

FBI Is Seeking Hijacker's Identity

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation sought Thursday to pin down the true identity of the nation's latest hijacker, while demands increased for action to frustrate gunmen from forcing U.S. commercial airliners into Cuba.

In the past, hijackers have been named and charged usually within 24 hours but the FBI declined comment on its search for identification of "R. Hernandez," the bold Cuban who forced a National Airlines jet to land at Havana Wednesday.

The Miami Herald editorially attacked "our sleeping beauties in the State Department" for failing to come up with an answer to the reckless sky holdups.

REAL POSSIBILITY

"One step ahead," the Herald said, "is the real possibility of an air disaster that could kill 100 or more Americans."

The State Department did not comment on the editorial. It has said, however, that it supports a proposal by Rep. Paul

JULY 19, 1968

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Rogers, D-Fla., that Cubans wanting to return to their homeland be given free rides on the freedom airlift.

The suggestion was sent to Cuba through the Swiss embassy in Havana, the department said, but Cuba has not replied.

In Los Angeles, an airline spokesman said "Hernandez" reached the ticket counter 10 minutes before departure of the

flight and paid cash for a ticket. He was accompanied by two interpreters.

FLOURISHES GUN

When he took command of the plane over Texas, flourishing a real gun and a fake grenade, the hijacker told the crew Premier Fidel Castro had ordered him back to the island.

A stewardess asked the hijacker why he did not go back on a freedom flight and said

he told her he would "do that the next time."

Gov. Claude Kirk confirmed that he had talked with Secretary of State Dean Rusk about the hijackings but declined further comment.

The plane's pilot, Capt. Sidney Oliver, said he asked officials at Havana's Jose Marti Airport how they felt about the hijackings and was told they were "becoming boring and bothersome."