

CBC Sent Nov 1, 1974

RB-94

The announcement by Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley that his country and Cuba have signed an accord to establish a regular air link between the two countries is seen by observers here in Havana as another step towards ~~the~~ the normalization of relations between Cuba and the rest of the world

During most of the decade of the nineteen sixties Cuba had only one regular air link ~~with the Western Hemisphere~~ in the Western Hemisphere, that with Mexico. All during those years, Mexico refused to ~~go along with these~~ break relations with Cuba ~~and~~ <sup>UNLIKE</sup> almost all the other nations of the hemisphere. The almost refers to Canada which also maintained normal relations with Cuba ~~throughout~~ without a break since the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959. Although there ~~is~~ has been no air link between Cuba and Canada, there have been ~~ships~~ cargo ships travelling between the two countries which often carried passengers.

Two years ago ~~Barbados~~ Cubana airlines ~~started~~ started a regular flight to the Barbados, ~~the~~ <sup>HUNDREDS</sup> the most easterly Caribbean island some twelve miles away from Havana. Kingston, Jamaica is only three hundred and fifty miles from Havana.

For some time now, the Cuban government has been negotiating with Air Canada. They ~~would~~ wanted Air Canada ~~planes~~ ~~to~~ ~~touch~~ ~~down~~ ~~in~~ ~~Havana~~. But, until now, Air Canada has been reluctant to agree. Now, with the accord between Air Jamaica and Cubana Airlines, the Cubans have gotten what they wanted, an air link with Jamaica, a country serviced by many ~~other~~ ~~airlines~~ other airlines.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

THIS IS LIONEL MARTIN IN HAVANA FOR CBC RADIO NEWS

42

\*Headline: JAMAICA ANNOUNCES AIR LINK WITH CUBA

THIS CONVENIENTLY HOOKS CUBA INTO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES THAT SERVICE JAMAICA

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Spoke to  
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