

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Weather caused UFOs

CHRISTCHURCH, Wed AAP — Freak weather conditions caused the unidentified flying objects filmed over New Zealand recently, according to meteorologist, Dr Neil Cherry, of Christchurch.

Dr Cherry, a lecturer in agricultural meteorology, said the UFOs were mirages caused by a particular set of weather conditions.

Strong north-westerly winds accompanied by cold dense moist air, caused light from fishing boats off the coast to be bent, casting a mirage image in the sky, he said. Radar beams could also have been bent by the two layers of air.

Emergency landings

NARITA, Japan, Wed, AAP — Four Boeing 747 jumbo jets belonging to different airlines made emergency landings at Tokyo's new international airport here today after developing various kinds of mechanical trouble.

According to company spokesmen, a total of 349 passengers and crew were aboard the airliners, operated by British Airways, Northwest Orient Airline, Japan Airlines (JAL) and Korean Airlines (KAL).

Trudeau tonsils out

OTTAWA, Wed, AAP — Margaret Trudeau, estranged wife of Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau, has had her tonsils removed in Ottawa General Hospital and was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

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Mrs Trudeau, estranged from her husband for the past 19 months while she has been following a career as a photographer and film actress, had complained for several weeks of throat trouble and cold.

Lee Marvin in court

LOS ANGELES, Wed, AAP — Actor Lee Marvin appeared in a packed court here for the start of a closely watched case that will be decided if the film tough guy must pay his former girlfriend half a million US dollars (about \$A440,000) for her devotion even though they never married.

If 44-year-old singer Michelle Triola Marvin wins her claims for what Americans call "palimony", the outcome could set off a wave of similar claims across the United States by women whose live-in boyfriends walked out on them.