

News Summary

NYTimes

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International

The collision of two 747 jumbo jets on an airport runway in Santa Cruz de Tenerife Sunday killed 576 people. There were 68 survivors, 11 of them in serious condition. The Spanish Government ordered a judicial inquiry. One plane was operated by Pan American World Airways, and the other by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. All aboard the KLM plane were killed. [Page 1, Col. 6.]

Prospects seemed to be good that the cause of the collision might be determined through recording devices, interviews with crew members and other survivors of the Pan American 747, and testimony of traffic controllers. The crash-resistant voice recorder from the Pan American plane was being flown to Washington. [1:5.]

In terms of deaths, the collision of the 747's was the worst disaster in the history of aviation, but it will also be the most costly in civil aviation insurance claims. Initial, tentative estimates of the eventual claims run from \$150 million to \$400 million, of which 60 percent will be paid by London insurers. The extreme range of possible total claims reflects the confusion over liability before a full inquiry is completed. [15:3-6.]

High-level secret talks on normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba were conducted from late 1974 to late 1975 at the initiative of former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, according to Carter Administration officials. The talks were held in Washington and New York and were the first direct, official contact the two countries had had since 1961. Direct talks were resumed last Thursday in New York, but have been limited initially to matters of fishing rights in waters between the two countries. [1:2.]

A spirited exchange in Moscow on human rights between Cyrus R. Vance and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist leader, has cleared the air

for their talks on a treaty to limit strategic arms, the Secretary of State said. At an afternoon session with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, Mr. Vance outlined in detail the Carter Administration's alternative formulas to end the deadlock. [5:2.]

National

A review and possible upgrading of the other-than-honorable discharges of about 432,000 Vietnam war servicemen has been authorized by President Carter, the Defense Department said. The review follows the President's initial pardon of draft evaders—which he promised in his campaign—in the Vietnam war, officially described as the time between Aug. 4, 1964, and March 28, 1973. Unlike the pardon of last Jan. 21, the revision of discharges will require individuals to apply to review boards of each service in the next six months. [1:1.]

An inundation of complaints has fallen on Washington over President Carter's plan to crack down on the use of snowmobiles, motorcycles, dune buggies and other off-road vehicles on environmentally sensitive public lands. The prohibition of such vehicles is expected to be included in the President's forthcoming environmental message. [1:5-6.]

Metropolitan

Evidence that copies of a New York City reading test had been used improperly to coach some pupils, led to last-minute postponement of the test, which was to have been given today to 700,000 pupils in grades 2 through 9. Schools Chancellor Irving Anker postponed the test, and a temporary restraining order against it and a mathematics test was issued by a State Supreme Court justice. [1:3-4.]

Law enforcement officials said that a Federal grand jury is conducting an investigation into "wide-ranging abuses

of poverty funds" by the Hispanic Association for a Drug Free Society, a Bronx addiction rehabilitation center known as S.E.R.A. The organization receives over \$3.2 million a year in Federal, state and city grants. [1:2.]

The Board of Estimate was unable to agree on a compromise anti-pornography measure for New York City and voted to cut off future consideration of all of the zoning proposals before it. Disputes over policy and procedures were the main difficulties. [1:1-3.]

Judge William Mertens of Civil Court in Manhattan was "severely censured" by the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court for "serious breaches of judicial temperament and decorum." The charges were brought by the Temporary State Commission on Judicial Conduct. The appellate court could have removed him from the bench, but voted censure instead. [36:1-2.]

Business/Finance

A record trade deficit of \$1.37 billion for the United States was reported by the Commerce Department for February. It was quite likely that rising, and increasingly expensive, oil imports that now account for more than a quarter of this country's total imports were responsible. It was the third time in four months that the deficit was at a record level. [41:5-6.]

Representative Thomas L. Ashley, Democrat of Ohio, is expected to be named chairman of a special House committee that will coordinate action through avoiding jurisdictional disputes that could delay passage of President Carter's energy legislation. The law is going to be "very tough medicine," Mr. Ashley said in an interview. [41:6.]

Large sums of U.S. currency may illegally be carried in and out of the country with virtual impunity because of lax enforcement of what could be one of the Government's most effective laws against organized and white collar crime, according to an investigation by the General Accounting Office. The law that is said to be not enforced properly is the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970. [41:1.]

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Quotation of the Day

"It is in no one's interest to administer an examination on which, apparently, students may have been coached in advance."—Albert Shanker, president of United Federation of Teachers, joining the successful effort to postpone a reading test that was to have been administered today to second-through ninth-graders. [20:1.]

Britain's pay code shaken by union wage increases

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