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Visiting Cubans

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NEW ORLEANS — (AP)

— Twenty-two Cubans who spent almost two weeks in the United States without visas took off for home today.

The Cubans — 19 who said they were sugar cane experts and three plane crewmen — were shuttled from the U.S. Naval Air Station south of New Orleans, where they had been detained, to the New Orleans airport in two Coast Guard helicopters.

The group was escorted aboard the Russian - built propjet they arrived in unexpectedly Oct. 26.

Vladimir Cebis, a representative of the Czechoslovakian Embassy who attended deportation hearings on behalf of the Cubans, said the group left the United States voluntarily.

However, a government spokesman said earlier they were under expulsion orders.

The departure came at the end of the two-week sugar cane conference, which the Cubans said they had a right to attend. When they first were denied permission to "enter" the country, the Cubans said they would stay until the conference ended.