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In the wee hours of ^{the} morning, Cuban security forces assaulted^{ed} the Ecuadorian embassy and captured a group of assailants. ^{INSIDE}

So ended a saga which began on Friday the thirteenth when the assailants slugged a cubaⁿ security guard, took his ~~xxx~~ soviet made ak 47 rifle and rushed inside the embassy. They took the Ecuadorian ambassador and ~~xxxxxxx~~³ others hostage.

The assailants demanded to be recognised as political refugees so they could get safe passage out of cuba. But the Cuban government refused to negotiate with them from the beginning.

Then ~~xxx~~ twenty four hours before they themselves were captured, they decided to free their hostages and hand over their weapons. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I live two blocks away from the Ecuadorian embassy and around midnight it became obvious that the Cubans were preparing to assault it. Ambulances, a fire engine, a paddy wagon and police~~xxx~~ cars arrived on the scene. At two am the assault began -- whether the Cuban forces used ^{tear} gas is not yet known but no shots were fired and within a short time the whole ~~xxxxx~~ shabang was over.

The Cuban government said they carried out the operation with the authorisation of the Ecuadorian government. And at the express wishes of the Ecuadorian government, they ~~said~~^{say} they will not apply the death penalty against the ~~guilty~~ assailants.

for cbc radio news this is lionel martin in havana. Cuban

