

## HIJACKED GROUP BACK IN MIAMI

37 Passengers Spend  
Night in Cuba

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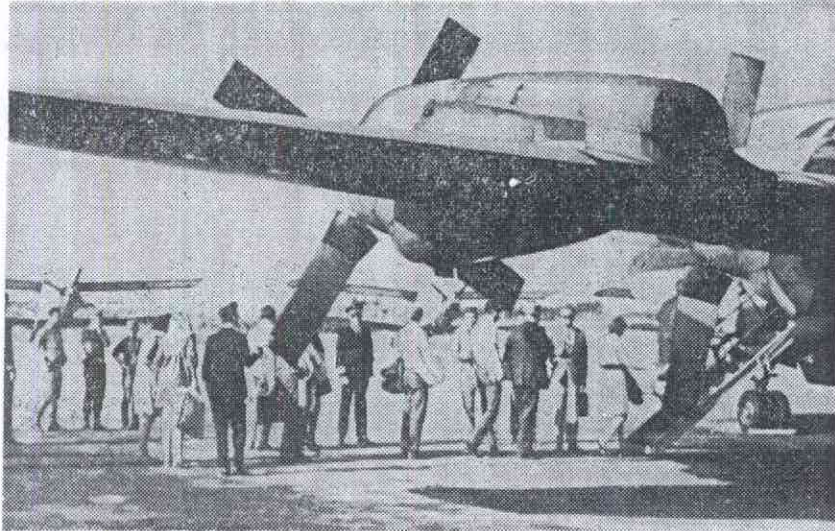
MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Thirty-seven airline passengers, including a college coed who said "I wouldn't have missed it for the world," returned to Miami Sunday after a hijack trip to Cuba and a night in Communist captivity.

Radio Havana, official voice of the Fidel Castro regime, reported the hijacker was a Cuban exile who said he "couldn't stand the life in the United States."

An armed passenger Eastern Air Lines identified as J. Sanchez seized control of the Miami to Dallas flight and ordered it to Havana Saturday night. Cuban officials permitted the crew of seven to return the Boeing 727 jet to Miami early Sunday, but stalled release of the passengers.

A turbo-prop retrieved the 37 returning passengers at mid-

## Hijack Passengers Board Plane for Miami



IN LINE TO board the Eastern Airlines plane that was hijacked to Cuba Saturday night are the passengers of the airliner. They are boarding the plane at Varadero, Cuba, for a flight to Miami. Left of center

are three Cuban soldiers who supervised the boarding of the Americans. This photograph was taken by a passenger who was told to stop making pictures.

—AP WIREPHOTO.

morning. Sanchez remained in the world, but I wouldn't want to do it again," said Shelly Place, an 18-year-old Miamian

who is a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "It was exciting and we were treated very nice."

The hijacker pulled a gun on stewardess Phyllis Howton of Miami 11 minutes after takeoff to gain control of the plane.

Capt. R. J. O'Gorman, the pilot, said the gunman was "definite in knowing exactly what he wanted. It was well planned and he seemed to have a knowledge of the cockpit."

The hijacker, who waved a gun and carried a radio, was first off the plane in Cuba, O'Gorman said. The passengers later were bussed to Varadero to spend the night. Some slept in cottages and others in a hotel before flying from there to Miami.

The Eastern flight was the 17th commercial jet to be hijacked to Cuba this year and the third in eight days.