

# Cubans Who Flew In Despite Ban Still Refuse to Go

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By ROY REED

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 27— Twenty-two Cubans took their ease in a roadside motel here today and steadfastly refused the United States Government's demand that they get on their airplane and go home.

They stretched their illegal stay in the United States into the second day, apparently just as determined to ignore the demands of Federal agents here as Havana has been to ignore Washington's diplomatic urgings.

The Cubans still insist they have a right, even without visas, to attend a conference of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

They seemed to be enjoying their visit. They smiled and tossed a box of Cuban cigars to newsmen this morning while United States immigration officers looked on disapprovingly.

Meanwhile, in another incident involving Cuba, the Cuban Government allowed the United States to send two commercial airliners to Havana to evacuate 221 passengers aboard an American Airlines jet that was hijacked to Cuba Monday night.

The New Orleans incident, an official said privately in Washington, was giving the State Department "a pain in the

Continued on Page 20, Column 3



United Press International

Francia Metre, head of the Cuban delegation, tossing a box of cigars to newsmen from the balcony of the motel where his group is staying. Two other Cubans are at rear.



## 22 Cubans in U.S. Despite Ban Stay On

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3  
neck."

In New Orleans, David Steinberg, a Spanish-speaking reporter for The Associated Press, asked Francoia Metre, the leader of the would-be Cuban delegates, how they had expected to enter the United States without visas.

Mr. Metre replied that the Cubans had a right to attend the conference with or without visas because Cuba was the largest sugar-producing country and this was an international meeting of sugar cane producers.

Mr. Metre's statement closely paralleled one in today's edition of Granma, the Cuban Government's official newspaper, which said the Cuban delegation did not recognize the right of the United States Government to "impede its access" to the sugar conference.

The Cubans remained under close guard but they were permitted to walk back and forth between rooms and to stroll on the walks immediately in front of their quarters. Their view was mainly limited to a parking lot with a few live oaks and palm trees.

Their motel, the Hilton Inn, is across a highway from New Orleans International Airport. The Cubans landed there yesterday morning after having filed a flight plan and then leaving Havana before the United States Government could head them off. The plane, a twin-engine turboprop, was the first Cuban plane to land at the New Orleans airport in more than 10 years. It has attracted considerable attention from airport workers and travelers, but United States guards have kept the curious spectators at a distance.

Mr. Steinberg was permitted to talk freely with the Cubans until midmorning, then was told by immigration officers guarding the group to stop it.

One member of the group handed a note written in Spanish to a newsman, but a Federal agent confiscated it before it could be read and translated.

The Hilton Inn switchboard operator told a called that she

could not ring any of the rooms occupied by the Cubans.

"It's the motel policy," she said.

The Cubans in their rooms and between meals amused themselves by taking pictures of the news photographers who were taking their pictures.

The yhad scrambled eggs for breakfast and fried chicken, prepared in individual cardboard boxes, for lunch. An immigration officer deposited the 22 boxes on a chair in a hall and left them for the Cubans to pick up.

After more than 15 minutes the lunches were still sitting there. Mr. Steinberg asked one of the Cubans why they were not eating. "We're waiting," the man replied. Finally, an immigration officer knocked on each of the 11 doors and handed the food inside.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said he assumed that the Cuban Government was paying for the food and accommodations. He noted that Cuba had always sent bills to the American Government after American citizens had been lodged in Havana during plane hijackings.

### 221 Leaving Havana

By BENJAMIN WELLES

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29—The Cuban Government allowed the United States today to send two commercial airliners to Havana to evacuate 221 passengers who were aboard an American Airlines Boeing 747 that was hijacked to Cuba Monday night.

Charles W. Bray, State Department spokesman, said that Cuba had notified the United States that owing to allegedly poor runway conditions at the Havana Airport, it was "too

risky" to permit the giant 747 to take off fully loaded and that, therefore, it would be necessary to send two smaller airliners.

Officials said later that American Airlines was sending one Boeing 727 from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and a 707 from Christiansted, Virgin Islands, to bring out the passengers. They have been lodged in Cuban hotels and, reportedly have been taken on sight-seeing trips during their enforced stay.

The officials here also said that they hoped the 747 would be permitted by the Cuban authorities to leave soon with its 15-member crew. They declined to comment on reports that the delays in allowing the 747 to leave earlier had been due to security precautions during the current visit to Cuba of Soviet Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin.

The plane had been bound from New York to San Juan, Puerto Rico, when it was hijacked.

Regarding the New Orleans incident one United States official said, "We grant hundreds of Cubans visas every year to attend bona fide intergovernmental conferences in the United States provided they're sponsored by the United Nations or its specialized agencies."

The current sugar cane conference, the official said, is not government-sponsored nor are those attending it official representatives of their governments.

"There are no entry restrictions, for instance, on official Czechs or Poles or Russians," another source said, "but for 10 years there have been strict entry restrictions both on Americans entering Cuba and on representatives of the Castro Government coming here."