

the victims, and to the people of the Republic of Korea. Please know that we are doing all we can to assist the families in any way possible, and that we stand ready to do more if need be.

Yoo Gam Eul Pyo Ham Ni Da. Si Yu'us ma'ase,

CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ,
Governor of Guam.
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD,
Member of Congress.

[From the Pacific Daily News, Aug. 21, 1997]
CANCELING FLIGHTS IS THE WRONG RESPONSE
TO GUAM KOREAN AIR CRASH

Korean Ministry of Transportation and Korean airline company officials may have overreacted to the recent crash of Korean Air Flight 901.

That reaction may be an economic blow to both Guam and Saipan, and can be interpreted as shifting blame away from Korean Air and putting it on Guam International Airport Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration.

According to Asiana Airlines, the company will suspend all flights to Guam until Sept. 12, when the glide slope at the Guam International Airport is supposed to be repaired.

That decision follows a Korean Ministry of Transportation recommendation to stop night flights.

Korean Air has restricted its Guam-bound flights to daylight operations and has completely canceled all flights into Saipan until Oct. 25.

These changes may result in significant losses in tourist revenue until service is fully restored.

The reason for the crash hasn't been established, but National Transportation Board officials in early statements were clear that the inoperative glide slope and a malfunctioning altitude warning system did not cause the airliner to go down.

In fact, other airline companies have not let the crash or equipment inadequacies alter their schedules. They continue to fly safe night approaches and landings into Guam's airport. Their pilots seem confident they can handle flights here.

If Korean airline companies are concerned about flying into Guam at night, then perhaps they should stop all night operations until this crash is thoroughly analyzed.

There are certainly plenty of challenging and even more dangerous approaches to other airports where these airlines fly.

It doesn't make sense to restrict flights coming to Guam and Saipan without taking similar action elsewhere.

Instead, this appears to single us out and summarily put the blame on U.S. air controllers, flight safety operations and navigation equipment at airports on Guam and Saipan.

It would be much more constructive, in fostering international relations and developing safer flights procedures, to work more closely together on this problem, than to appear to single us out for retribution.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
TERRITORY OF GUAM,
August 27, 1997.

Hon. JOONG YOL AUN,
Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Agana, Guam.

DEAR CONSUL GENERAL AUN: The Government of Guam would like to extend its appreciation to the Consul General for his expression of interest in the modalities of rescue procedures carried out by emergency personnel of the Government of Guam and the United States Government following the tragedy of Korean Air Flight 801. We request the indulgence of the Consul General in un-

derstanding that our responses represent the views of the Government of Guam, and all references to actions by the U.S. military should be reconfirmed by them. We request that the facts be considered without prejudice.

A. Although there was some initial traffic congestion, a broken fuel pipeline damaged by the aircraft blocked the closest road to the crash. In addition, it must be pointed out that the road itself did not lead directly to the site. The aircraft crashed in an uninhabited and hard to reach area. Fire trucks could not have reached or been driven down to the wreckage because there was no path or road leading to it. Additionally, witnesses who first reached the scene indicate that intense heat made certain areas inaccessible from the moment the crash occurred. They report it is nearly impossible for anyone to have survived the fire in those areas, which erupted immediately upon impact.

B. Throughout the rescue phase, every effort was made to save all possible survivors. This priority was first and foremost on the mind of everyone on the scene that night. The brave men and women who were part of the rescue effort were at constant risk throughout the operation. The commanders on scene determined that it was impossible for any passengers to still be alive in the areas burning, areas which were burning for over a half-hour before rescuers could reach the scene. Firefighters on the scene, professionally trained to determine the best course of action in such situations, indicated that dousing the wreckage with water would do little in the way of extinguishing the fire. In fact, spraying water on the wreckage could have posed an even greater risk if pressurized hoses spread pieces of burning metal onto survivors or rescue workers. Water could also have dispersed burning fuel to unburned areas, and the use of Halon, a fire-fighting agent, could also have posed a health hazard to survivors or rescue workers. In some areas of the wreckage, temperatures were estimated to be as high as 1100 degrees Fahrenheit. Additionally, a decision was made by the Navy to use the helicopters to fly survivors to the hospital, rather than drop water. A water drop could very easily have injured or killed more survivors or rescue workers.

C. The "explosion" referred to in your letter of 3:24 a.m. on August 6, was, according to preliminary reports, in an area of the wreckage that did not contain survivors, and while the immediate sound and flying debris was noticed by rescue workers, it did not have any significant impact on the rescue efforts underway, nor on the number of survivors pulled from the wreckage. At the time of the explosion the fire was generally confined to the fuel tank area of the wing, and did not endanger any survivors.

I would also like to note that ABC News, one of the agencies that first put out erroneous reports on the rescue efforts, has retracted its inflammatory and false statements, and the retraction has run on the ABC internet page.

Finally, I would like to sum up by saying that you have my personal assurances, having been one of the first individuals on the crash site, that the Government of Guam, the U.S. Government, and all the civilian volunteers involved, did everything within our power to rescue the survivors of Korean Air Flight 801. Dozens of brave men and women put their lives on the line to save every person who could be saved. I would also like to note that a full investigation into the cause of the crash will be issued by the National Transportation Safety Board, and until that time, official reports on the crash and the conduct of everyone involved will be under review.

I trust this letter will satisfy your concerns. The Government of Guam, Sir, wishes to take this opportunity to extend to the Consul General the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,
CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ,
Governor of Guam.

ON BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this time today to express my deep concern for the recent military buildup in Bosnia.

I think this is a dangerous situation and I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues here in the Congress. This is something that has been going on for a long time.

Many of us have tried to get our troops out of Bosnia and out of harm's way, but so far that has not been the case. Yesterday, the U.S. Defense Department announced that they would be adding more aircraft in this region. There will be 6 more F-16's sent to this region, taking the total number up to 24. They will be flying out of Ariano, Italy, and the purpose is to patrol the Bosnian skies.

The purpose that is stated is to provide deterrence and to provide a peaceful situation to a very difficult problem that has existed not for a few months or for a few years but for decades, if not hundreds of years in this region.

Instead of providing deterrence and a peaceful effort being made here, I believe our contribution is going to do nothing more than escalate the problems of that region.

The recent buildup has also been said to be necessary because it is supposed to guarantee an election process. During the last year there were two attempts to hold elections in this region but, due to the political turmoil there, the elections have had to be canceled. Again, they are trying to have another election. Our presence there is supposed to provide the stability to a region that is inherently unstable, and I challenge this notion whether or not this can even be achieved.

In addition to the troops and the aircraft that have gone in, we are sending, the international bodies have sent in 2,600 election monitors. The odds of this providing stability to an election are very, very slim.

Last month there were some additional troops sent into Bosnia. Not much was said about this. There were not very many reports in the media regarding this, certainly no discussion here in the Congress. But we have had 8,000 troops stationed in Bosnia. We have added 1,600 more. So we are now in the process of adding aircraft and adding personnel in a situation which puts our troops in jeopardy. It was not too long ago that our troops were stoned and homemade weapons were used against them.

The NATO forces just recently took control of a television transmitter and said that the information over this transmitter was not acceptable. Just recently that transmitter was returned in hopes that the return of the transmitter to the Serbs would calm the personnel there, the people there, so that the elections could be carried out. But just the thought of taking over the transmitter is one thing. But the conditions that were placed on the Serbs in the return of the transmitter is something else again.

Our Pentagon official threatened the Serbs that if they violated the instructions that were given the television station, it would be a clear cut justification for NATO forces to retaliate. In the best of diplomatic jingoism, our Pentagon official, as quoted in the Washington Post, said, if they do not comply, we will whack them.

Hardly do I think this policy will lead to peace and a wonderful election. I really challenge the Congress here for us, in the continuation of the funding of a military operation that is doomed to fail. It is a real tragedy that we get promises made by the administration.

The troops were supposed to be in there until December 1996 and here they are, another year, supposedly, they are supposed to come out next July, but the way things are going there and by the way we comply, we are complicit in this operation and provide the funds, the odds of our troops being out of there next July are very, very slim.

This raises the question about over-all policy. Traditionally, the American foreign policy, up until the latter part of this century, has been that we should have a policy of noninterference, nonintervention in the affairs of other nations and also that of neutrality with all nations.

This is proper under the Constitution. This has been traditional. Instead, we should be concentrating on national security issues. We should be concerned about what the American position is, and we should not pretend that we know what is best for everybody because we do not.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACERRA BROTHERS BASEBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity today to pay tribute to the Acerra brothers baseball team.

Mr. Speaker, the Acerra brothers who grew up in my hometown of Long Branch are a unique phenomena in the world of baseball. The 12 brothers played club baseball for 14 years, from the late 1930's to the early 1950's. And they were inducted in June of this year into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY, 45 years after their final game.

There are now seven surviving brothers, Paul, Alfred, Robert, William, Fred, Edward, and Richard, and they all attended the ceremony and obviously were very proud to do so.

□ 1500

During that era when the baseball team was active, there were some 16 or so what they call all-brother baseball teams on file at Cooperstown, but no other all-brother team played as many years or accomplished as much as the Acerra brothers of Long Branch. They played in a circuit that included teams from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. The team stayed together even during World War II, even though six of the brothers enlisted in the service at various times. When the Acerras were being scouted by major league teams, their ages ranged from 17 to 40 years old. One brother, Alfred, continued to play catcher after having lost an eye while playing ball. Besides baseball, the brothers excelled in football, basketball, golf, softball, swimming, and bowling. Their achievements were extensively covered in newspapers and on radio and television and obviously they are very well known in my hometown of Long Branch and in the surrounding area where they and their children and their grandchildren continue to live.

While compiling remarkable statistic feats on the field of play, the Acerra brothers never lost sight of the sense of family, and I cannot express that enough. These brothers were all and had a very strong sense of family. Their father, Pop, never missed a game and was active in coaching. Two of the brothers were offered professional contracts but turned them down because they did not want to leave their mother and break up the family team. There was another brother who turned down a football scholarship for the same reasons.

Mr. Speaker, it is really a great honor for me to join with the Baseball Hall of Fame in paying tribute to the great accomplishments of the Acerra brothers baseball team and to extend my best wishes to the entire Acerra family and many of their friends. I am going to be with some, if not all, of them this Sunday where we are also going to be paying tribute at an event in Long Branch to them and I am just very proud of them and all that they have accomplished. They certainly bring a great sense of pride to my hometown of Long Branch, NJ.

STOP THE THEFT OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents have alerted me to a serious attack on our personal privacy, and that is an insidious practice that

has become known as identity theft. Amazingly enough, this theft is facilitated by a public agency, the Internal Revenue Service, which aids and abets this theft not through the Internet or any high-technology means but through the U.S. Postal Service.

Yesterday I introduced a bill which I entitled the Stop the Theft of Our Social Security Numbers Act. This will prohibit the IRS from including our Social Security numbers on the mailing labels of the tax booklets the IRS mails us every year. It will also stop the IRS from printing Social Security numbers on the refund checks that millions of people receive annually in a way that numbers are visible when mailed.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes of this decade. Identity thieves make off with billions of dollars each year and each day more than 1,000 people are being defrauded. With just your name and your Social Security number, a thief can open credit lines worth \$10,000, rent apartments, sign up for utilities, and even earn income. Your credit rating is ruined, you risk being rejected for everything from a college loan to a mortgage, and it is up to you to fix it all. Law enforcement will generally not pursue these identity theft cases.

In light of this, making it even easier for identity theft by allowing public view of Social Security numbers on IRS mailings and refund checks seems criminal. Yet that is precisely what the IRS is doing. Taxpayers all know that their Social Security number appears just above their full name and address on tax booklets. It appears the same way on refund checks and is clearly visible through the window on the envelope. What more can the IRS do to aid the theft of your identity? Hand mail the thieves and unscrupulous people who might handle your mail your mother's maiden name?

When I brought this to the attention of the IRS, I was told that there is no way that IRS can change this practice before the 1999 tax season. I find it incomprehensible that neither this agency nor its contractor can change a computer program for booklets that will be mailed out for 1998. The IRS apparently has decided to be the conduit for identity theft with the Postal Service as a de facto accomplice.

My bill will force the IRS to make this change in time to protect one of the most precious keys to our personal information, our Social Security number, before the coming tax filing season. To do any less would expose millions of us to devastating personal and financial losses and the most important loss of all, our good name.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]