

HIJACKED PLANE SAFELY LANDED

45 Are Aboard Eastern
Miami-Dallas Flight

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — An Eastern Airlines jet with 45 persons aboard was hijacked minutes after taking off from Miami and was forced to fly to Cuba Saturday night.

An Eastern spokesman said at 8:32 p.m. EST that the pirated airplane, which had been bound for Dallas, Tex., made a safe landing in Havana after the pilot reported he circled the airport to burn up excess fuel.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane, Eastern flight 532, left Miami at 7:07 p.m. and radioed 11 minutes later that it was changing course.

An hour later, the FAA said, the plane's captain reported he was circling Jose Marti International Airport at Havana.

There was no immediate word as to when the plane and the kidnaped 38 passengers and crew of seven would be released. However, Cuban authorities have freed previous hijack victims as soon as a second plane could be dispatched to retrieve them.

Havana airport officials have claimed in the past that its runways will not safely accommodate the huge American jets when fully loaded.

The commandeered Eastern flight was the 17th commercial jet to be hijacked to Cuba this year.

It was the second this week and the third in the last eight days