

VESSEL BEGINS VIGIL FOR ALIENS TODAY,

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Body

The Coast Guard cutter Hamilton tomorrow will begin intercepting boats suspected of transporting il legal aliens, officials here announced today.

The patrol will put into effect a new policy of the Reagan Administration to stem the flow of refugees, principally those fleeing the impoverished Caribbean nation of Haiti, who enter the United States by boat.

Petty Officer Dan Walbschmidt, a Coast Guard spokesman, said the Hamilton was sailing today from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince to refuel at the United States Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She is to begin its patrol tomorrow afternoon.

Coast Guard Cutter will begin intercepting boats suspected of transporting illegal aliens off Miami coast

Mr. Walbschmidt said the timetable for the Hamilton's patrol was announced after Coast Guard and United States Immigration and Naturalization Service officials met with representatives of the Haitian Government.

The Administration's policy, announced Sept. 29, has been criticized as racist by leaders of Miami's Haitian refugee community, who have said the policy is intended to exclude the Caribbean refugees because they are black.

The Hamilton has been ordered to move to a patrol position in the Windward Passage between Haiti and Cuba and to stop and board boats suspected of transporting illegal aliens, Mr. Walbschmidt said.

Plan to Board Vessels

A boarding party from the cutter will question the people on board, determine where they are going and, if they do not have visas to enter the United States, tell them to return to their homeland.

The United States Justice Department has said that those refugees who persuade immigration officials that they are fleeing persecution will be taken to Miami for a formal political asylum hearing.

Mr. Walbschmidt said the cutter was equipped with various weapons but it was unlikely they would have to be used. Only four vessels have been fired at by the Coast Guard since 1973, he said, and "no one was injured."

The Boston-based, 378-foot cutter will be accompanied on the interdiction patrol by a search plane and two helicopters. A doctor will be aboard the vessel, along with two immigration officials and two interpreters who speak Haitian Creole, the language of almost all the estimated 50,000 Haitians who have landed on Florida shores since 1970.

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Meanwhile, Richard Gullage, deputy district director of the immigration service, said only 21 Haitians arrived in South Florida this week. He said the new arrivals landed Wednesday. Mr. Gullage said there were 1,100 refugees, mostly Haitians, at a processing center west of Miami.

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