



Patricia Sue Jessie arrives in Miami with her father (left) and is greeted by mother, grandmother and Rep. Ken Hechler (D., W. Va.)

United Press International

## Hijaker Returns from Cuba for Child's Sake

MIAMI, Jan. 11 (UPI)—Willis Jessie decided almost immediately upon arriving in Havana last August that he would rather risk prosecution as a plane hijacker than have his 3-year-old daughter raised in a Communist land.

"That was the key decision—the thing that tipped the balance," West Virginia Congressman Ken Hechler said today.

Hechler spearheaded five months of delicate negotiations with Cuba that ended Friday night when Jessie

and his daughter, Patricia Sue, returned here from Havana via Mexico.

The Congressman and Jessie's ex-wife, 22-year-old Mary Jane Jessie, were waiting at Miami International Airport when the 27-year-old accused Army deserter from Holden, W. Va., got off a plane from Mexico City and was taken into custody by FBI agents.

Jessie was jailed under \$200,000 bond on charges of hijacking a single-engine plane he hired last Aug. 4 to take his daughter on an

aerial sightseeing tour of Naples, Fla.

Mrs. Jessie, with tears streaming down her cheeks, took custody of Patricia Sue at the airport and exchanged a few words with her ex-husband before he was taken to jail.

Hechler said Jessie was put in a prison near Havana soon after he arrived in Cuba. Patricia Sue was turned over to a Cuban family in Havana.

"Jessie said he never understood why he was imprisoned, and I don't think he

knew if that was the fate of other hijackers," Hechler said.

Hechler said he began negotiations with the Cuban government for the release of Jessie soon after Mrs. Jessie came to him seeking help.

"We have been working since mid-August with the Swiss Embassy in Havana, the Department of State, and the FBI to put the pieces together and persuade the Cuban authorities to let him come back with

his daughter," the Congressman said.

Jessie was flown to Mexico City on a Cuban Airlines plane and taken into custody by Mexican immigration authorities, who then declared him an undesirable and put him on a flight for Miami.

No hearing has yet been set on the hijacking charges, Hechler said. Jessie would probably be turned over to Army authorities first to face desertion charges.

# 118 Aboard Peruvian Jetliner Hijacked to Cuba by Gunman

From News Dispatches

MIAMI, Jan. 11—A Peruvian jetliner carrying 118 persons was hijacked yesterday during its landing approach to Miami. It was the fourth plane to be diverted to Havana during the first 11 days of the new year.

Among the 110 passengers were 88 exchange students from Argentina. There were eight crewmen.

The plane was just five minutes out from Miami and Capt. George Wagner was in contact with the Miami control tower when he suddenly announced he was heading for Havana. "You know the reason why," Wagner said, without elaboration.

Reports from Havana said the hijacker stepped off the aircraft with a pistol in his hand. Witnesses at the airport, describing him as a man in

his 20s dressed in a blue suit, said he handed his gun to a Cuban security guard.

Passengers were taken into the airport but there was no immediate indication when they would leave.

Officials of APSA, the Peruvian national airline, reported that one Cuban, a girl, was known to be among the passengers. They identified her as

Miss Marcia Suarez, 14, and said she boarded the flight when it left Lima at 4:03 a.m. She is believed to be a student, residing in Miami. (The four-enging Convair 990A, one of three owned by APSA, began flight 60 in Buenos Aires Friday night, making stops at Santiago, Chile, Lima, Peru, Quayacuil, Ecuador, and Panama City.)