

CFR COBAMS

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Charge of U. S. Link to Sabotage of Cuban Plane Hurts Ties With Guyana

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—State Department officials said today that there had been a sharp deterioration in relations with Guyana as a result of a charge by that country's Prime Minister that the United States was ultimately "responsible" for the crash Oct. 6 of a sabotaged Cuban airliner.

The accusation was made Sunday by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham in a speech at a rally in Georgetown, Guyana, in memory of 11 Guyanese who were among the 73 persons killed after a bomb blast caused the airliner to crash off Barbados.

Mr. Burnham also raised questions about whether Joseph Leo, legal attache in the United States Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, had been involved in the bomb plot. The State Department said later that in 1973 Mr. Leo had helped one of the

Cuban exiles suspected of planting the bomb get a United States visa.

On Tuesday, John D. Blacken, charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Guyana, delivered a strong protest to Foreign Minister Fred Willis. He also told the Foreign Minister that he had been recalled to Washington, a sign of diplomatic displeasure. The State Department spokesman, Frederick Z. Brown, said yesterday that "the Burnham speech contained bald-faced lies."

A Guyana Government spokesman responded in Georgetown today by accusing the State Department of "crudity and rudeness." The spokesman added that the Guyanese Government felt the United States had "overreacted."

In another aspect of the airliner case, representatives of five Caribbean Governments—Guyana, Barbados, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba—met in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad,

to try to agree on where a group of Cuban exiles suspected of plotting the airliner bombing and other terrorist activities should face trial.

Two suspects, Hernan Ricardo Losano and Freddy Lygo, are in detention in Port of Spain, where they were arrested short-

ly after the crash. Last week, Venezuelan authorities rounded up five Cuban exiles suspected of involvement in terrorist actions.

Trinidadian officials said it was probable that all of the suspects would be tried in Venezuela.