

RB-313

This is Lionel Martin in Havana..for Saturday morning use the service message: Since Cuba government removed its police guards from the Peruvian embassy yesterday morning, 315 Cuban have entered the embassy grounds in search of asylum and hopefully safe conduct out of Cuba.

I visited the Peruvian embassy here in Havana several times during the night. On the big lawn around the embassy building are over 3 hundred ~~and~~ Cubans. Most of them are less than thirty years of age, many of about years old. There are some women ~~and~~ w9ty small children also. ~~They were~~ They were laying on the grass but few were sleeping. Most of them seemed anxious and ~~some asked me if they~~ ~~would~~ were be able to leave the country. ~~Its a question nobody can answer, except maybe Fidel Castro.~~

Just yesterday, the Cuban government said it was removing its guards from the Peruvian embassy. The removal came after the latest incident involving Cubans crashing a bus past cuban guards into embassy grounds. In the incident on ~~tuesday~~, a Cuban guard was killed but the six cubans in the bus made it safely inside joining --at that time, 18 other Cuban refugees. ~~Two of the Cubans in the bus were wounded.~~

The Cuban government says that the people in the embassy are not legitimate political refugees because there lives ~~are~~ were not in danger for political reasons. It says they should have applied to leave Cuba ~~normally~~. But then it ~~says~~ ^{seems} Peru and Venezuela are not giving out visas to Cubans who want to go there.

The Peruvian government is angry. It is demanding potection for its embassy personnel in Havana and the right of the refugees to leave Cuba.

~~But~~ It might be that the more than 300 refugees on embassy grounds are in for a long wait.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

CBC RN.
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