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# SPECIAL REPORT

## Foreign Media Reaction

September 3, 1983

### DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PLANE BY USSR - II

#### Summary

Second day media coverage of the Soviet attack on the South Korean passenger jet emphasized President Reagan's statement that the Kremlin was lying about the facts of the case in response to the Soviet claim the plane was on a spy mission.

The attack was condemned in most of the world's media in extensive and impassioned comment. Many saw it as "a slap in the face" to the peace movement. Conservative De Telegraaf of Amsterdam said the incident "will further open the eyes of the friends of peace who have trouble imagining that they can immediately grasp the hand of those friendly Soviets who are just as afraid as we are."

The Soviet claim was received wryly by many media observers. Paris' conservative Quotidien, for example, noted that "this plane filled with sleepy people was, according to TASS, conducting intelligence operations....Nobody is fooled."

The independent Times of London judged the President's statement as his "toughest anti-Soviet remarks since coming to office." Papers in many countries ran interviews with key government officials expressing shock.

Some speculated as to what level the order to down the airliner was given. A number thought it was "a local decision." Tokyo's moderate Yomiuri said, "If so, we have a frightening situation."

Others such as the Frankfurter Rundschau suggested that the attack reflected "not only the evil character of the Soviets but the fatal automatism of the mechanism of reaction....The persons responsible reacted like mechanical robots..."

Many writers worried about the state of East-West relations in the wake of the tragedy. Dublin's liberal Irish Press said that "relations between Moscow and Washington were bad enough. This will make them worse."

## WESTERN EUROPE

### BRITAIN

#### President Reagan's Statement and Soviet Spy Plan Charge

President Reagan's anger and statement that the downing of the South Korean passenger plane was "a terrorist act" and that the Soviet charge that the KAL Boeing was a spy plane was a lie, dominated heavy coverage of the incident in today's media.

#### "Kremlin Has Twisted Facts"

London headlines today said "U.S. Accuses Russia of Terrorism and Lies--A Spy Plane, Says Moscow, " "Angry Reagan Sends AWACS and F-15s to Search Area" and "Punishment Call at U.N. by Seoul" (Times), "Moscow Admits 'We Fired Tracer Shots,'" "Kremlin Has Twisted Facts--Reagan" and "TASS Regrets Air Deaths But Claims U.S. to Blame" (Guardian), "Russia Admits Shots at Jet--Reagan Sees Advisers on Retaliation for 'Atrocity,'" "U. S. Revulsion and Dismay Over Russian 'Infamy'" and "Kremlin Claims Intrusion Was 'Pre-planned Act'" (Daily Telegraph), "Was Andropov the Target?" (Daily Mail), "Shot Down Jet on Spy Mission Claims Kremlin" and "Lies! Reagan Rages at Kremlin" (Daily Express).

#### "President Reagan's Toughest Remarks Since Taking Office"

The Times' Moscow correspondent today reported, "The Soviet Union yesterday said the South Korean airliner..was being used as a spy plane..."

The paper's Washington correspondent Nicholas Ashford wrote today, "In his toughest anti-Soviet remarks since coming to office, President Reagan yesterday accused the Soviet Union of telling flagrant lies about the Korean airline disaster and cast doubts about Moscow's credibility in future arms reduction negotiations..."

"The President's statement came amid growing speculation that the order to shoot the airliner down had been taken at the highest level in Moscow and not by a junior regional commander..."

In an editorial today, the paper said, "The U.S. Administration is under strong public pressure to retaliate....But it is better to avoid over-reaction in the heat of the moment..."

"Arms control talks must continue since an even higher interest is involved..."

### "Closest Soviets Will Come to Apology"

Today's liberal Guardian ran a report that "the Kremlin late yesterday afternoon issued the closest it may come to an apology for 'the leading circles in the Soviet Union' for the loss of human life which had occurred after the destruction of South Korea's jumbo jet.

"But the same statement distributed by TASS also accused the United States, and especially the CIA, of deliberately allowing the Korean plane to enter Soviet airspace..."

The paper's Washington correspondent Harold Jackson reported that "in the strongest attack he has launched on the Russians since coming to office, Mr. Reagan described their actions as 'barbaric,' 'brutal' and 'atrocities.'"

Another report in the paper said that "the British Government yesterday threw its weight behind American-led demands for full explanations, reparations and punishment for the destruction of plane..."

In an editorial the paper said, "The TASS statement was neither adequate nor convincing..."

### "President Reagan Bristling With Anger"

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph had the report of Washington correspondent Frank Taylor that "President Reagan, bristling with anger ...yesterday accused the Soviet Union of a 'terrorist act' and of flagrantly lying about the tragedy."

In another story the paper said, "Secretary Shultz declared last night that the Kremlin was trying 'elaborately and brazenly' to cover up the fact it had shot down the airliner."

### "Americans Believe Have to Share Planet However Russians Behave"

According to the Financial Times today, "Amid all the emotion, the majority view in America remains that Americans share the same planet with the Russians and have to live with them, however, disgracefully they behave..."

### TASS Statement "As Sickening as It Is Absurd"

In the view of nationalistic Daily Mail today the statement from the Kremlin on the incident was "as sickening as it is absurd, couched in the most poisoned terms of the Soviet propagandists, claiming that the jumbo jet was a Western spy plane. This empty bluster is almost as sickening as the tragedy itself."

"Outrage Is Not Enough!"

The sensationalist Sun declared, "Outrage is not enough. Why should we in the West go on dealing with the Reds as if they were civilized human beings and not barbarians?"

FRANCE

"Reagan Accuses"

In Paris today, headlines included "Reagan to Andropov: What Could Be the Extent of Mutual, Legitimate Discussion With a State Whose Values Permit Such Atrocities?" and "Reagan Accuses!" (Le Matin), "Regan Denounces 'Terrorist Act'--Soviets 'Regret' and Accuse" and "Moscow: Korean Jet Was Spy Plane" (Liberation), "269 Dead (red ink) and Killers Are Free" (Quotidien de Paris) and "269 Spies Aboard?" (Parisien Populaire).

"Now They Have to Cynically Lie"

Conservative Quotidien said today, "Killing was not enough for them. Now they have to cynically lie..."

Pro-Socialist Le Matin remarked, "Thanks to TASS, this story will be horrible to the end, because Moscow, far from apologizing, accuses: the spies are everywhere. This plane, filled with sleepy people was, according to TASS, conducting intelligence operations. Nobody is being fooled..."

Leftist Liberation said, "The Soviets are pleading shared blame: they regret and they accuse....They reverse the thrust of the proof..."

Communist Paper: "American Government Has Furnished No Proof"

Communist Humanite ran headlines such as "Profound Emotion Throughout World" and "Bring Everything to Light--Establish the Truth" over a front-page comment that held, "This affair is one more reason to intensify the fight against the arms race..."

"Thus far, the American Government has furnished no other proof of (the attack) than the recording of what is presented as an exchange of messages between the fighter pilot and his command post..."

"Charges Pit Two Superpowers Face to Face"

Mass appeal Parisien Populaire today said, "This occupation of spying appears at once easy and extremely serious: easy because it is virtually unverifiable, serious because it pits the two super powers against one another face to face..."

WEST GERMANY

"Worldwide Indignation"

Headlines today were "Worldwide Indignation" (West Deutsche Allgemeine), "Attack Condemned as Crime--U.S. Leaders Call for Sanctions Against USSR" (Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger), "Reagan Accuses Moscow of Committing Act of Terror" (General-Anzeiger) and "Washington: Barbarism of Soviet Government--Bonn: Act of Utmost Brutality" (Frankfurter Allgemeine).

"Chancellor Kohl: 'Notorious Act of Extreme Barbarism'"

Bonn's independent General-Anzeiger today reported that Chancellor Kohl condemned the Soviet action as a "notorious act of extreme barbarism" that reflects "unusual coldbloodedness..."

Left-leaning Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich reported that FRG President Karl Carstens, in a telegram to South Korea's president, characterized the incident as an "inhuman assault on civil aviation." The paper said that Social Democratic leader Hans-Jochen Vogel called the attack "depressing and disgusting..."

"This Mean Crime Is So Monstrous..."

Pro-Christian Democratic Bonner Rundschau today had an interview with Minister of State Juergen Moellemann citing him as saying, "This mean crime is so monstrous that it is hard to comment on it adequately..."

"The countries of the Western community must agree in...political consultation on a common course and refrain from presenting their individual national conclusions to the public..."

Bonn's conservative Die Welt observed that now "a Reagan-Andropov meeting seems to be impossible for a long time to come....It may turn out that Andropov does not have his military apparatus under control..."

"Crime Reflects Fatal Automatism of the Mechanism of Reaction"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine held that "the incident is like an ironical exclamation mark after almost a decade of Soviet hubris, a decade of Soviet arms buildup and expansion."

Left-of-center Frankfurter Rundschau said today, "What the killing of 269 people reflects is not only the evil character of the Soviets, but the fatal automatism of the mechanism of reaction. The persons responsible acted like a mechanical apparatus..."

FINLAND

"Since Superpower Did It, It's All the More Shocking"

An editorial in leading Helsingen Sanomat today said, "In the absence of accurate information one has to assume that the United States is right..." The paper declared the attack was "to be condemned as much as earlier similar actions by Bulgarian, Israeli and Rhodesian rebels.

"But since the plane...was shot down by a superpower, the incident is all the more shocking. Superpowers must be able to exercise restraint..."

SWITZERLAND

"American Right Has Found Martyr in Larry McDonald"

Middle-of-the-road Tribune de Geneve ran a correspondent's report from Washington on demonstrations in front of the Soviet embassy. The writer said, "Clearly the American right has found its martyr in the person of Larry McDonald..."

NETHERLANDS

Calvinist Trouw judged today, "No matter what statement the Kremlin comes up with...it will never be acceptable as a rationalization or explanation..."

Conservative De Telegraaf suggested, "The incident will further open the eyes of those friends of peace who have trouble imagining that they can immediately grasp the hand of those friendly Soviets who are just as afraid as we are..."

SPAIN

"Who Is Source of World Tension?"

In Madrid today, conservative ABC said, in an editorial, that "if American fighters had downed a passenger plane of a small nation, what would the world have said? What would the progressive press especially have said?"



"The cries of indignation have been heard from around the world. But it happens that the plane...was brought down by Soviet fighters. This seems to contradict all of the schemes they try to peddle as to the source of tensions in the world."

#### AUSTRIA

##### "Peace Movement Has Received Slap in the Face"

In Vienna today, influential Die Presse ran the statements of political leaders condemning the attack. Independent Kurier said in an editorial, "The international peace movement has received a slap in its face. They say Ronald Reagan is a trigger happy cowboy while the Soviet Union is regarded as an element of peace and level-headedness..."

"This dangerous illusion of the peace demonstrators has now been shot down in coldblood..."

#### IRELAND

##### "Consequences Must Be Guarded Against As They Are Dreaded"

Dublin's liberal Irish Times maintained in an editorial today, "Relations between Moscow and Washington are bad enough. This will make them worse. In a matter of hours, a highly combustible atmosphere has been created, the consequences of which must be guarded against even as they are dreaded..."

#### ICELAND

##### "Soviet System Is Military Machine Suffering Paranoia"

Reykjavik's Dagbladid said yesterday that "the automatic cruelty of the Soviet system lucidly appeared....This mass murder will not be understood unless one realizes the function of the system which lies behind it. This system is not an ordinary society, but a strong, military machine suffering paranoia..."

## EASTERN EUROPE

### YUGOSLAVIA

#### "Too Severe a Punishment"

Belgrade's Politika said today the incident was "an unworldly and unreasonable deed" and the worse setback for East-West relations since the Cuban missile crisis.

The paper said, "Even if the jumbo jet pilot was not precisely on course or did not obey the warnings of the Soviet fighter, it is still to severe a punishment to fulfill its own purpose..."

### HUNGARY

#### "Provocation Sharpening International Atmosphere"

In Budapest today, Nepszabadsag ran a long story on the incident carefully citing TASS as the source.

Magyar Hirlap carried the story on page three under the headline "Provocation Sharpening International Atmosphere: TASS Announcement Concerning the Disappeared Aircraft."

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

### JAPAN

#### "Reagan: 'Barbaric Act'"

Tokyo's NHK, TBS and Fuji television today focused attention on the highlights of President Reagan's statement just before his departure from California and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Lichenstein's speech at the UNSC.

The networks said the President strongly criticized the KAL incident as a "barbaric act" and that he questioned the credibility of the Soviet Union for shooting down the airliner.

NHK television carried a report saying that Mr. Reagan had decided that the KAL incident would be the main topic of next week's talks between Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Gromyko.

### Confusion in the Kremlin?

Today's conservative Sankei said the Soviet Union is continuing its "silence" and that behind this silence appears to be confusion in the Kremlin leadership over the KAL incident.

The paper cited a military source in Tokyo as saying that the Soviet Far East command has the power to take independent combat action without receiving orders from Moscow. The source reportedly believed that the missile-firing order was given without the Kremlin's knowledge.

### "Soviet Secrecy Has Fueled Japanese Anti-Soviet Sentiment"

Moderate Yomiuri stated in an editorial today that "the Soviets should immediately clarify the circumstances of the tragedy and identify the persons responsible.

"It is hard to imagine that the action this time was taken on direct instruction from Moscow's supreme military command. Perhaps the decision was made by a local commander. If so, we have a frightening situation."

The paper added that "the secretive Soviet attitude, including rejection of Japanese searches in the waters where the Korean plane is believed to have crashed, only serves to fuel anti-Soviet feeling among the Japanese people."

### "The Soviets Must Reveal the Truth"

Liberal Asahi of Tokyo said today "we request that the Soviet Government reveal the truth quickly and sincerely in order to avoid escalation of East-West tension and to prevent recurrence of such incidents."

### "We Agree With President Reagan"

Moderate Mainichi wrote: "We demand that the Soviet Union reveal the facts quickly and sincerely and take convincing measures.

"President Reagan has criticized the Soviet action as a barbaric and heinous act. We feel the same way."

HONG KONG

"George Orwell's World Has Arrived"

Today's independent Economic Journal judged that the incident showed that the Soviet Union is "the world's most dangerous player with fire" and that it allowed people to see how the major powers are monitoring each other, indicating that "George Orwell's horrible world (of 1984) has now emerged on the international scene."

The paper went on to state that the United States "is trying to use the incident to tear down the mask of the USSR as a 'peace-lover.'" The effect of the downing of the plane will be a further escalation of U.S. arms expansion and a lessening of criticism against it."

"Actual Sanctions Are Called For"

The pro-Taiwan Hong Kong Times urged that there be substantive sanctions against the USSR because "the Communists only know power and fear reprisals. Empty condemnations do not have much effect on them....It is only with actual sanctions that we can have some sort of deterrence against unscrupulous perpetrators of crime."

INDONESIA

"Reagan Entitled to Self-righteousness"

Today's English-language Jakarta Post described the KAL incident as "evil, plain and simple" and said that President Reagan is now "entitled to some good old God-fearing self-righteousness."

The paper went on to recount the "lame response" offered thus far by the Kremlin and concluded, "We join the rising chorus calling for an international and concerted stance throughout the world community to deplore, condemn, and severely penalize the Soviet Union for this abominable and wretched act."

Strong Direct Action Against USSR Urged

Independent Kompas of the same city said this incident should be followed by strong, direct action against the USSR and suggested "for example, forbidding Aeroflot plans to land at any other airports, and banning docking rights for all Soviet commercial and passenger vessels world-wide."

"If Shultz Is Correct"

Today's nationalistic Indonesian Observer hesitated to put the full blame for the incident on the USSR, saying that "if what was alleged by Mr. George Shultz proves to be correct, then that Soviet jet fighter must be condemned."

MALAYSIA

All media today strongly condemned the Soviet action and cited the Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister's statement on the "unpardonable" and "wanton act of savagery and arrogance," as well as statements by President Reagan, Secretary Shultz and other world leaders.

Call for a "Total Boycott of All Russian Aircraft"

Leading Malay-language Utusan Malaysia wrote in an editorial today: "While waiting for further explanation from the Kremlin about this atrocity perpetrated by their armed forces, the entire world should undertake a total boycott of all Russian aircraft."

"What About the Soviet Spy Sub in Swedish Waters?"

The conservative New Straits Times of Kuala Lumpur remarked today that "Moscow has so easily forgotten (that) its spy submarine ran aground in Swedish waters in a restricted zone. Should Sweden then have, by the same token, fired a missile at the 56 crew members?"

AUSTRALIA

The story remained lead in all media today. Except for one or two isolated articles or commentaries noting that under strictest interpretation the Soviet action was "legal," the tenor of all coverage was condemnatory.

"Secretary Shultz Spoke For Most of the World"

Today's nationally-circulated Australian stressed that "The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz spoke for most of the world's people when he expressed his 'revulsion' and 'grave concern' at this incident of tragic savagery..."

"The incident has added weight to the arguments of those who have warned that the provision by the West of high technology to the Soviet Union is akin to selling them the rope with which they will hang us."

## THAILAND

### "How Callous Can Russia Get?"

Bangkok's leading English-language Nation Review said today in an editorial headed "Air Tragedy: How Callous Can Russia Get?" that "an over-careful, sensitive man like U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would not have flatly accused the Soviet Union of shooting down the Korean airliner unless he had full proof as to how it was shot down..."

"One thing is sure and that is that the nations of this world cannot let this incident pass without taking retaliatory action."

## SOUTH ASIA

### INDIA

The downing of the jet was the lead story in most papers today. Coverage focused on statements by the United States and South Korea. Sidebar stories reported TASS charges that the plane was on a spying mission, and the cautious reaction of the Indian Government to the event.

#### Headline Treatment

Typical headlines today were "U.S. Seeks U.N. Meet on Korean Plane Loss...Moscow Is Lying: Reagan" (Indian Express), "S. Korea Wants Apology and Compensation...U.S.A. Shows Restraint" (Hindustan Times) and "Russia Lying About Crash, Says Reagan" (Times of India).

#### "The Evidence Is Damning"

The lead editorial in today's left-of-center Times of India headed "From Russia By Mistake" said: "The rhetoric of the Americans need not have been taken seriously in different circumstances. But in this case the evidence is damning, if not for Moscow, at least for a set of unduly tense and incredibly rash pilots of the Soviet Air Force..."

"Moscow must offer an unqualified apology and adequate compensation for the bereaved. Its silence adds to the crime of its commander."

"The Reagan Administration may well be trying to get the maximum possible proganda advantage out of this tragedy. But that is no reason why Moscow should not frankly own up to the crime."

### "Soviet Authorities Owe An Explanation"

An editorial in the Chandigarh Tribune maintained today that the incident "was an avoidable embarrassment, certain to be exploited to the full by the United States. The Soviet authorities owe an explanation to the moral conscience of the world.

### SRI LANKA

### "The Soviets' Monumental Indifference"

Today's Island of Colombo said the "unprovoked and mystery-ridden shooting down by the Soviet Union of (the South Korean plane) is an act of outrage that is hard to beat even in these times of all-pervasive terrorism and defiance of all accepted social norms.

"What is double shocking about the whole tragic episode is the monumental indifference shown by Soviet officialdom...and the Orwellian blanket of obfuscation which the Soviet authorities seem intent on throwing over the whole issue."

### BANGLADESH

### "Soviets Admit Warning Shot"

Dhaka's independent Ittefaq headlined today "Moscow Admits Warning Fire on South Korean Airliner." Sister New Nation said "Soviets Admit Warning Shot."

The latter paper frontpaged several stories on the incident included one headed "A Great Crime Against Humanity."

### PAKISTAN

### "USSR Admits Firing Missiles"

Media today gave prominent play to the incident, highlighting the Reagan and Shultz condemnation of the incident, the calling of the UNSC meeting and the reaction of world leaders. Media reports also carried the Soviet version of the event. There was no editorial comment as yet.

## MIDDLE EAST

### JORDAN

#### "KAL Plane Creates Serious International Crisis"

Electronic and print media today gave straight reporting of the incident with no comment. A typical banner head over a wire service story was "Korean Plane Creates Serious International Crisis."

### KUWAIT

Independent, pro-Palestinian al-Watan today summed up in its headline "Reagan: The Soviets Are Liars, An Ugly Crime" and "Moscow: Korean Plane Was Spying."

The English-language Kuwait Times said today that "the Soviet Government would be well advised to tell the whole truth to an extremely worried world, and without losing any time, offer to make amends in a convincingly comprehensive manner."

It finished, however, by reminding its readers of the incident involving the Israeli shooting down of a Libyan jetliner in 1973. It said, "That incident was discussed in the Security Council and--let it not be forgotten tonight--it was the United States that applied an angry veto to shoot down a resolution which sought to blame the Israelis."

### BAHRAIN

#### "Russia's Psychosis Has Been Underlined"

Today's independent Gulf Daily News stated that the incident "has underlined Russia's acute psychosis about national security and an almost obsessive fear of imminent attack....The Soviet Government cannot avoid responsibility for one of the most outrageous violations of civilized behavior in recent years."



## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### MEXICO

Headlines in Mexico today included "World-wide Condemnation of Soviet Union for Shooting Down South Korean Plane" (Excelsior), "Reagan Calls Moscow Liar and Terrorist; Soviet Union Replies, 'Dirty Anti-Sovietism,'" (El Dia), "Mankind Condemns Attack on Defenseless Commercial Plane" (El Heraldillo de Mexico) and "Reagan Charges Soviet Union as Terrorist" (El Sol de Mexico).

#### "Western Nations Should Unanimously Break Relations with Soviets"

Conservative El Heraldillo de Mexico in an editorial today said, "It is necessary that this sinister, criminal act cause such a reaction in all Western nations that they unanimously, without waiting for U.N. red tape, break relations with the (Soviet) assassin empire...reject any relationship or contact with it until it is forced to abide by the rules of the civilized world."

#### "Irresponsible Contempt for Human Life"

Nationalistic El Universal in an editorial today, "TASS has made a suggestion which apparently belongs to the fantasy of the worse spy novel--that the plane was on a spy mission...."

"However, everything indicates that the Soviets fired against a defenseless civilian aircraft. That would only be justified in cases of extreme belligerence, which is not the case here. Regardless of Soviet allegations that technically it had the right to do what it did, nothing justifies such irresponsible contempt for human life."

Papers reported a statement by the Foreign Ministry that "the Mexican Government regrets deeply the loss of human lives caused by this incident, at the same time it feels it an exhaustive and impartial investigation is necessary because, if it were confirmed that the airline was shot down, we would be witnessing a completely condemnable action, a grave violation of international law and an attempt against the security of air communication."

#### Soviet Ambassador Claims South Korean Pilot Responsible

Moderate Novedades today reported Soviet Ambassador Rostislav Sergueev regretted the incident because of the loss of the life. However, the paper added, he emphasized that the person responsible for the incident was the pilot of the South Korean aircraft.

Yesterday the Soviet ambassador was quoted by nationalistic El Universal as claiming that the incident "does not endanger world peace" and that this is the second time a South Korean plane has violated Soviet territory "disregarding clear directions and signals."

"Without Trying to Judge Who Is Responsible, Loss of Lives Regrettable"

Leftist-nationalist Unomasuno in an editorial yesterday admitted "the seriousness of the incident....Without trying to judge who is responsible the loss of lives certainly is regrettable..."

"Comdemnable to Use This Tragedy Immorally As Political Weapon"

Marxist-oriented El Dia yesterday characterized the incident as "more than regrettable" and noted that "if, as Western sources say, the plane was shot down by the USSR, we would face one of the most flagrant acts of intemperance provoked by the current climate of East-West tensions. If, on the contrary, it only was a regrettable accident, it is also as equally condemnable to use this tragedy immorally as a political weapon."

BRAZIL

"Deserves Repugnance and Condemnation"

The shooting down of the South Korean civilian airliner was prominently played yesterday by Brasilia's three dailies.

Headlines included "USSR Shoots Down Korean Civilian Airliner" "(Soviet) Military Plane Received Order to Shoot the Airliner" "U.S. Heard Everything Before the Tragedy" "USSR's Explanations Do Not Convince US." (pro-Government Correio Braziliense), "Brazil Repudiates Soviet Action" (independent Jornal de Brasilia) and "Soviet Military Plane Shoots Down Korean Airliner With 269 Aboard" (independent Ultima Hora de Brasilia).

Jornal de Brasilia quoted Brazilian Foreign Minister Guerreiro that the shooting was an "extremely serious fact" which deserves "repugnance and condemnation."

"Shultz Does Not Know What He Is Talking About"

In Sao Paulo, radio news programs yesterday stressed the protest against the Soviet Union released Thursday night by the Foreign Ministry. Under the banner headline, "USSR Shoots Down Jumbo and Kills 269," O Estado de Sao Paulo devoted the upper half of its front page to the incident. Folha de Sao Paulo gave third of front page, headlined "USSR Shoots Down South Korean Jumbo, Kills 269."

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo ran columns by New York and Paris commentators. Paulo Francis, writing from New York, said, "It was a Soviet act of barbarism....In the USSR, these things are always decided at the highest levels. The crime came from above. In order to change this perception it would have been necessary for Shultz to have bluffed us. I do not believe that.

"The shooting down of the plane is legal. Shultz says it is not. He does not know what he is talking about or it is his demagoguery. An invader plane of an air space must land if it is intercepted by the invaded. It maybe shot down in the case of a refusal...

"But a civilized nation does not shoot down passenger planes...It is an act of unjustifiable violence. It is the typical product of Soviet paranoia and of our time....It strengthened Reagan and weakened Andropov."

#### "Sympton of Excessive Nervousness of Soviet Military"

Claudio Abramo, writing from Paris, said, "The crime committed against a defenseless plane will have more serious consequences for the USSR than he invasion of Afghanistan and the direct intervention in Poland. It is a symptom of the excessive nervousness of the Soviet military command and reveals a profound tension and latent instability."

#### "There Is No Justification"

In an editorial headed "Brutality and Stupidity," Folha said, "There is no justification for the extreme measure of the attack and the shooting down of a civilian plane, particularly in peacetime. It is difficult to know which is the more deplorable aspect in this episode: the brutaltiy with which almost 300 lives were eliminated or the cold war stupidity which leads those responsible for the scurity of a superpower to perceive enemy ghosts even in a peaceful passenger plane."

### COLOMBIA

#### "Incredulity Turned Into Indignation and Horror"

Headlines in Bogota yesterday included "Russians Down a Commercial Airliner" (El Tiempo), "Cowardly Soviet Massacre" (El Espectador), "Soviet Fighters Knock Down a Korean Plane With 269 Persons" (El Siglo) and "World-wide Consternation Over the Russian 'Massacre'" (La Republica).

## VENEZUELA

Papers throughout the country yesterday carried the incident as a front-page lead story. Coverage was limited to wire service dispatches. Headlines included "U.S. Demands Soviets Explain Attack on Jet (The Daily Journal), "Red Alert 44 Years from WW II, Moscow Does Not Answer Washington" (Ultimas Noticias) and "Reagan Seeks Explanation from Moscow for Destruction of South Korean Airplane: 269 Passengers and Crew Dead" (El Nacional). There were no editorial commentary or statements by public officials.

Radio and TV coverage was extensive. TV reports generally stressed that there was great consternation in governmental and public sectors in the United States.

## PERU

### "Transgression Incites World Tension"

Media registered shock and harsh condemnation of the Soviet action. Wide-circulation pro-Government Expresso headlined: "Transgression Incites World Tension; US. Calls Act 'Repulsive and Inexcusable,'" and the mass circulation tabloid Extra had "World Indignation over USSR Criminal Attack."

Exception to this type of condemnation of the Soviet action came from pro-Communist Diario de Marka which buried the story on page 12 under the headline "South Korean Plane With 269 Passengers Has Not Appeared."

## ECUADOR

### "Ecuador Rejects the Soviet Union"

Newspapers in Quito and Guayaquil yesterday gave front-page coverage to wire service stories. Independent-liberal Hoy's headline stressed "World Tension Over the Attack."

Conservative El Tiempo, in an article headlined "Ecuador Rejects the Soviet Union," quoted Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia as saying that "no type of argument can serve as justification for the attack on a commercial aircraft whose exclusive function is the transport of passengers, even if it was following a mistaken route or was lost."

## SOUTHERN CONE

Newspapers in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay gave front-page coverage to wire service stories. There were no comments except in Asuncion.

### PARAGUAY

#### "Deserves the Label of 'Repulsive and Inexcusable'"

Major circulation ABC Color of Asuncion in an editorial yesterday described the act as "coolly deliberated. Under these terms we are, therefore, and without any doubts, facing a cruel act of war done while at peace. The additional circumstances that it was done to a commercial airliner incapable of defending itself, make it a criminal act...that well deserves the label of 'repulsive and inexcusable' given by Mr. SHultz."

Second largest circulation Hoy noted that "these innocent dead...will sleep in an unknown tomb without the statements of even one of these groups which specialize in weakening democracy saying one word. But this silence is also eloquent...and will make people think."

Tribuna in a front-page comment said, "Mankind, frightened by an act that reveals such abominable wickedness, cannot escape the consternation provoked by such an act of incredible bellicosity in peace time."

### CHILE

#### "Such Instances as This Make Us Fear For Tomorrow"

Chilean TV and radio commentators condemned the Soviet attack. Santiago's Channel 13 in an international news commentary on Thursday night asserted that "the fact that the Soviet Union should have shot down an unarmed commercial plane with 269 people aboard is, in itself, deplorable. However, what makes it particularly condemnable is that it was not a question of a Soviet missile fired by mistake against an unidentified target.

"Quite the opposite...they knew perfectly well that it was unarmed non-military aircraft and, in spite of this, they fired a missile against it....Such instances as this make us fear for tomorrow..."

COSTA RICA

"We Do Not Remember a Subhuman Act of Similar Magnitude"

Leading La Nacion of San Jose in an editorial yesterday said, "We do not remember in recent history a subhuman act of similar magnitude; a sign so evident of the disregard for human life, an arbitrariness so naked. Everyone--governments, organizations and citizens ought to raise their voices in condemnation."

La Republica in an editorial wrote, "All humanity, including the Soviet people, have to react with indignation and horror in the face of this savage act, and ought to be pained to the core of their being that there is an attempt to hid the crime committed, denying the facts and eluding the punishment that its authors deserve."

PANAMA

"More Likely It Was a Local Decision"

Opposition La Prensa yesterday ran a commentator by the writer Guillermo Sanchez who said, "I do not think Soviet leaders ordered the attack on the Korean aircraft. It is more likely that it was a local decision."

NICARAGUA

"The United States Made a "Strange Complaint"

Sandinista TV news totally ignored the incident on Thursday evening. Pro-Government Barricada and El Nuevo Diario yesterday gave low-key coverage featuring a TASS report.

FSLN organ Barricada, in a locally-written lead, said that events surrounding the incident were still "unclear," but that the United States had made a "strange complaint" which seemed the "artificial creation" of a doubtful diplomatic incident.

Papers in El Salvador and Honduras ran front-page headlines over the story. There has been no editorial comment to date.

# SPECIAL REPORT

# Foreign Media Reaction

September 4, 1983

## DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER JET - III

### Summary

President Reagan's radio talk was widely covered in the third day of voluminous, worldwide media attention to the Soviet downing of South Korea's Boeing 747.

On the basis of the President's remarks, media speculated on what actions the United States might take against the Soviet Union. West German TV One's Washington correspondent said, "The Americans do not want to use economic pressure against the Soviets. And many insisted, as did the London Sunday Telegraph, that INF "talks have to go ahead for the sake of those that live on both sides of the iron curtain."

Even though editorialists in all parts of the world complained about the Soviet's lack of candor over the incident, they expected that, as liberal Le Monde of Paris said today, "Moscow, little by little, crumb by crumb" will admit new facts.

Observers challenged the credibility of the Soviet Union over the incident. Copenhagen's conservative Berlingske Tidende said, "The Soviet Union, in just a few hours, has succeeded in tearing down its own credibility."

It was suggested by others that Soviet leader Andropov may have "lost control" of the Soviet military, and cannot "admit the facts" without a confrontation with his military leaders. Some such as Oslo's conservative Aftenposten went so far as to say that "it looks as if the (Soviet) political leaders are mere figureheads."

Editorialists in widely separated capitals as Athens and Suva agreed with today's London Observer that "in many quarters there seemed to be a greater concern for exploiting the disaster for propaganda purposes than for establishing the actual details of what occurred."

## WESTERN EUROPE

### BRITAIN

#### President Reagan's Rage and International Outrage

Third-day coverage of the downing of a South Korean passenger jet continued to dominate front pages with emphasis on President Reagan's anger and international outrage.

#### "Fury Mounts"

Headlines today were "U.S. Names Guilty Soviet General" (Sunday Times), "Reagan Hits at Soviet 'Murderers'" (Observer), "Fury Mounts Over Plane Shot Down by Russians--Ready-to-Obey Signal Was Ignored" and "Reagan Studies Options" (Sunday Telegraph), "Thatcher Poised to Back Call for NATO Boycott--Reagan's Red Air Ban Worldwide" (Sunday Mail), "Proof Jet Was Not Spying" (Sunday Mirror) and "Outraged Reagan Demands: Tell Us the Truth--Come Clean, Andropov" (Sunday Express).

#### "Americans Named Soviet General"

Correspondents for the Sunday Times reported, "The Americans yesterday named the Soviet General who, they believe, would have given the final order to shoot down (the plane) in a move which gave the public a rare glimpse into a highly secret and sophisticated area of U.S. intelligence..."

An editorial in the same paper said, "Shock, revulsion and grief can be the only proper responses to the deaths of the...airline passengers and crew..."

"In our view...the scattershot approach in reacting is both ineffectual and beside the point. It would be far better to find something that will at the same time demonstrate the depth of Western feeling, inflict penalties that will particularly affect the ruling classes in the USSR, and in the end, produce substantial compensation for the victims..."

#### "Greater Concern for Exploiting...Than Determining Details"

Today's Observer said, "President Reagan, angry at what he said were 'flagrant Soviet lies' about the shooting down (of the plane), yesterday accused the Russians of 'murder.' Around the world, angry protests and demonstrations about the Soviet action continued..."

An editorial said, "In many quarters there seemed to be a greater concern for exploiting the disaster for propaganda purposes than for establishing the actual details of what occurred..."



"Moscow Accused Reagan of 'Hypocritical Sorrow'"

The conservative Sunday Telegraph reported that "just before it was shot down, the (plane) tried to signal that it would comply with Soviet interception procedures, according to fragments of monitored communications analyzed in Washington..."

A Moscow correspondent for the paper reported, "Moscow accused President Reagan last night of expressing 'hypocritical sorrow' over the loss..."

An editorial held, "Western statesmen would be naive if they did not do all in their power to press home the moral of this crime...to everyone who can listen..."

"(But) even if conducted in a frostier atmosphere...(nuclear missile) talks have to go ahead for the sake of those who live on both sides of the iron curtain."

"Incident Was Not a Sudden Aberration"

Today's nationalistic Mail maintained, in an editorial, that "the most terrible thing about (the incident) is that it was not a sudden aberration or a tragic mistake. It was an absolutely typical act of ruthlessness..."

"It Will Be a Long Time Before Outrage Subsides"

The Sunday Express editorial held that "it will be a long time before the worldwide outrage and revulsion at the Soviet Union's coldblooded destruction of a Korean jumbo jet filled with innocent men, women and children, begins to subside..."

FRANCE

"Little by Little...Moscow Admits the Facts"

In Paris, liberal Le Monde's Sunday edition ran a front-page story that "nothing can better prove the fundamental culpability of the USSR...than the way in which Moscow, little by little, crumb by crumb, admits (new facts)..."

WEST GERMANY

Television newscasts last night featured film footage of demonstrations against the Soviet Union in New York, Seoul and Tokyo.

"President Reagan Will Announce Countermeasures Sunday"

Washington correspondent Dieter Kronzucker observed on TV Two last night that "President Reagan feels that these events simply prove his negative assessment of the USSR.

"Reagan will announce (Sunday) U.S. countermeasures....Secretary of State Shultz will travel to Madrid next week. It is expected that he will question intensely Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on this issue. The Madrid negotiations are just of secondary importance in light of these new developments."

"Moscow Says All This is Anti-Soviet U.S. Plot"

The news show had a report from Moscow that "the Soviets have made clear that all this is an anti-Soviet U.S. plot. The CIA is accused of being responsible. The Soviets should perhaps reconsider because trust and confidence will be important elements for negotiations in Madrid and Geneva."

"Secretary Shultz Repeated 'Tell the Truth'"

TV One's Washington correspondent Cornelius Bormann, said in a main newscast last night that "President Reagan met with the National Security Council to decide on U.S. reactions...

"Landing rights of Soviet airplanes may be limited. The grain agreement does not seem to be an effective instrument of applying political pressure.

"Secretary Shultz has once again demanded a complete uncovering of the events and that the USSR should 'tell the truth.'....President Reagan made clear that Soviet and Cuban airplanes have, in the past, violated U.S. airspace without the United States resorting to military counter measures."

"Americans Do Not Want to Use Economic Pressure"

In a later broadcast, the same correspondent said, "The Americans do not want to use economic pressure against the Soviets. The Geneva talks are to be continued. Secretary Shultz demanded that the Soviets should 'tell the truth.'

## ITALY

Italian headlines yesterday included "White House Begins Debate on Credibility of USSR" (Corriere della Sera), "Incredible Version of Soviets on Korean Civil Air Tragedy" (La Repubblica), "U.S. Does Not Exclude Recourse to Retaliation Against USSR" (La Stampa) and "Between U.S. and USSR--Charges and Tension. Moscow Talks of Provocation But Not Proofs. Reagan: Soviets Are No longer Credible" (Communist l'Unita).

### "Can Andropov Admit Facts Without Confrontation With Military?"

New York correspondent Ugo Stille said in yesterday's centrist Corriere della Sera that "In the view of the Americans the only satisfactory way out would be for the USSR to frankly admit its error and attribute the responsibility to a 'low-level military command'...

"But can Andropov do this without risking the opening of a state of tension and confrontation with Soviet military leaders?"

### "Cancelling Geneva Talks Would Cause Difficulty for Europeans"

Leftist La Repubblica of Rome ran the report of New York correspondent Gaetano Scardocchia that "Diplomats (in Washington) have let it be known that--other than recourse to the U.N. Security Council and the cancellation of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting, the White House is gauging other countermeasures....But not the Geneva talks since such a decision would place in difficulty European countries hosting American missiles..."

### "Almost Certain Reagan Will Decree Sanctions"

Turin's centrist La Stampa yesterday ran New York correspondent Ennio Caretto's story that "it is almost certain that President Reagan will decree new sanctions against the Soviets. His problem is to choose a line that doesn't compromise the newly initiated 'detente' that has just begun after two and a half years..."

### "We Must Continue to Talk"

Left-leaning Il Messagero of Rome declared, in a front-page editorial that "we must continue to talk....The tragedy...must give more force, not to those movements--generous but utopian--for unilateral disarmament of the West, but instead to mass movements that press for dialogue, for talks, incessantly, until the seeds of an authentic pacifism are planted..."

## FINLAND

### "U.S. Considers Sanctions"

Headlines today were "Reagan Insists on Soviet Explanation--Plans for Sanctions" (Helsingen Sanomat), "U.S. Considers Sanctions--Soviets Admit No Guilt" (Hufvudstadsbladet) and "Soviet Explanation Does Not Satisfy West" (Uusi Suomi).

### "Outburst of Emotion Around the World"

Finnish television last night showed films of demonstrations against the Soviet Union in Japan, South Korea and the United States. A commentator noted "the outburst of emotion around the world" and concluded that "in the end this incident will be recorded as a propaganda defeat for the Soviet Union."

## SWEDEN

### "Can Expect U.S. to Take Measures"

Stockholm's independent Dagens Nyheter said today, "One can expect the United States to take measures against the Soviet Union--excluding an economic embargo or breaking off the INF talks. This sudden crisis is severe enough..."

Conservative Dagbladet said, "The results of Moscow's brainy efforts over the past few days are extremely poor and will be only accepted in those circles which always uncritically swallow everything served up by Soviet propaganda..."

## DENMARK

### "Soviet Union Tore Down Its Own Credibility"

Copenhagen's conservative Berlingske Tidende said in an editorial today that "the deed itself reveals the Soviet military might for what it is--an inhuman, stupid, callous machine which, without second thought or evaluation, wipes out human lives according to orders..."

"The Soviet Union has succeeded in a few hours to tear down its own credibility..."

"No Reason to Change Position on Negotiating With Soviets"

Left-of-center Politiken held today that "the order was hardly given by responsible political leaders....The decision was probably made in some other place in the military hierarchy..."

"(But) as we were willing to negotiate with Moscow before this episode, there is no reason to change that position today..."

NORWAY

"Must Have Been Isolated Military Decision"

In Oslo yesterday, conservative Aftenposten said, "We must presume that the Kremlin leaders would have said no to shooting down the plane, which means it must have been an isolated military decision."

"But if the military, acting on their wits, has free hands to complicate and strain Soviet relations with the rest of the world, then it looks as if the political leaders are mere figure heads..."

PORTUGAL

"Act Springs From Despotism"

Lisbon's conservative O Dia maintained in an editorial today that "the crime is proof of the blindness and barbarism of a system which, ironically is promoting the celebrations for 'world peace day.'"

An editorial in the popular weekly Expresso called the incident "an act, doubtlessly, which springs from the despotism of someone who believes he is powerful enough to impose his will against everything and everyone, especially smaller countries..."

Centrist Correio da Manha today ran the headline "Russians Already Have Found Wreckage." A story in the paper cited the President of Portugal as "strongly condemning the way which an air space violation was solved, involving the loss of human lives..."

A box on the front-page gave an account of the "confrontation" between the United States and the Soviet Union at the United Nations.

## AUSTRIA

### "Demonstrators Will Now Perhaps Pause and Think"

In Vienna today, independent tabloid Kronen-Zeitung declared, "With their peace propaganda, the Soviets have succeeded of late in influencing some unstable minds in the West..."

"Those demonstrators who are sincerely for peace will now perhaps pause and think whether they can reconcile it with their conscience to take action, together with young Socialists and Communists, to protest mainly against the United States, as if the envisaged American INF modernization were the main evil..."

## GREECE

### "U.S. Propaganda Exploitation...and Clumsy Soviet Handling"

Athens' prestigious, pro-Government Vima ran the headline "Reagan Will Announce No Reprisals or Boycotts Against Russians for Destroying Boeing" and stated, "U.S. propaganda exploitation of the tragedy continues and is reinforced by clumsy handling of the issue by the Soviet Union..."

A New York correspondent wrote in a separate story that "cancellation of the Reagan-Andropov meeting...may be the most serious consequence of the downing of the plane. This will be particularly painful to Europeans many of whom have pinned their hopes on this meeting..."

## TURKEY

### "Moscow's Explanations Unsatisfactory"

Istanbul's liberal Milliyet had the headlines "Soviets Will Fire Upon Japanese Ships Entering Their Territorial Waters," "Moscow's Explanations Unsatisfactory" and "Soviets Announce Finding Debris of Downed Airliner But Do Not Give Detailed Explanation," "Ban on Demonstrations Lifted in South Korea--People Are Burning Soviet Flags in the Streets."

Sensationalist Gunaydin today announced, "A Law Suit Opened Against Soviets for \$99 Billion."

## EASTERN EUROPE

### HUNGARY

#### "Exercise to Stir Up Anti-Soviet Hysteria"

Leading papers in Budapest today carried stories on the U.N. Security Council meeting and identical TASS stories on the incident. The U.N. stories cited the Soviet ambassador as saying the entire event was a "propaganda exercise" to "stir up anti-Soviet hysteria."

### YUGOSLAVIA

#### "Americans Looking for Full Confession and Repentence"

Belgrade's Politika today carried Washington correspondent Jurij Gustinic's report that "the Americans are obviously looking for something that is at least probably to happen--full confession and repentence..."

### SOVIET UNION

#### "Washington Mounting Worldwide Rabid Anti-Soviet Campaign"

In Moscow yesterday TASS declared, "Washington is feverishly covering up traces of the provocation staged against the Soviet Union with the utilization of the South Korean plane..."

"The White House and the Department of State are mounting a worldwide rabid anti-Soviet campaign, the tone first set by the U.S. President. In his statements, permeated with frenzied hatred and malice for the Soviet state...the head of the White House is trying to convince public opinion that the USSR allegedly is guilt of loss of life..."

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

### JAPAN

#### Coverage of Reagan Radio Speech

Tokyo's NHK, TBS and Fuji television today ran reports from Washington on President Reagan's radio speech, citing him as demanding an apology from the USSR. However, they saw indications that the United States would continue the nuclear disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

Moderate Yomiuri and Mainichi carried brief highlights of the radio speech.

#### Foreign Ministry "Not" Considering Application of Sanctions Against USSR

Today's liberal Asahi reported that the Japanese Foreign Ministry was not considering application of sanctions against the Soviet Union because the KAL incident, unlike the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, was a "passing event."

The paper added that the Foreign Ministry intends to await a Soviet clarification of the incident and of the problem of conducting search operations in Soviet territorial waters, but that it would take further diplomatic steps if the Soviets continued their "insincere" stand.

#### Predictions of What the U.S. Will Do

Washington correspondent Kishii of Mainichi today cited a U.S. Government source as saying the United States would demand a definite commitment from Andropov and other Soviet leaders on the safety of civilian planes.

The paper believed that this country would call for 1) prevention of armed threats and attacks on civilian planes and ships, and 2) guarantee of safe international navigation of airliners and ships.

#### "Preposterous Soviet Statement"

An editorial in today's Yomiuri termed the Soviet statement on the KAL plane "quite preposterous" and observed that the USSR "continues to plead innocent although Japan and the United States reportedly have detailed information on Soviet communications around the time the Korean plane was shot.

"Our main concern is the poor administrative ability of the Andropov regime in handling a crisis....If the Andropov Government has lost control of Soviet military leaders, we cannot fail but to look with apprehension toward the Soviet Union even if a hot line and other systems of mutual trust are provided."



## SOUTH KOREA

### "ROK Demands That Soviets Present Full Account"

Papers, as reported in a press roundup today, emphasized the world's anger at the Soviet act, and ran pictures of South Koreans demonstrating in Seoul, denouncing the Soviets and burning the Soviet flag.

All papers yesterday top-headlined the UNSC meeting with typical headlines reading: "South Korea Demands That USSR Present Full Account of Incident, and Apologize to the World for Their Act, Make Compensation, and Punish Those Who Are Directly Responsible For the Incident."

### U.S. to Present a Resolution at UNSC

Today's Government-owned Seoul Shinmun ran wire reports stating that the United States would submit to the UNSC next week a resolution denouncing the barbarous act of the USSR.

### "Provocation Was Premeditated"

An editorial in yesterday's Chosun Ilbo contended that "it is evident the provocation was premeditated either to test the United States or to intimidate Japan. The most important thing, however, is why (the Soviets) victimize a small and weak nation. We are positive that they would not shoot down JAL or Northwest Airlines..."

"We have realized the so-called 'northern policy' or detente is a fantasy and that it is high time for us to see clearly where we stand, distinguishing enemies from friends."

### "Soviet Brutality a Strong Warning For Japan"

Yesterday's Hankook Ilbo said: "We expect the Soviet brutality will be a strong warning to Japan in particular for her 'free ride in security' (and that) it might constitute a serious challenge to the status quo on the Korean peninsula and in the world."

## HONG KONG

### Letter From Heartbroken Girl to Andropov

Today's independent South China Morning Post led its front page with a report that Man-Yee, "a heartbroken nine-year-old girl, whose best friend died in the Korean Airlines disaster, has written to the Soviet leader, Mr. Yuri Andropov, asking why (the friend) had to be killed."

"Man-yeo has also begged for permission to visit the Sakhalin Island area where the plane went down....She, like many others around the world, said she wanted an explanation from the Soviet leader and that she wanted to write to him.

"The child's act was inspired by a letter written to Mr. Andropov earlier this year by an 11-year-old American schoolgirl, Samantha Smith, who made a personal plea for peace."

#### SINGAPORE

##### "Senseless and Savage"

The Sunday Times carried comments by Singapore Foreign Minister Dhanabalan on the downing of the KAL plane under the front-page headline "Senseless and Savage" with the subhead "Soviet Act Shows Careless Disregard for Human Life and the Norms of Civilized Behavior..."

#### FIJI

##### "Anti-Soviet Propaganda and Soviet Counter-accusations"

Suva's Sunday Times saw "some Western Governments milking this dreadful incident for all it is worth in terms of anti-Soviet propaganda and the Soviets responding with counter-accusations instead of the explanations which are so desperately needed."

#### CHINA

##### "Soviets' Concealing Things Inflames International Outrage"

Today's People's Daily carried a "newsletter from America" by correspondent Zhang Yunwen which said "the Soviet Union's effrontery in shooting down a Korean Airlines passenger plane immediately caused a tremendous shock here and on the international scene."

"The Soviet Union's behavior in concealing things in every possible way, not daring to face the facts, can only further inflame international outrage. Governments and public opinion in every country have confirmed and condemned the Soviet Union's shooting down of the South Korean airliner."

## SOUTH ASIA

### INDIA

#### "USSR Under Fire in U.N. Council"

Typical front-page headlines in papers today were "USSR Under Fire in U.N. Council" (Indian Express), "Travel Curbs by West on Soviets Likely" (Times of India), and "Russia Denounced in U.N. Council...U.N. Council Deplores Soviet Action" (Statesman).

#### "Soviets Are Guilty of Duplicity"

The latter paper said today in an editorial headed "An Unforgivable Act" that "it would appear that (the Soviets) are guilty not merely of a monstrous crime against unarmed civilians, but also of duplicity..."

"On Friday, New Delhi, apparently taking the first statement at its face value, expressed the hope that 'it is not true that the plane was shot down'. (Now) there is no longer any room for equivocation of anyone's part."

"All possible international pressure must be brought upon Moscow to acknowledge direct and full responsibility for the brutal massacre."

The paper added the view that "the Russians will now be on much weaker ground in criticizing the Reagan Administration's militaristic postures in Central America or elsewhere."

### PAKISTAN

#### "Pakistan Expresses Deep Anxiety Over Incident"

Today's Government-owned Pakistan Times bannered "Pakistan Expresses Deep Anxiety Over Plane Shooting...Call to Facilitate Impartial Inquiry Reagan May Announce Punitive Action...USSR Fails to Offer Apology."

An editorial in influential Nawai-Waqt said today that "even if for the sake of argument we accept the Soviet plea that the plane was involved in espionage, still there is no justification to kill 269 innocent people who for sure could not all be spying."

## MIDDLE EAST

### ISRAEL

#### "Murderers in the Skies"

Tel Aviv's independent Haaretz in an editorial with the above headline today equated the Soviet Union with terrorist organizations and accused Moscow of "perpetrating an especially hideous crime."

It went on to state that "a humiliating situation might be created if it should turn out that the United States in 1983 has not much more effective means to punish the Soviets for the killing of scores of Americans than Israel had at a time when Bulgaria downed an El-Al airliner."

National Religious Party Hatzofe maintained today that "the problem is not how the Soviets can explain the incident, as President Reagan has demanded, but whether the free world can defend itself against air piracy."

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### "The Arabs Have Had Same Kind of Tragic Experience"

Today's moderately conservative al-Riyadh wrote: "The Arabs too have had a tragic experience of the same kind, when Israel shot down a (Libyan) civilian airliner. At that time, the incident triggered no reaction from the global powers--even those that today are lamenting the victims of the Korean airliner..."

### KUWAIT

#### Kuwaiti Unwillingness to Condemn USSR Without Proof

Arabic-language papers today reported that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs had issued a statement that, without proof, Kuwait was unwilling to condemn the USSR.

The paper quoted an unidentified Ministry spokesman as saying "a Kuwaiti response would be tantamount to undermining and damaging cordial relations with a friendly state. Kuwait is unwilling to damage such relations or improve them...at the expense of her relations with another state."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

"Fullest Possible Investigation Should Be Held"

Today's English-language Khaleej Times declared that "the fullest possible investigation should be held by an international team of civil aviation experts. If the Soviet Union is, as it claims, innocent of the charge of coldbloodedly shooting down the aircraft, it should welcome such an investigation."

BAHRAIN

"Soviet Act Cannot Be Justified"

An editorial in today's Government-owned Jaridat Oman stressed that "it is impossible to belittle the horror of the tragic downing of the KAL plane or to minimize the way it has shocked public opinion.

"There is no way to justify the downing of a civilian airliner....Perhaps this (incident) reveals the 'truth' of the peace proposals which the Soviet Union has announced from time to time."

ALGERIA

Press Concentrates on TASS Versions

Media, as reported in a press roundup today, gave little coverage to the downing of the airliner. Most stories relied heavily on TASS news agency reports, and emphasized Western "overreaction" to the incident

Government-controlled electronic media gave even less coverage. Television appeared to ignore it completely and radio news programs ran the story as the last item of international news, supplying no details of the downing or the international reaction that had resulted.

## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

#### "Soviet Attitude Reprehensible in Every Respect "

In Brasilia, Jornal de Brasilia ran a columnist's comment that foreign diplomats in capital city at first considered the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's prompt and vehement denunciation to be "precipitate" but it turned out to be correct.

He continued, "The Soviet attitude was in every respect reprehensible. Nothing excuses it. The Soviet air force knows that the polar route, because of its natural peculiarities, poses problems for all aircraft, civilian and military.

"Because of these difficulties, pilots regularly stray off course, and even penetrate Soviet air space. Thus this cannot constitute a surprise for Moscow....To shoot down the plane was a criminal act."

#### "Reagan Increases Pressure But Calls for Calm"

The incident continued today to be a major story in all Rio de Janeiro media. Front-page coverage was given by all Sunday papers. Headlines gave emphasis to President Reagan's call on his radio talk yesterday for calm among allies but firmness and world unity to condemn the Soviet Union.

Typical headlines today were: "Reagan Asks the World to Unite to Condemn USSR" and "Reagan Requests Unity Against Soviet Brutality" (conservative O Globo), "Reagan Recommends Calm to Allies on Boeing" (independent Jornal do Brasil), "Reagan Increases Pressure But Calls for Calm" (mass appeal O Dia) and "Reagan: Firm But Controlled Reaction to Soviet Aggression" (Latin American Daily Post).

#### Reagan's "Most Vehement" Criticism of Soviet Union to Date

Heavy coverage was given to the incident by Sao Paulo media yesterday. President Reagan's earlier statement was prominently played. Newspapers, radio and TV station noted that it was "most vehement" criticism of the Soviet Union to date. Conservative O Estado de Sao Paulo published the full text under the headline "This Brutality Must Not Be Forgiven."

### "Cold War Being Waged in the Pacific Ocean"

Foreign affairs commentator Newton Carlos said on TV Bandierantes that "in addition to the barbarism, there are strategic implications being stressed by important military analysts...The USSR is reinforcing its fleet in the Pacific and at the same time accuses the Japanese Government of being militaristic and engaged with the United States in the establishment of an iron axis in the Pacific.

"The world knows (because of the incident) that the cold war is being waged in the Pacific Ocean, whose waters touch the four big contemporary powers: the United States, USSR, China and Japan."

### "Is It Possible To Conclude Lasting Agreement With Such a Power?"

Conservative O Estado de Sao Paulo in an editorial yesterday wrote, "In a civilized world no nation can present any acceptable or even imaginable argument to shoot down an unarmed civilian plane with passengers aboard, even if its pilot commits the mistake of entering the air space of a sovereign nation..."

"If the highest Soviet officials do not present a convincing and fair explanation for what has happened...they will have to answer to the political consequences of this military 'feat' which affects the moral status of the USSR in the international community and its relations with civilized nations...."

"Once again one may ask whether it is possible and worthwhile to conclude valid and lasting agreements with a power whose moral patterns do not coincide with the precepts of civilization."

### "Always Possibility U.S. Government Is Lying"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo ran this following comment by Paulo Francis from New York: "There always exists the possibility that the U.S. Government is lying. It would not be any novelty. But this is much too great a risk for every government and in the case of a lie it would destroy Reagan."

"The hatefulness of the U.S. policy causes in the third world makes it painful for many people to believe Reagan when he attacks the USSR. But in this case, only explanations confirmed with documents will be capable of changing the impression of Soviet delinquency."

"There is no excuse....But what remains is the lack of any civilized Soviet judgment..."

## COLOMBIA

### "Worldwide Indignation"

Second-day coverage in Colombian media yesterday gained force as media and other leaders accused the "ambiguous and pugnacious" Soviet replies as not responding. Headline slant and editorials lambasted the Soviet Union. Typical were liberal El Tiempo's "Worldwide Indignation: Russia Insists in Denial." Liberal El Espectador headlined "Cowardly Soviet Slaughter."

### "Unheard of Action by Soviet Military Aviation"

Conservative El Siglo said in an editorial on Friday that the "sense of sorrow felt by honest people about disaster in other areas was transformed ...into feelings, first of incredulity, then doubt and finally indignation and horror when the Government of the United States confirmed that this immense tragedy was no accident....What was involved was an unheard of action by Soviet military aviation against a defenseless commercial aircraft."

### Colombian Congress Condemns "Barbarous Attack"

The paper also reported that the Congress of Colombia, "through the Vice President of the Senate, Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento, condemned what he called the 'barbarous attack' against a passenger plane of Korean Airlines, which was downed by a Soviet weapon."

The statement was made during the visit of a delegation of Korean parliamentarians. The Vice President of the Senate said, "We wish to express to you our condolences and our solidarity in the matter of this barbarous attack."

## ECUADOR

### "Places the Peace of the Whole World in Danger"

Quito's Ultimas Noticias in a editorial yesterday said, "Any explanations are unsatisfying in the case of the argument that we are obviously dealing with a civilian aircraft with passengers on board and that a missile would obviously take hundreds of lives..."

"The 747 was under control of eight Soviet fighters and one cannot presume that it constituted any danger....An event of this kind can place in danger not only the peace of the region but the world as a whole....Nothing can justify attacks of this kind...which should be condemned absolutely above any other consideration."



## CARIBBEAN

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

#### "Soviet Union Will Have a Hard Time Explaining This to the World"

Santo Domingo's El Sol on Friday said, "The whole world was moved...No matter what, we believe that we are witness to a crime, a horrible crime which we condemn vigorously.

"No sane person could conceive of a combat jet fighter's firing cold-bloodedly on an airliner filled with passengers and then returning to base as though nothing had occurred. The Soviet Union will have a hard time explaining this to the world..."

Leading Listin Diario wrote, "This merciless attack may be considered to be a most grim and coldblooded warning, a warning to the world that if the Soviet Union sees the strengthening of the NATO defense system as a threat, the Soviet Union is prepared to unleash, without warning, its most powerful nuclear attack on the nations bordering on the Communist world."

Papers in Kingston, Port of Spain, Bridgetown and Nassau gave front-page coverage. The state-owned Guayana Chronicle of Georgetown carried no news on Friday on the incident. The state-owned monopoly radio station GBC on Thursday ran a VOA report on Secretary Shultz's press statement.

## AFRICA

### ZAMBIA

#### Pravda Account, U.S. Reactions Used

Media yesterday reported factually on the incident, using wire service material. The Government party-owned Times of Zambia in Lusaka yesterday headlined a front-page item "International Outcry Over Missing Plane."

The article said "Western countries expressed outrage and some pilots' associations said they might press for an international anti-Soviet boycott unless Moscow came up with a quick explanation of the episode."

The Government-owned Zambian Daily Mail on Friday headlined AFP and Reuter reports "Airline Shooting Barbaric."

"If Correct, Soviets Will Bear Heavy Responsibility"

Radio Zambia in its principal morning broadcast yesterday, limited its very brief report to a TASS item that a South Korean aircraft was involved in a premeditated intelligence gathering activity. Radio Zambia also noted countries like Italy have expressed their solidarity with South Korea.

TV Zambia on Friday evening provided Zambia's only comment to date. Following a report on the incident, the announcer noted that "if the preceding information is correct then the Soviets will bear a heavy responsibility for this action."

ZIMBABWE

Full Report of Secretary Shultz's Description of Soviet Action

The Herald of Harare on Friday, in addition to running a Reuter-AP article on Secretary Shultz's claim of irrefutable evidence that the Soviet Union shot down the South Korean airliner, also carried full report of his description of the Soviet tracking and downing of the South Korean plane.

NIGERIA

Light Coverage for Third Straight Day

Coverage of the event and world reaction to the shooting down of the South Korean airliner today remained light for the third straight day in Nigerian media. There was no editorial comment in any Sunday paper.

Most complete coverage appeared in privately owned Sunday Sketch of Lagos which devoted seven stories to various aspects of the incident. The Sunday Times of Lagos reported on the Security Council meeting.

The Sunday Tribune, under headlines "USSR Indicted Over Down Plane," reported protests in Seoul because the Soviet Union had not acknowledged the act and reaction in the United States and Japan. The Sunday Satellite of Enugu gave a summary of events through Friday evening.

ZAIRE

"Widespread Indignation Throughout the World"

Media in Kinshasha radio wire service items on the incident yesterday and Friday. The Zaire news agency (ZAZP) carried an AFP-sourced item which was also prominently featured by the French language dailies Elima and Salongo. Elima headlined "There Is Widespread Indignation Throughout the World."

SOUTH AFRICA

"Melodrama of Modern Fiction Has Suddenly Become Real"

All papers front-paged yesterday reports of the incident. South African Broadcasting Corporation radio ran it as top story. Typical headline was "Red Jet Shoots Down Airliner" in the Afrikaans daily Beeld of Johannesburg.

The afternoon daily Star of Johannesburg, yesterday said, "Ominously, a melodrama of modern fiction has suddenly become real...The two superpowers stand eyeball to eyeball in the most dramatic and frightening confrontation since the Kennedy-Khrushchev Cuban missile episode two decades ago.

The editorialist called the incident "the severest test for both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Andropov since they assumed office, and how they react may well affect East-West relations for a considerable time to come.

"Until the Russians provide some explanation for their extraordinary, carefully plotted act of murder--and it is difficult to imagine what such explanation could be--the words of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Tip O'Neill, stand unchallenged: 'This act of airborne terrorism will not be forgotten or excused by decent people all over the world.'"

Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha: "Senseless and Brutal Act"

Major South African papers yesterday quoted Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha as saying, "There can be no excuse for it. It should not be tolerated. We in South Africa join with people everywhere in expressing our revulsion on this cowardly attack."

The Star of Johannesburg cited Conservative caucus chairman Howard Phillips as saying, "There is great reason to consider that the purpose of the MIG fighter was specifically to assassinate Congress Larry McDonald, who has been a strong and effective adversary of Communist intelligence and terrorist activities in the United States and throughout the free world."

# SPECIAL REPORT

# Foreign Media Reaction

September 5, 1983

## DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER PLANE - IV

### Summary

Media in Western Europe and the Far East and other scattered areas today led with the Washington disclosure that a U.S. reconnaissance plane was in the general area at the time the KAL Boeing was downed by Soviet MIGs.

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph held that "the belated American admission...is certain to prove a windfall for Soviet propaganda efforts."

Lisbon's pro-Socialist Jornal de Noticias said the possibility that the Soviet pilot thought he was shooting at a military plane "may change the whole case and ridicule the worldwide accusations..."

Japanese television networks today broadcast White House spokesman Speakes' statement that a U.S. RC-135 reconnaissance plane had flown in the vicinity.

At the same time editorial writers devoted considerable speculation to how the United States would and should respond. Correspondents in Washington maintained the Administration would be restrained. Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine's correspondent said the President "had expressed himself in favor of...a quiet, controlled but absolutely firm" action.

Throughout the world, media tried to reason why the tragedy happened. Many writers attributed it to world tensions. Hong Kong's independent Ming Pao worried that the Soviets are "under severe tension, nervousness and full of hostility...with fingers always on the trigger..."

## WESTERN EUROPE

### BRITAIN

#### Presence of U.S. Reconnaissance Plane

The reported presence of a U.S. reconnaissance plane in the area at the time of the Soviet attack on the South Korean passenger jet, made headlines in all London papers today.

#### "U.S. Spy Jet 'Near Jumbo'"

Headlines said "Airliner Was Mistaken for American Spy Plane" and "Russian Refusal to Accept Guilt at U.N. Proves Self-Defeating" (Times), "Russia Hints Fighter Pilot Mistook His Target--U.S. Spy Plane Was Near Area of Jet Attack" and "Sanctions in Difficulty" (Guardian), "Reagan Hints at 'Painful Sanctions'--U.S. Spy Jet 'Near Jumbo'" and "Jumbo May Have Been Fleeing the Russians" (Daily Telegraph), "No 'Major' Sanctions Against Moscow by U.S. Over Airliner" (Financial Times) and "U.S. Had a Spy Plane There" (Daily Mail).

#### "Soviets Admit Mistake"

Today's independent Times of London ran reports from correspondents that "the Soviet Union indicated yesterday that it had mistaken the Korean airliner...for an American spy plane with a similar outline..."

#### "U.S. Response Expected to Be Restrained"

"Despite strong language used by President Reagan to express his horror at 'this murder of innocent civilians,' the U.S. response is expected to be restrained and largely limited to an international effort to condemn the attack and take measures to make it safer to fly nearer the Soviet Union.

"In the White House it is recognized that the United States still has to do business with the Soviet Union no matter how appalled Americans may be..."

#### "Soviet Classic Approach to Crisis Has Angered Diplomats"

Another report in the paper said, "Moscow's refusal to depart from the classic Soviet approach to crisis, which seeks to place all blame on the United States, has angered diplomats from a broad political spectrum at the U.N. and has illustrated how diplomatically self-defeating the rigidity of the Soviet system can be."

## White House's and Soviet General's Statements

Washington correspondent Harold Jackson wrote in today's liberal Guardian that "the White House disclosed last night that an American military reconnaissance aircraft had been flying off the Russian coast at the time that the ill-fated Korean airliner was approaching and that the Soviet air defense system had apparently been confused about the identity of the two planes..."

"At the same time, the Chief of Staff of the Soviet Air Defense Command, Colonel-General Semyon Romanov, said, in an account circulated by TASS, that the Boeing 747 'flew with extinguished lights and its outlines resembled those of the American Reconnaissance plane RC-135."

### "Incident Encouraged 'Sense of Urgency' at Arms Talks"

The paper's Brussels correspondent reported today that the disaster "encouraged a greater sense of urgency in NATO at the Geneva arms control talks--a sentiment which was shared yesterday by the Soviet Union's negotiator who called on the United States to seize this opportunity for agreement..."

### "Admission Is Windfall for Soviet Propaganda"

Today's conservative Daily Telegraph ran the report of Washington correspondent Richard Beeston that "the Reagan Administration acknowledged for the first time yesterday that the Soviet Union initially mistook a Korean airliner for an American spy plane but insisted that by the time the Korean jumbo jet was shot down its true identity was known..."

"The belated American admission...is certain to prove a windfall for Soviet propaganda efforts to blame the episode on U.S. espionage activities..."

### "Major Economic and Political Sanctions Ruled Out"

Today's Financial Times said, "President Reagan has ruled out 'major' economic or political sanctions against the Soviet Union...and instead is seeking a 'calm but firm' response with the maximum international backing..."

In an editorial the paper said, "Above all it would be wrong for sanctions to be taken unilaterally by the United States....Other Soviet-U.S. and East-West consultations, such as the arms talks in Geneva and the meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko, should go on because they are about other issues..."

Nationalistic Daily Mail judged that "the startling White House admission that there was an American reconnaissance plane around adds a new dimension to the crisis..."

"Boeing Tragedy: Questions Without Answers"

Headlines in Paris today included "Reagan Prepares Sanctions" (France-Soir), "Captain Chun Pushed the Wrong Button" (Le Matin), "Boeing Tragedy: Questions Without Answers--Was South Korean Plane Conducting Espionage Activities in Disdain for Safety of Its Passengers" (Communist Humanite) and "Washington Wants to Internationalize Response to USSR" (Figaro).

"Crime Will Go Unpunished"

An editorial in today's mass appeal France-Soir asked, "What credit can be accorded to pacifist declarations of men (in the Kremlin) who are nothing but coldblooded killers?"

Today's conservative Quotidien de Paris expected that the "crime" will "go unpunished because skillfully, knowledgeable and scientifically the Soviets succeeded in distracting the attention of the world from the only obvious important reality in the affair--the coldblooded assassination of the 269 passengers..."

An editorial in Communist Humanite today said, "Four days after the disappearance of the Boeing...numerous questions remain unanswered. The most often asked concerns the total silence of the Boeing crew during the more than two hours if its deviation from its flight path..."

"Flagrant Act of Brutality Is Going to Slip By"

Leftist Liberation judged today, "It appears that the most flagrant act of brutality in the entire history of the cold war is going to slip by without disturbing East-West relations.

"All signs are that, despite a concert of curses flung at the Soviet Union, the Western nations are disposed to writing off the 269 victims to the profits and losses of the grand geopolitical maneuvers..."

ITALY

"Moscow Admits Possible Error"

Italian headlines today said "Moscow Admits 'Possible Error'" (Corriere della Sera), "Did Military Hide From Andropov Decision to Shoot Down Jumbo Jet?" (La Stampa), "Strong Measures Against Soviet Union--Reagan Will Announce Them in Agreement With Allies" (Il Giornale), "Reagan Consults Allies--Andropov Was Not Informed" (Il Messaggero) and "Reagan Calls for Blocking of All Flights for USSR" (Communist l'Unita).

## "U.S. Will Propose Suspension of Air Traffic to USSR"

Milan's centrist Corriere della Sera today ran the report of New York correspondent Ugo Stille that "everything seems to confirm the prediction that the President intends to propose to the allies the suspension...of commercial air traffic with the USSR, and to link resumption to a commitment from Moscow to 'ground rules' which will avoid in the future the danger of a repetition of last week's incident..."

## "Even INF Talks Cannot Be Unaffected"

An editorial in Turin's centrist La Stampa today said, "Even the most specific and concrete of the East-West negotiations, the INF talks, cannot be unaffected by the general climate.

"And this climate will be determined to a large measure by the tone of the dialogue between the diplomatic chiefs of the superpowers, and most of all by the explanations which Gromyko may or may not give about the attack..."

## "It Was the System That Pushed the Button"

Milan's conservative Il Giornale in a front-page editorial today said, "Either Andropov gave orders to the generals or the generals gave orders to him. It doesn't change much because the system...is necessarily based on unscrupulous military expansion. It was the system that pushed the button..."

## WEST GERMANY

### "Thoughtful Reaction by Washington"

Among headlines today were "U.S. Considers Boycotting Soviet Aeroflot" (Bonner Rundschau), "Reagan for Sanctions Against Aeroflot" (Frankfurter Neue Presse), "Thoughtful Reaction by Washington--Disarmament Talks To Be Continued" (Frankfurter Allgemeine), "Reagan: Geneva Discussion Must Continue Despite Murder of 269 People" (Rheinische Post) and "USSR Claims to Have Evidence of Intelligence Flight" (General-Anzeiger).

### "President in Favor of Quiet...Firm Response"

Conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine led today with Washington correspondent Jan Reifenberger's report that "President Reagan has expressed himself in favor of dealing with the Soviet in a quiet, controlled but absolutely firm way. He announced that the INF talks and START negotiations will be continued....The United States also intends to adhere to the grain deal..."



"President's View: Western Reaction Should Be Thoughtful"

Munich's pro-Social Democratic Sueddeutsche Zeitung ran a lead story by Washington correspondent Klaus Arnsperger that "In President Reagan's view, Western reaction...should be marked by thoughtful determination.

"He said there is no justification for the 'murder of 269 people.' However, the white House indicated that U.S. Soviet relations will not be frozen and the Geneva negotiations will continue..."

Bonn's conservative Die Welt held, in an editorial today, that "the most important aspect is the provocation and its background: there is a power struggle going on in Moscow..."

Independent General-Anzeiger of Bonn said, "President Reagan finds himself confirmed in his view of the USSR. He can point to his military efforts which keep the Soviet threat within limits.

"He need not resort to drastic sanctions to prove his firmness toward Moscow. That is one explanation for his relatively mild but reasonable response..."

NETHERLANDS

"U.S. Plane Near Boeing"

Headlines today included "U.S. Plane Was Near Boeing--Korean Plane Possibly Confused With Spy Plane" (Algemeen Dagblad), "President Reagan Considers Limiting Soviet Airspace" (De Volkskrant) and "American Plane In Area" (De Telegraaf).

An editorial in today's conservative Algemeen Dagblad of Rotterdam, pegged on the cancellation of a visit to Moscow by Dutch parliamentarians, said, "By not going to Moscow, the Dutch delegation is sending a clear signal to the Russians that the (airline incident) cannot be fobbed off in the blunt way the Russians have done so far..."

FINLAND

A radio newscast in Helsinki today had a Washington report that "a U.S. espionage plane was operating in the area" of the KAL tragedy. The report said "U.S. intelligence officials" said the U.S. plane, however, left two hours before the incident.

SWEDEN

"While Sweden Hunts Alien Submarines U.S. Pleads for Support"

Stockholm's liberal tabloid Expressen yesterday ran the headline "In Midst of (new) Submarine Hunt, U.S. Pleads: 'Help Us Punish Soviets.'" The paper said, "At the same time as the hunt for alien submarines was being intensified...President Reagan pleaded for support from Sweden and other countries for concerted action to punish the soviet Union--a boycott against Aeroflot.

"Sweden ought to participate, in view of all the submarines, a State Department official told Expressen..."

PORTUGAL

Pro-Communist paper: "U.S. Responsible for Countless Bloody Acts"

Lisbon's pro-Communist O Diario held that "in the face of what is going on it is important not to forget that the United States and its allied regimes are responsible for countless events with bloody consequences...(the Korean war, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lebanon etc.)"

Pro-Socialist Jornal de Noticias yesterday said, "The possibility that the Soviet pilot thought he was in the presence of a military aircraft without navigation pilot lights and which did not respond to radio warnings...may change the whole case and ridicule the worldwide accusations of 'crime,' 'barbarism,' 'paranoid act,' 'cowardly slaughter' and 'premeditated murder.'"

AUSTRIA

"Reagan Wants His Opinion of Soviets Reconfirmed"

Independent Die Presse of Vienna today had the observation of Washington correspondent Georg Possanner that "the Reagan administration is trying to make it clear that this catastrophe reconfirms the opinion it has held about the Soviet Union since the very beginning..."

A columnist for the tabloid Kronen-Zeitung wrote that "there is only one thing the Soviets should do--confess their guilt. Such behavior would be becoming if they still want to be regarded as members of the community of nations rather than as highwaymen of the air."

## TURKEY

### "Bells of Danger Are Tolling"

Istanbul's popular Gunes today ran the headline "Soviets At Last Accept Mass Murder." The paper ran front-page pictures comparing a Boeing jumbo jet with a plane identified as an RC-135.

An editorial said, "The reports that the bells of danger are tolling for the human race are not empty statements. A mistake by a pilot or a calculation or a show of superiority rips the life away from hundreds."

## ICELAND

### "Soviets Trying to Cover Up With Cheap Statements"

In Reykjavik on Saturday, Althydubladid held, "This mass murder of civilians by the Red Army awakens the disgust of the entire world.

"The Soviets are not trying to cover up this incident by just keeping quiet, but they are trying to cover up with some cheap statements."

Leading Morgunbladid said, "It is hard to understand what lies behind the Soviet attack on the airliner. The act is totally inexcusable....The fact that the airliner may have strayed into Soviet airspace does not allow them to shoot it down..."

## EASTERN EUROPE

## BULGARIA

### "There Are Questions that Remain to Be Answered"

In Sofia last night a television commentator read from a New York Times story suggesting that "there are questions that remain to be answered..."

Communist Party paper Rabotnichesko devoted half the front-page today to two TASS items on the incident accusing the U.S. of starting an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

### JAPAN

#### Soviets Confirm Plane Shot Down by Air-to-air Missile

NHK-TV, TBS-TV and Fuji-TV today focused attention on an AP report from Moscow which said a Soviet source has confirmed for the first time that the KAL jumbo was shot down by an air-to-air missile. The network said the source stated that the order to shoot down the Korean airliner was given by top military brass in Moscow.

#### Speakes Says U.S. R-135 Had Flown in Vicinity

The networks also carried reports from Washington which said White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes has stated that a U.S. RC-135 reconnaissance plane had flown in the vicinity of the KAL plane's course one or two hours before the incident, indicating, according to the networks, the possibility of the Soviets' mistaking the jumbo for the RC-135.

#### Foreign Ministry To Press Soviets to Disclose Facts

Liberal Asahi today reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Gotoda, who is acting Foreign Minister, met officials of the Ministry to discuss counter-measures. The report said the Foreign Ministry has confirmed its policy of strongly pressing the Soviet Union to disclose the facts of the incident and to cooperate on research operations.

In order to draw out a reply from the Soviet side, Asahi said the Foreign Ministry has decided to (1) study joint action with the United States in seeking permission to enter Soviet territorial waters to conduct U.S.-Japan search activities and (2) not to carry out sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Moderate Yomiuri today said Prime Minister Nakasone has stated that Japan will strongly pursue Soviet responsibility through close contacts with the United States and South Korea.

#### "Soviets Should Cooperate in Search for Passengers and Crew"

The Tokyo Shinbun in an editorial today said, "If the Soviet Union does not admit its mistake on the shooting down of the KAL plane and continues to take an insincere attitude toward international opinion which seeks clarification of the truth, future East-West relations will be seriously affected."

"An agreement must be reached at the U.S.-Soviet disarmament negotiations because this is of top importance. While continuing to pursue Soviet responsibility for shooting down the Korean airliner, it is necessary on the other hand to promote calm diplomacy toward the Soviet Union on other issues."

The paper said that "the stand taken" by the United States and Japan in not imposing sanctions against the Soviet Union "is proper and we give our full support."

"The first step the Soviet Union must take is to reveal all the facts.... The Soviet Union should then cooperate in the Japanese search for the passengers and the crew...and compensate the families of the victims as well as make maximum efforts to prevent recurrence of such incidents."

#### "Mutual Sincerity and Honesty Are Needed at Madrid"

Liberal Asahi in an editorial on the Madrid CSCE conference said today, "The KAL incident could lead to East-West exchanges at the Madrid talks. Mutual sincerity and honesty are needed the most to regain confidence and overcome the present ordeal. We especially hope that Foreign Minister Gromyko will keep this in mind."

HONG KONG

#### Reagan to Announce Sanctions Against USSR

Most independent papers today front-paged AP reports that President Reagan is to announce sanctions against the USSR.

#### "Will Never Escape the Judgment of History"

Center-right Wah Kiu Yat Po in an editorial today said, "This savage act of 'aerial massacre' will forever be hated by God, be forever reviled by the whole world and will never escape the judgment of history."

#### "USSR Conducting Secret Military Activities in the Far East?"

The independent Hong Kong Daily in an editorial today asked, "Is the USSR conducting some secret military activities or deployment near northern Japan or the Far East?"

Whether or not the downing of the Korean airliner was to conceal any move of Soviet missiles to the Far East, the paper concluded, "At least it contains a sting toward Japan's increase in its military posture, and to show its colors toward the Sino-Soviet talks which are about to resume."

"Moscow Has Single-handedly Changed Its Own Image"

Center-right Sing Tao Jin Pao said in an editorial today that Moscow "has single-handedly changed its own image and put itself in an extremely isolated position." The paper said the incident allows everyone to learn how "not to entertain any illusions about the expansionist USSR" and "begin a relentless attack against 'Great Russian Expansionism.'"

"Soviet Fingers Always on the Trigger"

Independent Ming Pao in an editorial today said the Soviet Union gave orders to fire on the Korean airliner "because they are constantly under severe tension, nervousness and full of hostility, ready to fight any time, with fingers always on the trigger, monitoring their imagined enemies day and night, their every moment waiting for enemies to descend from the air or rush in from the sea, palpitating with anxiety and fear, treating every bush and tree as an enemy."

Such a state of mind, said the editorial, is extremely "abnormal" and "greater disasters can be concealed behind such a mentality."

"A Missile, a Commercial Airliner Exposed Soviet Hegemonism"

Pro-PRC Ching Po said on Saturday that "on certain questions and at certain times, the USSR adopts a conciliatory posture, but in fact there is no change in its basic hegemonism. One missile and one commercial airliner exposed the 'hegemonist' air of the Soviet Union."

"Shameful Brand on Soviet Communism"

Mass appeal independent Sing Pao Daily News said at least the Chinese Communists have issued indirect criticism. "The shooting down of a commercial airlines and the killing of over 200 people is a shameful brand on Soviet Communism."

JAKARTA

Indonesian Government: "An Act Beyond Humanity"

Papers today reported Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja's statement, after a meeting with President Soeharto, that the incident was "an act beyond humanity" and that "the Soviet Government is fully responsible."

He added that the tragedy was all the more regrettable "because the Soviet Union, with its modern and sophisticated technological equipment, has all the capability to prevent such a tragedy from occurring."

### "Shocking and Repulsive"

The pro-Government English language Indonesia Times said in an editorial today, "Shooting down of an unarmed civilian plane with so many passengers and crew is certainly cruel and inhuman and in violation of human rights and civilized human conduct.

"Whatever, the reason, it should not have been done. It is shocking and repulsive."

### "All Countries of the World Strongly Condemn This Incident"

Military-oriented Berita Yudha commented, "It is not surprising that all countries of the world strongly condemn this incident. More than a few stamp it as a barbaric act, uncivilized."

## SOUTH ASIA

### INDIA

#### "Indian Reaction Sounded Ludicrous"

The Chandigarh Tribune, in an editorial today, said, "Among the international reactions...the official Indian comment was conspicuous for what could only be described as fumbling nonalignment or, if a more charitable view were to be taken, deplorably poor draftsmanship. As things turned out the Indian reaction sounded ludicrous."

### SRI LANKA

#### "What If the Plane Had Belonged to a U.S. Airline?"

The Government-owned English language Daily News wrote today, "The event has certainly not left its perpetrators with any psychological or moral advantage. It is clear that the world stands outraged..."

"Explanations can sometimes be more painful than the error they seek to excuse.

"Even more fateful could be the caution which the shooting raises against the possibility of triggering off a greater missile catastrophe. There are many observers today asking themselves what might have followed if the plane had belonged to a U.S. airline."

BANGLADESH

"Soviet Image Blackened for Many Days to Come"

The New Nation of Dahka in an editorial yesterday said, "The Soviets have not reacted satisfactorily to the mounting world pressure by even as much as giving their whole facts, whatever their merit, of the incident. Why?..."

"However the wheels of international justice may turn and the Soviets be made to make amends, the way the sensibilities of fairminded people all over the world has been outraged is sure to keep the Soviet image blackened for many days to come."

Pro-Government Ittefaq said, "The Soviet Union, by destroying a defenseless passenger aircraft, violated the international airspace law as well as the principle of general international peace and coexistence."

"Afghanistan Precedent for Soviets' Barbarous Masssacre"

Sangram commented, "There is precedent that only the Soviets can commit such barbarous act of masssacre--not in air, but on land. Those who can indiscriminately kill the innocent people of Afghanistan for no offense also can hurl a missile to down a civilian passenger carrier plane."

NEPAL

Foreign Ministry: "Loss of Innocent Lives Was Indeed Deplorable"

Media today carried a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman's statement that "the reported shooting...was both tragic and disturbing. Although the plain facts are yet to be ascertained, the incident leading to the loss of 269 innocent lives on board the aircraft, if correct, was...deplorable."

"World Must Strongly Protest"

Pro-PRC Naya Nepal Current yestrerday wrote, "By such an inhuman and cruel action the Soviet Union has earned a great deal of hatred and anger from the people of the world...In order to bring the Soviets back on the right track, it is important that the world must strongly protest and the same time not cooperate with the Soviets."

The independent weekly Valley News and Views today said, "Even given the benefit of the doubt, this ugly international tragedy opens up a Pandora's box of unlimited possibilities of the mighty."



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MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN

Papers Recall Downing of Libyan Plane by Israelis in 1973

The Jordan Times of Amman today described the incident as "shocking and worrisome" but warned again "the further sharpening of the already tense international situation following the tragedy."

While condemning "whoever is responsible," the paper added "it is inconceivable for us to understand the U.S. total obsession with the use of big stick diplomacy in every problem except that of the Palestinians."

Recalling an incident over the Sinai in 1973 when a Libyan airliner was shot down by Israeli fighters, the paper asked, "Does Washington remember its reaction then? Did the Americans contemplate imposing sanctions against the Zionist state for its ugly crime?"

Independent ar-Ray yesterday warried a byliner's assertion that "no human being can condone the shooting...However, this crusade against the Soviet Union is inexplicable to us Arabs who suffered the downing of a Libyan airline by Israeli fighters in 1973 and no such crusade was launched against the Zionist state."

## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

#### Sao Paulo Newspapers Quote President Reagan

Leading O Estado de Sao Paulo and Folha de Sao Paulo yesterday both cited the President's statement that the USSR continues to distort the truth and that the Soviets still owe the world "explanations and apologies for this act of brutality..."

#### "This Tragedy Will Have Results"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo carried a Paris correspondent's conclusions yesterday that "the tragedy and crime of the Boeing will result in destroying all the efforts made by the Soviet Government to show its intention to negotiate with a tough adversary, the United States..."

"The Pershing missiles will now definitely be installed in Europe, the Geneva conference will not progress a single step and Japan will finally be prepared to adhere to the U.S. system of military defense. From now on, the Soviet Union is really besieged."

#### TV: "I Hope the World Shows Its Repudiation"

TV Cultura's foreign policy commentator yesterday emphasized "worldwide condemnation of the act of barbarism committed by the USSR."

Asserting that the downing of the airliner resulted from centralized Soviet command, the commentator called it "a typical act of barbarism, a criminal act. The USSR intentionally despised those human lives and shot the plane down. It was a crime against mankind. The 269 lives were sacrificed on behalf of a supposed political principle and of a domestic security which was not at stake. I hope the world shows its repudiation of Moscow's attitude."

### ARGENTINA

#### Buenos Aires Papers Carry Korean Communique

Yesterday, leading La Nacion and La Prensa carried the text of the South Korean Embassy's communique that "in this case, humanitarian considerations were laid aside in order to adjust to rigid military instructions..."

### "Kremlin's Savage Act Not Surprising"

Conservative La Prensa yesterday ran an article by a byliner who maintained: "It is a general mistake in the West to feel surprised or indignant. The destruction of the Korean airliner...would have been appalling had it been the work of a civilized or indifferently civilized regime..."

"But the Moscow regime is not civilized, even indifferently....It does not try to be. It is a regime made up of savages whose first and preferred victims are their own people..."

### "If All Countries Acted as the Soviet Union Did..."

Yesterday's conservative La Nacion held that "the Soviet charge that the United States Government was using the plane for espionage purposes is childish, to say the least. Considering the extraordinary resources available to the big powers for espionage, it is difficult to conceive of such rudimentary methods..."

"Even if the charge were true, one cannot understand why the Soviet Union, with its impressive defensive and offensive technological arsenal, was unable to prevent the alleged mission in some other way..."

"If all countries in the world were to act as the Soviet Union did...the hard-earned safety of airliners would disappear..."

CHILE

### "Difference Between Soviet Words and Deeds"

Yesterday's conservative El Mercurio in Santiago cited President Reagan to the effect that the people of the world should perceive the "difference between Soviet words and deeds" from its action in downing the Korean plane.

### "Many Information Gaps in What We Know"

An editorial in Saturday's La Nacion of Santiago could find no legitimate explanation for the Soviet action but asked a number of questions. It said: "...There are many information gaps in what we know to date. Planes are constantly in touch with a communications center. They never fly on their own, never blindly. There is always a center, a control tower that knows everything that is happening on board."

"Is it that such centers in Anchorage, Tokyo or Seoul knew nothing at the time? On the other hand, through U.S. Naval and Japanese land intelligence, we know what was said by the Soviet pilots of the eight fighter-bombers which flanked the Korean jumbo jet?..."

#### COLOMBIA

##### "Soviet Arms to Be Used, Not to Maintain Peaceful Equilibrium"

In Bogota yesterday, conservative El Siglo carried a byliner's comment that "the terrible, unjustified and perfidious attack on a commercial Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter is a clear and precise warning by the hammer and sickle to all of the Western world that the arms they have are not for the purpose of maintaining a peaceful equilibrium...but to be used in whatever circumstances, including against defenseless passengers..."

"President Reagan is right when he deploys U.S. military power with the vision that he has regarding international problems. He knows that Russian intentions go much further than the words they use in international forums."

#### PERU

##### "A Repulsive Crime"

Pro-Government Expreso of Lima yesterday editorialized under the title "Genocide in the Air" and declared: "There can exist no justification for such a repulsive crime, not even the fact that a defenseless plane overflowed security zones, since it was not only evident that it was a matter of a navigational error...but also that its passing over territory controlled by the USSR did not represent a threat of attack..."

"The plane was an unarmed, vulnerable, commercial, passenger airliner..."

#### ECUADOR

##### "Shows the Terrible Vulnerability to Atomic Holocaust"

Center-left La Razon of Quito yesterday pointed out that "what just happened to the Korean plane with premeditation and in cold blood...seems to reflect the disappearance of the most basic sense of humanity..."

PARAGUAY

Stroessner Letter to President Reagan

In Asuncion Saturday, Colorado Party newspaper Patria carried a letter from President Alfredo Stroessner to President Reagan expressing "our most energetic condemnation and repudiation of this brutal episode..."

PANAMA

Ultimate Danger of Soviet "Tension, Fear and Excessive Zeal"

A commentator said on Panamanian TV Friday that the incident resulted from "the tension among those who guard the Soviet borders and of the fear and excessive zeal of the Soviets on foreign planes flying over their area.

"May the terrible tragedy...serve for reflection on what might happen on the day that zeal, error or lack of communication precipitates a nuclear attack."

AFRICA

TANZANIA

News Coverage of UN Debate

Today's official Daily News of Dar es Salaam carried news coverage of the U.N. debate under the headline "UN Discusses Korean Plane." It devoted two paragraphs to a Soviet TASS report that Soviet radar operators may have mistaken the airliner for a U.S. Air Force plane resembling the Boeing 747.

ZAIRE

"Has Shocked Human Conscience"

In Kinshasa today, the Zaire news agency (AZAP) had the Government's statement that the Soviet action resulted "in the deaths of hundreds of innocent persons in violation of international law and morals."

The paper said Zaire had sent a message of sympathy to the Government and people of South Korea and to the families of the victims and had condemned the shooting down of the plane as an action that "has shocked human conscience" and that comes at a time "when international relations are already tense, leading, in turn, to mistrust, violence and insecurity in the international community."

#### SWAZILAND

##### "World Outrage Over Downing of Airliner"

The Swazi News yesterday devoted a page to the incident under the headline "World Outrage Over Downing of Airliner." The Swazi Observer's headline for a Reuters article was "South Korea Demands Apology from Soviet Union."

#### LESOTHO

##### "Darkest Cloud" Over U.S.-Soviet Relations Since Afghanistan

Radio Lesotho's morning news program on Friday provided a compendium of expressions of outrage from world capitals. Among those quoted were Figaro of Paris, reports from Tokyo and New York. The radio commented that the incident had provoked the "darkest cloud" over U.S.-Soviet relations since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.