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A Cuban pilot (left) waits to return a MIG-17 to Cuba. The plane was flown to Florida by a defecting Cuban pilot.

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Defector's MIG Flown Back to Cuba

HOMESTEAD AFB, Fla., Oct. 7 (UPI)—A Cuban pilot flew a stolen MIG 17 back to the Communist island today after U.S. airmen rolled up their sleeves and helped a Cuban ground crew get the jet fighter fueled and started.

It took five hours for the combined crews to prepare the Russian-built plane for its short flight back to Cuba because of different generator link-ups for starting.

The MIG 17, armed with a 37-mm machinegun and two 23-mm cannons and 200 rounds of ammunition, flew here last Sunday. The pilot, Lt. Eduardo Guerra Jimenez, asked for and was granted political asylum.

The MIG landed Sunday within sight of the plane President Nixon was about to board for a return flight to Washington.

Lt. Jimenez told Air Force officials he flew from his base at Cienfuegos, Cuba, at altitudes of less than 40 feet most of the way and thus avoided detection.

This prompted U.S. Rep. Paul Rogers, D-Fla., to call Tuesday for a congressional investigation of the U.S. defense network.

"Here we've just authorized \$21 billion for our defense and

yet we're not protected from Cuba, only 90 miles away," Rogers said.

A Pentagon spokesman said it was "recognized that low level radar capabilities are somewhat limited," and that no investigation was planned. He said radar planes are sometimes sent aloft to "look down" for low-flying planes, but none were in the air when Lt. Jimenez made his flight.