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Violences en Afrique du Sud

Deux policiers noirs ont été tués par balles et quatre autres blessés samedi, au cours, selon la police, d'une embuscade qui leur a été tendue à Soweto. Le même jour, deux Noirs ont été tués à coups de couteaux dans deux townships de la province du Natal.

Lube'

14/12/87

Despite Dire Forecasts

By Richard Witkin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Airline flight delays in the United States declined significantly from last summer to this summer, government figures indicate, despite wide predictions of tie-ups through the heavy travel season.

The figures, provided by the Federal Aviation Administration, covered only delays caused by weather, heavy traffic volume and other air control problems. Delays caused by mechanical problems or other airline inefficiencies were not included. But industry officials said that while their figures for the period after June were still to be compiled, unofficial estimates supported the conclusion that delays of all kinds markedly eased this summer.

While pleased with the improvement in the delay situation, government officials cautioned that it could not be looked on as anything but a short-term respite.

They said peaks in delays should be expected in future years unless strong steps were taken to put new automated equipment in place, further improve operating procedures and either provide more capacity or put new limits on peak-hour traffic.

The agency said its delay figure for July through September was down 24 percent from a year ago and that the September figure was down 41 percent from September 1986.

The improved performance was attributed both to unusually good weather and to such other factors as advances in air control, the effects of airline mergers and refinements in airline scheduling.

The agency counts a delay any time a flight is detained by the control system 15 minutes or more in departing or arriving or while flying between airports. The agency could not say what portion of all delays had to do with control of traffic.

More than 90 percent of these traffic-control delays are on departures. About 70 percent are generally caused by bad weather, 23 percent by heavy air traffic and the rest by miscellaneous factors such as runway construction and airport equipment trouble.

For the period January through September, delays were down 8 percent from the same period last year, even though the number of flights that were handled by the 20 air-control centers was up through August by 5 percent.

James Murphy, a vice president of the Air Transport Association, a trade group for scheduled airlines, credited the aviation agency for bringing about much of the evident drop in airline delays.

Mr. Murphy said airlines were instituting "more realistic" schedules and spreading traffic growth into off-peak hours.

Jack Corbett, president of Airline Passengers of America, a recently formed consumer group, said that while "delays are down and consumers are happier," the improvements were strictly short-range.

"The root causes are still there," he said, stressing that there was an urgent need for more experienced controllers, more airspace sectors through which to send planes and more runways for landings.

Much of the credit for more efficient agency handling of growing traffic is almost universally given to a series of measures the agency has put in place since the first of the year.

In one such move, traffic in the Northeast was greatly expedited by a plan that succeeded in breaking a bottleneck to the southwest of New York. It did so by allowing controllers to guide departing planes over four separate radio-marked checkpoints instead of having to space them out so they could fly over a single checkpoint.



One of the two monkeys on the Soviet satellite, undergoing preflight training.

Monkey's Mutiny Perils Soviet Space Mission

By Celestine Bohlen
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — An outbreak of monkey business aboard a Soviet satellite has ground control worried that a 12-day research mission on the effects of weightlessness may have to be ended early.

The troublemaker is Yerosha, a lively young monkey who five days into the flight managed to free his left hand from its cuff and has been happily checking out everything in reach. In Russian, Yerosha is a nickname for a bad boy.

An account of the monkey's mischief was carried by the Tass news agency and printed in Wednesday's Sovetskaya Rossiya.

Yerosha's antics have people at the flight center of the Institute of Medical-Biological Problems worried enough that they have put another monkey in a mock capsule, freeing his left hand to see what he does.

"Analysis of the entire situation, data received from the ground experiment and humanitarian considerations may at any time move the experts to decide on a descent," Tass said Tuesday.

According to Tass, the concern is not only for the mission, but also for Yerosha's health.

Apparently because the monkey keeps moving around, he is not getting all his food rations, Tass said.

Besides Yerosha and another monkey, Dryoma, the satellite is carrying rats, insects and fish. So far, these creatures are behaving themselves. Accord-

ing to Tass, everything is in order in other scientific compartments of the spacecraft. The satellite is carrying experiments from several nations, including the United States.

This is the third Soviet biosatellite to go into space with monkeys on board, Tass said. From the start of this mission, the current crew — Yerosha and Dryoma, makaki-rhesus monkeys from the Black Sea resort of Sukhumi — lived up to their names. Dryoma means drowsy.

Yerosha was instantly pegged as the excitable one when his pulse rate shot up during lift off to 200 beats a minute, and his temperature soared. In contrast, Dryoma, "older and reasonable," reacted normally to the pressure and weightlessness.

By the following morning, both monkeys were in top form, showing "brilliant mastery of the program of experiments." The two are fed only after they execute commands transmitted by lighted signals.

Trouble was spotted when Yerosha showed up on the monitoring screens without his name plate which, Tass concluded, "evidently bothered him. What he did with it is still unknown."

The biosatellite is another in a series of ongoing Soviet tests of the capacity of living creatures to endure long periods in space.

Last week, as the Soviet Union readied for its celebration of the 30th anniversary of its Sputnik launching, a Soviet cosmonaut set a record by spending 240 days in space.

heralded medication AZT appear to be wasting away during their second year on the drug, and their doctors are now pessimistic about their chances for continued survival, according to reports at a medical conference here.

Doctors from the University of Miami School of Medicine said this week that patients on long-term AZT, azidothymidine, were losing the weight they had gained during the first months of therapy and were developing the life-threatening infections that seemed to have been forestalled by the drug.

"AZT appears to be a palliative form of treatment that prolongs life and reduces suffering, but once you get out beyond 18 months, you see deterioration," said Dr. Gordon Dickinson, one of the Miami researchers.

The data are potentially significant for the estimated 16,000 people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome or AIDS-related complex who are now receiving AZT, the only anti-AIDS medication approved for marketing in the United States. The vast majority started treatment within the last year.

The continuing Miami study involves 60 patients with AIDS or AIDS-related complex who have been treated with AZT for more than six months, Dr. Dickinson said. Of these, 50 have received the medication for more than a year and 21 have been treated for longer than 17 months. Three patients have died.

In the first six months of therapy the Miami patients gained an average of 22 pounds (10 kilograms) and produced larger numbers of infection-fighting T-4 white blood cells.

But over the next six months the patients lost the weight and T-4 cells they had gained, and many developed serious infections.

After 14 months of treatment the patients had lost an average of 22 pounds, compared with their weight when they started the medication, and progression of the disease was evident.

doses of AZT. The other their doses reduced or interrupted, primarily by developed severe anemia. The U.S. Food and administration approved sales of AZT in March, encouraging results were reported in patients with AIDS-related pneumonia, pneumocystis carinii.

Many physicians said AZT would stabilize patients until more effective treatments could be developed. The drug is also being tested in patients with dozens of AIDS-related illnesses. Dr. Dickinson's study at the Interagency Conference on Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, a meeting

Uncircumvented To Face

NEW YORK — Men have an increased risk of contracting AIDS from sexual partner, as syphilis, genital herpes, and warts, new studies show.

"There is a very strong correlation between lack of and susceptibility to infection," Dr. William C. University of Manitoba, said Tuesday.

That conclusion of a study of 357 men in visited clinics for sexually transmitted disease. Cameron reported science Conference on Bial Agents and Chemotherapy.

He also reported such as syphilis, genital warts that can increase a man's risk of AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, from contact with an infected

Bess Myerson Is Indicted in N.Y.

DOONESBURY

YOU KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO CHARACTER DEFENSE, I MUST

TO RECTIFY THIS UNFAIR SITUATION, I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN OFFER

JACK! TIRED OF THEM ABOUT CALIFORNIA THEM TO D.P. REPT