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Over and above the political situation here, is the

human tragedy. Eight to ten thousand Cubans - men women and children are crowded into an area no bigger than a decent sized supermarket.

The women and the smallest children stay inside a house and sleep on a hard rock terazzo floor. The vast majority of the refugees are outside in the garden. On the ~~xxx~~ fringes they press in ~~on~~ the long fence and ~~in~~ for most there is no space to lay down.

There is only a single bathroom and ~~xxxx~~ until Cuban authorities brought in some big ~~xxx~~ water ~~xxx~~ tanks trucks last night -- there was a ~~xxxxxx~~ scarcity of water. And as it would happen, these last few days have really been scorchers here in Havana.

~~Dr. Aristedes Martinez~~ Dr. Aristedes Martinez is a pediatrician who sought asylum in the embassy with his wife and three children. He says that there is ~~any~~ imminent danger of epidemics and fears that some ~~xxxx~~ ^{children} might die.

There is a clinic set up across the street from the embassy by the Cuban authorities. But until now, many of the refugees refuse to go there fearing they might not be able to get back into the embassy.

Most felt the same way about the ~~xxxx~~ safe conduct passes the Cubans are handing out so that people can go home. They were skeptical -- many still are - but 1700 have ~~taken~~ accepted the safe conduct passes, ~~and some have returned to the embassy later.~~ *and return to the embassy if they want to.*

~~xxxxxx~~ The refugees are critical of the Peruvian government which has not provided them with even a morsal of food. They also want to know why the Peruvian government doesnt given them permission to go peru inasmuch as thg y already have permission to leave Cuba. Some also ~~xxxxxx~~ say they think the United States or Canada should invite them ~~to go there.~~ *IN.*

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

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So the thousands inside, ~~living~~ in a living hell and refusing safe conduct passes, are waiting for some nation to invite them in.

Until now, some 2500 safe conduct passes have been issued. Most of the refugees have return to the embassy grounds but a few have decided to remain at home.

The refugees want to know when. They have demonstrated that they dont want to live in Cuba. The Cuban government claims that there are large numbers of common delinquents and anti social elements among them. But even if that were true, they have been granted diplomatic asylum by the Peruvian government and ^{according to ~~many~~ diplomats here} ~~now its up to Peru to act.~~ the ball is in Peru's court.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC ~~Radio~~ News.

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