

Post 1-8-68

Colombian Airliner With 60 Aboard Is Hijacked and Diverted to Cuba

From News Dispatches

BOGOTA, Colombia, Jan. 7 —A DC-4 airliner of Colombia's Avianca Airlines with 60 persons aboard was hijacked in flight today and ordered to head for Cuba, an Avianca spokesman said.

It was the fifth Avianca plane hijacked to Cuba. In all, there were about 30 incidents in 1968 in which commercial or private planes were forced to fly to Cuba, or in which persons attempted to force them to Cuba. Today's hijacking was the second this year.

The Avianca spokesman said the DC-4 carried 56 passengers and a crew of four. He said the plane was on a domestic flight between Rio-

hacha to Maicao when the pilot, Capt. Jorge Ojalora, radioed that he was being forced to head for Santiago, Cuba. There were no further details.

Two Avianca aircraft were hijacked simultaneously last September by persons alleged

to belong to Cuban-trained subversive groups operating in Colombia.

On Jan. 2, an Eastern Airlines jetliner on a direct flight from New York to Miami with 138 passengers and a crew of ten was forced to fly to Havana.