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27th Plane Hijacked

MIAMI (AP) — A Trans World Airlines jetliner carrying 80 passengers was hijacked to Cuba Tuesday and Havana authorities took into custody a tall Negro wearing a dark suit and a dark felt hat, officials said.

Radio Havana said the Boeing 707 was pirated by a lone gunman armed with a revolver, but the official voice of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's regime did not identify him further.

J. M. Frazier of the Federal Aviation Administration said the plane, TWA's flight 154, departed Oakland, Calif., at 12:10 p.m. EDT en route nonstop to Kennedy Airport in New York, and was diverted an hour later while over Wilson Creek, Nev.

It landed at 6:29 p.m. on an airstrip heavily puddled by rain, according to witnesses.

An airline spokesman said the

plane's pilot, Capt. George Benke of New York, "was very phlegmatic about the whole thing" and gave no details about the number of hijackers involved or weapons used.

Frazier, area manager for the FAA at Miami, said the plane was given clearance via Goodland, Kan., Jacksonville, Fla., and Miami for its direct flight to Havana's Jose Marti Airport.

Aboard were 79 paying pas-

sengers, the seven crewmen and a hostess-trainee riding as a passenger, said TWA. The crew is York-based.

The plane was the 27th commercial airliner hijacked to Havana this year. Six other attempts failed. It was the second TWA plane hijacked. The first was taken to Cuba last Dec. 11 while on the inaugural flight on a new route between Nashville, Tenn., and Miami.