

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Deaver, Michael
Folder Title: Korean Plane Incident (1)
September 1983
Box: 45

To see more digitized collections
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives

Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name DEAVER, MICHAEL: FILES

Withdrawer

SMF 1/15/2009

File Folder KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT SEPTEMBER 1983 (1)

FOIA

F2002-088

Box Number

~~8606~~ OA 10867

9th 3/11/11

EBIN

5

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
61590	LIST	AGENDA	1	ND	B1 B3
61591	TALKING POINTS	ON KOREAN PLANE	2	ND	B1 B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



September 2, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Cabinet Members
FROM: Charles Z. Wick *WZ*
SUBJECT: Foreign Media Reaction to the Downing
of the KAL Flight # 007

Attached you will find a synthesis of the foreign media reaction to the Soviet shoot down of Korean Airlines Flight #007. We will be distributing these reports daily until further notice.

Bill

DISTRIBUTION LIST

The Vice President
The White House

The Honorable
Edwin Meese III
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable
William French Smith
Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable
William E. Brock
U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable
Judge William P. Clark, Jr.
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable
Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative to
United Nations
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable
James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable
David A. Stockman
Director, OMB
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable
William J. Casey
Director, CIA
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable
George Shultz
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
Elizabeth Dole
Secretary of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable
Donald P. Hodel
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable
James G. Watt
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable
Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable
John R. Block
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable
Malcolm Baldrige
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable
Raymond J. Donovan
Secretary of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable
Donald T. Regan
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable
Margaret M. Heckler
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable
Samuel R. Pierce, Jr.
Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction

September 2, 1983

DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER PLANE BY USSR

Summary

Media around the world reacted with headline expressions of revulsion and condemnation to the Soviet shooting down of a South Korean passenger plane and the death of 269 people.

President Reagan's and Secretary of State Shultz's reaction to the incident received extensive coverage in many capitals.

Typical of West European headlines were "Massacre in the Sky" (London Daily Mail), "Murder in the Skies" (La Repubblica of Rome) and "Prompt Indignation From White House" (Le Matin of Paris).

Electronic media in Western Europe led the way with extensive coverage last night of Secretary of State Shultz's press conference. Some papers carried his remarks in their entirety on page one. The press conference led some observers, such as a correspondent for Rome's GR-1 radio and a writer for Milan's prestigious Corriere della Sera, to characterize the U.S. reaction as "prudent" and "restrained."

At the same time, commentators and editorial writers in many places saw the incident as "plunging" East-West relations to their lowest ebb since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and even since the Cuban missile crisis.

Some editorial writers saw the incident as "ruining detente" and putting the arms reduction talks in jeopardy. In Bonn, conservative Die Welt wondered if "the Kremlin rulers are still seriously interested in an understanding on the problem of arms..."

Still other observers agreed with the conservative Quotidien de Paris that "when a nation reaches that extreme" of attacking a passenger plane "it casts off its mask and shows its true face...that of a barbarous nation."

WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

"We React With Revulsion"

Headlines in London today said "Shultz Press Conference: 'We React With Revulsion to This Attack'" (Times), "Reagan Calls in Security Team After Jet Disaster" and "Moscow Says It Went to Help" (Guardian), "Revulsion at Attack" (Daily Telegraph), "Shultz Accuses Moscow--'We React With Revulsion to This Attack'" (Financial Times), "Massacre in the Sky" (Daily Mail) and "Midair Murder by Reds" (Sun).

Shultz Press Conference Dominated Electronic Media

In London, Secretary Shultz's press conference dominated all television and radio news bulletins last night and this morning. All bulletins broadcast most, if not all, of the Shultz statement. This morning's news program led with the report that President Reagan is returning to Washington.

"U.S.-Soviet Relations Set to Plunge to New Low"

The independent London Times front-paged the text of the Shultz press conference. The paper's lead story said, "Soviet and American leaders were facing a new crisis today....President Reagan is returning to Washington from holiday in California and President Andropov was believed to have cut short his holiday to return to Moscow. U.S.-Soviet relations looked set to plunge to their lowest point since the invasion of Afghanistan."

"Storm Over Plane Will Wreck Hopes of Thaw in Relations"

Conservative Daily Telegraph's lead story said, "Diplomats in Washington consider that the storm over the airliner's destruction will wreck recent hopes of a thaw in East-West relations and badly damage the Kremlin's 'peace' campaign."

In an editorial the same paper said, "The shooting down, confirmed as fact by the ever cautious and professional Mr. George Shultz, is a crime, simply and categorically that..."

"The President and Mr. Shultz should ignore all the temptations of feebleness. If they wanted proof that in no particular can the Soviets be trusted to behave like even tangential members of civilization, they have it."

Incident "Sank East-West Relations Into Crisis"

Today's nationalistic Daily Mail said the incident "sank East-West relations into crisis....Pentagon sources said that the Russians established that the Korean plane was a civilian airliner and then deliberately destroyed it..."

In an editorial, the paper said, "The Russians' apparently ruthless action...should serve as a sharp reminder to those in Britain who never cease harping on the peaceful intentions of the USSR..."

"It Was Murder on a Grand Scale"

An editorial in the sensationalistic Sun declared, "It was murder and murder on a grand scale. We must renounce forever the willful theories of the CND (peace demonstrators) that we can strip ourselves of our defenses before treating with the Communist empire."

FRANCE

"Comrade Strangelove"

Paris television last night led with the plane incident and Secretary Shultz's press conference. The story dominated all front pages today.

Headlines said "Comrade Strangelove" (Liberation), "Prompt Indignation from White House" (Le Matin), "260 Victims (in red ink)" (Quotidien de Paris), "USSR Owes Explanation to World" (Figaro), "269 Passengers Assassinated in Midair" (France-Soir) and "French Government Demands Explanation--U.S. Quickly Sends Five F-15s to North of Japan" (Communist Humanite).

"Nothing Can Excuse Deliberate Assassination"

Conservative Figaro said, "Nothing can excuse the deliberate assassination perpetrated in midair....There are ways to reason with a suspect aircraft and to force it to land. Numerous precedents exist.

"The insolent explanation of the incident furnished by TASS only underlines the obnoxious character of the crime.

"President Reagan figures the Soviet Union owes an explanation to the world. We are part of that world..."

"No Apology...Not the Slightest Sensitivity"

Leftist Liberation said, "One will note that the Soviet leaders, more than 24 hours after the plane was shot down, still were not recognizing the facts, had made no apology to the families of the victims, not the slightest sensitivity..."

"This characterizes the USSR...more eloquently than any speeches..."

"USSR Shows Its True Face"

Conservative Quotidien judged that "Whatever the motives, when a nation reaches this extreme it casts off its mask and shows its true face, its profound nature. It shows it is a barbarous nation..."

ITALY

"Shultz: 'We Are Horrified'"

Headlines included "Grave Charge from Washington--Sudden Crisis in Detente Process" (Corriere della Sera), "Murder in the Skies--Strangelove at Work. Shultz: We Are Horrified" (La Repubblica), "Attack Called Deliberate and Unjustified by Shultz" (Il Giornale), "Russia Accused of Massacre" (Il Tempo) and "Moscow Talks Only of Intercepting in Its Airspace" (Communist l'Unita).

"U.S. Is Showing Restraint"

New York correspondent Antonello Marescalchi reported on left-leaning GR-1 radio this morning that the United States "is showing restraint and gives evidence it does not want to impair the negotiating process."

Milan's centrist Corriere della Sera said in a lead editorial that "even if the plane had violated Soviet airspace, this is not enough to justify what happened."

"In these last few hours the hope for a resumption of detente may be completely ruined..."

"Prudent Stance of U.S. State Department"

New York correspondent Ugo Stille wrote in the same paper, "Shultz's decision to show up in person in the press room of the State Department is an indication of the seriousness of the event..."

"The hawks in Washington are already (at work) to underline that the attack confirms the impossibility and uselessness of any 'detente' with Moscow."

"But the prudent stance of the State Department aims at preventing emotional reaction from compromising the negotiating process with the USSR, particularly on disarmament..."

"Strangelove at Work"

Leftist, influential La Repubblica featured an editorial titled "Strangelove at Work" and observed that the incident will have "dire consequences... on East-West relations and particularly on the Geneva negotiations.

"The Secretary of State, in his emotion and concern, has prudently ruled out direct responsibility of the Soviet Government in the event. But this caution does not change the terms of the problem. And the problem is the nature of the order given once and for all to the Soviet military apparatus and its incomparable inflexibility."

"A Deliberate Mass Murder"

Washington correspondent Marino de Medici wrote in today's conservative Il Tempo of Rome, "A deliberate mass murder. There is no other word to define the cold, ruthless order given to the pilot of the Soviet MIG which was in visual contact with the airplane..."

"Obsession With Security Makes Us Insecure"

Communist l'Unita of Rome asserted that "the downing of the plane on the basis of ruthless defense of airspace...would be an unjustifiable episode..."

"The tension and nervousness of the international situation...must have reached a very high degree if airspace violations or the loss of an air route caused such reckless and unexplainable reactions.

"This international tension...the obsession with security that becomes a stockpiling of weapons, makes us live in insecurity..."

WEST GERMANY

"No Use Talking Peace"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine said today, "There is no use talking peace if one always doubts the basic peacefulness of others and resorts to shooting whenever an aircraft gets off course..."

"Is Kremlin Still Interested in Understanding on Arms Negotiations?"

An editorial in today's conservative Die Welt of Bonn maintained that "the coldbloodedness of the crime gives rise to the question whether the Kremlin rulers still are seriously interested in an understanding on the problem of arms reduction.

"The United States has adequately reacted to this incident, which is one of the most serious since the Cuban missile crisis. Washington, obviously, does not preclude serious consequences. Secretary Shultz asked the ambassadors of NATO countries to discuss the situation with him..."

"Convincing Evidence of Mass Murder"

Pro-Christian Democratic Rheinische Post of Duesseldorf said the incident was "unprecedented in the history of aviation. There is no excuse for it. Convincing evidence of this mass murder was available last night. It made the Kremlin rulers speechless for hours."

"Why Has USSR Dropped Mask of Civilized Nation?"

Pro-Christian Democratic Frankfurter Neue Presse observed, "The coincidence is macabre, but it apparently is not just coincidence: on anti-war day commemorating the outbreak of World War II, the USSR coldbloodedly shot down a civilian aircraft carrier with 269 passengers aboard..."

"The question now is why the USSR dropped its mask of a civilized, peace-loving big power at such a critical moment of East-West disarmament negotiations."

"Until the opposite is proved, one can assume only that this was a calculated act to impress other countries and to make them afraid of Soviet readiness to fight..."

In West Berlin, independent Tagesspiegel held, "The fate of the Korean airliner...was no tragedy caused by a chain of errors, misunderstanding or by an act of providence. It was simply caused by human meanness..."

NORWAY

Moscow Correspondent First Uses, Then Drops U.S. "Allegations"

The shooting down of the South Korean airliner was top story on radio and TV last night and this morning and received very heavy play in the press today.

TV news twice last night carried actualities of Secretary Shultz's statement, plus extensive reports from Washington and Tokyo.

Norwegian radio and TV's Moscow correspondent in his first reports last night talked about U.S. "allegations," but later dropped the word, focusing instead on the absence of Soviet media coverage of the incident.

"There Is No Excuse for Such an Act"

In electronic media, Prime Minister Kaare Willoch was quoted as saying that "only the strongest words can be used in our reaction to those responsible for this."

Foreign Minister Sverre Stray was cited as stating that "if the American information is correct--and unfortunately there is no reason to doubt it is correct--the Norwegian Government will condemn what has happened."

"There is no excuse for such an act. This is one of the most serious violations of all the agreements which have been signed by the USSR. The Norwegian Government is also concerned over the effect of this matter on the international situation."

TV news reported that the chairman of the Norwegian Labor Party said: "This is a grotesque act and a serious attack on accepted principles of international conduct." Defense Minister Anders C. Sjaastad said, "This is shocking. There can be absolutely no excuse for shooting down an airliner."

"Entire World Condemns USSR"

Headlines in Oslo today included "U.S. Considers Sanctions" and "Soviet Union Assumes No Responsibility" and "Kremlin in a Jam, Admits Nothing" (conservative Aftenposten), "Entire World Condemns USSR," "This Is How It Happened: Coldblooded Cold Murder," "Norwegian Pilot: Incredible" and "Controversial U.S. Politician Killed" (sensationalist liberal Dagbladet), "Monstrous Act (Labor Party affiliated Arbeiderbladet) and "This Is Inexcusable" (Christian Peoples Party Vaart Land).

DENMARK

"Deeply Shocked World Vents Fury at Soviet Union"

All Copenhagen dailies, national television and radio gave wide coverage last night and this morning to the tragedy. Banner headlines described the world as shocked. Danish television last night led its newscast with a complete transmission of Secretary Shultz's press conference statement.

Headlines today included "Security Council to Convene--U.S. Strongly Condemns Brutal Shooting Down" (Berlingske Tidende), "Deeply Shocked World Vents Fury at Soviet Union. No Explanation Can Excuse Shooting Down of Passenger Plane" (Aktuelt) and "In Coldblood--269 Civilians Shot to Death by Russian Missile" (B.T.).

"Appalling Tragedy Without Parallel in Times of Peace"

Conservative Berlingske Tidende in a editorial today said, "The shooting down of the Korean airliner is an appalling tragedy so inhumane that it appears without parallel in times of peace...Nothing can justify such behavior and conduct by the Soviet air force..."

"The Soviet Union's attitude is unjustifiable and it cannot fail to have a negative effect on recent attempts to build confidence in the strained relations between East and West."

Conservative Jyllands-Posten quoted Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen as saying, "It is a very alarming and quite unbelievable incident...The Danish Government deeply regrets the great loss of human life."

"Russians Committed Tragic and Cruel Deed"

Former Foreign Minister Kjeld Olsen (Social Democrat) was cited by Ekstra-Bladet: "If the information received so far is correct, then the Russians have committed a tragic and cruel deed which is completely unforgivable."

"But this must not make us change attitudes in our opposition to nuclear armaments. It is mainly a question of survival. Therefore the Social Democratic Party will not change in its attitude toward missile deployment."

SWEDEN

"Will Throw a Shadow Over INF Talks at Decisive Point"

Extensive coverage was given last night and this morning by Swedish media to the shooting down of the South Korean plane. Consensus was that this was an appalling act by the Soviets which will affect relations between the United States and the USSR.

TV Channel 2's foreign editor said, "The shooting down of an unarmed airliner is an unparalleled crime. No excuses can be made, even if the aircraft trespassed into Soviet territory...The shooting down will throw a shadow over the INF talks which have now reached a decisive point..."

"The Reagan Administration has described the Soviet Union as an irresponsible, power-hungry and threatening state. Advocates of that point of view will use this incident as evidence of the correctness of their point of view."

"International Consequences May Become Serious"

Headlines today included "Swede Among the Passengers," (Svenska Dagbladet) and "U.S. Raging Against Soviet Union" and "Jumbo Jet Obliterated by Russian Missile Attack" (Dagens Nyheter).

Conservative Svenska Dagbladet in an editorial today said, "The Soviet shooting down of the South Korean airliner with 269 people aboard is shocking.

"International consequences of this tragic incident may become serious unless the Soviet Union satisfactorily explains how this tragic incident could have happened."

NETHERLANDS

"A Horrible and Unprecedented Act of Terror"

Conservative Telegraaf in a front-page editorial today said, "The shooting ...represents a horrible and unprecedented act of terror and is witness of an incredible cynicism.

"This Russian crime is not only disgusting, it is also frightening that the Soviet military system reacts so crudely and violently to something which clearly did not present any threat."

"Parliamentary Delegation Better Reconsider Its Mission to Moscow"

Leftist Volkscrant in an editorial headlined "Baffling" today asked, "What could for God's sake be the reason for shooting down a non-military airplane that apparently entered Soviet space because of a navigation mistake or failure and killing 269 passengers?

"A panic reaction because of the nearby presence of military installations? A conscious act to demonstrate Russian irresistibility? Really, there is no explanation that would fit except the word baffling.

"If Moscow does not offer a plausible and acceptable explanation within a short time," the paper said, "then the members of the Dutch parliamentary delegation that was scheduled to visit Moscow on September 9 "better reconsider their mission to Moscow."

LUEXMBOURG

"Unbelievable! Awful! USSR Owes World an Explanation!"

Headlines in Luxembourg today included "On 'Anti-War Day' Korean Civilian Airliner Shot Down by Soviets" (Christian Social Luxembourger Wort), "Unbelievable! Awful! USSR Owes the World an Explanation" (Socialist Tageblatt), "The Terrible Incident" (liberal Journal) and "Stupefaction and Indignation! Washington Requires Explanation From Moscow" (independent Republican Lorrain).

Communist Zeitung merely stated that a South Korean Air Lines' Boeing had disappeared. The paper accused Washington of stirring up anti-Soviet propaganda "by telling the world lies about Soviet involvement in the incident."

SWITZERLAND

"Very Worst Thing Soviets Could Have Done"

Conservative Journal de Geneve today held that "even if the airliner had entered Soviet airspace deliberately for spying purposes, it is hard to believe that the higher Soviet military echelons could have coldbloodedly ordered it shot down.

"That would have been the very worst thing the Soviets could have done at a time when they are trying to polish their image...as a peace-loving power."

"No Justification for This Brutal Act"

Bern's middle-of-the-road Der Bund said, "Many aspects of this affair remain a mystery for the moment....Be that as it may, there is no justification for such a brutal act against a civil aircraft..."

BELGIUM

"Deliberate Criminal Act"

Independent Le Soir of Brussels today said it was "a deliberate criminal act. It is hard to see the interest that the Kremlin would have in causing a...dangerous deterioration of the international situation at a time when there is every indication that it is engaged with the Americans in a diplomatic action aimed at improving this situation."

"Premeditated Murder"

Labor-oriented La Cite of Brussels declared the incident was "a premeditated murder for which there could not be any excuse..."

AUSTRIA

"Tension Is the Cause of It"

In Vienna today, prestigious Die Presse judged, "Tension in East-West relations will not only be a consequence of this unfortunate event. Tension is also the cause of it."

"The readiness to help as shown by Soviet search parties is an ironic twist from people with a guilty conscience."

SPAIN

"Paranoid Soviet Preoccupation With Security"

Barcelona's conservative Vanguardia said in an editorial, "What is difficult to understand is why they shot down a defenseless commercial airplane that was not carrying out any kind of military or espionage mission."

"The only way to explain this dangerous incident is the strange and perhaps paranoid Soviet preoccupation with security."

SOVIET UNION

Pravda: "Soviet Fighters Attempted to Help"

In Moscow today, Pravda, on page five in a two-paragraph item headed "TASS Report" maintained that "Soviet fighters which went to meet the infringing plane, attempted to help it withdraw to a nearby airfield. The infringing plane, however, did not respond to the signals and warnings of Soviet fighters and continued its flight in the direction of the Sea of Japan."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"Violation of Soviet Airspace"

A Czechoslovak news agency report in today's Communist Party Rude Pravo was headed "Violation of Soviet Airspace" and said the plane "of undetermined registration, flying without navigation lights over Kamchatka Peninsula toward the Sea of Japan, did not establish radio contact with the radio engineering service and failed to react to Soviet anti-aircraft defense efforts to give it assistance and guide it to the nearest airport."

The account did not mention that the plane was shot down.

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

JAPAN

"U.S. Has Reacted Strongly"

Tokyo's NHK, TBS and Fuji television networks gave extensive coverage to the Soviet air attack with some networks carrying special programs. All networks focused attention on the Shultz news conference, and judged that the United States "reacted strongly" to the downing of the plane.

The Attack Will Affect U.S.-Soviet Relations

Fuji television said the incident could adversely affect U.S.-Soviet relations and the nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva.

An NHK correspondent said the incident was expected to cool U.S.-Soviet relations with Congress calling for a firm stand against the Soviet Union. However, he added the view that the United States is not expected to take strong action against the Soviets.

Japan Will Demand Frank and Sincere Response from Soviet Union

All networks reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Gotoda told a news conference that the Japanese Government came to the conclusion that the KAL plane was shot down by missile fire from a Soviet fighter and that Japan would demand a frank and sincere response from the Soviet Union.

Press Treatment

All major Tokyo dailies ran bold headlines today saying, "Soviets Shoot Down KAL Plane." Highlights of the Shultz news conference were carried.

"Incident May Have Serious Effect on Far East"

Today's moderate Yomiuri wrote, "Since there were many Japanese passengers on the plane, it is inevitable for the Japanese Government, like the United States, to strongly criticize the Soviet Union.

"There is concern that the incident will have a serious effect on the military and political situation in the Far East, including South Korea which is a direct victim."

"Japan Will Take a Strong Stand"

Liberal Asahi today declared, "The Government will take a strong stand, even if the Soviets contend that the shooting down of the KAL plane was justified in view of the violation of Soviet airspace, because there is no reason to justify the shooting down of an unarmed passenger plane."

"There Should Have Been Other Countermeasures"

An editorial in conservative Sankei today held that "it is easy to recognize the KAL plane as a commercial airliner, and, in considering the large number of passengers aboard, there should have been other countermeasures."

Financial Nihon Keizai said in an editorial, "Even if the airliner erred in its course, the Soviet response is impermissible from the humanitarian point of view."

SOUTH KOREA

Limited Available Treatment

South Korean editorial reaction to the incident was unavailable this morning.

The national YONHAP News Agency reported today that "Foreign Minister Yi Pom-Sok today discussed with U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Richard Walker possible joint sanctions against the Soviet Union in response to a Soviet jet's air attack which downed (the KAL) plane..."

PHILIPPINES

Major Treatment

Manila's Bulletin Today, Daily Express, and Metro Manila Times lead stories reported on the plane incident. The first named paper cited Pentagon sources and Secretary Shultz as saying that the plane had been downed by a Soviet missile-firing jet.

HONG KONG

"An Indescribably Horrible Act"

Today's center-right Sing Tao Jih Pao condemned the downing of the plane as "an indescribably horrible and inhuman act of violence." It believed that U.S.-Soviet confrontation would probably become "volcanically explosive" and that the situation on the Korean peninsula would heat up.

The paper went on to state that "for the moment Moscow's designs on this are still not known--probably U.S. Congressman McDonald was carrying with him some documents concerning the U.S.-South Korean joint defense pact, which the Soviet Union is eager to read...

"It would be too feeble for the United States to raise the issue before the U.N. Security Council for debate....Much more forceful than appealing to the U.N. (would be) to apply embargo sanctions such as tearing up the newly-concluded five-year grain pact."

"The Soviets' Brutal State of Mind"

Today's independent Ming Pao contended that "this barbarous act of the Soviets without regard for human lives has exposed their coldblooded brutal state of mind..."

Pro-China Paper: "Soviets Should Not Fire Missiles"

Hong Kong's pro-PRC Ta Kung Pao in an editorial today wrote : "The unscrupulous action of the Soviet Union can hardly escape world-wide condemnation..."

"Even if the airliner had strayed from its route, it was only a mistaken entry into Soviet airspace. At the most, the Soviet jets could only issue warnings or force it to land. They definitely should not fire missiles. This incident will let the world recognize the reality of stepped-up military expansion."

"This Act Should Be Condemned"

Today's pro-PRC Wen Wei Po stated that "an attack on a commercial airliner, no matter what excuses are offered, violates international law and practice. And a peremptory attitude toward the peaceful movement of peoples should be condemned by international public opinion."

MALAYSIA

Heavy Media Play Reflects Shock and Anger

A typical frontpage headline in today's Kuala Lumpur papers was "Jumbo Jet Shot Down by Soviets" (conservative New Straits Times). Coverage reflected shock and anger at the downing of the plane.

AUSTRALIA

Extensive Electronic Media Coverage

National radio and television reported that the plane had been shot down and that some passengers were Australian, as well as American. Mid-morning television news ran satellite reports from around the world indicating revulsion of such an act. President Reagan's and Secretary Shultz's statements were carried in full.

"All Civilized Nations Must Press for Clarification"

Today's Melbourne Herald ran a report from various sources and correspondents headed "Horrrifying Act--Angry Reagan." A second report headlined "We're Appalled: Hawke" carried Prime Minister Hawke's statement on the incident. Another report in the paper was titled "Pine Gap Heard Soviets--Hayden Calls on Envoy for Explanation."

The paper said in an editorial that "all civilized nations must press for clarification of the circumstances. Even in a world of brinkmanship, this was more than a routine affair. Its consequences could still be most dangerous.

"World opinion will demand that Russia's world of secrecy be breached."

"USSR Was Within Its Rights"

Today's independent Canberra Times carried a locally written piece headed "USSR Within Its Rights Under Law." The story reportedly said this was not the first time that a South Korean aircraft had strayed over Soviet territory and concluded that the Soviets had "the right to be even more suspicious of an airline which seems to make a habit of it."

THAILAND

"Outrage: World Condemns Russia for Shooting Down Jet"

Bangkok's three major English-language papers today carried prominent front-page accounts of the Soviet destruction of the KAL jet. The Bangkok World's headline read "Outrage: World Condemns Russia for Shooting Down Jet."

The papers included wire service reports of Secretary Shultz's statement and the TASS explanation.

CHINA

"Shock, Regret" Expressed Over Plane Incident

Agence France Presse reported from Beijing that "China today condemned the destruction of the (KAL jet)....'We express our shock and regret at this incident,' the Foreign Ministry's information department said...

"Earlier, the official New China News Agency ran a lengthy and detailed account of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's news conference in Washington in which he accused Moscow of committing 'an appalling act.'"

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

"U.S. Alleges Russian Missile Attack"

All media today prominently carried reports on the Soviet attack, highlighting President Reagan's and Secretary of State Shultz's reaction. There was no immediate editorial comment.

Sample headlines were "South Korean Plane With 269 Shot Down by Soviets: Sharp Reaction by U.S" (largest-circulation Indian Express), "South Korean Boeing With 269 Aboard Shot Down Over Russia" (respected Statesman) and "U.S. Alleges Russian Missile Attack: South Korean Jet With 269 Aboard Shot Down" (influential Times of India).

SRI LANKA

Wire Service Coverage

All leading Colombo papers, both English and vernacular, and the Government-owned radio prominently carried wire service reports today including a Reuter dispatch from Washington covering the Shultz news conference yesterday.

BANGLADESH

"Soviet Pilot Admits Firing Missile"

Today's independent Ittefaq of Dhaka reported the plane incident under the six-column head "Soviet MIGs Killed 269 Passengers of a Korean Aircraft." The Government-controlled Bangladesh Observer headlined "South Korean Plane Shot Down: Soviet Pilot Admits Firing Missile."

The latter paper quoted extensively from the Secretary of State's news conference citing the Voice of America as its source.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

News Reports But No Comment

All media today front-paged without comment statements by President Reagan and Secretary Shultz, terming the act as a "barbaric crime."

JORDAN

Prominent News Attention

Amman media this morning gave major coverage to wire service reports on the KAL incident.

AFRICA

KENYA

Early Wire Reports

All three Nairobi dailies today carried news items on the downing of the plane based on early wire service reports. The independent Nation headed an AP report "Soviet Jet Shoots Down Korean Plane." The independent Standard headlined a Reuters report "Airliner Was 'Shot Down.'"

LESOTHO

Radio Coverage of Reagan, Shultz Statements

Radio Lesotho this morning ran President Reagan's and Secretary Shultz's reactions to the Soviet shooting down of the South Korean passenger plane.

LIBERIA

"A Reckless and Barbaric Act"

Monrovia's Observer today reported that President Reagan had demanded an "immediate and full explanation" of the incident. It also cited Secretary Shultz's reaction.

In an editorial headed "A Reckless and Barbaric Act," the paper stressed that the "frightening" incident raised serious questions about commercial air travel, adding that the attention of the International Civil Aviation Organization should be drawn to danger zones such as those peppered with Soviet missiles and other "sensitive military" installations so that new routes may be located.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: ED MEESE
JIM BAKER
MIKE DEEVER
BILL CLARK

FROM: KEN DUBERSTEIN *KD*

SUBJECT: Congressional response to Korean plane incident

Attached are a small selection of letters and reports on telephone conversations received in the last 24 hours from members of Congress in the Korean plane incident.

I think you will find these of interest. The volume of calls has been quite high.

Attachment



BILL FRENZEL
THIRD DISTRICT
MINNESOTA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

September 2, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

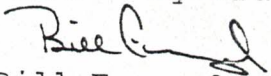
The outrageous slaughter of Korean Airline passengers by USSR war planes demands a response. However, may I respectfully suggest that the U.S. not engage in unilateral embargoes. The record indicates that embargoes have invariably hurt us worse than the intended targets.

I also believe that multilateral embargoes are not an effective response. There ought to be a better way. But, if we have to hurt ourselves to show our displeasure, we ought to hurt ourselves no more than our allies. A collective response, as broadly based as possible, is preferred.

Finally, I hope the Nuclear Arms Reduction talks will not be affected. However great our disgust over the Korean incident, and our distrust of the regime which perpetrated it, those talks are too important to us and to the world to be slowed down in any way.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours very truly,


Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

BF:mjn

cc: The Honorable Bob Michel, Trent Lott, Jack Kemp,
Jack Edwards, Lynn Martin, Barber Conable, Silvio Conte

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
1213 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-5711

SALEM ADDRESS:
4035 12TH S.E. #20
P.O. Box 13089
SALEM, OREGON 97309
(503) 399-5756

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 2, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

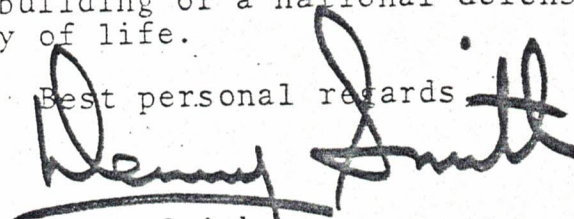
Dear Mr. President:

You are undoubtedly as shocked and appalled as I am over the Soviet attack upon Korean Airlines Flight 007.

As a former fighter pilot for the U. S. Air Force and a commercial pilot for Pan Am who regularly flew the Anchorage to Tokyo route, I can say without hesitation that this Soviet action was a vicious and inexcusable act of premeditated murder. There is absolutely no excuse for the shooting down of a defenseless passenger jet. This entire incident only clarifies for the American people a Soviet philosophy typified by a total disregard for human life and dignity. Truly, the Soviet Union stands before the entire world as a country without honor.

Mr. President, I must request of you once again as I did aboard Air Force One this spring that any actions taken by the United States government in response to this heinous crime be linked to one absolutely necessary measure. We must begin a comprehensive release of classified photographs and information to the American public demonstrating the massive military threat posed to world freedom by the Soviet Union. Only then can we, our nation's leaders, work to revive the consensus necessary among the American people for the rebuilding of a national defense that will ensure our freedom and way of life.

Best personal regards


Denny Smith
Member of Congress

DS:jdh



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

166841

September 1, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to instruct your Ambassador to the United Nations, the Honorable Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, request an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider the unprovoked attack by the Soviet Union on an unarmed civilian aircraft of Korean Airlines.

The Soviet Union must be forced to explain this departure from civilized behavior before an international forum in full public view. It is appropriate that the United Nations serve as this forum. I hope that through your efforts the United Nations can meet this Soviet challenge to the law of nations. If not, the hopes for peace raised by the UN Charter will be betrayed.

There have been too many violations in recent years of the rights of innocent passage by international commerce. Other civilian airliners have been fired upon or destroyed in several areas of the world. This is the second time a Korean airliner has been shot at for straying into Soviet airspace. The first, in 1978, resulted in two persons killed and 110 persons injured.

The Soviet Union has a long record of such violations. As one of the major powers, it has a special responsibility to uphold international law and to set an example for other nations. The Soviets must be held accountable.

The loss of Congressman Larry McDonald is particularly tragic, but all of the innocent lives lost as a result of a callous Soviet decision last night must be accounted for before the Security Council and elsewhere. Through your effective representation on this matter, future travelers may be more secure.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pete".

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator

37
KD

161356

J-016418C244 09/01/83

ICS IPNUAWA WSH

11022 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 50 09-01 816P EDT

PMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

WITH REGARD TO THE TRAGIC KOREAN AIRLINE INCIDENT, I
RESPECTFULLY REQUEST A PROMPT CONVENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT VIOLATIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BY THE SOVIET UNION, RESULTING IN THE
DEATHS OF 269 PASSENGERS BE BROUGHT TO THIS INTERNATIONAL
FORUM. SINCERELY,

BENJAMIN A GILMAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS

NEWT GINGRICH
SIXTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1005 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4501



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
September 1, 1983

SUITE 5, PHOENIX CENTER
1657 PHOENIX BOULEVARD
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30349
(404) 221-3854

POST OFFICE BOX 848
GRIFFIN FEDERAL BUILDING
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA 30224
(404) 226-0389

CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CARROLLTON, GEORGIA 30117
(404) 834-6398

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
22 EAST BROAD STREET
NEWNAN, GEORGIA 30263
(404) 253-8355

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The apparently deliberate murder of 269 human beings, including Congressman Larry McDonald, should remind all of us of the nature of Soviet dictatorship.

There was apparently enough time for this decision to murder innocent civilians to be made at the very highest levels in Moscow.

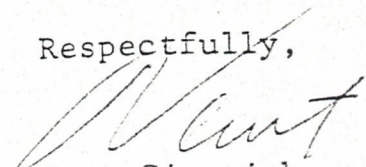
Civilization cannot survive when acts of barbarism become acceptable. If the leaders of the Soviet Union want to be treated as civilized men they must take four steps:

1. Publicly identify and punish the officials responsible for these murders.
2. Apologize to every nation which had citizens aboard the airplane that was shot down.
3. Pay compensation for both the loss and personal tragedy to each family whose loved one was murdered by the Soviet Union.
4. Issue public orders to Soviet armed forces that in future incidents in which unarmed civilian airliners penetrate Soviet airspace, the civilian lives will be protected by ordering the aircraft to land for inspection, but without shooting it down.

Mr. President, free citizens cannot coexist with barbarians unless the barbarians agree to obey international law. If we are to have detente we must have Soviet commitment to the rules of law.

This incident is a tragedy to Congressman McDonald's family, but reminds all of us that the Soviet Union is potentially a threat to every free family on the planet.

Respectfully,


Newt Gingrich

83 SEP 1 10:41

H-009210C244 09/01/83

ICS IPHUAWA WSH

1100B GOVT WASHINGTON DC 75 09-01 131P EDT

FMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

THE GRAVITY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AGAINST AN UNARMED, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES AND MULTI-NATIONAL DIMENSION OF THESE ACTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, I AM CALLING ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMMEDIATELY CONVENE AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SEEK CENSURE OF THE SOVIET ACTION AND TO TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION. I URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT. SINCERELY,

HOL DAUB MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BILL PATMAN
14th DISTRICT, TEXAS

1408 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2831

1408 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2831

P.O. DRAWER A
GANADO, TEXAS 77962
(512) 771-3303

P.O. DRAWER A
GANADO, TEXAS 77962
(512) 771-3303

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 1, 1983

Ms. Charlotte Ponticelli
Director
Congressional Correspondence
East Wing, The White House
Washington, D.C.

ber 1, 1983

Dear Ms. Ponticelli:

I am issuing
se you:

In accordance with my assistant's
telephone conversation with you earlier
today, I am conveying herewith a message
to the President for communication,
via Telex or otherwise, at the earliest
opportunity.

any other
regardless
warning.

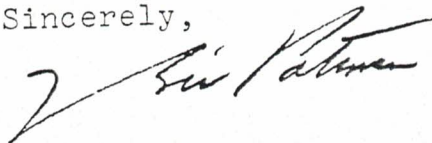
ussia for
' hundreds

Thank you very much for your splendid
help in this important matter.

closing of
the Russian
recall of
y and consular

With best regards.

Sincerely,



s appropriate

WNP:jf

Congress has
epartment
on for the widow
d of Georgia,
f any other

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1983

CALLS RECEIVED THURSDAY, 9/1/83
RE: KOREAN FLIGHT 7

Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas): It's unbelievable. We need to do something.

Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia): The President should call McDonald's wife. Also see attached letter.

Jack Fields (R-Texas): What are the facts? Don't know what to say. How could this happen?

Trent Lott (R-Mississippi): Leaning toward marine pull out in Lebanon. Has Tuesday meeting with Begin. Needs briefing before departure. Wants to know if Congress is coming back early.

Dan Mica (D-Florida): Opposes military action but would like to see much stronger action than a simple protest and slap on the wrist.

Henry Hyde (R-Illinois): Wait for a response from the Soviets, let the U.N. Try to justify its existence, which it won't, then impose tough economic sanctions.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1983

MEETING WITH BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

DATE: Sunday, September 4, 1983

LOCATION: The Cabinet Room

TIME: 10:00 a.m. (90 minutes)

FROM: KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN *Ker D.*

I. PURPOSE

To brief and discuss with the key bipartisan congressional leadership foreign policy/national security developments in two areas: the Korean airliner incident and the situation in Lebanon.

II. BACKGROUND

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at 9:30 a.m. in the Oval Office.

This meeting affords the opportunity to brief the leadership on the current situation with respect to the Soviet's shooting down of the Korean airliner and the involvement of U. S. troops in Lebanon.

With respect to the Korean airliner incident, the President met with the National Security Planning Group on September 2 to discuss this incident and possible international responses.

With respect to Lebanon, Congress has become increasingly concerned about the presence of U. S. troops in Lebanon. Bud McFarlane has returned from the region and will provide an up-to-date briefing on the situation. Calls have been made by some members of Congress for the President to report to Congress under Section 4 (a) (1) of the War Powers Resolution. That provision would require reporting to Congress because U. S. forces are involved in or face "imminent hostilities." Subsequent to such a report, U. S. forces would have to be withdrawn within 60 days unless Congress specifically enacts legislation allowing them to remain.

On August 30th, the President provided a report to Congress on the situation in Lebanon stating that the report was consistent with Section 4 of the War Powers Resolution, while specifically avoiding mention of Section 4 (a)(1).

Senator Baker and others believe that pressure will quickly build in Congress for a vote on allowing continued deployment of U. S. forces in Lebanon. This could lead to an Executive-Legislative confrontation over the constitutionality of Section 4 (a)(1) and this will in all likelihood be a subject of discussion at this meeting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See Attachment A

IV: PRESS PLAN

White House photographer and press pool photographers at beginning.

V; SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See Attachment B

Attachments: List of Participants (A)
Sequence of Events (B)
Talking Points (C)

*BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP
PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President

Secretary of State, George Shultz
Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger
Attorney General, William French Smith
Director of CIA, Bill Casey
Director of OMB, Dave Stockman
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, John Vessey
Ambassador Robert McFarlane

SENATE

Howard Baker, Majority Leader of the Senate
Robert Byrd, Minority Leader of the Senate
Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of Senate

HOUSE

Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Speaker of the House
Jim Wright, Majority Leader of the House
Bob Michel, Republican Leader of the House

STAFF

Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver
Bill Clark
Ken Duberstein
Dave Gergen
Larry Speakes
Dick Darman
Fred Fielding
Pam Turner

*Principals only - no substitutes

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

DEAVER, MICHAEL: FILES

Withdrawer

SMF 1/15/2009

File Folder

KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT SEPTEMBER 1983 (1)

FOIA

F2002-088

EBIN

Box Number

8606

5

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restrictions</i>
61590	LIST AGENDA	1	ND	B1 B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

DEAVER, MICHAEL: FILES

Withdrawer

SMF 1/15/2009

File Folder

KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT SEPTEMBER 1983 (1)

FOIA

F2002-088

EBIN

Box Number

8606

5

ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
61591	TALKING POINTS ON KOREAN PLANE	2	ND	B1 B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

TALKING POINTS ON LEBANON

--- Now let us turn to another sensitive matter, the situation in Lebanon. We recognize that this may not be as sensational or dramatic as the Korean plane incident but vital U.S. interests are at stake. We are at a critical point in trying to help re-establish peace in that troubled, but important, area. For the U.S. to turn tail at this juncture would be a grave mistake.

--- Our objectives in Lebanon, ever since the fighting ended last summer, have been to help the Lebanese re-establish their independence, regain control over their territory, and bring about the departure of all foreign forces -- while achieving security for Israel's northern border.

--- Syria, egged on by the Soviets, is trying to stir up animosities among the various Lebanese communities, and undermine the Gemayel government.

--- Bud McFarlane has just returned from the region and I want to brief you on the current situation and outlook.

(Bud McFarlane makes remarks)

--- Want to ask for your views on this situation.

--- We need broad bipartisan support for our efforts in Lebanon. Know there is concern in the Congress about the Marine presence in Lebanon and the casualties last week.

--- I'd like your thinking on how to ensure the support we need to help bring peace to that vital region.

(FYI, Mr. President---look first to Howard Baker
for response)