

Bank Robbery Charges Eyed For Skyjacker

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MONTREAL (AP) — A Texan accused of trying to hijack a Canadian airliner to fly him to Cuba appears in court today, and meanwhile U.S. authorities were checking to determine if he is wanted for a Texas bank robbery.

Police said the Texan surrendered Wednesday after holding two crewmen of an Air Canada Viscount at gunpoint for more than three hours.

He said he was Charles Lavern Beasley, 22, of Dallas.

The Dallas office of the FBI said the man told Canadian authorities he was born April 2, 1946, in Rosser, Tex. The FBI said a federal warrant charges a man of the same name, age and birthplace with the robbery of \$14,000 from the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Ladonia, Tex., on Aug. 19.

AUTHORITIES SAID Beasley, a 6-foot Negro, boarded the four-engine turboprop in Saint John, N. B., and drew a revolver soon after it took off for Toronto. He said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was after him because he was a member of the Black Power movement.

"We're flying to Cuba," he said.

"I told him, 'Yes sir,'" said the pilot, Capt. Ronald Hollett. "He had a wild look on his face at first, then he calmed down."

HOLLETT CONVINCED the man the plane would have to land in Montreal to refuel. At Montreal, the 17 other passengers and two stewardesses were allowed to leave but Beasley remained aboard with his gun on Hollett and First Officer Robert Bromley.

After the refueling, Beasley appeared to change his mind about going to Cuba and spoke for about 20 minutes over the plane's radio with Raoul Carriere, a Mounted Police official.

Carriere told the man the Justice Department in Ottawa had promised to grant him asylum. Eventually Beasley agreed to turn over his gun to the pilot. Carriere and a police sergeant walked unarmed to the plane and told Beasley in court.