

TOPIC 1 THE POPE, THE PRESIDENT, AND ASSASSINATION POLITICS

1 Rapid changes in the papacy shaped the political backdrop Beter discussed.



2 The Pope survived an assassination attempt in Rome.



3 Weeks earlier, President Reagan had survived a shooting in Washington.



4 I alleged that both attacks reflected one hidden political struggle.



5 Similar timing does not by itself prove a common conspiracy.



6 Beter interpreted changing media attention as political conditioning.



7 Official investigations identified individual gunmen; Beter rejected those conclusions.



8 Historians in an archive comparing primary sources.



TOPIC 2 THE AFTERMATH OF THE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA DISASTER

1 The public record described STS-1 as a successful orbital flight.

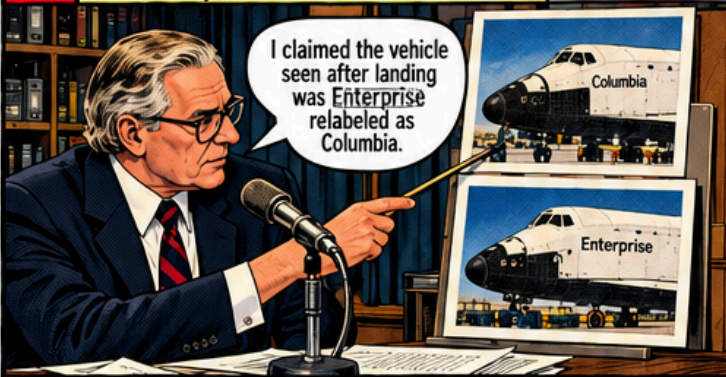


2 NASA prepared to return the orbiter from California to Florida.



3 I claimed the vehicle seen after landing was Enterprise relabeled as Columbia.

BETER'S CLAIM.



4 He alleged that officials debated a hidden shuttle switch.

UNVERIFIED.

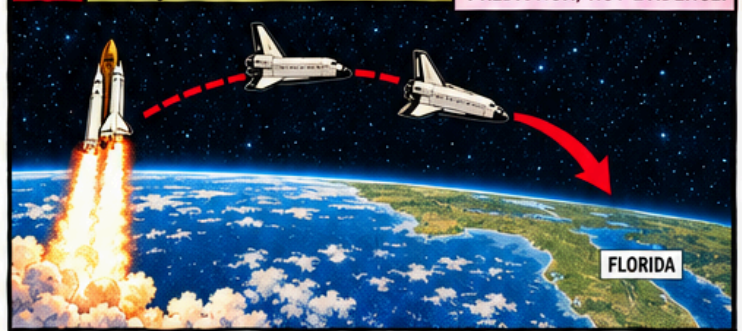


5 Beter further claimed other orbit-capable shuttles were concealed there.



6 His account predicted a staged abort to buy time.

PREDICTION, NOT EVIDENCE.



7 Would an abort be framed as proof of safety?



8 Available records support Columbia's safe return and ferry flight.

Claims of substitution need independent proof.



TOPIC 3 MOUNTING WORLD CRISES AND “ACCIDENTAL” NUCLEAR WAR

1 In 1981, several international crises competed for public attention.



2 Violence and confrontation in Lebanon raised fears of wider conflict.



3 Strains between allies added another layer of uncertainty.



4 Military deployments near Soviet waters increased the risk of miscalculation.



5 I warned that overlapping crises could be used to trigger war.



6 Broken communication can turn errors into escalation.



7 Multiple crises can magnify uncertainty.



8 No evidence here establishes a coordinated plan for nuclear war.

