

tween the moment when a person boards the aircraft for the purpose of making a flight, and the moment in which all persons have disembarked, during which:

- a) Any person dies or suffers serious injuries as a result of being inside the aircraft, on it, or in contact with it or with anything belonging to it; or,
- b) the aircraft suffers considerable damage.

*Article 79. Accidents occurring in Panama.*

1) Any person having knowledge of an air accident should communicate by the most rapid means possible with the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics and with the nearest authorities.

2) Air inspectors or, in their stead, the Administrator of the nearest airport, have a duty to appear personally at the place of accident, take the appropriate measures, and make an immediate report to the Director General of Civil Aeronautics.

3) The authorities are under a duty to send out salvage groups, upon receipt of news of an air accident, to give immediate first aid to the victims, and to establishing the necessary guards around the place of accident until the investigators appointed for this purpose by the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics arrive.

4) Radio, telegraphic, and radiotelephonic messages concerning an air accident must be sent directly to the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics and shall be handled without charge as urgent official messages.

*Article 80. Assistance.*

In the case of an air accident, any national or foreign aircraft may give assistance to the victims, without having to request permission to do so: but it shall have the duty to communicate immediately with the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics by the most rapid means.

*Article 81. Safety of Mail.*

The correspondence being transported by an aircraft suffering an accident or making a forced landing must be delivered by the finder, as soon as possible, to the Post Office nearest the place of the accident.

*Article 82. Preliminary Information.*

The investigator or investigators appointed by the General Bureau of Civil Aeronautics must submit to it their preliminary report within a period of six (6) days following the accident.

*Article 83. Investigation Board.*

1) If the accident is of an international character or is very serious, the investigation shall be in charge of a Board, as follows:

2) The Board shall be composed of the Director General of Civil Aeronautics, who shall preside; the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Government and Justice; and the Chief of Air Safety.

3) The report of the Board must be presented as soon as possible to the Minister of Government and Justice.

*Article 84. Crimes.*

In cases of air accidents caused by criminal acts, the facts shall be communicated to a competent official of the Public Ministry [Attorney General] for purposes of initiating preliminary investigative proceedings (*sumario*).