

Braniff, Eastern, talk merger; South America system is key Englishman searches for Nazca line clues

Braniff International, a key airline serving international routes through Lima, is discussing a possible merger with Eastern Airlines, although industry officials stress the move is still far from concrete.

Nevertheless, Eastern, based in Miami, has been seeking designation by the United States Civil Aeronautics Board to serve Lima from Miami and New Orleans.

In a competition among four US airlines to join Braniff in serving Lima, Eastern was cited in May by a judge hearing the case for CAB as "offering the best combination of schedules, equipment and connecting services of the four carriers (not including Braniff) proposing service in the Miami-centered routes."

The merger talks have drawn

strong attention in the industry, since such a move would create one of the largest airlines, along with United, in the U.S., with an estimated 50,000 employees and annual revenues of US\$3.6 billion.

Eastern is expected to control any resulting company, which would give Eastern the South American entry that it appears eager to gain.

Braniff has pointed out, however, that it is permitted fewer frequencies into Peru now than in 1974. Currently, Braniff is allowed 15 flights a week between the U.S. and Peru, and 10 beyond Peru—none with wide-bodied aircraft unless it sacrifices frequencies. Braniff was allowed a total of 34 frequencies between the U.S. and Peru and points beyond in 1974.

An Englishman who has been studying photographs of the Nazca lines for the past five years believes he has found previously undetected images which could throw new light on the lines.

"I don't have any high faluting theories," says William Veall, a landscape architect who lives near Salisbury and has been studying ma-

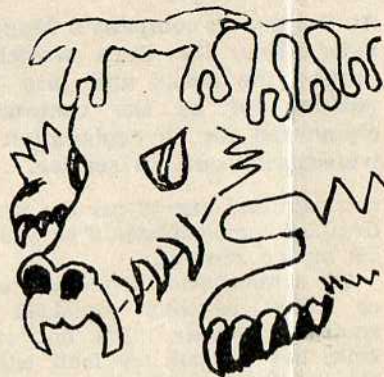
He says he first detected the images while examining photos of the Nazca lines through a special lens. He then got the University of Southampton to use their equipment to take photos at oblique angles which showed up the images.

"The University is very interested in my work," he says, "also Nick Saunders of Cambridge University

Belaunde signs oil law

The controversial law aimed at encouraging new oil exploration and development in Peru was signed by President Fernando Belaunde December 26 despite political opposition from the Apra, left wing parties and former finance minister Javier

will be forced to spend US\$1,500 million a year on oil imports unless new reserves are found soon, due to increasing demand and diminishing production. Under present circumstances, Kuczynski estimates Peru will cease to be self sufficient within



New look at ancient lines

An Englishman who has detected new images on the Nazca pampa is seeking interpretation of the outline of a dragon head and a young goat.