

CONFERENCE ON LAND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY TO BE HELD

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña announced this week that security officials representing the United States and seven other countries will meet next spring to improve ground transportation anti-terrorism activities.

"More than ever, transportation systems are being singled out as targets of terrorism," said the Secretary, stressing the need for improved international consultations on this problem. The meeting will focus on improving the prevention, investigation and response to terrorism and enhanced communication among governments.

In 1995, approximately 20 percent of the

more than 2,000 identified terrorist acts worldwide were aimed at transportation systems.

The Secretary said next spring's meeting in Washington would discuss "an international network for exchanging information and technology to strengthen the global battle to prevent terrorist attacks on land transportation systems."

Agreement to hold such a meeting came at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of land transportation officials of the group of seven plus Russia (G-7/P-8) in Washington. Attending this week's meeting were representatives from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The participants shared information on land transportation security and what can be done to reduce the threat of terrorism. The development of a system for international cooperation was also preliminarily discussed.

Highlighting significant attacks against transportation in 1995, Secretary Peña noted:

- A series of bombing attacks against the subway system in Baku, Azerbaijan, which killed dozens and injured hundreds;
- The October derailment of an Amtrak passenger train near Hyder, Ariz., which killed one and injured 78;
- The July bombing of a Paris subway station, which killed seven and wounded over 80;
- The April bus bombing in Israel which killed eight and injured 50; and
- The March sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway, which killed 12 and injured 5,500.

FAA TO ALLOW WAIVERS TO INSULIN-TREATED DIABETIC AIRMEN

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) Waivers for individuals with insulin-treated diabetes will now be considered in order to grant limited third-class airman medical certificates, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced this week.

FAA regulations currently prohibit insulin-treated diabetics from qualifying for medical certificates. While that regulation will remain in place, the FAA will, for the first time, allow limited waivers in some cases. Individuals who use oral hypoglycemic drugs have been eligible for waivers for more than 10 years.

The new protocol states that, among other criteria, only individuals at low risk for hypoglycemia are eligible for the waivers. Pilots who receive waivers will be restricted to student, recreational and private-pilot operations and will be closely monitored to determine the effectiveness of the new policy. The new policy will not authorize any waivers to commercial pilots.

The evaluation and monitoring protocol that forms the basis for this policy change was developed by a panel of distinguished endocrinologists at the request of the FAA's federal air surgeon. The protocol was first published for public comment in December 1994.

The new policy statement is on display at the Federal Register.

FRAMEWORK ANNOUNCED FOR PIPELINE RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Transportation this week unveiled the framework for a four-year pipeline risk management demonstration program and invited natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators to submit proposals for projects that increase operator flexibility, improve industry safety and advance environmental protection efforts.

"Risk management is one way we can efficiently and effectively work with industry to protect public and environmental needs," said RSPA Administrator Dr. D.K. Sharma.

A public notice published in the Nov. 15 Federal Register outlines the demonstration program objectives, provides guidelines for operators interested in conducting demonstration projects and invites public involvement in a one-day public meeting Jan. 28, 1997, to be held in New Orleans. The department's Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), which regulates the pipeline industry, will administer the demonstration projects. Up to 10 projects will be approved.

The risk management demonstration projects will allow industry and RSPA to explore new standards, technologies and communication strategies that better identify and address risks to pipeline integrity. The eligibility process for the program will begin in the first quarter of 1997.

For additional information on the risk management framework, or the public meeting, contact RSPA's Office of Pipeline Safety by phone at (202) 366-4595.

