

2 Hijackings Force 265 To Havana

MIAMI, Jan. 19 (AP)—Sky pirates—including one who defied a presidential order with a death threat—seized two airliners today in the second successive weekend of twin hijackings. Both planes were ordered to Cuba, carrying a total of 265 people.

The President of Colombia, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, tried to derail the seventh hijacking of the year by denying fuel to an Ecuadorian propjet seized by a gun-brandishing passenger. But the pilot radioed that the gunman would kill him if the fuel was withheld. The Colombian Ministry of Defense then ordered the fuel delivered "in order to avoid a tragic incident." The plane carried 83 passengers and a crew of six.

A few hours earlier, the pilot of an Eastern Air Lines jet radioed from over Florida: "There's a man in the cockpit with a gun and a hand grenade." Capt. R. D. Smith of Atlanta, Ga., added: "We're heading for Havana." His DC-8 carried 168 passengers and a crew of eight.

Both planes were en route to Miami, the South American plane from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and the Eastern flight from New York.

The Eastern jet landed at Havana's Jose Marti Airport where Cuban security officials took the hijacker into custody. One of the Cubans snapped the man's picture as he descended from the craft. The hijacker was described as a slender man in his 20s, wearing a dark suit.

Associated Press Correspondent Fenton Wheeler reported from Havana that the

hijacker appeared calm and unhurried as he accompanied the Cuban officials into the airport. The passengers began leaving the plane about ten minutes later.

Wheeler reported that the Swiss Embassy, which represents the United States, said it presumed the passengers would be returned to Miami by "the normal route." In the past, airliners have been permitted to depart carrying only the crew, with the passengers being driven to Varadero to await charter flights arranged by the State Department.

The Eastern plane was released at 5:27 p.m. to return to Miami. There was no word on when release might come for its passengers or those aboard the Ecuadorian plane.

In Miami, the office of Ecuatoriana de Aviacion said the company lost contact with its turbo-prop Electra shortly after takeoff from Guayaquil. Communications were restored when the plane stopped for refueling at Barranquilla, Colombia where the pilot radioed he had been hijacked.

Police cars surrounded the craft until fuel was pumped in and the plane was permitted to depart.

Radio hams said the pilot—identified as an American named Dean Ricker—radioed that the hijackers possibly numbered five.

The passengers included Armando Espinel Elizalde, Ecuador's secretary general of public administration, and Angel Duarte, the nation's under secretary of finance, Guayaquil officials reported. The flight had scheduled stops at Quito, Ecuador, and Panama City.