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## South Korea believes plane forced down

**United Press International**  
SEOUL, South Korea — A Korean Air Lines jumbo jet missing over the northwest Pacific Ocean with 269 people aboard, including a U.S. congressman, is "almost certain" to have been shot down near a Soviet-held island north of Japan, the government said today.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials said it appeared that Soviet fighters, which crashed at Sakhalin island about 850 miles north of Tokyo, had scrambled to intercept the airliner shortly before it disappeared from radar screens.

An undetermined number of Americans were aboard the flight.

South Korean Culture Information Minister Lee Jin-hie told news conference that the plane, Korean Airlines Flight 007 from New York to Seoul, lost radio contact at 2:11 a.m. local time today over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

"According to circumstances based on information from various channels, the plane is almost certain to have been attacked and shot down by a third country," Lee said. "The government is continuing efforts to confirm the fate of the aircraft."

The government-run Korean Broadcasting System had said the Boeing 747 landed on Sakhalin. The

Soviet foreign ministry, in its only comment, denied the report but left open the possibility the plane was down in the area.

Lee said the government had asked the United States and Japan to assist in finding the plane.

Eight Japanese patrol boats and six aircraft rushed to the waters west of Sakhalin and reported sighting two Soviet aircraft and five vessels conducting a search, Japan's Maritime Safety Agency said.

Among the passengers was Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Ga., who was said to be traveling to meet a group of senators attending a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of a U.S.-South Korean mutual defense treaty.

"If the attack and shooting down is a fact, it is an inhumane act in flagrant violation of international law, and should be condemned in the world community," Lee said.

"The guilty nation must bear due responsibilities for attacking unarmed civil aircraft."

The Boeing 747 jetliner was reported missing Wednesday, and officials originally feared the plane may have been hijacked.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met with senior officials on the incident.

## Gramm eyes Senate seat

by Ronnie Crocker  
Battalion Staff

U.S. Congressman Phil Gramm said Wednesday he will strongly consider running for the U.S. Senate seat that will be vacated after this term by fellow Republican John Tower.

Gramm was speaking on the American economy at a Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce breakfast when he was asked to comment on rumors that he was seeking the senator's office.

Gramm told the businessmen that the thought crossed his mind to seek the senate seat when he first learned of Tower's decision. He added that, after consulting with his family, he is now "looking at it hard."

The congressman said he is touring Texas to get voters' opinions. He said he probably will run if he has enough support to assure a Republican victory.

Texas has benefited in the past from having both Republican and Democratic senators in Washington, he said, because they have given Texas access to the White House regardless of the administration.

He also said Republicans must not lose their control in the senate to prevent passage of economically damaging bills by the Democrats.

Gramm's talk on the economy seemed generally optimistic.

The economy seems to be recovering rapidly, he said, and the trend should continue throughout 1983 and into 1984. He said the government has curbed much of its spending and is trying to hold the spending rate of growth at 4.5 percent this year, down from the last two years.

Gramm called the federal deficit "the one remaining dark cloud on the horizon" and stressed that it must be worked out. The problem, he said, is not because of defense spending or an unproductive America but because of the "explosive growth of



staff photo by Guy Hood

Congressman Phil Gramm delivers Wednesday address

spending in the non-military sector."

However, Gramm called for a tight defense budget that would take the politics out of military spending.

## Leaders dispute Lebanon

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders are warning that the renewed fighting in Lebanon, which could involve U.S. Marines in further combat, may also lead to a stiff confrontation between Congress and the Reagan administration.

Secretary of State George Shultz, in a news conference called Wednesday as fighting continued between the Lebanese Army and Moslem groups, insisted repeatedly that the administration is living up to the letter and spirit of the law in reporting to Congress on the situation in Lebanon.

"The president has reported properly under the War Powers Act," Shultz said.

That view was disputed by members of Congress and one of Shultz' predecessors, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Vance, President Carter's first secretary of state, said "it (Lebanon) is a combat situation and the matter should be referred to Congress."

The 1973 War Powers Resolution requires that U.S. troops sent "into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances" must be withdrawn within 60 to 90 days unless Congress approves their continued deployment.

But the resolution itself has been called into question by a Supreme Court ruling earlier this year outlawing the "legislative veto" of federal acts.

Shultz also declared, as President Reagan did Tuesday, that the United States "will continue to maintain our support for the multinational (peace-keeping) force and the U.S. Marine component of that force."

"Let no one doubt," Shultz said, "that if attacked the Marines will take care of themselves with vigor."

He also told the news conference, "They are involved in a situation where there is violence. It is a generalized pattern of violence. We are reporting to Congress as we should, as a matter of common sense and of law."

"I believe there is no concerted effort to single out the Marines and target them."

Two Marines were killed and 14 wounded in a mortar attack Monday and fighting continued with the U.S. forces returning fire, including artillery.

## Captive describes hijacking

**United Press International**  
Fifteen hostages released after an ordeal that took them to four countries in four days aboard a hijacked Air France jetliner spent the night in a Tehran hotel before their expected departure today.

One of three freed Americans, Dr. Clayton L. Thomas, 62, told his daughter in Brimfield, Mass., Wednesday that he was the hostage ordered to kneel on the runway at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport while two terrorists fired shots over him.

The hijackers who fired the shots were trying to force officials at the Iranian capital to give them gasoline to blow up the plane earlier this week.

Speaking by telephone from Tehran, Thomas described the captivity as "a terrible ordeal," according to his daughter, Wendy Thomas.

"From one minute to the next they didn't know if they'd be dead or alive," Rutanen said.

Apart from reporting that the released hostages apparently were well and spending the night at a Tehran hotel, there was no official word from Iranian authorities Wednesday on the windup of the hijacking ordeal that began Saturday afternoon.

Arabic-speaking gunmen seized Air France's Flight 781 with 114 passengers and crew on a Vienna-to-Paris trip, apparently to show support for Iran in its three-year-old Gulf war with Iraq.

## Shuttle robot experiment goes well

**United Press International**  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The shuttle astronaut hoisted a 7,460-pound, truck-sized dumbbell high over Challenger on the end of a robot arm today, proving the crane can launch giant satellites in the future.

Richard Truly and Dale Gardner wiggled the 50-foot arm to see how it affected the shuttle and then wiggled the shuttle to see what it did to the arm with the large simulated spacecraft in its grasp. There were no surprises.

Gardner said the Canadian-built arm, like a weight lifter exercising with a dumbbell, was doing "a super job. We haven't had a hiccup yet out of it."

Truly, Gardner, Daniel Brandenstein, William Thornton and Guion Bluford, America's first black in space, were busy with a variety of jobs on day three of the six-day voyage.

"Sure beats working for a living, Mary," Truly told astronaut Mary Cleave in mission control.

The arm tests marked a switch in emphasis on this eighth space shuttle mission. The commercial objectives — launching a satellite for India and purifying living cells for an aerospace company — were met during the first two days of flight and today the shuttle crew began preparing for the future.

"The purpose of these tests is to qualify the arm

for operating with heavier payloads than we've run to date," flight director Randy Stone said.

Challenger's use of NASA's new data relay satellite was interrupted more than 12 hours because of computer problems at the satellite control center at White Sands, N.M. The satellite relay link was re-established this morning, giving the control center an unscheduled televised look at the arm testing.

Gardner first flexed the robot arm at 3 a.m. EDT. The 19-foot-long, 15-foot-wide lead and aluminum structure, shaped like a dumbbell, was lifted slowly away from its berth. It was returned to its berth without difficulty at 7 a.m. to complete the first segment of the day's tests.

## Rain, mud delay recovery of fossils

by Karen Schrimsher  
Battalion Staff

Anthropological researchers from Texas A&M began uncovering the fossil remains of a 10,000-year-old mammoth from the banks of the Brazos River in December 1982, but soggy weather has hampered the project ever since.

The fossils were discovered in October 1982 by Robert Duewall, who contacted the Department of Anthropology. Duewall, a visiting businessman, was canoeing in the area when he and a companion noticed part of a tusk protruding from the river bank.

The excavation is located on privately owned land northwest of the University campus. The exact location is being withheld because it is feared that intruders will harm the digs.

Excavation directors Dr. Gentry Steele and Dr. David Carlson said the weather must cooperate before digging can begin again. The river level must be stable, and several days of warm, dry weather are required.

So far, the only fossils left to remove are the tusks, one shoulder blade, and some rib fragments. The remaining parts, including the jaw, teeth and hip bones were brought back to the campus and are on view in Bolton Hall.

In its younger days, the mammoth, an ancient elephant, stood 12 to 13 feet high and weighed about six tons. Its tusks were six and a half feet long.

The dig was originally intended for a class project, but the bad weather prevented the students from working at a scheduled pace.

Instead, the directors relied on the help of about 40 volunteers. The group was made up of anthropology students, graduate students and others who were interested in the find.

Carlson said the group decided to begin excavation in the cooler months, using picks and shovels to unearth the bones. When the fossils were reached, trowels, wisk brushes,

paint brushes and wooden probes were used.

But winter rains caused the bank to collapse twice, each time causing a setback in the process. The group decided to wait until summer, hoping the weather would be dry.

"We were getting really close to being finished about three weeks ago," Carlson said. "Then the hurricane came."

The excavation was completely covered again, and 100 man-hours were lost. Recent checks of the site indicate that it is too damp and muddy to continue with the project at this time.

The unearthing process is a complex one. First, the fossils must be uncovered from the top. The earth is carved out around each piece until the fossils appear to sit on a pedestal.

Once half the specimen is exposed, it is covered with a cast made from plaster of paris. Then it is lifted and turned over so the cast acts as a protective tray until the fossil can be transported and preserved in the lab.

Transportation and preservation of the fossils is a tedious process, Carlson said.

"They (the fossils) are crumbly, and after what they've been through already, they don't need anymore shocks," he said.

Graduate students from the anthropology department will prepare the bones so that they will not decay any further. The fossils will be cleaned and given a plastic coating.

Christi Assad is directing the preservation of the bones, with Elizabeth Ham as her assistant. Tony Comuzzie will use the experience to write his master's thesis.

Both Carlson and Steele agree that the mammoth bones have been amazingly well preserved.

"Considering it is 10,000 to 12,000 years old, it's in very good condition," Carlson said. "The problem is that it has been wet most of the year."



photo courtesy of University News Service

Dr. David Carlson, left, and Dr. Gentry Steele with the mammoth tusks.

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### forecast

cloudy today with intermittent rain. High near 90.