

ALLOW CUBANS RETURN, ADVISE

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Congress Unit Studies Hijack Problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Congressional subcommittee investigating the hijacking of aircraft recommended Tuesday negotiations with Cuba to allow the legal return there of dissatisfied Cuban refugees.

The subcommittee on inter-American affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said this does not mean "that the U.S. Government should support a commuter service for Cuban communist agents or refugees, or dissatisfied Americans."

The House panel said legal flights should be established for "those Cuban refugees who have a legitimate reason for returning."

The State Department has said it would have no objections to transporting such persons to Cuba aboard the transport planes it sends there regularly for return Freedom Flights.

Cuban permission would be required for such action, however, and no such agreement has been reached. The United States has no diplomatic relations with Cuba and U.S. affairs there are handled through the Swiss embassy.

The United States finances the Freedom Flights, set up to bring to this country up to 1,000 Cuban refugees leaving their homeland each week.

The House subcommittee said 38 hijackings of planes, involving 65 persons, have been carried out since May 1, 1961, and Rep. Thomas E. Morgan, D-Pa., said that "to date all preventive measures have failed."

The subcommittee report also recommended "examination methods of detecting concealed weapons," and suggested the possible use of "X rays, electromagnetic detection and magnetometers, to name a few."

David Thomas, acting Federal Aviation administrator, said last month his agency has considered a number of such measures as well as other steps to apprehend potential plane hijackers before they act.