

Gasoline, lighter pass security

Refugee hijacks to Havana

United Press International
TAMPA, Fla. — The latest sky-jacker to divert a plane to Cuba — an ailing refugee who said he wanted to die in his own country — passed the Federal Aviation Administration's intensified anti-hijacking security without raising suspicion.

The refugee, who identified himself as Juan Pedrosa, 40, diverted an Eastern Airlines' flight to Havana Monday in a skyjacking so smooth most of the passengers didn't realize the plane had been pirated.

Pedrosa seized control of the New York-to-Florida flight over South Carolina and spent the rest of the flight in a bathroom at the rear of the Boeing 727 with what he said was a bottle of gasoline at his feet and a cigarette lighter in his hand.

"He was a diabetic," said Julie Lynch of Sarasota, Fla., a passenger who unexpectedly found herself interpreting for the hijacker. "He had insulin with him and told me he had given himself a shot. He said he'd rather die in his own country than here."

The hijacking of Eastern Flight 161, carrying 83 passengers and seven airline employees, was the 11th of the year and the third Eastern has suffered in less than a month.

As a result of the skyjacking, Jerry Levy, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said authorities have intensified the latest security precautions, such as the newly reinstated "behavioral profiles" and the use of federal sky marshals on a number of flights.

The FAA ordered the original step-up in security after six skyjackings were carried out in one week in late August by disgruntled Cuban refugees who wanted to return home.

The FBI said Pedrosa passed through a "behavioral profile" without raising suspicions, but would not

say if a sky marshal was on the flight out of Albany, N.Y., bound for Tampa and Sarasota, via New York City.

Lynch and her husband were sitting on the last row in the airplane in front of the lavatory when the hijacker "tapped my husband on the shoulder and said he had a bottle of gasoline."

Lynch, 60, a former Long Island, N.Y., resident, began talking in Spanish with the hijacker and con-

tacted a stewardess who notified the pilot.

Pedrosa told Lynch his wife and two teen-age daughters still lived in Cuba.

"He said he was a painter in Cuba making \$160 a week," she said. "I asked him why he wanted to come here if he was making that kind of money in Cuba and he said for all the riches."

"He was very friendly, very nice,"

Lynch told reporters after she and the other passengers were interviewed by the FBI in Tampa. "I feel very sorry for him."

The hijacking went so smoothly most of the passengers were unaware their plane had been pirated until the plane landed at Havana. The hijacker himself had to be convinced he was in Havana, not Tampa, before he would leave the plane, carrying his bottle with him.

OCA plans new councils

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Reporter

Plans for the formation of a series of apartment councils was one of the main topics of discussion at the semester's first general meeting of Off-Campus Aggies Tuesday night.

The proposed apartment councils will act to organize the various apartment complexes with each other, organize social events within the complexes, promote co-operation with other student organizations, and serve as a liaison between stu-

dents and apartment managers, said OCA President Paula Sorrells.

Sorrells was very enthusiastic about the new program.

"We have a lot of good people working for us. The program should go over really big," she said.

OCA also discussed plans to form a Freshmen Contact System to counsel freshmen with problems associated with the school and apartment living.

OCA is an organization whose

members include any student

resides off campus. Its purpose

provide services and inform

that those students would

normally receive by living off

campus. The circle

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