

**Castro Angry**

# Cuba Ends U.S. Air Hijack Pact

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Los Angeles Times

Washington

Fidel Castro yesterday renounced the 1973 agreement between Cuba and the United States to control airline hijacking. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger replied with a warning that Cuba will be held "strictly accountable" if air piracy increases as a result.

Castro's declaration came in the course of a mass funeral demonstration in Havana for the 78 victims aboard a Cuban passenger jet that crashed last week after an explosion on board. Cuban exile groups have claimed responsibility for the sabotage, and the Castro regime has accused the CIA of complicity.

Kissinger's warning, in a brief session with reporters in the State Department lobby, was reinforced by a formal statement prepared in response to Castro's declaration that the anti-hijacking agreement would be allowed to expire.

"We regret and deplore this unilateral and unwarranted action by the government of Cuba," the U.S. statement said.

State Department officials had been prepared for a Cuban renunciation of the agreement which, since its signing Feb. 15, 1973, had ended the epidemic of hijacking U.S. commercial planes to Cuba. The agreement provides for mutual punishment or extradition of hijackers.



AP Wirephoto

PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO  
TV speech seen in New York

Cuba's move had been expected since a week ago, when the government-controlled Cuban press accused the CIA of being directly involved in the October 6 crash. Early reports indicated the plane had been bombed, and at least two anti-Castro Cuban exile groups based in Miami have claimed responsibility.

The State Department yesterday denied "categorically" any CIA or other U.S. connection with the airline bombing or with any group claiming credit for it. Kissinger repeated this denial. He added that Castro "knows or should know we had nothing to do with the explosion."

"The United States condemns terrorism as an instrument of foreign policy and will not itself engage in it," Kissinger said. "The United States had absolutely nothing to do . . . with the explosion of the Cuban airliner which triggered this Cuban action (abrogation of the hijack agreement)."

"We will hold Cuba strictly accountable for any encouragement of hijacking or any encouragement of terrorism that may flow

Back Page Col. 4

# HIJACK

## From Page 1

from (the treaty's) renunciation," Kissinger said.

Kissinger and other department officials declined to elaborate on how this accounting would be enforced.

By the time the treaty was sealed in February, 1973, there had been 85 hijacking incidents recorded since the early 1960s, 71 of them involving commercial airliners.

Since the agreement, there have been no incidents involving commercial airliners, one incident involving a private plane and one incident involving a fishing boat.

The agreement provides that either party, upon submission of a written "denunciation" can, on six months' notice, unilaterally abrogate the treaty. Castro's action yesterday, therefore, was consistent with the terms of the agreement, despite the implication contained in Kissinger's warning.

Meanwhile, the State's Department said it is seeking extradition from Venezuela of one of a group of expatriate Cubans arrested there Thursday in connection with the airline sabotage. The suspect, Orlando Bosch, is wanted by federal authorities for parole violation.

Bosch, 49, has been identified as a leader of a Miami-based anti-Castro umbrella organization known as CORU (Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations). A woman identifying herself with CORU telephoned the Miami Herald last Saturday to claim responsibility for the bombing.

On the day of the explosion, October 6, another caller identifying himself with an organization called El Condor also claimed responsibility for the sabotage. Intelligence sources here doubt the existence of El Condor as other than a crank group on the fringes of Cuban exile politics.