

Rocky IV

Page 8

Jordan Enterprises

Page 4

Nicaraguan Black leader

Page 3

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Two Sections

Interest high in Korean flight 007 jetliner crash

by Robert Lothian

Remember the Korean Airlines jetliner that was shot down by the Russians two years ago?

Judging by the turnout for a presentation on the incident at Portland State University Nov. 13, interest in the mysterious crash of Flight 007 remains high. Retired foreign service officer John Keppel presented his research findings to an overflow audience of more than 200.

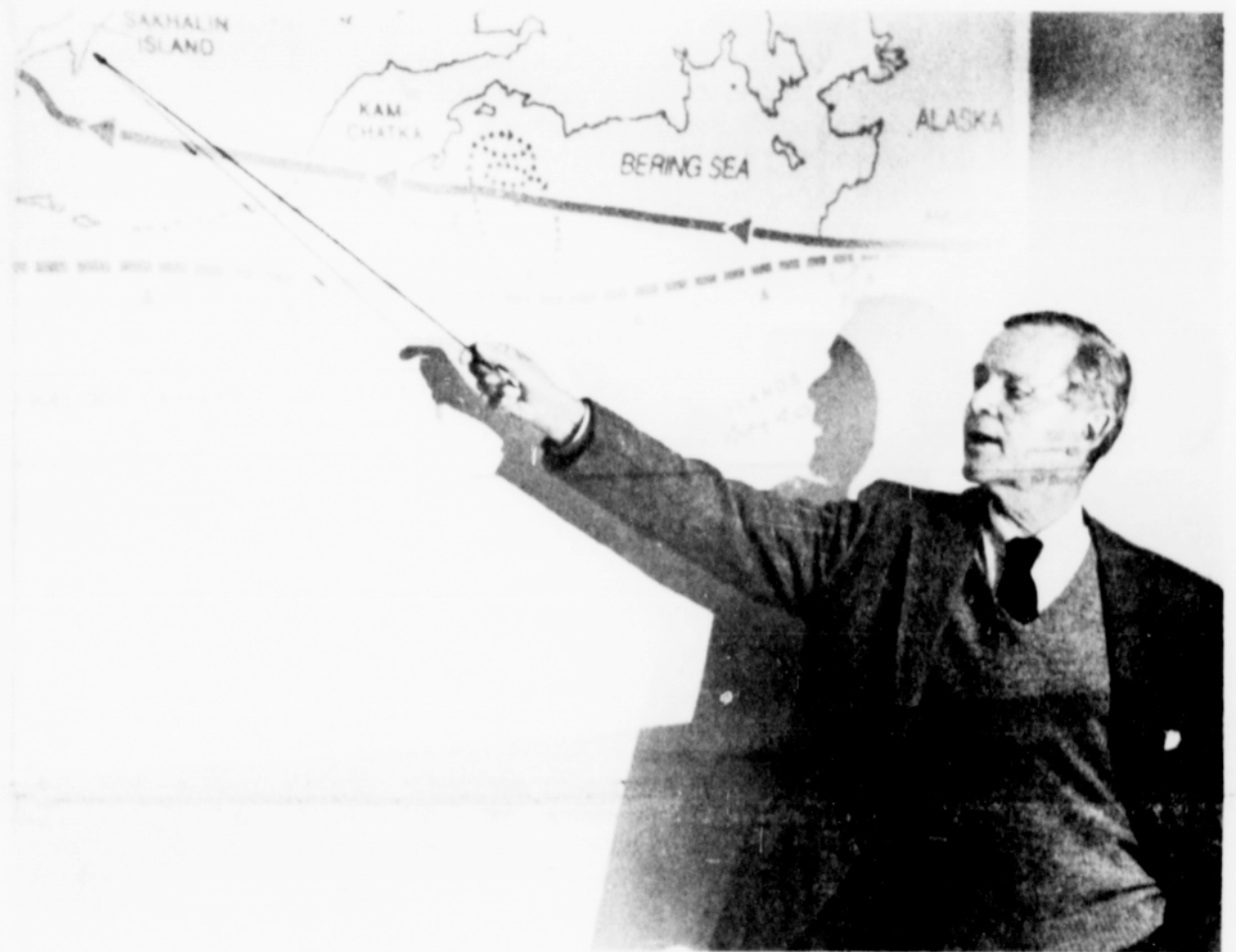
Keppel heads the Fund for a Constitutional Government, a research organization in Washington, DC, that is seeking a Congressional investigation of the crash. The crash, which occurred on the night of Aug. 31, 1983, killed 269 passengers, including the former head of the John Birch Society. Passengers' families are seeking millions of dollars in damages in a continuing lawsuit.

Keppel said his group has analyzed transcripts from the cockpit, from radar operators, and statements from U.S., Japanese and Russian officials, and he says his research reveals many unanswered questions.

Keppel went so far as to suggest that the many loose ends in available evidence and unanswered questions point toward the possibility that the plane was on a spy mission and the evidence covered up. He said his research leads him to believe that once it was learned the plane was off course and headed toward a sensitive part of the Soviet Union, the Kamchatka Peninsula, which bristles with missiles and electronics, U.S. authorities let the plane go so they could learn about Soviet defenses.

"It is very difficult to say why the FAA didn't warn the aircraft if, in it was learned the plane was off course," he said. "My inclination is to think that someone walked into the controller's space and said, 'Hey fellows, there are planes we worry about and planes we don't worry about, you know what I mean.'"

Keppel said the plane was off



John Keppel uses diagram in his talk on KAL Flight 007 at Portland State University.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

course for two hours before it was shot down, plenty of time for detection and warning by the extensive tracking system in the area.

Among the controversies surrounding the plane's disappearance, he said, are why, when it seemed to change course at the last minute, did it turn toward Russia instead of away, why the records seem to end before the plane went down, eliminating vital data for inquiry, why the plane couldn't be found and brought up from the relatively shallow ocean bottom, and why a thorough investigation wasn't conducted.

U.S. officials have contended all

along that the plane merely strayed off course and was shot down. "The Japanese government is withholding a lot of information and protecting the U.S. story," he said.

According to Keppel, an American general said after the crash that the U.S. military was able to gather a windfall of information from the incident. If the military received intelligence, Keppel charges, they were watching the plane and could have warned it. "It was almost like a surgical amphitheatre where everyone was watching what happened," he said.

Keppel illustrated his talk with many diagrams showing flight paths, location of electronic installations and possible scenarios.

He said his investigation will continue using sophisticated electronic gadgetry. He has already analyzed the final message extensively, he said. "I don't want to say what I think it says," said Keppel, who added that the message is being put through another battery of tests by his organization. "The message does not say, 'May Day,' which is what it should say in an emergency situation," he said.



The Oregon Rainbow Coalition and the Albina Ministerial Alliance invites you to "rally with Rev. Jesse Jackson." The rally will be held at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Maranatha Church, 1222 N.E. Skidmore.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Emergency fuel assistance money available now

Keeping the heat on will be easier this winter for Pacific Power & Light (PP&L) Company's Portland customers in need of emergency fuel assistance.

In conjunction with the Urban League of Portland and the Salvation Army, PP&L is opening a temporary "satellite" office on N.E. Union Avenue to make it easier for customers to gain access to emergency assistance funds.

In previous years, persons needing help had to travel to several locations to make emergency arrangements. This year, PP&L's satellite office will house representatives from various social service agencies, enabling the customer to go to one facility and get help.

Ron Fox, Pacific's Columbia Division Manager, said, "It is our hope that the satellite office, and the coordination of emergency assistance into a central location, will help our customers in need get their problems quickly resolved this winter."

The PP&L satellite office will be located at 3034 N.E. Union Ave. It will house representatives from Pacific Power, the Urban League and the Salvation Army.

The expenses related to the satellite office will be shared by Pacific Power & Light and the Urban League.

The Urban League will be administering the federal Low Income Emergency Assistance Program (LIEAP) for residents in PP&L's Portland service area.

Carol Lentz, Executive Vice President of the Urban League of Portland, reports that access to LIEAP funds has been streamlined.

In an effort to eliminate office waiting lines, most LIEAP recipients will be registered in advance this year.

The Urban League has also set up five drop-in centers where prospective clients can get applications and information.

Project HELP makes emergency heating funds available to all qualified

customers regardless of their heat source.

LIEAP and Project HELP are complementary programs—LIEAP helps needy residents who fall below 125% of federal poverty guidelines while Project HELP assists those above 125%. In cases of special need, both agencies make exceptions to the above guidelines.

The PP&L satellite office opened Dec. 2, and LIEAP funds will be available at that time. Project HELP funds are scheduled for distribution starting Jan. 2.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission, by a unanimous vote, assures Oregonians that state liquor stores will be closed the third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The unanimous vote came moments after administrator Dean Smith read a five-paragraph statement in support of the holiday. Smith's statement read: "State law gives the Commission both the right and the responsibility to determine when the state liquor stores will be open or closed."

"The question presently before you is to determine, on behalf of Oregon's citizens, whether the state stores will be open or closed on the third Monday in January, 1986; the day designated by our state legislature in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday. Unless you take specific action, the stores will be open."

"The staff has given this question long and serious consideration. One major criticism we hear from our customers about our control state system is that our stores are not open enough. Secondly, our retail sales



Sen. Bill McCoy addresses the Oregon Liquor Control Commission following its decision to keep liquor stores

closed in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

agents are not state employees, but private contractors whose compensation is based on sales. Closed stores mean less sales and service. In ad-

dition, many employees or retail agents will receive no salary for any day their store is closed.

"This matter is further complicated

by the vigorous bargaining presently going on between the state and its labor unions regarding whether state employees will get a holiday on

Liquor stores will close on King holiday

by Nathaniel Scott

January 20.

"However, after considering all this information, I recommend that you adopt a proclamation closing the state liquor stores on January 20, 1986. I believe that the disadvantages to customers, agents and their employees is not as great as the benefit to all of Oregon's citizens. I believe that such a decision is in accord with the legislative intent."

State Senator Bill McCoy, Senate District 8, drafted the bill that made Dr. King's birthday a state holiday. He said: "It is customary that they conduct these meetings and I do understand the desire of the operators to keep the stores open. However I did not take the passage of Martin Luther King's bill lightly."

Furthermore, McCoy said, "I agree with the recommendation of the staff and appreciate the unanimous recommendation of the committee."

Eddie G. Harris, commissioner with Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, said, "I feel very encouraged by this unanimous vote and I look forward to a more constructive relationship with the commission in the future."