

N.J. Cuban refugees join protests against Castro

NEWARK (AP) — About 10 per cent of New Jersey's 150,000 Cuban refugees are expected to join their compatriots in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Miami and Puerto Rico today to protest the possible easing of relations between the Castro regime and the 21-member Organization of American States.

The New Jersey demonstrators, many of whom are members of the Leones Cubanos en el Exilio — Cuban Lions in Exile, will close their businesses, abstain from working and keep

their children home from school as part of the day of protest.

The Jersey demonstrations, which will be held in Elizabeth and West New York, are part of a national protest to coincide with a five-day OAS conference in Ecuador on the possible lifting of economic sanctions against the Castro regime.

The first demonstration will be held at 10 a.m. in front of city hall in Elizabeth with speeches and a brief rally. At 1 p.m. about 15,000 Cuban refugees and sympathizers will gather in West New York to

participate in the state's major demonstration.

Demonstration co-ordinator Manuel Fernandez said the Cuban refugees are particularly upset about the conference because the United States delegation has not declared itself for or against the lifting of the sanctions.

"We will stop all businesses, workers will not go to work, students will not go to school — to show the free world that we are alive and that we don't accept coexistence," he said. "We would like to live with Cuba, but without Castro."