

Gunman Forces

JET HIJACKED

MIAMI (AP) — A National Airlines DC8 with 63 persons aboard — including a stewardess who felt a hijacker's gun against her neck last March — was diverted to Cuba today by a pistol packing sky pirate.

Flight 44 from San Francisco to Miami with a stop scheduled at Tampa, was off the Louisiana coast when Capt.

Charles Leeds radioed the news.

THE PLANE, 11th of the year to be sent to Cuba, landed in Havana at 6:58 a. m. EST.

Aboard were 55 passengers and a crew of eight, including stewardess Donna Goldinher, who was grabbed by a hijacker last March 12 and forced to march to the cockpit with a gun at her neck. Three Cuban refugees later were charged.

The National plane she was aboard was one of 20 commercial planes hijacked to Cuba in 1968.

When Leeds reported the hijacking today he said the plane was being hijacked by a "man with a gun at the head of the stewardess." It was not known whether the stewardess again was Miss Goldinher, a pretty, 26-year-old brunette.

"I AM DIVERTING to Havana, I have been hijacked,"

said Leeds. At the time his plane was about 67 miles southwest of Grand Isle.

Leaving the passengers in STEWARDESS FROM LA.

Miss Thelma Tarleton, 28, one of the stewardesses aboard the hijacked plane, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Tarleton, Abita Springs, according to the Miami office of National Airlines.

Havana — the normal procedure in hijackings to Cuba—

Airliner to Cuba

OFF L.A. COAST

the crew flew the DC8 back to Miami, landing at 11:30 a. m.

Other members of the crew were First Officer Wallace Pawley, Flight Engineer Clyde Roper and stewardesses Thelma Tarleton, Leanna J. Anderson, Pamela Klinger and Miss Goldinher.

Also aboard was William D. Stevens, an air traffic control specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration sta-

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tioned at St. Petersburg. An NAL spokesman said Williams was aboard on a routine assignment to observe route procedure.

It was the third skyjacking of the week.

On Tuesday two armed men forced a National Airlines plane with 32 persons aboard to Havana, and three others diverted an Eastern jet carrying 113 persons.

This month's record number of nonscheduled flights to Cuba began Jan. 2 when an Eastern jet with 148 persons aboard en route from New York to Miami was hijacked.

The year's "biggest" hijacking occurred Jan. 19 when 168 passengers and a crew of eight visited Cuba aboard an Eastern jet New

as it would in any other parish under the same circumstances. That's our job."

CHEHARDY SAID his main purpose of making last night's statement "is to assure the people of Jefferson that the tax commission has no intention of oringing equalization upon the people of Jefferson as stated by Mr. Soniat. I will not attempt to explain the reasons underlying these unspeakable actions of Rep. Soniat."

He said it is his understanding that "Mr. Soniat is the only member of the Jefferson Parish legislative delegation who is attempting to bring 100 per cent assessment through a so-called equalization of assessment study."

Replying, Rep. Soniat said, "I would just like to ask Mr. Chehardy two questions. What is the tax base; in other words, at what percentage of the value of property are the property owners of Jefferson being taxed. Secondly, why are some property owners being assessed at three, four, five and six per cent, while others are assessed