

Brazil Fires Airport Authority President

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RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 4 — The political consequences of the worst plane crash in [Brazil](#)'s history continued Saturday as the new defense minister fired the president of the national airports authority.

Defense Minister Nelson Jobim appointed Sergio Gaudenzi, the president of the Brazilian Space Agency, to replace Gen. José Carlos Pereira, according to Flávia Oliveira, a Defense Ministry spokeswoman. Mr. Pereira had overseen the airports authority for only 13 months.

Mr. Jobim was named defense minister just last week, succeeding Waldir Pires, who was the first top official to be ousted after an [Airbus](#) A320 skidded off a short, rain-slicked runway at Congonhas Airport in São Paulo on July 17 and burst into flames, killing 199 people.

Ten months earlier, 154 people died in a midair collision of two planes above the Amazon.

After the crash last month, Mr. Pereira lashed out at international groups seeking to aid Brazil, saying: "This crisis is ours. The dead are ours. Brazil does not need international help."

The Brazilian aviation system has long suffered from a failure to make improvements to keep pace with the popularity of low-cost airfares, which filled the skies as well as tarmacs and airports. It reached a crisis with the crash last month, leading to long delays, cancellations, concerns about flight safety and redirected routes.