

GS-1

## AIRGRAM

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Original to be Filed in GS Decentralized Files.

FILE DESIGNATION X

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CA-1909

HANDLING INDICATOR

Urgent

NO.

TO :

All Diplomatic and Consular Posts

S7

10-77

FROM :

Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT :

Mission SAFETY-70: Fatal Accident Report

REF :

JOINT STATE-USIA-AID-PC MESSAGE

SEP 7 12 41 PM '67

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## SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

The Accident: It was 0710 and the International Harvester carryall, driven by one of the best local drivers (10 years of accident-free driving), was traveling between 45 and 50 miles per hour on a two-lane concrete road. Five passengers were in the vehicle. A drizzling rain was falling and the road was slick. Earlier one of the passengers (a survivor) had asked the driver to slow down from 60; although the passenger was still uneasy because of the rain, he did not say anything.

Suddenly a cow appeared on the right side of the road. The driver put on his brakes and turned the wheel slightly to the left which put the carryall into an uncontrolled sideways skid on the wrong side of the road. At this point the carryall was struck on the right side by a bus which was traveling about 35 miles an hour. The impact was at 80 miles an hour.

The Results: One man riding in the right rear was killed. Another man was thrown free of the car about fifteen feet and, along with four others, including the driver, suffered severe injuries. Six passengers on the bus were hospitalized and four others injured, which may result in tort claims against the Government.

Analysis: Because of the drizzling rain which made the concrete slick and reduced visibility, the carryall driver was responsible for causing this fatal costly accident. Also, the passenger who continued to feel uneasy about the speed of the car he was riding

Date:

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For Department Use Only

Initials:

FORM  
10-64 DS-323 In  Out

Drafted by: OPR:GS

Harris R. Ball

Drafting Date:

9/6/67

Phone No.:

4401

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Charles A. Shinkwin

Clearances:

AID - Robinson *hl* USIA - Trupo *hl* PC - Lusby *hl* L/O - Henderson *hl* OPR/GS - Reid *hl* *R.M.*

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in should have spoken up again and instructed the driver to reduce speed.

So far this year a total of 7 other employees of State, AID, USIA and Peace Corps have lost their lives in vehicular accidents.

Do you have a driver training program?

Do you encourage passengers to slow down and report drivers who drive too fast?

Have you established general speed limits?

RUSK

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