

DOCKET NO. SA-516

APPENDIX 5

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, DC

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT  
ROBERT SEBASTIAN  
NOVEMBER 18, 1996  
(11 pages)

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BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

- - - - - x  
In The Matter of: :  
TWA FLIGHT 800 :  
INTERVIEW OF ROBERE SEBASTIAN :  
- - - - - x

The above-entitled matter came on for interview, pursuant to Notice, before NORM WIEMEYER, NTSB Official, at JFK International Airport, Jamaica, NY, on Monday, November 18, 1996 at 2:30 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

- TERRY STACEY, TWA
- LU LIEBER, FBI
- STEPHEN F. KLAPACH, FAA
- KEVIN LONGWELL, Boeing Company
- DENNIS SANTIAGO, IAM
- LOU BURNS, AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION
- MARGARET GIUGLIANO, TWA

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Robere Sebastian

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E X H I B I T S

IDENTIFIED

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None

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. WIEMEYER: On the record.

3 My name is Norm Wiemeyer. I'm with the National  
4 Transportation Safety Board, and I'll start out asking you some  
5 question, and then we're going to go around to each one of the  
6 -- members. And we'll give them the opportunity to ask you  
7 some questions.

8 The first thing I have to do is get some  
9 administrative things. You've already given your name.

10 Do you have a local contact that you can give us so  
11 that I can -- when this is all typed up -- have you take a look  
12 at it to make sure that we haven't made an error anywhere? An  
13 address and a phone number?

14 MR. SEBASTIAN: I don't know. Excuse me, I don't  
15 understand. ~~Can I go~~ *RS*

16 MR. WIEMEYER: Can you give me your local address and  
17 phone number?

18 MR. SEBASTIAN: What do you mean, local number?

19 MR. WIEMEYER: Where you live?

20 MR. SEBASTIAN: Oh, where do I live? I live in  
21 Elmond, 93 Clavidge Avenue, Elmond 11<sup>00</sup>~~773~~ *RS*

22 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay, and what is your phone number?

23 MR. SEBASTIAN: 516-488-4143.

24 MR. WIEMEYER: What is your position with TWA?

25 MR. SEBASTIAN: I work as a ground service. I do oil

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1 and water.

2 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay, and how long have you worked for  
3 TWA in that position?

4 MR. SEBASTIAN: Since January.

5 MR. WIEMEYER: Of 1996?

6 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yeah.

7 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. Do you recall the duties that  
8 you performed on TWA 800?

9 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yeah. I put oil on that plane.

10 MR. WIEMEYER: Do you recall how much, and in which  
11 engine?

12 MR. SEBASTIAN: I remember the most -- uhm -- I put  
13 -- I think eight. And some are five, and some are three,  
14 something like that. But the most I put is eight.

15 MR. WIEMEYER: When you do put oil in an engine, are  
16 you required to enter that on any form that TWA provides?

17 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yeah. Like -- like this one.

18 MR. WIEMEYER: What form -- what's the form number?

19 MR. SEBASTIAN: This -- no, this is the -- the list  
20 of oil on one engine. Each engine.

21 MR. WIEMEYER: And once you fill that out, what  
22 happens to that form? Where does it go, do you know?

23 MR. SEBASTIAN: It goes to the -- one to the cockpit,  
24 and one to the office.

25 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. Do you recall, specifically at

1 this point -- and I realize a lot of time has passed -- what --  
2 what engine you put how much oil in?

3 MR. SEBASTIAN: No -- it's too long. I mean, it's a  
4 long time; I don't remember.

5 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. What other services did you  
6 perform on the aircraft?

7 MR. SEBASTIAN: That's it, that's the only thing.

8 MR. WIEMEYER: Did you do anything with the water,  
9 fresh water?

10 MR. SEBASTIAN: No.

11 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. How long, in your opinion, were  
12 you around the airplane?

13 MR. SEBASTIAN: Like, twenty minutes.

14 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. And then you went on to some  
15 other task from that?

16 MR. SEBASTIAN: I went to the office.

17 MR. WIEMEYER: Did you observe the fueling of the  
18 aircraft?

19 MR. SEBASTIAN: No, I don't remember of that.

20 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. Do you recall seeing anyone  
21 else around the aircraft that you recognized? Mechanics, or?

22 MR. SEBASTIAN: No. Just a lot of people. I mean,  
23 there's a lot of mechanic, and there's a lot of -- I don't  
24 remember.

25 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. Did -- did you have any

1 conversation with any of the flight crew?

2 MR. SEBASTIAN: No.

3 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. I can't think of anything else  
4 right now. Terry?

5 MR. STACEY: I'm Terry Stacey, pilot with TWA. I had  
6 a question, it left me there.

7 Well, did you observe any leaks in the engine areas  
8 while you were servicing the oil? Did you observe any leaks?

9 MR. SEBASTIAN: No, I don't -- I'm not -- I'm not a  
10 mechanic; therefore, I just put oil in. I -- that's all I do.

11 MR. STACEY: Okay. Is it unusual to put eight quarts  
12 of oil in an engine?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. STACEY: Is that unusual?

15 MR. SEBASTIAN: I asked -- my first time there. My  
16 first time in this place. And I put, like, eight quarts on  
17 that plane -- on other engine. And I asked him again -- they  
18 -- they said it's normal.

19 MR. STACEY: Okay. That's all I have, thanks.

20 MS. LIEBER: Mr. Sebastian, I'm Lu Lieber with the  
21 FBI. Do you recall -- you said you put eight quarts in; maybe  
22 I misunderstood.

23 Now, did you put eight quarts in one engine, or was  
24 that eight quarters total on all four engines?

25 MR. SEBASTIAN: Well, I think in one engine. But I



1 don't know which one, but I put one -- I mean, I put eight  
2 quarters in one engine. I don't know which one.

3 MS. LIEBER: Do you remember if --

4 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, I have to change the  
5 tape.

6 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay, hold on a second.

7 (Pause.)

8 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

9 MS. LIEBER: Okay. When you put the quart of oil  
10 into whatever engine you serviced, do you recall if it was on  
11 the side where the fuel truck was, or there was no fuel truck?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. LIEBER: Do you remember seeing the fuel truck  
14 where you were working?

15 MR. SEBASTIAN: No, I don't remember. Because, what  
16 I did is, once the plane came in, I -- I got there right away,  
17 because I don't want to be in -- in -- I don't want to be  
18 waiting. Because when -- if I get late, these people in --  
19 will stay there for a while, so I'll be in trouble. I mean, I  
20 would like an hour, or whatever.

21 So, when the plane came, I just go there.

22 MS. LIEBER: Okay.

23 MR. SEBASTIAN: And leave.

24 MS. LIEBER: Thank you very much.

25 MR. KLAPACH: Steve Klapach, from the FAA. When you

1 went up to the cockpit and gave the -- the captain, or the  
2 first officer, the sheet with the oil line, did they make any  
3 comments at all about the eight quarts?

4 MR. SEBASTIAN: No -- nobody there, just --

5 MR. KLAPACH: Oh, okay. You just left it up there.  
6 There was no -- there was -- the outbound crew wasn't there  
7 yet?

8 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yeah.

9 MR. KLAPACH: Okay. That's all, thank you very much.

10 MR. LONGWELL: Kevin Longwell from Boeing. I have no  
11 questions.

12 MR. SANTIAGO: Dennis Santiago with the IAM,  
13 International Association of Machinists.

14 Just one -- one question, with the eight-quart oil  
15 add. What's your normal procedure, if you have a lot of oil  
16 that you add?

17 MR. SEBASTIAN: It -- if I put a lot of oil, I'll  
18 mark it, and then give it to the -- to the supervisor. And I  
19 tell them to -- that is -- that it takes a lot of oil.

20 MR. SANTIAGO: Right, correct. You give it to the  
21 maintenance supervisor, correct?

22 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yeah.

23 MR. SANTIAGO: And, in this instance, eight quart is  
24 not enough, normally, to bring it to the maintenance  
25 supervisor's attention?

1 MR. SEBASTIAN: I don't know if it's -- what do you  
2 say, it's normal?

3 MR. SANTIAGO: Eight quart oil add is a normal amount  
4 for this aircraft?

5 MR. SEBASTIAN: Well, I don't know.

6 MR. SANTIAGO: You don't know?

7 MR. SEBASTIAN: I just -- I just leave it to them.

8 MR. SANTIAGO: Okay. No other questions.

9 MR. BURNS: Hi, my name's Lou Burns, I'm with the  
10 Airline Pilots Association. Just a couple questions.

11 The -- are you familiar with the form -- this form --  
12 the 180 -- the fuel -- the fueler's --

13 MR. SEBASTIAN: No, I don't know that.

14 MR. BURNS: Okay. So, the only -- down here, we have  
15 a space where engine oil quarts added, but you never have  
16 anything to do with this form?

17 MR. SEBASTIAN: No, I don't know -- yeah, I don't  
18 know that form. I have --

19 MR. BURNS: Just -- may I see that form? I just want  
20 to see that form -- please? It's an M-313. Thank you.

21 MR. SEBASTIAN: Mm-hmm. And that's -- individual  
22 engines.

23 (Pause.)

24 MR. WIEMEYER: Does anyone else have any questions?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay, okay. Thank you.

2 MS. LIEBER: Mr. Sebastian, thank you very much.

3 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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