

MILL BOMBED, CUBA CLAIMS

BAL+ 247
Blame Is Laid To 'Pirate
Plane' From U.S.

6/21/64 Red Troops Leave

Washington, June 20 (AP)—The Soviet Union appears to be continuing to withdraw its troops from Cuba, United States sources said today.

Just how many are left from the original missile crisis peak of 22,000 in October 1962 is a matter of guesswork. Some estimates place the number now at fewer than 3,000.

Washington, June 20 (AP)—Cuba said today a "pirate plane" from the United States bombed one of its sugar mills yesterday and was shot down.

A few hours later the United States Department reported a private United States plane is missing from Florida.

The department said it is not known whether the missing Florida plane is the craft reported down over the north coast of Las Villas Province.

The announcement was made after an Havana protest was delivered to the State Department.

The Cuban Armed Forces Ministry claimed the plane dropped three bombs on the sugar mill.

Plane Missing

Joseph W. Reap, department press officer, said:

"The department has been informed by the Federal Aviation Agency in Miami that a plane which left West Palm Beach at 7.30 A.M. yesterday is missing.

"The plane which was leased from a rental company in Miami was piloted by a person named Louis Diaz Lopez.

"We do not know that this is the plane the Cubans claim to have shot down. Our investigation is continuing."

The missing plane was identi-

(Continued, Page 2, Column 3)

Cuba Says Plane From U.S. Hit Mill

(Continued from Page 1)

fied as a Cessna which was rented in Miami and then flown to West Palm Beach before it disappeared.

Cuban Exile's Fear

In Miami a Cuban exile leader expressed fear that it was "our plane" which had been downed. The anti-Castro leader, Orlando Bosch, did not say from where the craft had taken off.

Washington sources said a person named Louis Diaz Lopez previously had been known as a Cuban student in Miami. Whether the same person rented the missing plane is not known pending further investigation.

It was also uncertain from a time element as to whether the craft was the same one as that described in the Cuban protest.

Havana said the plane was shot down at 11.45 A.M., more than four hours after the Cessna left Palm Beach. United States sources figured that a flight over the part of Cuba mentioned should have taken only about two hours.

The Cuban protest was delivered in Washington by the Czechoslovak Embassy, which handles Cuban affairs here.