

Jetliner hijacked, 52 survive crash

Three hijackers refused to let the pilot land despite his insistence that the plane was out of fuel.

MORONI, Comoros Islands (AP) — Rescue workers pulled bodies from the partially submerged wreckage of a hijacked Ethiopian jetliner Sunday, covered the dead with white sheets and ferried them to shore in small boats.

The Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 with 175 people aboard ran out of fuel and crashed in the Indian Ocean on Saturday after three hijackers, battling the pilot for control of the plane, refused to let him land at a nearby airport.

Officials said 52 people survived the crash and 123 others were feared dead. Two hijackers were arrested and the third was presumed to have died in the crash.

Island residents and tourists risked the rough waters to search for victims and to rescue injured passengers from the sea about 500 yards from shore.

Co-pilot Yonas Mekuria said the hijackers refused to allow the pilot to land at the airport in Moroni, about five miles from the crash site, even though he was insisting the plane was running out of fuel.

"He wanted to go there, but they wouldn't let him," Mekuria said. "It was pretty bizarre. I didn't know what they were doing. They were interfering with procedures, grabbing at the instruments. They snatched the radio

from the jack."

In his last message to the passengers, Capt. Leul Abate said he had lost one engine, the plane was out of fuel and he was going to ditch in the ocean.

"People were screaming, some were praying," said Bisrat Alemu, an Ethiopian passenger who was going to Nairobi.

The hijackers commandeered Flight 961 shortly after it took off from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on a flight to Abidjan, Ivory Coast with stops in Nairobi, Kenya; Brazzaville, Congo; and Lagos, Nigeria.

Bisrat said the hijackers began to yell inside the aircraft, then stormed onto the flight deck. Shortly after they took control, the hijackers made an announcement in Amharic, the Ethiopian language.

"They said, 'We escaped from prison. We are against the government. We are hijacking the plane. We have an explosive. If anybody moves, we'll explode it,'" Bisrat said.

The three hijackers were armed with something they said was a bomb, an ax and a fire extinguisher.

Mekuria, the co-pilot, said one appeared drunk and carried a bottle of whiskey that he apparently looted from the duty-free cart on the plane. He said the hijackers' only demand was that they be flown to Australia.

The Boeing 767 crashed around midday near the Galawa Beach Hotel, a tropical resort 25 miles north of the capital, Moroni, on the main island of Grande Comore.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, said Sunday that

four Americans were aboard the aircraft, three of whom survived.

The U.S. consul-general in Bombay, India, Frank Huddle, and his wife, Shania, were among the survivors, said Carrie Newton, the duty officer at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

Further information on the condition of the survivors or identities were unavailable.

Jacques Faivre, French head of civil defense on the Indian Ocean island of La Reunion, said a team of 17 divers assisted in the search effort Sunday.

"I'm not on site, but I think there's not much hope" of finding more survivors, he said.

Other survivors also were expected to arrive in Nairobi on Sunday.

Presidents to have summits Clinton, Chinese leader agree meeting was positive

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Trying to calm a stormy relationship, President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin agreed Sunday to exchange presidential visits over the next two years.

Clinton raised U.S. concerns over human rights, but did not press Jiang about specific cases. According to spokesman Mike McCurry, Clinton told Jiang: "It's important that we work to remove irritants in our relationship, but we need to be as honest and candid in dealing with our differences as we can with respect to human rights."

In a reversal, the administration said it would not set any conditions for the summits, such as progress on disputes over human rights, trade or weapon sales. A leading human rights group expressed dismay.

"In the rush to engagement, concern about human rights is being left be-

hind," said Human Rights Watch-Asia official Mike Jendrzeczyk. "It's a huge disappointment and a major setback for human rights in China but it wasn't unexpected." He called it telling that Clinton did not mention any dissidents by name.

The timing and sequence of the presidential summits will be determined later. McCurry said the two leaders agreed the sensitive relationship between the two nations "needs regular high-level visits."

One state visit will be during 1997. The second will be in 1998. Vice President Al Gore will lead off the goodwill visits by going to Beijing in the first half of 1997.

Clinton said the meeting went "very well. It was a good meeting and I think that the next steps are appropriate." He said he was "very much" looking forward to visiting China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang described the talks as "friendly, positive and constructive" — the most glowing terms used by Beijing to describe contacts with Washington in at least 18 months.

The last president to visit China was George Bush in February 1989.

Jiang had been seeking reciprocal visits to bolster his standing in the struggle over the successor to Deng Xiaoping as China's supreme leader.

White House officials described the meeting's mood as serious and businesslike, sprinkled with light moments. Jiang, for instance, commented on Clinton's hoarse voice and suggested Chinese medicine or acupuncture.

On a major trade issue, a senior U.S. official said there was no concrete progress on China's push to join the World Trade Organization, the Geneva-based group that sets the rules for global trade. The United States has blocked the effort, arguing that China has not done enough to dismantle trade barriers.

Mother Teresa hospitalized

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Mother Teresa was in stable condition at a Calcutta hospital Saturday and responding well to medication for heart trouble, her heart doctor said.

The 86-year-old Nobel laureate slept most of the day, said Dr. Asim Bardhan, cardiologist at the Woodlands Nursing Home where Mother Teresa was taken Friday.

Doctors have been allowing her fruit juice and stew, and administering antibiotics and drugs to stabilize her heartbeat, Bardhan said.


It was the fourth time this year that

the Roman Catholic nun has been admitted to the hospital. The latest hospitalization came after she complained of chest pains early Friday.

Mother Teresa has been diagnosed with acute left ventricular heart failure — a failure of one of the four chambers of the heart to properly pump blood, causing an irregular heartbeat and weak blood pressure.

On Friday, about 150 nuns and volunteers from her order, the Missionaries of Charity, assembled at her home and prayed for her quick recovery.

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MONDAY, NOV. 25	THURSDAY, NOV. 28
ANIMAL SCIENCE	HAPPY THANKSGIVING
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOC. TURKEY SALE	SATURDAY, NOV. 29
PICKUP DAY	MA SAISON PREFEREE, BY ANDRE TECHINE
For more information call: Dana Allen, 472-5237	Opening night
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27	Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater
THANKSGIVING BREAK BEGINS	11th and R Streets
	7 and 9:15 p.m.
	For more information call: 472-5353

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