March 27, 1977 was a difficult day for the aviation industry. Just after noon, a bomb exploded at the Las Palmas passenger terminal in the Canary Islands. Five large passenger planes were diverted to the Tenerife-Norte Los Rodeos Airport, where they completely covered the taxiway of the one-runway regional airport. Less than five hours later, when the planes were finally given permission to takeoff, two collided on the runway, killing 583, making this the worst accident at the time (and second now only to the September 11, 2001 attacks in the US.)