

RB-328

The 398 cubans = mostly ex prisoners = are ^{spending} ~~another~~ another night at the U.S. interest section here in the old American embassy building. Reports from inside say they are calm, that U.S. authorities are providing food and that ^{refugees} ~~they~~ are ~~being~~ ~~watched~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~U.S.~~ ~~authorities~~ ~~who~~ ~~are~~ ~~watching~~ ^{ING} video playback ~~on~~ television.

But a big question mark hangs over their future.

The Cuban government says that the U.S. authorities = or the swiss authorities - since the interest section operates under them = must hand over the ~~refugees~~ ^{THE} refugees to Cuban government ^{The Cuban authorities} ~~authorities~~. ~~they~~ say that the U.S. interest section has no right to give asylum to anybody.

The refugees refuse to leave the old embassy building and naturally the U.S. diplomats will not kick them out.

So negotiations go on and when asked about them, U.S. diplomats say "no comment. But one ^{of them did} ~~diplomat~~ did ^{comment in a tired voice} ~~comment~~ well, it looks like we really walked into this one.

This is lionel martin in havana for cbc radio news.

MAY 4, 1980