

RB-326

The incident could, of course, have serious repercussions for what there are of ~~xxxx~~ U.S. -Cuban relations. Just yesterday Fidel Castro demanded that the U.S. stop its blockade of Cuba, that it get out of the U.S. Guantanamo naval base on Cuban territory and that it stop its spy flights over Cuba.

What is the background to the American embassy events ..

~~backlash~~ This past tuesday I walked among the ex political prisoners gathered outside the embassy and many of them told me of their major complaint. The Cuban government has said they can leave Cuba but that they must go out by legal means. Meanwhile these ex prisoners, who number some 5000 and with their families perhaps 20,000 must wait for the slow processing of their entry visas by the U.S. government. They are angry because other Cubans who are not ex political prisoners, are able to leave the island for florida through the port of Mariel.

Also, the Peruvian embassy events of a few weeks ago has caused a revolutionary backlash here in Cuba. Revolutionaries are angry at the counterrevolutionaries and in many places they are given them a hard time, shouting slogans and in some places, it is reported roughing them up.

So, between the frustration of the ex political prisoners and the revolutionary backlash here, you have an explosive situation that might have had something to do with today's events at the U.S. interest section

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio news.

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