

4-6-76  
NYT

# Hughes Seen As Worn Out By 2 Pilots

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., April 5 (AP)—When Howard R. Hughes was put aboard an air ambulance in Acapulco, Mexico, today, he looked "waster" and "like a tired, worn-out old person," according to Jeff Abrams, the co-pilot of the jet.

Mr. Hughes died on the plane while being flown to Houston.

Roger Sutton, pilot of the Graf Jet air-ambulance charter service of Fort Lauderdale, described Mr. Hughes as being emaciated, with a thin beard and long, grayish hair.

"He was very wasted," Mr. Sutton said. "He was very, very pale."

A Customs inspector in Houston also said that Mr. Hughes looked emaciated and aged. The inspector saw his body when it was taken off the plane.

Mr. Sutton, 30 years old, and Mr. Abrams, 22, were interviewed after returning home. They said that their jet had been chartered late Sunday by a South Florida physician whom they did not identify. They left Fort Lauderdale at 5 A.M. Eastern Standard Time today and reached Acapulco four hours later.

The pilots said that they did not know until near the end of a five-hour wait in Acapulco that their ambulance passenger was to be Mr. Hughes. But they said that they had a strong hunch it would be.

Mr. Sutton and Mr. Abrams said that they saw Mr. Hughes, wearing what appeared to be bed clothes, when he was loaded aboard their jet on a stretcher.

"He moved his lips a little when they put him on the plane, but I couldn't hear anything," Mr. Sutton said.

The pilots described the two-hour flight to Houston as "very routine." Mr. Abrams said that they did not know until after landing that Mr. Hughes had died on the flight.