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RB-190

This is Lionel Martin in Havana... July 11... Here is the story of the Cuban railway accident.

On The Railway Accident in Cuba

The railway accident was one of the ~~worst~~ worst in Cuban history. ~~Leaving expressions~~ Both self-propelled deisel passenger cars were filled with passegners - many were standing in the aisles, when the collision occured. According to survivors, the scene was one of horror and hysteria. Twenty three persons including a family of four were killed in the crash and almost every passenger~~x~~ was injured- Thirteen of them are still in serious condition at at hospital near the crash scene in central Cuba. Witnesses talk about the great show of community ~~spirit during the~~ spirit during the rescue operations. Hundreds came from a small town nearby to help. Later, when a call for ~~volunteer~~ blood donors was made, more than 300 ~~presented themselves~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ volunteered.

~~The~~ Accidents of this sort have occured periodicall in Cuba. Railway safety investigators are now on the scene trying to determine the cause of the accident -- whether it ~~was~~ *caused by* human or mechanical failutre.

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Last year Cuban president Fidel~~x~~ Castro bemoaned the number of ~~accidents~~ auto, truck and train accidents in Cuba and said that although people who violate traffic rules are not common delinquents ~~but~~ *they* are irresponsible. At that time he announced that ~~xxxxxx~~ Cuban courts would be applying stiffer sentences against those individuals who are responsible for accidents.

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