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WASHINGTON, Dec., 8 (UPI)
—The State Department announced today that political asylum had been given to a junior officer of a Cuban merchant vessel who jumped ship in Tokyo Sunday and applied to the American Embassy.

The department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said the man, Rolando Gonzales Baez, was on his way to the United States, where he is being granted status as a resident alien eligible for citizenship.

Mr. McCloskey said the man told United States authorities in Tokyo that he had a brother in Miami and that his father lived in New York.