

002D

RESCUE 12-26 AJ

MIAMI (UPI)--SIX PERSONS WERE RESCUED FRIDAY FROM A SINKING BOAT OFF THE NORTHWEST TIP OF CUBA BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD WITH THE COOPERATION OF CUBAN AUTHORITIES.

THE COAST GUARD SAID THE 85-FOOT CONVERTED PT BOAT SEA ROVER RAN AGROUND ON A CORAL REEF FIVE MILES NORTH OF BUENA VISTA KEY AND RADIOED FOR HELP.

A COAST GUARD AMPHIBIOUS HELICOPTER FROM ST. PETERSBURG LANDED AT SEA NEAR THE CRAFT AND PICKED UP ONE MAN, TWO WOMEN, THREE CHILDREN AND TWO DOGS FROM THE CRAFT.

THE OWNER OF THE BOAT, NIKOLA SEZERGIJA OF MIAMI, STAYED ABOARD IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO HELP SAVE THE CRAFT WITH THE HELP OF TWO CUBAN GUNBOATS THAT CAME ALONGSIDE AND SENT MEN ABOARD.

THE COAST GUARD SAID IT RESCUED SEZERGIJA'S WIFE, NIKOLA, AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN, NICK, DEAN AND GLADYS, ALONG WITH DAVID EDWARDS, 30, OF STATESVILLE, N. C., AND HIS WIFE, TERRY. THEY WERE REPORTED IN GOOD CONDITION AT THE COAST GUARD NAVAL STATION IN OPA-LOCKA.

THE SEZERGIJAS ARE NICARAGUAN CITIZENS AND THE CRAFT WAS EN ROUTE TO THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN NATION WHEN IT RAN AGROUND.

COAST GUARD OFFICIALS CONTACTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH CUBAN AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW AMERICAN RESCUE CRAFT TO GO TO THE SCENE.

COAST GUARD LT. WILLIAM E. FISHER, PILOT OF THE RESCUE HELICOPTER, SAID TWO CUBAN GUNBOATS WENT TO THE SINKING VESSEL'S AID AND SENT A LAUNCH WITH FIVE ARMED MEN TO HELP FERRY THE SIX PERSONS AND THEIR BELONGINGS TO THE HELICOPTER.

FISHER SAID THE CUBANS "COOPERATED ENOUGH SO THAT WE DID NOT HAVE ANY FIGHTS--AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME."

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CORRN RESCUE MIAMI 020A 5TH PGH BGNG: THE COAST GUARD,  
READ IT X X X SEZERGIJA'S WIFE, SYLVIA, AND THEIR, ETC. (NAME)

UPI/MIAMI

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