

## Two Airliners Hijacked, Forced to Land in Cuba

Planes Carry Total of 257 People

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MIAMI (AP)—Sky pirates—including one who revealed a presidential order with a machinegun—grabbed off two airliners Sunday to make the second successive twin air piracy weekend. Both planes were ordered to Cuba, carrying a total of 257 people.

The president of Colombia, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, tried to derail the seventh hijacking of the year. He refused fuel to an Ecuadorian prop-jet seized by four men brandishing submachineguns. But the pilot radioed one of the men would kill him if the fuel was denied. The Colombian Ministry of Defense then ordered the fuel delivered "in order to avoid a tragic incident." The plane carried 75 passengers and a crew of six.

A few hours earlier, the pilot of an Eastern Airlines jet—capt. R.D. Smith of Atlanta, Ga.—radioed from over Florida: "There's a man in the cockpit with a gun and a hand grenade. We're heading for Havana." Smith's DC8 carried 168 passengers and a crew of eight.

### EN ROUTE TO MIAMI

Both planes were en route to Miami, the South American plane from Guayaquil, Ecuador, with several stops, and Eastern flight nine non-stop from New York. Both landed instead at Jose Marti Airport on the edge of Havana.

Associated Press Correspondent Fenton Wheeler reported from Havana that the hijacker

of the Eastern plane appeared calm and unhurried as he accompanied Cuban security officials into the airport. One of the agents snapped a picture of the man. The passengers began leaving the craft about 10 minutes later, Wheeler said.

The Eastern plane was released and returned to Miami at 6:18 p. m. It carried the crew and five New York State passengers.

Capt. Smith told newsmen in Miami that the hijacker carried no gun as he had radioed.

### LOOKED LIKE GRENADE

"He said he was 19 years old and kept hollering 'Cuba Cuba!' and had what appeared to be a hand grenade," Smith said. "The thing had a little cap with a little handle down and he had the handle squeezed."

Smith said he showed the hijacker "a picture of my family that I had in my billfold." I told him to be calm and we'd take him to Cuba," Smith related. "He said 'I don't want to die either.'"

The hijacker carried the grenade in his right hand and clutched a Dominican Republic passport in his left hand. He spoke only Spanish, but stewardess Joan Tognoli of Edgewater, N.J., translated for him. "He was very anxious to show me this passport," Miss Tognoli said.

### GRABBED STEWARDESS

The man grabbed stewardess Pamela Gates of Syracuse, N.Y., to gain admittance to the cockpit.

"I don't think he was mentally unstable," Smith said. "He knew what he was doing. He

was a very clean-cut, nice looking man." The captain said he wore a moustache.

When the big jet landed in Havana, stewardess Mary Lou Fitzgerald of Boston related, Cuban security guards asked for the grenade "and he said 'No.' He kept it and walked down the steps."

Nate Glassner of Forrest Hills said he and his wife Ann were permitted to return with the jet because "we didn't feel well."

Irving Rosen of Scarsdale also was returned because of illness. His son Michael and Rosen's sister, Edith Eikov of New York City, accompanied him.

Michael Rosen said he saw the hijacker "as he ran through the aisle with the stewardess. He had a black object in his right hand. But I couldn't tell what it was. Later on the pilot announced that he had a hand grenade. He was a young boy, about 5-10, extremely good looking with nice skin. He was under 20."

### OTHERS DETAINED

The other passengers were detained in Cuba, but there were indications they would be released and flown to Miami later in the evening.

The Ecuadorian plane landed at Jose Marti Airport at 6:30 p.m. in darkness. A light rain was falling. Two ambulances and a fire truck met the craft, but an official of the Swiss Embassy said later that it apparently was only a precaution because of the wet weather.

A spokesman for the Swiss Embassy which handles affairs for both the United States and Ecuador in Cuba, said the Ecu-

adorian plane's passengers probably would spend the night on the Communist island. The congestion from two plane loads of people forced Cuban authorities to feed them dinner in shifts, correspondent Wheeler said.

### AMERICAN PILOT

The president of the Ecuadorian airline, Mario Tulio Gonzalez, said the pilot radioed the plane had been taken over by four men, each armed with a submachinegun. The pilot was identified as an American, Dean Ricker.

Airline officials said the hijackers were believed to be four men who bought tickets from Guayaquil, Ecuador, the point of origin, to Panama City. The hijack occurred over Vinces, a coastal area along the route to Quito, Ecuador.

The airline lost contact with the craft shortly after takeoff from Guayaquil. Communications were restored when the pilot landed at Barranquilla, Colombia, to take on fuel for the Cuba flight. That was when President Lleras Restrepo attempted to stop the trip. Police cars surrounded the plane until fuel was pumped in and departure permission was granted.

Passengers on the plane—flight 46—include Armando Espinel Elizalde, Ecuador's secretary-general of public administration, Angel Duarte, the nation's under secretary of finance, and Jose Banderas Roman, the retired chief of Ecuador's air force and now a commercial pilot, Guayaquil officials reported.

Two planes were hijacked last

Saturday. One was a Peruvian jet headed for Miami. The other was a United Air Lines flight which originated in Rochester, N. Y. The UAL craft was taken over shortly after it departed Jacksonville, Fla., for Miami.

The Peruvian plane had crossed over Cuba on its flight to the Florida tourist city, but the hijacker didn't make his move until the jet was about 10 minutes out of Miami. Among the 110 passengers were 80-odd exchange students en route to live in the United States for six months.