

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Two commuter planes collide in Illinois

1 QUINCY, Ill. — Two commuter planes collided on a runway Tuesday, leaving as many as nine people dead, officials said.

The planes were a United Express passenger flight, believed to be carrying nine people, and a local commuter flight with two people believed to be on board.

Airport manager David Smith said people on both planes were killed.

Three fire departments and four ambulances were at Baldwin Field airport, eight miles from Quincy.

Quincy, on the western border of Missouri and Illinois, is 100 miles northwest of St. Louis and 250 miles southwest of Chicago.

Rwanda announces aid is unnecessary

2 KIGALI, Rwanda — While aid agencies appealed for an international military force to rescue hundreds of thousands of refugees, Rwanda insisted Tuesday that foreign soldiers are no longer wanted or needed.

Nearly a half-million Rwandan refugees already have made it out of Zaire on their own.

Aid workers urged international leaders to remember there were another half-million Rwandan refugees still in Zaire, in danger of starvation and attacks.

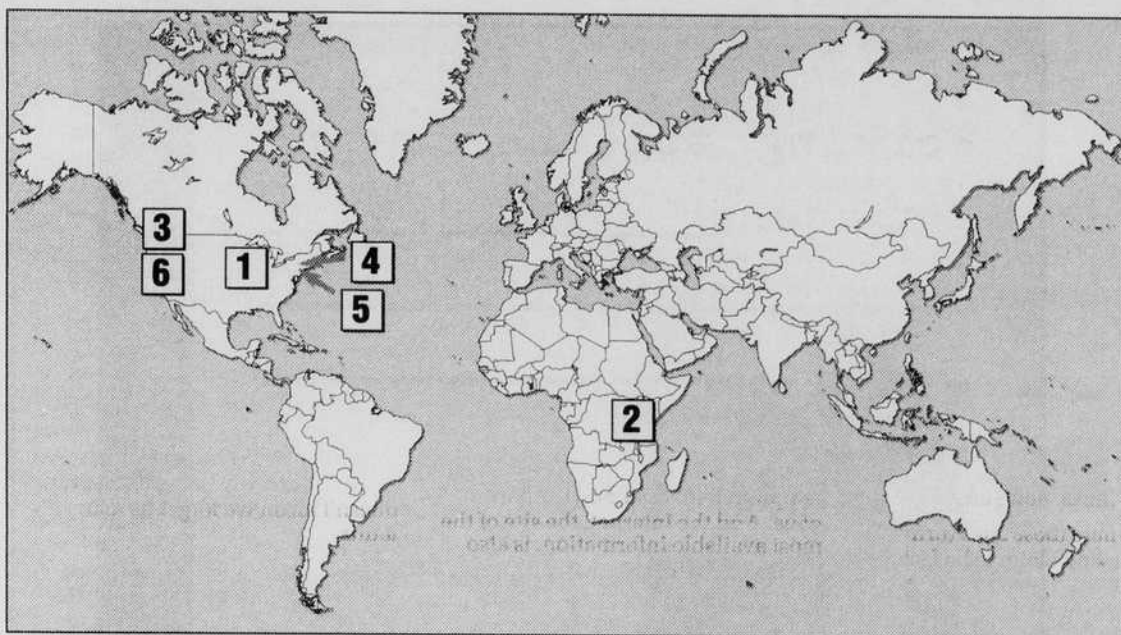
"Until we are able to reach these people, the crisis is not yet over," said Michele Quintaglie, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Program in Nairobi. "There is a need for a multinational force."

Study says smoking sharpens memory

3 WASHINGTON — Cigarette smoking sharpens short-term learning and memory among young people, but the slight improvement comes at a high risk of heart disease, cancer and a shortened life span, researchers say.

In an effort to pinpoint the precise effects on the brain of nicotine from cigarettes, researchers at the University of California, San Diego, tested young smokers and nonsmokers at a word game that required rapid memory and quick recall.

Smokers were quicker and more accurate in specifying whether or not a word was part of a set of five words that had been flashed on the screen shortly before.



Government will pay victims of radiation

4 NEW YORK — The U.S. government will pay \$4.8 million for injecting 12 human guinea pigs with uranium and plutonium without their knowledge as part of a Cold War-era radiation experiment.

"Never again," Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said in announcing the settlement Tuesday. "Never again should tests be performed on human beings."

O'Leary said \$400,000 apiece will go to the families of the 11 victims who are now dead, and a woman still living in upstate New York.

Doctors believe the deaths of the 11 were not directly related to the experiments.

Texaco exec allegedly shredded documents

5 WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — The former Texaco executive who secretly taped himself and his colleagues belittling blacks and plotting to destroy evidence in a race-discrimination suit was charged Tuesday with shredding documents in the case.

Richard Lundwall, whose disclosure of the tapes was a gigantic embarrassment for Texaco and led to the biggest race-discrimination settlement on record, is the first executive to face charges.

The tapes "corroborate Lundwall's admissions regarding his participation, together with other officials, in an effort to corruptly destroy, conceal and withhold" documents for the lawsuit, FBI agent Joseph Mangan said.

Environmental groups want trout protected

6 PORTLAND — Fishing and environmental groups say they will sue the federal government, charging it has failed to protect Umpqua cutthroat trout.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, representing the groups, filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue Monday with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Acting under court order, the National Marine Fisheries Service declared the Umpqua searun cutthroat trout an endangered species on July 30.

Under the Endangered Species Act, any action that harasses or harms a protected species is illegal.

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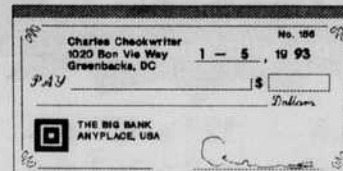
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