

Refugees From Cuba Worry U.S.

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MIAMI—Three Cuban refugees who entered the United States through the Guantanamo Naval Base in 1968 returned to the island as plane hijackers within months after they were granted asylum.

The three dramatize a mounting security problem for the United States posed by the increasing and uncontrolled number of Cubans using the base as an escape route from the Castro regime.

There has been no indication that any or all of the three hijackers were Castro agents, although the possibility cannot be discounted.

The hijackers who came to the United States through Guantanamo are:

- Rogello Hernandez Leyva, who fled to the Guantanamo base in April, 1968. He hijacked a Los Angeles-to-Miami National Airlines flight July 17.

- Jose Antonio Suarez Garcia, who was given asylum July 26, 1968, after he climbed the Guantanamo base fence. He returned to Cuba Sept. 20 when he hijacked an Eastern Air Lines plane.

- M. Mayor, who entered

Guantanamo as a refugee at an unspecified date in 1968. Mayor hijacked an Eastern Air Lines Chicago-to-Miami flight Nov. 23.

U. S. officials refuse to discuss the Guantanamo refugees, although unofficial but reliable estimates put at well over 1000 the number of Cubans who have escaped within the last year into the 45-square-mile installation at the eastern end of the island.

They are quietly flown to Miami aboard naval aircraft for processing and dispersal in much the same fashion as those 900 refugees who arrive weekly aboard the U.S.-sponsored airlift.

Unlike the airlift arrivals, however, the United States has no control over those who enter through Guantanamo. Once a refugee has braved gunfire from Castroite guards who surround the base it is impossible, on humanitarian grounds, to reject a plea for asylum.

The result is that some refugees who likely would be refused entry via airlift because of their backgrounds are able to get here through Guantanamo.

The major option open for Federal authorities is to maintain a stricter vigilance over refugees who arouse suspicion during interrogation, at the time of processing or on the basis of other information available to Government agencies.