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Guatemalan Government Decides Against Providing Temporary Asylum To Haitian Refugees

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 2, Vice President Gustavo Espina told reporters that the government was considering providing temporary refugee status to an undetermined number of Haitians. In statements to reporters on Dec. 4, Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez said the government had determined that the situation in Haiti "was not so serious" and, therefore, will not provide refuge to Haitians. He added that Guatemala would be prepared to receive a small group of refugees only in the event of an emergency at the US military base in Guantanamo (Cuba). At present, over 4,000 Haitian refugees are housed at the base. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 12/02/91, 12/04/91)

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