

UU LEN BAS  
MIS:HUNGER STRIKE.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS MEN ON HUNGER STRIKE AMNESTY:  
BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, FEB 6, REUTER -- THREE CUBANS WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY SINCE 1980 CONTINUE THEIR PARTIAL HUNGER STRIKE IN SPITE OF A CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFER THAT LET THEM RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND APPLY FOR EXIT PERMITS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE CUBA, AN INFORMED CUBAN GOVERNMENT SOURCE TOLD REUTER TODAY.

THE SOURCE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED AMNESTY TO THE THREE DISAFFECTED CUBANS AND GUARANTEES FOR THEIR SAFETY IF THEY DECIDE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. HE SAID THEY WERE TOLD THEY COULD REINCORPORATE THEMSELVES INTO CUBAN SOCIETY AND ASK PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

A LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID THAT THE OFFER OF AMNESTY COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL TOWARD THE PRESIDENT OF PERU, ALAN GARCIA.

ACCORDING TO A PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT, TWO OF THE MEN BEGAN A PARTIAL HUNGER STRIKE ON JANUARY 6 AND A THIRD JOINED IN ON JANUARY 26. THE SOURCE SAID THEY HAVE BEEN DRINKING LIQUIDS, HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY A PERUVIAN PHYSICIAN AND ARE IN SATISFACTORYH CONDITION.

THE THREE CUBANS WERE AMONG SEVERAL GROUPS WHO FORCED THEIR WAY PAST CUBAN SECURITY GUARDS INTO THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN EARLY 1980. ON APRIL 1 OF THAT YEAR, A SECURITY GUARD WAS KILLED WHEN A BUS CARRYING SIX EXILE-SEEKING CUBANS BURST THROUGH THE EMBASSY FENCE.

CUBAN ACCUSED PERU OF +ENCOURAGING ACTS OF VIOLENCE+ BY GRANTING POLITICAL ASYLUM TO THE CUBAN DEFECTORS. IT CALLED THE DISAFFECTED CUBANS +CRIMINALS+ AND PLEDGED THAT IT WOLD NEVER GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO LEAVE CUBA.

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IN RETALIATION, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT REMOVED ITS SECURITY GUARDS FROM THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY. A FEW DAYS LATER, TEN THOUSAND CUBANS, SEEKING ASYLUM AND THE RIGHT TO LEAVE CUBA, HAD INVADED THE EMBASSY.

THE CUBANS THEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE REFUGEES +WHO ENTERED PEACEFULLY+ COULD LEAVE THE EMBASSY WITH SAFE CONDUCT PASSES. IT SAID ITS OFFER DID NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO HAD FORCED THEIR WAY IN PAST SECURITY GUARDS.

CUBA THEN ANNOUNCED IT WOULD ALLOW BOATS FROM FLORIDA TO COME TO MARIEL HARBOR TO THE WEST OF HAVANA TO PICK UP RELATIVES WHO WANTED TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES. THUS BEGAN THE MARIEL BOATLIFT WHICH BROUGHT 125,000 UNINVITED CUBANS TO U.S. SHORES.

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