his homosexuality public in 1991. "You've still got some juvenile antics — there may be someone making a comment behind my back."

The city Police Department recently agreed to efforts to recruit homosexuals, start a harassment hotline and increase sensitivity training.

Nationwide, numbers vary widely. In San Francisco, 138 of the city's 1,700 officers are openly gay, but in Boston, just two officers out of 1,950 have said publicly they were homosexual.

Norman Hill, a 10-year Boston veteran who's gay, said he knew of

several other officers who kept their homosexuality private.

Cities including Baltimore, Atlanta, San Jose, Calif., Detroit, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Phoenix have specific policies against gay bias.

Activists credit grass-roots efforts for the changes in some police departments.

"The gay and lesbian community has made great strides in certain local areas," said David Smith, a Los Angeles gay activist.

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