

Chronology of a Hijacking

By United Press International

Following is a chronology of events in the hijacking of the Southern Airways DC-9 to Cuba (all times are Eastern standard):

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—Southern Airways Flight 49 commanded by three hijackers at about 7:20 P.M. Friday after taking off for Montgomery, Ala., with 27 passengers and a crew of four. Plane ordered to Jackson, Miss.

JACKSON, MISS.—Plane lands at 8:10 P.M., refuels and takes off at 8:36 P.M. for Detroit, 800 miles to the north.

DETROIT—Hijacked plane circles airport at 20,000 feet for more than 90 minutes while the police ring landing area and Mayor Roman Gribbs of Detroit; the Wayne County Prosecutor, William Cahalan, and Police Commissioner John Nichols—summoned by the hijackers—wait in a steady drizzle to negotiate demands for a \$10-million ransom. Plane ordered across Lake Erie to Cleveland.

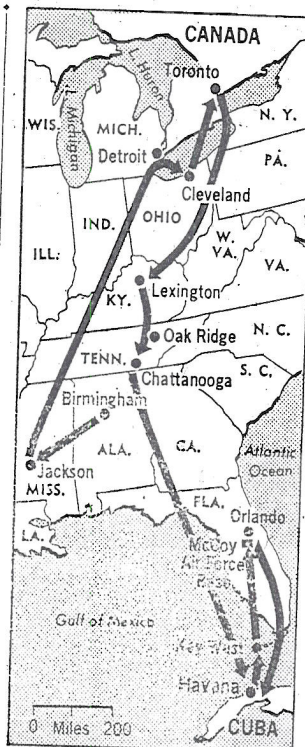
CLEVELAND—Plane lands at 12:30 A.M. Saturday at Hopkins Airport. Food, fuel, ice water and 10 suits of clothing taken aboard. Marksmen from the Federal Bureau of Investigation held off by threat to detonate grenade. Plane takes off at 1:38 A.M. for Toronto, 180 miles to the northeast.

TORONTO—Plane circles Toronto International Airport for nearly three hours and lands about 4:44 A.M., shortly after two other Southern DC-9's arrive from Chicago and Atlanta, carrying airline officials, F.B.I. agents and about \$500,000, which the hijackers reject. Plane takes off again at 6:16 A.M.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Plane arrives at Knoxville, 600 miles south of Toronto, circles at 33,000 feet for about two hours while hijackers demand official document under White House seal stating the \$10-million ransom would be a "United States Government grant." They threaten to "make this look worse than Munich" or to crash plane into Atomic Energy Commission facilities at Oak Ridge, Tenn., about 25 miles away.

LEXINGTON, Ky.—As fuel runs low, hijackers diverted plane about 145 miles north of Knoxville to Lexington, Ky., for fourth refueling, landing at 9:35 A.M. and leaving 15 minutes later.

KNOXVILLE—Plane returns to its holding pattern over Knoxville-Oak Ridge while negotiations continue with the authorities on ground, until 1



P.M., when hijackers order it 100 miles southwest to Chattanooga.

CHATTANOOGA—Hijacked plane and two other Southern planes carrying ransom land about 1:30 P.M. Ransom—along with seven bulletproof vests, seven helmets, medical supplies and 50 meals—taken aboard. Plane takes off at 2:30 P.M. for Cuba.

HAVANA—Plane lands at José Martí Airport at 4:49 P.M., takes off again after apparently failing to negotiate terms of arrival with the Cuban authorities, heads for Florida.

KEY WEST, FLA.—Plane lands for fuel, takes off again at 7:54 P.M. Headed north and asking for "a vector to Switzerland," but instead flies to nearby McCoy Air Force Base.

ORLANDO, Fla.—Plane takes off from McCoy after taking on oil. F.B.I. agents shoot out plane's tires on take-off. Aircraft then circles south Florida while hijackers demand unsuccessfully to talk with President Nixon by radio.

HAVANA—Plane flies to Cuba again, circles for a time burning off fuel, lands on foam-covered runway at 12:32 A.M. Sunday, 29 hours and 12 minutes after hijacking began. The Cuban authorities report hijackers "apprehended" and three occupants of plane hospitalized, including co-pilot, who had been shot.