



Associated Press Wirephoto

## Leader of Anti-Castro Group

Maj. Armando Fleites said in Miami yesterday that four of the men charged in a plot to kill Fidel Castro are members of his militant exile group.

# CASTRO BACKERS HIJACK AIRLINER, TAKE IT TO CUBA

## Six Held in Havana Accused of Plot to Kill Premier

HAVANA, Aug. 7 (AP) — Five partisans of Fidel Castro hijacked a Colombian airliner with more than 70 persons aboard and took the ship to Havana yesterday. Meanwhile, the Cuban government displayed six captured invaders from Flo-

rida whom it accused of planning to kill Castro.

The Cuban government said the plane, whose passengers included four United States citizens, was free to resume its flight today. All the passengers were reported safe.

The six captive Cuban exiles, paraded at a four-hour press conference, all said they were recruited and trained in Florida by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

### Poisoned Bullets

Two said they carried poisoned bullets intended for Prime Minister Castro. Two others said they were CIA agents. Cuban authorities declined to say whether the captives would be shot.

Guests at the press conference included delegates to the meeting of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity, a gathering of revolutionaries from 27 nations. Cuba apparently intended to use the captives to offset Venezuelan charges that Cuba landed guerrillas near Caracas in May.

Uruguayan Senator Rodney Arismendi said he felt sure that OLAS would vote to condemn the United States for the exiles' action, and about 600 OLAS delegates, special guests and leftist observers at the press conference roared their approval.

### Call From Pilot

The Colombian government said the DC-4 plane, flying from Bogota to the Colombian islands of San Andres and Providencia in the Caribbean, carried 71 passengers and four crew members. It said the pilot, Rafael Madero, telephoned from Havana to report that a group of pro-Castroites had forced him to fly there.

Havana radio said the plane had 78 passengers and four crewmen and that the armed men who took it over were four Colombians and an Ecuadorian. It said the hijackers asked to remain in Cuba and that the government was considering the request. There was speculation the hijackers wanted to pay a dramatic visit to the OLAS meeting.

One passenger, U.S. Army Capt. Harris Wheeler, who was honeymooning with his wife, Helga, Modesto, Calif., said the

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# Hijacking

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pilot announced that the plane was being diverted to Panama.

"I didn't know we were coming to Havana until I saw a MIG over the airfield and I was sure I wasn't in Panama," Wheeler said.

## Taken To Hotel

The Wheelers were married Saturday. His parents live in Barranquilla, Colombia, where the plane made a stop. Along with the rest of the passengers, they were taken to a downtown Havana hotel by bus. The other U.S. citizens on the flight were Mr. and Mrs. Victor Estrada, Chicago.

The passengers said they never saw the armed men, but Enrique Mendez, a Bogota doctor, and his wife said they were sitting near the crew's quarters and knew something unusual was going on. The flight from Barranquilla to Havana took about 4½ hours.

In Miami, Maj. Armando Fleites, leader of an anti-Castro military group, the Second Front of Escambray, said four of the captured exiles paraded in Havana yesterday were members of his force. He identified them as Pablo Garcia Roqueta, Alberto Laucerica Diaz, Francisco Avila Azcuy and Jose Roy Rodriguez.

The four said on Havana radio last night that another member of their band, Placio Hernandez, was wounded when they were captured July 18 and was in a Cuban hospital.

One alleged CIA agent on display was identified as Vicente P. Gonzalez Migoyo, captured Saturday in Matanzas province. The other was identified as Jose Rabel Nunez, a former Cuban land reform official who defected in 1962. He was reported captured Sept. 4, 1965. Gonzalez said he was paid \$850 a month, plus expenses, as a CIA agent.

## Recording Played

Cuban officials played a tape recording from a man they identified as CIA agent Tony Cuesta captured in May 1966.

Cuban authorities said two of the men betrayed their comrades to Cuban authorities, but it did not identify the two. Freites said the Second Front of Escambray group was on a mission to kill Castro as part of a campaign of "irregular warfare" to topple Cuba's Commu-

nist government.

Cuban officials said the four Second Front men were captured near Honda bay in Pinar del Rio Province after going ashore from an "armed mother ship." They displayed arms and explosives they said the four had carried for sabotage and terrorism.

The four said their objectives were to organize peasants against the government, sabotage sugar mills and power facilities and assassinate Cuban leaders. They said they were told that 90 per cent of the Cuban people opposed the government. One, Garcia, denied that killing Castro was part of the mission. Laucerica and Avila said it was.

Roy said he was paid \$200 for the mission and told a long story of CIA recruitment and training in "security houses" in Miami.

He described trying to make similar secret missions to Cuba before but said the men had been discovered and had not been able to land.