757 Haitians may have political asylum eligibility

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The State Department said Monday that <u>757</u> of the 6,620 Haitian refugees picked up by U.S. vessels since the September coup in Haiti have plausible grounds for seeking <u>political asylum</u>. Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said 4,593 <u>Haitians</u> had been interviewed by Immigration and Naturalization Service officials. Of those with plausible <u>asylum</u> grounds, 212 have been flown to the USA to make their cases. The rest will follow shortly, Tutwiler said. The United States plans to return most of the refugees to Haiti but has been prevented by a court order issued by a federal judge in Florida. In the meantime, the refugees are being housed at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, in tents on a abandoned airfield, and aboard Coast Guard vessels.

WHITE HOUSE VISIT: Nobel Prize-winning missionary Mother Teresa visited President Bush and gave him an update on her recent charity work in Albania. The 10-minute meeting "was very cordial," said presidential spokesman Gary Foster. "The president appreciated her visit." Mother Teresa established five mission clinics in Albania and hopes to open similar facilities in China, Foster said. The 81-year-old Roman Catholic nun was in Washington to witness the induction of 27 nuns into the Missionaries of Charity order, which she founded in 1950.

Notes

WASHINGTON AND THE WORLD

Graphic

PHOTO; b/w, USA TODAY

CUTLINE: MOTHER TERESA: Visited with Bush

Classification

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