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AM-CUBA-CANADA
CUBA AND CANADA RENEW ANTI-HIJACK ACCORD
HAVANA: MARCH 12: REUTER - CANADA AND CUBA RENEWED THEIR ANTI-HIJACK TREATY FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS: THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER GRANMA REPORTED SATURDAY.

THE PACT: WHICH WAS ORIGNALLY SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1973 AND HAS BEEN RENEWED AT FIVE YEAR INTERVALS: APPLIES TO BOTH AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO HIJACKS INVOLVING THE TWO•COUNTRIES SINCE THE ACCORD WENT INTO EFFECT IN 1973.

THE AGREEMENT COMMITS CUBA AND CANADA EITHER TO EXTRADITE HIJACKERS OR TO SEEK ADEQUATE PUNISHMENT FOR THEM IN THEIR OWN COURTS.

THE RENEWAL DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED HERE BY THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN CUBA: MICHAEL KERGIN AND BY CUBAN VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: PEDRO DIAZ ARCIA.

KERGIN TOLD REUTER THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT +HIGHLY VALUES AGREEMENTS THAT ARE AIMED AT DETERRING HIJACKINGS.+ +THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT IS A REFLECTION OF THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES:+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT CUBA DOES NOT HAVE AN ANTI-HIJACK AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. ONE WAS SIGNED IN 1973, BUT WAS REVOKED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN 1976 WHEN IT BLAMED THE CIA FOR PLANTING A BOMB WHICH EXPLODED AON BOARD A CUBAN AIRLINE AFTER IT TOOK OFF FROM BARBADOS: KILLING 73 PEOPLE.

THE SABOTAGED PLANE WAS A DC-8 RENTED FROMA AIR CANADA..

==REUTER/LEM 1314
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