

Post
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Jet Forced To Havana With 149

From News Dispatches

MIAMI, Dec. 19—A passenger hijacked an Eastern Air Lines jetliner carrying 149 persons from Philadelphia to Miami today and forced the pilot to fly to Havana.

The plane landed at Havana shortly after 4 p.m.

As the big jet winged past Jacksonville, Fla., Capt. O. F. Firth radioed to ground controllers: "Looks like we're going to have to go to Havana."

The tower asked for a repeat of the message and Firth replied that there was a man in the cockpit and "it looks like we're going to Havana."

The plane, Eastern's Flight 47 nonstop from Philadelphia to Miami, was hijacked shortly before 3 p.m.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it had no details of the hijacking.

"We never ask the plane for conditions aboard under such circumstances," said Jim Pound, chief of the Jacksonville FAA ground control center.

The FAA said there were 141 passengers and eight crew members aboard.

It was the third hijacking this month, the 21st this year and the fourth of an Eastern Air Lines plane.

The entire crew was based in Miami.

If today's incident follows the established pattern, the crew will be allowed to return with the plane and the passengers will be taken by bus to Veradero, 80 miles east of Havana, to be returned later by refugee airlift or a special charter flight.

The last hijacking was Dec. 12 when a young Negro couple commandeered a Trans World Airlines flight from St. Louis.