

# HIJACKING TALKS WITH CUBA OPEN

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Some Havana Suggestions  
Called 'Fairly Reasonable'  
—Swiss Represent U.S.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—

The State Department announced today that negotiations on an accord to halt the hijacking of airliners to Cuba began in Havana last Saturday with the Swiss Ambassador there representing the United States.

Ambassador Silvio Mesnata, whose Government represents United States interests in Cuba in the absence of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington, met with the Cuban Foreign Minister, Raúl Roa García.

John F. King, a spokesman for the State Department, said the Ambassador's report was received here during the weekend and was under study.

Other State Department officials said the report conveyed some proposals from Cuba that appeared to be "fairly reasonable." But, they added, it will take at least until the end of the week before the United States is ready to forward its comments to Havana.

"I think we can live with the Cuban proposals, but we still need a number of clarifi-

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cations," one official said.

The United States, officials said has authorized the Swiss diplomats in Havana to "request clarifications" of the Cuban proposals rather than simply receive them for transmission to Washington.

They said that the report by Ambassador Mesnata, therefore, included the Cuban proposals as well as clarifications and his own comments.

According to State Department officials, the Cuban proposals were "in conformity" with Havana's public proposals earlier this month that a "broad agreement" on hijackings should cover what Cuba con-

siders hostile acts by the United States.

These acts were described by Cuba as hijackings of Cuban ships in the Caribbean by groups opposed to the Havana Government, raids against Cuban territory by exiles, and United States encouragement of "illegal" emigration from the island.

## Aides, Express Confidence

The United States takes the position that it cannot agree to incorporate commitments against such acts in a treaty on hijackings on the ground that it has all along discouraged such activities in fulfillment of its own neutrality laws.

These officials said, however that a first reading of the Cuban proposals, which were received here in Spanish and in French, gave them confidence that an agreement was possible.

The United States is basically interested in an accord under which Cuba would extradite to this country hijackers of American airliners or try them under Cuban laws.

The State Department said last week it was pleased that Cuba had decided to try the three men who received \$2-million in ransom and forced a Southern Airways jet to fly to Havana earlier this month. Officials here said it was hoped such trials could be incorporated into a formal agreement.

The negotiations followed the capture of the Southern plane and an earlier hijacking of an Eastern Airlines jetliner by three men wanted in the United States on murder charges.

## Quick Solution Sought

In propping the negotiations, Cuba said she did not wish to be the haven for hijackers wanted on criminal charges in the United States.

Officials here said that although the negotiations would "take some time" because of the cumbersome procedure of going through the Swiss, both Governments were eager to arrive at a quick solution.

According to these officials, the Cuban Foreign Minister

made a point of receiving personally the Swiss Ambassador and his deputy, Arnold Hugentobler, for the first meeting on Saturday.

The Swiss have represented United States interests in Cuba since Washington broke off diplomatic relations on Jan. 4, 1961, after two years of increasing hostility between the two countries. The immediate cause for the United States action was a Cuban demand that it reduce the number of diplomatic personnel in its embassy in Havana to eight officers.

Czechoslovakia represents Cuban interests in the United States, but the Prague Government has not been involved in the current negotiations.

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