

block the action this year.

### **American Airlines pilot fined in Brazil**

An American Airlines pilot, arrested after making an obscene gesture during immigration formalities at a Brazilian airport, has agreed to pay a \$12,750 fine, a federal prosecutor said. Dale Hirsh lifted his middle finger while undergoing a new fingerprinting and photographing process at Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport. Hirsh, 52, could have been charged with disrespecting authorities, a crime punishable by up to two years in jail. The crew of the flight, which came from Miami, was not allowed to officially enter Brazil after they laughed during the incident.

American Airlines agreed to pay Hirsh's fine, which would be contributed to a social service organization.

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Sunday, February 8 • 2004    \*\* Star Tribune • Page A9

### **Brazil: 2nd American fined for gesture**

Douglas Skolnick of New Jersey is the second American to pay a hefty fine for making an obscene gesture during fingerprinting of U.S. citizens in Brazil, police said. Skolnick, 55, will be allowed to leave the resort town of Foz do Iguacu with his tour group today after paying \$17,200 for raising his middle finger when he was fingerprinted and photographed. The customs requirements were imposed in response to similar U.S. rules for citizens of Brazil and other countries. The United States says the rules are in response to terrorism. In January, an American Airlines pilot was arrested for making a similar gesture when he was fingerprinted in Sao Paulo. He paid a \$12,750 fine.

**Dominican Republic: Robberies after summit**