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La. Highjacker Not Panther, Party Claims

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The Alexandria man who claimed to be a Black Panther Party member who received bad treatment at the hands of the Castro regime in Cuba has been denounced by the Panthers as "nothing but an agent for the fascist CIA and FBI."

Raymond Johnson, 22, a former Southern University student, hijacked an airplane to Havana in 1968. He charged he is being sent back to a work camp in the Cuban interior "to keep me from making statements to the foreign press."

HE SAID he and other Black Panther Party members in Cuba are kept "isolated and imprisoned" though they had gone to Havana as persons seeking political asylum.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has no comment on Johnson's complaints, a spokesman said.

In a news conference on the Alameda (Calif.) County Courthouse steps yesterday, Panther chairman Bobby Seale said, "We found out yesterday that he went to Cuba by hijack, which is a good way for the Fascist FBI pigs of America to cover up and try to make Cubans think that anyone who hijacks an airplane is not a destructive agent to the Cuban People's Socialist government."

IN HAVANA, according to the Associated Press, Johnson contended the Panthers are not permitted to move about freely in Cuba and that they now want to leave for Africa. He implied this included Eldridge Cleaver, Panther minister of information, who now is in Cuba as a fugitive from a U.S. court.

Cuban news media have never mentioned the presence of Panthers in Cuba.

Johnson said four Black Panthers with whom he has contact have been placed in Havana hotels by Cuban officials. He said this is an indication they may be preparing to leave the country. Johnson said Cubans told the Panthers previously that they could not remain in the Cuban capital.

Cleaver has been reported living in an Havana apartment.

THE CUBAN government's official position has been one of strong support of the activities of the Panthers and other Negro revolutionaries in the United States.

Johnson said Tuesday he and other black militants have not been received "in revolutionary fashion" by the Cubans.