

JET IS HIJACKED WITH 90 ABOARD

T-V 11-24-68
Four Armed Men Force
Havana Landing

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Four armed men seized control of an Eastern Airlines jet with 90 persons aboard and forced it to fly to Havana Saturday night.

Entering the cockpit while the Chicago-to-Miami flight was over Kentucky, the gunmen ordered pilot R. B. Silver of Miami to report only that the plane was being hijacked and to seek landing instructions for Havana.

"The pilot said we could not ask him any questions," said Paul Boatman, an administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration in Miami.

Eastern said there were seven crewmen, 64 paid passengers and 19 pass-riders aboard the jet.

SIMPLE STATEMENT

Silver reported the hijacking to the FAA in Indianapolis shortly after 7 p.m., about one hour after leaving Chicago.

"The pilot simply told our controller that he was en route to Havana," said James Bromley, FAA flight supervisor in Indianapolis.

"The pilot said there were four armed men on the plane. He then requested a flight plan to Havana," Bromley said.

Silver has been an Eastern pilot for 26 years.

In Miami Eastern officials identified the other crew members as Guy E. Blake, the first officer, and Andrew De Felice, the second officer, both of Miami, and flight attendants Judith Lashmett, Margo Sunquist, Nancy Corson and Carie Hering, all of Chicago.

An Eastern spokesman said the plane landed in Havana at 8:41 p.m. EST.

It was the 15th commercial

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airliner diverted to the Caribbean island this year. A National Airlines jet with 57 aboard was seized Nov. 4 on a flight from New Orleans to Miami by a man who told the crew he was on a black nationalist "freedom fight."

The Eastern jet was a Boeing 727. In past hijackings involving jets of this size, Havana officials have refused to allow the passengers to return to the United States with the aircraft.

Instead, the hijacked plane customarily has been released within a few hours and allowed to fly back to Miami with only the crew aboard. Passengers usually are taken by bus to Varadero, Cuba, where they are allowed to return to U.S. soil aboard propeller-driven aircraft.

The Eastern hijacking came within hours after a committee of the Air Line

Pilots Association had reported at Miami Beach that "profit and publicity are the prime motives for violence on aircraft."

"The recent wave of hijackings appears to have the common goal of advertising some political ideology," the ALPA committee reported.

The pilots suggested more stringent security measures in terminals and improved cockpit security—including bullet-proofing walls and arming crews—to stop the hijackings.

To remove gum from shoes clothing, put the article in plastic bag and place in deep freeze. After the frozen, it may be scraped off.

Beat

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