

Cuba Says It Will Free Four American Prisoners

Washington

Senators Jacob K. Javits (Rep.-N.Y.) and Claiborne Pell (Dem.-R.I.) announced yesterday that Cuba will soon release four American prisoners as a good will gesture to the senators.

The two senators, who returned recently from a visit to Havana where they conferred with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, said Cuban authorities will release David Bruce Nirenburg, Susan Lane Brown, Philip Fred Burris and Richard Peter Johnson.

Javits and Pell said Nirenburg and Brown were arrested Sept. 17, 1973, while aboard the yacht Sahive off the Cuban coast and were charged with the possession of drugs.

Nirenburg is from Upper Sagon, Pa., and the Brown

woman is from South Royalton, Vt. Both have three years remaining on their prison sentences.

Burris, a native of Oakland, and Johnson (no home town given) were arrested Nov. 14, 1970, after landing an airplane in Cuba with no Cuban visa or U.S. passport.

They were charged with taking drugs into Cuba, but the two senators said they claimed they were no drugs on board their plane and that they landed in Cuba because their plane was running out of fuel. Both have one year remaining on their jail sentences.

There are eight American political prisoners in Cuban jails, the senators said, plus an unknown number who were arrested after hijacking planes to Cuba from the United States.

The two senators said word of the planned release was delivered to them by the Czechoslovak ambassador to the United States on behalf of the acting Cuban foreign minister.

"I am delighted at this tangible result of our trip," Pell said. "I hope that this gesture of goodwill by the Cuban government will be the forerunner of other gestures by both Cuba and the United States and will ultimately lead to better relations between the two nations."

Associated Press

Very Common

Philadelphia

The most common element in the universe is hydrogen, which makes up 90 per cent of all matter.

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