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TO BE TERMINATED: Regularly scheduled refugee flights from Cuba to the U.S., such as this one that landed in Miami Monday, will end today after six years of operation.

Cuba Is Halting Refugee Airlift to Miami

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—The State Department announced today that Cuba has advised the United States of her desire to terminate the airlift that in the last six years has brought nearly a quarter-million Cuban refugees to this country.

Robert J. McCloskey, a department spokesman, said the United States had been notified by the Swiss Embassy in Havana, which represents American interests in Cuba, that the Cuban authorities would interrupt the airlift tomorrow to prepare a final list of those who would be permitted to leave.

He said the department understood the interruption would last for several weeks.

Officials said that since 1965, when a memorandum of understanding was worked out with the Havana regime, 246,000

refugees have flown to the United States on the airlift, consisting of two flights a day five days a week.

Cuba apparently has given no reason for her decision. Heretofore, the Havana Government has taken the view that those hostile to the revolutionary regime, except for persons of military age, would be permitted to leave rather than be a burden on the island's limited economic resources.

No Word on Spanish Trips

Officials here said the change might reflect Cuba's concern that continued emigration to the United States would deprive her of persons with needed skills.

The State Department said it had no indications whether departures to Spain would also be blocked under the new policy. Other sources said the Cuban Government had already

discontinued registrations of persons wanting to go to Spain.

The department said it did not know how many Cubans who wanted to emigrate to the United States would be left behind when the airlift is permanently ended.

Officials said a "master list" of Cubans registered to leave and approved by both the United States and Cuba for the flights to Miami contained 33,000 names. But, they said, it is impossible to determine whether all of them still wish to leave, or how many have already left for Spain.

In addition, officials said, there remain in Cuba 6,500 relatives of 2,500 Cuban children who came unaccompanied to the United States and whose names were submitted to Havana from here. The United States had also approved the entry of 94,000 Cubans whose names were registered by their relatives in this country.