

## **Talks With Cubans in Louisiana Go On as Siege Is Said to Stabilize**

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### **Body**

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The standoff at a Federal detention center here, where Cuban refugees are holding 28 hostages, continued for the fourth day today.

Negotiations between the two sides resumed this evening after a 24-hour interruption, said Mark Sheehan, a spokesman for the Justice Department. The inmates have given the authorities a letter with seven demands, he said. Officials declined to make any of those demands public.

"We are mildly encouraged," Mr. Sheehan said. "But that doesn't mean there is going to be early or substantial progress. It looks as if it is going to be a long time."

#### Inmates Elect Representatives

Mr. Sheehan, who flew in from Washington to handle the Government's troubled press relations, said the inmates had elected four negotiators. He said that made the talks easier since the Government was no longer dealing with squabbling factions.

J. Michael Quinlan, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, said in Washington that he was hopeful that the situation could be resolved soon because the leadership of the inmates had "crystallized" in the last 24 hours.

Senator John B. Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat who has been monitoring the negotiations, said a list of inmate demands he had seen was similar to an offer made Monday by Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d. Mr. Meese had proposed a moratorium on the deportation of about 2,500 Cubans who arrived in the Mariel boat lift and have gotten into trouble with the law.

"His offer and what they are asking are consistent," Senator Breaux said at a news conference early this morning. He also said the inmates had proposed that the Government send them to a third country.

#### Mediation Is Suggested

The failure to resolve the standoff, which began Saturday evening, has led a number of groups to demand that the Government summon a mediator trusted by the inmates. They have suggested the Rev. Augustin Roman, auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Miami.

"They felt somehow that he understands their struggle," said the Rev. Roy Bourgeois, a Catholic priest who recently finished serving a six-month sentence in the center for protesting United States policy in Central America.

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"It's unreasonable to expect Cuban inmates all of a sudden to say, 'I trust you,' " Father Bourgeois said at a news conference this morning. "The bishop, I feel, could break the standstill and move the situation forward."

The Cuban-born Bishop Roman, who for years has represented the Miami diocese in matters concerning jailed Cuban refugees, was asked late last week to fly to Oakdale in a plane provided by the Federal Government. But according to his Miami attorney, Rafael A. Penalver Jr., discussions about the bishop's involvement in the crisis broke down on Monday when Administration officials refused to put on paper a pledge that they would agree to a judicial review of each of the jailed **Cubans** deemed "excludable" by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

### Message to the President

On Monday, Bishop Roman was instrumental in bringing together more than 20 Cuban exile organizations at his church in Miami, where they signed a petition to asking the Federal authorities to initiate judicial procedures to determine the status of each prisoner and to release those who had served their sentences.

The police, who have surrounded the sprawling detention center, the National Guard and the inmates periodically engaged in carefully orchestrated shows of force designed to impress their determination on the other side, the authorities said.

Late this afternoon, the inmates displayed a hand-painted sign saying, in red letters, "Mr. Reagan, if you deny our freedom, you kill us."

J. R. Johnson, the warden, said the authorities continued to receive assurances that the hostages had not been harmed. But he emphasized that the inmates have threatened to kill the hostages if the authorities storm the compound.

"Every time there's any unusual activity, they threaten to injure the hostages," said Mr. Johnson, who is not directly involved in the negotiations. "We reinforce the fact that as long as they don't harm the hostages, we will not come in."

Both sides appeared to be preparing for a long **siege**. The authorities erected several large camouflage tents and built a mobile hospital.

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