

Illegal Cuban Transport Continues

From News Dispatches

KEY WEST, Oct. 18 — The illegal transport of Cuban refugees in small boats triggered by Premier Fidel Castro's statement Sept. 28 that those who wanted to could leave his country continued today as Washington and Havana sought to establish procedures for the exodus.

There were reports that about 6000 persons were gathered at the Camarioca embarkation camp in Cuba, which was built almost overnight after Castro's announcement.

The United States and Cuba were communicating through notes passed on by the Swiss Embassy in Havana and progress toward reaching an agreement has been slow.

May Come This Week

In Washington, U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker told the Organization of American States that an agreement on a procedure for "the orderly departure" of Cubans might be concluded this week.

Bunker indicated that he was referring to the category of refugees agreed upon by the U.S. and Cuban Governments, those with relatives in the United States. In regard to the U.S. proposal that political prisoners be given second priority, he said the Cuban government "has not made a definitive reply. However, we are not, I regret to say, optimistic on this question."

Havana has already made it clear that males from 14 to 27 years old will not be allowed to leave Cuba. They are subject to military draft and special work in the cane fields and Cuba wants them.

35 Reach Key West

Thirty-five refugees, including a 12-year-old boy who left Cuba alone, arrived in Key West today. The boy was the only passenger in a 17-foot outboard manned by four Cuban exiles who made the trip to Camarioca to bring him to the United States.

The increasing tempo of the small boat transport of refugees has caused the Coast Guard to order three more cutters to join the seven on the picket line across the Florida Strait. The cutters pluck refugees from the small boats short of the U.S. coast.

Refugees make the first part of the journey in small and often ill-equipped, leaky boats that have been bought, rented or borrowed by Cuban exiles to make the trip, and which are subject to seizure by U.S. immigration authorities when they return to America.