

# PLANE FORCED TO GO TO CUBA

<sup>T-9</sup>  
<sup>11-25-66</sup>  
Hijacked en Route from  
N.Y. to Puerto Rico

(The Associated Press)

A Pan American World Airways plane en route from New York to Puerto Rico with 103 persons aboard was hijacked by three armed men and forced to fly to Cuba Sunday. At about the same time, 78 passengers aboard a plane hijacked Saturday were being flown from Havana to Miami.

The Pan Am plane took off from New York City at about 10:30 a. m. (EST), 2½ hours behind schedule because of fog. About 1½ hours later, Pan Am said, the airline received a message from the pilot saying, "We are being hijacked. Two armed Cubans in cockpit. Diverting to Havana." A few minutes later the pilot sent a message saying a third armed man was aboard.

The Boeing 707, which carried 96 passengers and seven crew members, landed in Havana at 2:18 p.m. EST, and taxied to a stop beside the Eastern Airlines jet hijacked Saturday while en route from Chicago to Miami. The Eastern plane was hijacked over Kentucky by five armed men accompanied by a woman and three small children.

Cuban security officials immediately boarded the Pan Am plane and took the hijackers, accompanied by a woman and a baby, to Jose Marti Airport's VIP lounge for questioning. The rest of the passengers were taken into a Cuban customs room.

Meanwhile, at Varadero, 80 miles east of Havana, the U. S. State Department plane

was picking up the Eastern passengers.

On arrival in Miami in mid-afternoon, one of the passengers, Reid Moore, 34, of West Palm Beach, Fla., said of the hijackers, "Those people were professionals."

The seven-member crew of the Eastern plane and the jet landed safely at Miami International Airport about three hours after the passengers' arrival there.

The charter plane then refueled and, with most of the same crew still aboard, left for Havana again to pick up the Pan Am passengers.

Pan Am said the passengers were expected back in Miami late Sunday night.

The Pan Am plane and crew returned to Miami at 9:25 p.m. EST. Like the Eastern plane and crew, they were forced to return separately from the passengers because Cuban officials say the Havana airport is not large enough to handle the take-off of a huge jet, fully loaded.

The weekend hijackings were the 17th and 18th commercial flights to be forced to Cuba this year. The Pan Am plane—which was seized while about 300 miles southwest of Bermuda—was the airline's first flight to be hijacked this year. In 1961, a Pan Am flight from Houston to Miami was forced to Cuba.