

Exodus by Boat Ending

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U.S., Cuba Near Accord On Airlift of Refugees

KEY WEST, Fla., Oct. 28 (AP)—The United States said today that only minor details remain to be worked out with Fidel Castro on an airlift, which will supplant sea lanes as a refugee route out of Cuba.

The new, orderly exodus is expected to begin within two weeks.

But some exiles—envisioning red tape and contention for priorities—redoubled efforts to bring out relatives by small boat shuttle before it ends by Castro's order at midnight tonight.

Castro called a halt to the risky traffic across the Florida Straits after conferring with Swiss Ambassador Emil Stadelhofer, the go-between in Cuban-U.S. negotiations.

Informed sources said an agreement called for Cubans with relatives in the United States to be flown from Varadero Airport, 85 miles east

of Havana, to Florida at the rate of about 200 a day. The U.S. Government is expected to provide and pay for the planes, which will be civilian.

The agreement is expected to be made public in Washington and Havana Friday, with flights beginning perhaps 10 days after the announcement.

State Department Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen that "the exodus from Cuba has been anything but orderly" and added that the scurrying of small boats back and forth across the Florida Straits "did not meet the standards we had in mind" for orderly and safe methods.

It was only Sept. 28 that Castro announced his policy of open-door-to exile. Motley small craft, piling up to totals of 150 or more at the embarkation port at Camarioca, ferried more than 3000 Cubans to Florida in the ensuing weeks.