

RB-364

Second Report on the Hijackings from The Havana Vantage Point

here is the second and longer report on the hijackings from the
havana vantage point.

last week, cuba won the right to two spots in the guinness book
of world records -- for the most hijacked planes hosted in a single
week and in a single day.

On Saturday along ² three hijacked planes with more than
300 passengers were hijacked to Cuba. This brought the weekly
COUNT ~~total~~ to ~~xxxxxx~~ six with a total of more than 600 passengers.

~~xxxx~~ according to the testimony of the ~~xxxxxx~~ crews of the
~~xxxx~~ u.s. airliners all of the hijackers, 22 in all, were spanish
speaking and ~~xxxxxx~~ doubtlessly Cuban refugees. Several told
of being homesick for their families or discouraged by their
life in the united states.

Whenever a hijacked plane comes in, a United States diplomat
from the U.S. interest section here in Havana ~~xxxxxx~~ goes to
the airport to watch over the interests of the American citizens and ~~property~~
U.S. owned property. John Tipton, the acting head of the U.S.
interest section has been on the job here in havana ^{SOA} only two
weeks, yet he has had to attend to six hijackings.

I asked him to describe what happened when an hijacked
airliner comes in.

TIPTON → Mr. Tipton also speaks about the ~~xxx~~ cooperation between the
United States and Cuban authorities when a hijacked plane arrives.

TIPTON → To make his point, the acting head of the u.s. diplomatic
office here in Havana tells this story:

TIPTON → Nobody here in Cuba is underestimating the chances for more
hijackings. As for the Cubans, they have not shown any inclination
to set up a air or sea route to bring the refugees back -- refugees
that they call "trash".

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

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