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Panel makes air safety proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tighter airport security, including profiles to single out passengers who may pose a threat, was recommended Wednesday by a White House commission formed after the TWA Flight 800 disaster.

The commission urged that by the end of the year, airports implement a combination of passenger profiling, explosive-detecting equipment and bag matching to reduce the chances of a bomb being brought aboard an airliner. Bag matching is a system that makes sure luggage doesn't stay on the plane if the passenger who checked it isn't aboard.

A variety of federal agencies, airlines and airport authorities will be responsible for acting on more than 50 proposals included in the final report, which was delivered to President Clinton at the White House.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it "will move quickly to implement the recommendations" of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security.

"The world is changing and so must our aviation policies and practices," Vice President Al Gore said at the commission's final meeting.

And President Clinton pledged to use "all the tools of modern science" to make air travel safer. He urged Congress to approve the \$100 million in added annual spending for air security recommended by the commission.

While the Flight 800 explosion last July, which killed 230 people, prompted formation of the commission, the report was wide-ranging and did not specifically address that disaster. That crash remains unsolved with investigators considering as possible causes a bomb, mechanical failure or a missile.

Among the commission's proposals are improving the government's inspection program for older airplanes; forming a panel to study whether antimissile technology should be installed on airliners; installing improved ground proximity warning systems to help pilots avoid mountainside crashes; requiring that safety seats be used for infants on aircraft, instead of letting them ride on parents' laps; and

allowing Customs agents to inspect airmail as it leaves the country as well as incoming mail.

Commission member Kathleen Flynn, who lost a child in the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103, said: "We have got to do passenger bag-gagematch, we have got to do passenger profiling, we have got to do explosives detection... in a comprehensive program."

"We cannot allow terrorists to intimidate a free society," added commission member George W. Williams.

Under the commission plan, bag matching would be done for the luggage of any passenger who fits the danger profile, as well as randomly on other passengers, explained commission member Brian Michael Jenkins.

"Our objective is keeping bombs off airplanes."

Brian Michael Jenkins
Commission member

"This has been a contentious area," he admitted. "Our objective is keeping bombs off airplanes."

While bag-matching wouldn't be done for all luggage immediately, Gore said that is the eventual objective.

The plan drew a quick complaint from the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The proposed profiling system is invasive of privacy and likely to be discriminatory," said counsel Gregory Nojeim.

Nojeim contended only full bag matching can prevent a terrorist from checking a bag with a bomb in it and then not boarding the plane. "The airlines have prevailed on this commission not to go to full luggage match because they don't want to pay for it," he said.

The Air Transport Association, the trade group for the major airlines, said "the coupling of profiling and bag match appears to be a prudent" proposal.

"An effective security system is multifaceted — made up of many layers that, when taken together, offer a blanket of security to the aviation system," said ATA president Carol Hallett.

The commission plan calls for the FBI, CIA and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to research known terrorists, hijackers and bombers to develop the profiles. These would be most useful if they can be matched against automated passenger information the airlines

Air safety

Highlights from Vice President Al Gore's recommendations on aviation safety:

- Reducing the accident rate by 80 percent over 10 years
- Automated profiling, which scans the travel history and possible criminal pasts of passengers to identify potential terrorists
- Modernization of air traffic control systems
- Improved bomb-detecting technology and increased use of bomb-sniffing dogs
- Better training of security officers

maintain. It also called for creation of an advisory board on civil liberties questions that from the development and use of profiling.

Gore also announced that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will devote \$500 million over the next years to this effort, Gore said.

A cost estimate for implementing all committee's recommendations was not immediately available.

The commission issued a set of preliminary recommendations last September and Gore said that action has already begun on most of them, including forming security teams at 41 airports, chasing of 54 explosive-detection machines and 114 dog teams to sniff explosives and

Groups permitted to open Cuban bureaus

CNN and Associated Press plan outlets in Havana

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a move it said would focus more attention on the shortcomings of Communist Cuba, the Clinton administration gave the go-ahead Wednesday for 10 U.S. news organizations to open bureaus in Cuba. Of the 10, only CNN has permission from the Cuban government.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said the other media applications, including one from The Associated Press, would be reviewed.

The administration acted after influential conservatives, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said they would have no objection to the presence of U.S. news bureaus in Havana.

No U.S. news outlet has had a permanent bureau in Cuba since the AP was expelled from the island in 1969.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the administration action was in keeping with a policy dating back to October 1995 "supporting an increased flow of accurate information to and from and within Cuba itself."

He said the administration believes reporting by U.S. news organizations "will keep international attention focused on the situation in Cuba and on the realities of economic and political

conditions there. It also will bring greater public exposure to those who are advocating a democratic change in Cuba," he said.

A Cuban Foreign Ministry official in Havana, contacted by telephone, said that CNN was the only U.S. news organization authorized by the Cubans.

"We will continue analyzing the rest of the applications" and will make decisions "when the Cuban government considers it opportune," said the official. Cuba approved CNN's application last August.

Several foreign news outlets, including British and French news agencies, have been allowed by the Cuban government to set up permanent bureaus.

But Cuba frequently has granted American reporters visas — usually lasting about a week — for travel to the Caribbean island. Cuban officials have said that 90

percent of visa applications from American reporters have been approved over the years.

Besides CNN and the AP, U.S. government permission to open bureaus was extended to ABC, CBS, Univision, The Miami Herald, Dow Jones News Services, the Chicago Tribune, the Sun-Sentinel of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, which publishes a Cuba news letter.

CNN News Group President Tom Johnson said that he was pleased by the administration decision, and that the network's Havana bureau would open in March.

"Our year-round Havana reporting will enable CNN viewers to be more informed about developments in Cuba," Johnson said. Veteran CNN Latin America correspondent Lucia Newman was named Havana bureau chief.

Louis D. Boccardi, AP president and chief executive officer, said:

"Our year-round Havana reporting will enable CNN viewers to be more informed about developments in Cuba."

Tom Johnson
CNN NewsGroup president

"We welcome the American and continue, as we have for several years, to open bureaus in Havana."

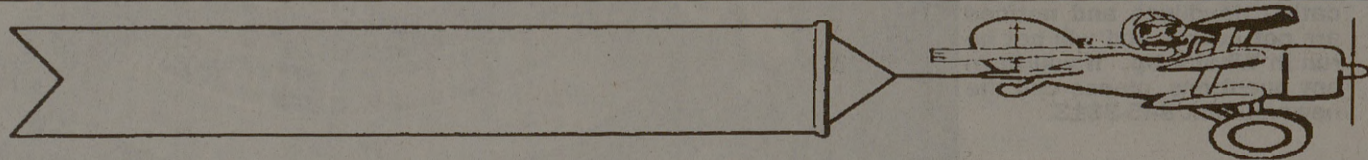
CNN asked for U.S. permission to open a bureau in November the administration held back concern over a potential reaction from conservatives.

Last week, Helms said CNN to open a bureau in Havana could hasten the demise of Castro's government. Earlier Cuban-American National Foundation, an anti-Castro group based in Miami, said it had objections to a permanent presence in Cuba.

As for the possibility of news outlets being permitted to operate in the United States, Helms said that would be a representative sampling of news organizations being to operate freely in Cuba.

Castro said in October that Cuba had no interest in news bureaus in the United States because of the high cost of such operations.

In virtually all other countries, U.S. news organizations do not have an office. But the rules for Cuba are different because of the U.S. embargo against the island.



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SIMPSON

Continued from Page 1
But he stopped short of whether he would also be to waive his attorney's fees.

The attorney for Ms. Simpson estate did not return telephone calls for comment.

Loyola University Law School Associate Dean Laurie Levenson said Goldman's offer was symbolic than realistic.

"I think there is an opportunity for Fred Goldman to O.J. to care," Levenson said. "Looking for satisfaction and money would never be a solution. He is trying to get the denial and he's willing to pay millions of dollars for that."

If Simpson had accepted Goldman's offer, he could not have tried again for the killings because of double jeopardy provisions.

Presumably, Simpson could be tried for perjury if he admitted the killings, Levenson said, but too is unlikely.

She noted that former Dallas Mark Fuhrman received only a year in prison for pleading no contest during the Simpson criminal trial about his past use of a racial slur.

Ra

It was the M&M Men's Basketball Tech Union's second-half shot. As a result, Raiders outlasted the White Coliseum. Down on points at M&M overcame a surge early in the first half to force a rebound and scored on a The Aggies' rebound and scored on a Veril and one by two free th

Tech

BY CHR... THE B... A major case through G. Rol... Wednesday... ranked Texas... Raiders defeat... As has been... most of the... fell behind... scramble to... slipping away... jumped out... and then... clawed its way... Trailing by... the first half... 12-5 run to... before the in... two free thro... senior guard... cut the lead to

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