



TYPE OF NATIONAL AIRLINES JET HIJACKED ON NEW ORLEANS-MIAMI FLIGHT

N.O.-MIAMI PIRATED BY



DR. EDWARD A. ROGGE
Aboard hijacked plane.

AIRLINER 'PANTHER'

NEW ORLEANS
STATES - ITEM

FINAL SPORTS

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A Negro wearing the American Black Panther uniform of black beret, black jacket and beads hijacked a Miami-bound National Airlines jet shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport this morning and diverted it to Cuba.

National officials said the Boeing 727 Stretch jet—National's Flight 186—carried 58 passengers and seven crew members.

Thirty-eight persons boarded the craft in New Orleans. Sixteen of them listed New Orleans as their hometown or city of origin.

OFFICIALS AT HAVANA'S JOSE Marti Airport reported the plane landed there safely at 10:11 a. m. CST. Witnesses said the hijacker left the plane with his clenched fist raised in the black power gesture.

The witnesses said they saw no weapon in the man's possession although Cuban radio had reported he carried a .38-caliber revolver. He was hustled away from the plane and out of

sight by Cuban security officials.

The passengers — including Dr. Edward Rogge, director of admissions at Tulane University, and Deputy U.S. Marshal M. T. Ford, 3813 Metairie ct.—were taken inside the airport terminal. Dr. Rogge was on a high school recruiting trip to the Miami area. The purpose of Ford's trip was not known.

A SWISS EMBASSY OFFICIAL said he did not know when the passengers or plane would depart. A National spokesman reported the pilot, Capt. Antone Hunter, had filed a return flight plan in Havana by midafternoon but with no indication when it was to be used.

The Swiss official, representing U.S. interests in Cuba, said the passengers were unharmed and in good condition.

National spokesmen said there was no immediate indication how the hijacker got control of the craft, which left New Orleans In-

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Hijack N.O. Airliner

ternational Airport at 8:49 a. m. after a routine refueling stop.

THE PLANE, EN ROUTE from Houston, Tex., to Miami, was on the ground here about half an hour. Nothing unusual was noticed.

First word of the hijacking came at 8:55 a. m., about 10 minutes after takeoff. The pilot radioed Federal Aviation Administration Air Route Traffic Control in Houston that he was being hijacked to Cuba.

HOUSTON acknowledged the transmission and gave Hunter clearance to fly to Havana, National officials said. At 9:15 a. m., control of the plane was transferred to the FAA center in Jacksonville, Fla.

In a radio communication with Jacksonville, the crew reported that their captor was a Negro male who called himself a black nationalist freedom fighter.

The hijacker reportedly told the crew that he would rechristen the plane "The Republic of New Africa." He said that the people of Cuba did not know of the hijacking in advance.

Crew members of the craft—all stationed in Miami—are Hunter, copilot Grayson Buckner Jr., engineer Angus White, and stewardesses Sandra O'Brien, Linda Bollman, Fegina Tisiker and Barbara Bingle.

Previous procedure of the

Cuban government has been to allow the plane and crew to return almost immediately and to permit the passengers to be picked up by a propeller plane.

The reason given for this practice has been that Cuban runways are too short to allow a fully loaded jet of such size to take off.

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