

RB-372
1/12
this is lionel martin in havana...for the world at eight monday.
or sunday night.

the service message. more than 110,000 Cubans refugees have
already arrived in ~~from~~ Florida in small boats that went to
Cuba from Florida to pick them up. here is the story.

The mariel-Florida small boat lift for Cuban refugees has
winding down. From a high of 1500 boats from florida in the Cuban
port of ~~from~~ mariel a few weeks ago, there are only a handful
now.

When Fidel Castro announced that ~~mariel~~ Cuba would allow
all cubans who wanted to to leave -- and when he opened mariel
to boats from Florida, a mad dash across the straits of florida
began. Most of the boats were owned or hired by Cuban exiles to
bring out their families.

Then the U.S. government set up a tight ~~xxx~~ coast guard
security cordon in the straits and began punishing some of the
boat owners to brining in illegal aliens. So the number of boats
~~bringing~~ sailing from florida dwindled to just
a few a week.

~~xxxx~~ The dunkirk style exodus took ~~about~~ over 110,000
Cubans to Florida. But at ~~least~~ least twice that number have Cuban
government permission to leave. If and when the U.S. coast guard
removes its ~~hundreds of~~ dozens of boats now guarding the straits,
it is very possible that a ~~illegal~~ contraband trade in ~~illegal~~
brining illegal alien Cubans to ~~the~~ U.S shores will begin. ~~Because~~ ^{AND}
the Cubans continue to fly the welcome flag for ~~xxxx~~ boats from
Florida at Mariel.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

more 1/12/80