

RB-360  
9

This is lionel martin in havana...for friday morning use...  
the hostages being held at the ecuadorian embassy were release  
late last night.. here is the story.

~~Su~~ddenly, late last night and without any advance notice,  
the assailants of the Ecuadorian embassy here ~~released~~ <sup>FREED</sup> their  
hostages -- the Ecuadorian ambassador, an ecuadorian diplomat  
and a cuban secretary.

According to an official cuban declaration, they also handed  
their ~~weapons~~ <sup>weapons</sup> over to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> authorities

~~Just what they expect~~ The would-be exile assailants -- thirty  
one in number, remain inside the embassy.

Just what they expect to get out of the hostage release is  
not clear. The Cuban government said that they ~~release~~ <sup>release</sup> the hostages  
because of the ~~firm attitude~~ <sup>TOUGH POLICY</sup> of not negotiating with them.  
Now the government here has told the assailants that they should  
hand themselves over to the authorities unconditionally.

The hostages were taken ~~on~~ just a week ago,  
when the group of Cubans entered the Ecuadorian embassy after  
a ~~security guard~~ security guard was slugged and disarmed. ~~The~~ The  
assailants demanded recognition as political refugees..but the  
Cuban government refused from the first to do business with them.  
It sent ~~in~~ food ~~to~~ to the embassy, ~~it~~ ringed it with  
crack troops but said it would not stage a comando raid unless  
the ecuadorian government asked for it.

~~The~~ The superstitious take note:  
~~The~~ The hostages became captive on Friday  
the 13th, ~~they~~ they ~~turned out to be~~ <sup>VERY</sup> lucky  
~~and~~ and they turned out to be very lucky

For CBC Radio news this is lionel martin in Havana Cuba.

CBC  
Feb 20, 1981