

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for BBC News in London
Here is the service message.

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An air shuttle has begun between Havana and San José, Costa Rica to take out some of the Cuban refugees who sought asylum in the Peruvian embassy in Havana on Easter weekend. I'll begin:

Costa Rican airline planes have now established a regular shuttle run between Havana and Costa Rica to take out 1500 of the Cuban refugees. Of those, Costa Rica will take in 300, Ecuador, 200 and Peru, the nations in whose embassy the Cubans sought asylum, 1000.

Spain has said she will take in 500 refugees. And ~~the~~ everybody here in Havana is still waiting for the United States to begin the process of evacuating the 3500 refugees which it said it would take in.

Add em all together and you have a total of 5500 refugees who have someplace definite to go - and on the debit side, 5000 refugees who still have ~~nowhere~~ no place to go.

The Cuban government has already issued 7000 passports with exit visas to ~~refugee~~ refugees and all of these have gone to their homes. That still leaves over 3000 refugees inside the embassy. Many of them are said to be anti-social elements who refuse to leave the embassy grounds for fear of being picked up by the police. Some say they fear the vengeful spirit of the people who ~~in some cases~~ in some cases, have jeered the refugees when they get home and in a few cases, get into scuffles with them.

The revolutionary backlash is growing and it is evident every where. For instance, there was a demonstration ~~in front of~~ near the old American embassy here at noon time. Many of the protesters were 14 and 15 year old students from a nearby school. They ~~and~~ shouted slogans like: "Good riddance to the trash, and the bums." speaking about the refugees.

Then there was the protest demonstration at the airport. As the first group of refugees waited to board the Costa Rican Airlines plane, airport workers gathered and began to shout slogans in which they expressed contempt for the refugees and loyalty to the Cuban revolution.

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