

RB-394

this is lionel martin in havana ..for tuesday morning use. the service message. the cuban government charged that ~~xxxx~~ the acting ~~ambassador~~ of portugal in havana helped to prepare the assault by a group of cubans last month on the ecuadorian embassy here. here is the story.

~~The~~

The Cuban government says that the top portuguese ambassador here had close links with the CIA and it is they who behind the ~~xxx~~ seizure by a group of ~~xxxxx~~ disaffected cubans of the ecuadorian embassy here.

The entire diplomatic corp in Havana and all the ~~foreign~~ correspondents here were called to the foreign ministry. The acting foreign minister, ricardo alarcon read ~~xxxxxx~~ an official statement --

ALARCON ACTUALITY

Alarcon said that the Cuban governments information came from the captured assailants of the embassy and from other investigations. The assailants seized the Ecuadorian embassy on February 13. ~~xxxxxx~~ On Feb. 20 they released the Ecuadorian ambassador and their other hostages and on the following day, Cuban security forces flushed them out with tear gas.

The Cuban government says that the acting ambassador from Portugal knew the assailants and had even ~~advised~~ ~~xxxx~~ chosen the ecuadorian embassy as the target.

Why -- because the cubans say, their relations with ecuador have been good and the cia, which they say was behind the action, wanted to hurt those relations.

The ecuadorian government did protest to cuba when its security forces flushed out the assailants -- it said it had given them its protection. But the cubans insist they had permission from ecuadorian diplomats in havana -- one of whom resigned after ~~xxx~~ returning to ecuador. the entire things was a provocation of the CIA.

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CBC News This is L.M. in Havana