

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) —A British airliner and a Yugoslav charter jet carrying West German tourists collided at 35,000 feet near Zagreb today, officials said. All 176 persons aboard the planes were killed, according to doctors at the scene.

A witness among the first to arrive at the crash site said the body of one plane was burned out. He said bodies and luggage were scattered around the rubble. More than 30 ambulances and fire trucks went to the scene but found no one alive, he said.

The British plane carried a reported 54 passengers and nine crew members. A British Airways spokesman in New York said there was one American and one Canadian aboard the plane. However, British Airways officials in London said there were at least two Americans and some Turkish nationals aboard.

The New York spokesman said it would be 12 to 24 hours before a passenger list was available.

The Yugoslav plane had 108 passengers and five crew members aboard, company officials said. Sources said most or all of them were West German tourists returning from vacations on the Adriatic coast.

The planes collided at 6:15 a.m. EDT about 15 miles northeast of Zagreb, Yugoslavia's second largest city and 230 northwest of Belgrade.

The planes were in an established air corridor over Yugoslavia utilized by all civilian planes, officials said. The corridor is under the control of the Zagreb traffic center.

The cause of the collision was not immediately known. Officials said an investigation was begun.

British Airways officials in London said Flight 476 was on a direct flight from London to Istanbul. The officials said the plane was a Trident 3 jetliner.

Reports here said the Yugoslavian plane was a DC9 belonging to the Yugoslav charter company Inex-Adria. The DC9 was flying between Split, Yugoslavia, and Cologne, West Germany.

In Cologne, officials said the Yugoslavian plane had been chartered by Kaufhof, a Cologne-based tourist agency.

The crash was the worst collision since July 1971, when an All-Nippon Airways Boeing 727 collided with a Japanese air force F86 over Morioka, Japan, killing 84 persons aboard the planes and 71 on the ground.

The most recent American air collision occurred in September 1969. Fifty-three persons died when an Allegheny Airlines DC9 hit a student pilot's plane at Shelbyville, Ind.

A spate of near-misses last year prompted the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to order the installa-

tion of more modern air traffic control equipment and revise procedures for controllers.

The incidents also led the FAA to hasten plans for installing a computerized conflict alert system, which would issue warnings when aircraft within a four-to five-miles sphere came too close.

An FAA spokesman here said the new system was in effect at all of the agency's 20 in-route traffic control centers in the United States by January of this year.