

Peruvian plane crashes

Pilot reported aircraft problems minutes after take-off

ANCON, Peru (AP) — A Peruvian plane slammed into the frigid Pacific Ocean on Wednesday after its navigation system failed, leaving the pilot lost amid the dense early-morning mist. All 70 passengers and crew were believed killed. Rescuers searched for possible survivors of Aeroperu flight 603, which crashed shortly after its takeoff from Lima, the Peruvian capital, to Santiago, Chile. The plane was carrying 61 passengers, including four Americans, nine crew members, the airline said. Airport officials said the plane was only four years old. Searchers found parts of the Boeing 757's fuselage about 40 miles off shore, west of Ancon, said Adm. Jaime Monge, head of rescue operations. Ancon is 15 miles north of Lima. Seven bodies were recovered mid-afternoon, but there was no sign of survivors. The Americans aboard were Ken Canutsen, Samsina Niis Lintem, Dennis Trial and Kenneth Lichtenman, the airline said. No hometowns were given. Five minutes after the 12:42 a.m. takeoff, the pilot reported equipment problems. Erick Schreiber reported that the plane's navigational equipment

was not responding and that he had no idea where he was. "I don't have any instruments," he said, according to Transportation Minister Elsa Carrera, who heard a tape of his conversation with the control tower in Lima. "What's happening? What altitude am I at? Why is my ground crash alarm on? Am I over land or sea?" "You're over sea," the tower reported. Schreiber calmly asked for a plane to guide him back to the airport. Just before 1:10 a.m., Schreiber advised the tower to prepare for a rescue. Then the tower lost contact with the aircraft. Carrera said Schreiber never lost his composure during his 28-minute conversation with the tower. "The pilot's calmness, his serenity was incredible," she said. A reporter with Lima's Radio Programas radio station flying in an air force search plane described seeing pieces of seats and other debris from the jet floating on the fuel-slicked ocean surface. He said the debris was scattered over a one-mile radius. As rescuers searched through the thick fog, anxious family members and friends awaited word. Some were ushered into a private room by Aeroperu employees as

they arrived at the Lima airport. "We're just hoping they're still alive. We're praying they're still alive," said a man who said he had relatives on the plane. Police led him away from reporters before he could identify himself. Only 11 of the passengers were Peruvians. Of the remaining victims, there were 30 Chileans, two British, two Italians, a New Zealander, a Spaniard and 10 people from other Latin American countries. The search for survivors was centered on a 50-mile stretch of the Peruvian coast in an area reaching 50 miles off shore, navy Capt. Gonzalo Jaurigui said. Before dawn, officials lined up ambulances, fire trucks, gasoline-powered generators and reflectors on the dark beach so that possible survivors would have bright lights to swim toward. But they would have difficulty staying alive for long in the cold waters of the Humboldt current that flows up the South American coast from Antarctica. Apilio Arande, head of navy security in the Lima port of Callao, said the search for bodies could take days. Aeroperu Flight 603 originated in Miami and, though the flight number remained the same, the plane was changed in Lima, said Raul Chiappo, Miami operations manager for Aeroperu.



Aeroperu Flight 603 crashed ten minutes after takeoff.

Boeing 757

The original 757 was introduced into commercial service in 1984.

Type:	Short/medium range twin-turboprop airliner
Operating crew:	2 (5 to 7 attendants)
Accommodation:	180 passengers
Length:	155 ft. 3 in.
Height:	44 ft. 6 in.
Maximum speed:	Mach 0.86

Washington talks fail at peace for Mideast

The negotiations have ended, but will resume Sunday in Erez, a border crossing between Israel and Gaza.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marathon negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders failed to resolve bitter differences that exploded in Mideast violence and jeopardized the fragile peace process. But the two sides agreed to press ahead with non-stop talks beginning Sunday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the summit that ended Wednesday "cemented the principle that the path to peace is through negotiations and not through violence." He added, "The children of Israel are safer tonight." At the close of the White House-sponsored negotiations, President Clinton said, "We have not made as

much progress as I wish we had." He said he was not certain the Mideast crisis was over but expressed confidence that violence would subside. "Please, please give us a chance to make this thing work in the days ahead," Clinton implored Palestinians and Israelis. He said he was sending Dennis Ross, the senior U.S. mediator, to Sunday's peace negotiations at Erez, a border crossing between Israel and Gaza. The top priority will be Hebron, the West Bank town where Israel has refused to fulfill a promise to move its troops from Arab neighborhoods into Jewish settlements by March. Netanyahu, talking to reporters

at his hotel, said that if lower-level negotiators don't resolve the Hebron dispute, "Arafat and I will sit down until we solve it. We agreed to do that." Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sat stone-faced, side by side in the East Room with Jordan's King Hussein at the wrapup of the talks. By prearrangement, they declined an opportunity to talk there. Leaving the White House, Netanyahu vigorously shook Arafat's hand, clasping it with both hands for several seconds. Clinton beamed. Arafat saluted Clinton before stepping into his car. The president returned the gesture.

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Merritt Hunke, a freshman general studies major, said she calls the Guard Room when she has to cross campus at night. "I had to park in Koldus late one night and my friend had to go to Northside and I had to go to Mosher, so I called and got an escort for both of us," she said. Hunke said it took just a few minutes for the escort to arrive. Of the 75 crimes committed on campus in 1995, 65 were burglaries, six were vehicle theft, three were robbery, two were rape, and one was aggravated assault. Of the 342 arrests made in 1995, 294 were alcohol-related

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offenses like minor in possession and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Thirty-five arrests were made for possession of illegal drugs, most of which resulted from routine traffic stops. Thirteen arrests were also made for weapon possession. The number of arrests made for DWI and public intoxication offenses is not included in the brochure, but more than 115 DWI arrests were made on the A&M campus in 1995, and more than 270 people were arrested for public intoxication. The annual crime statistics brochure is available to the public and may be picked up at UPD at the corner of Houston Street and George Bush Drive across from the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

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