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28Aug89 CUBA: DEFENCE RESTS IN TRIAL OF FORMER CUBA INTERIOR MINISTER.

By **Lionel Martin**

HAVANA, Aug 27, Reuter - The trial of Cuba's former Interior Minister and six aides -- all of whom admit involvement in a drug scandal that led to four executions last month -- ended on Sunday, the Cuban news agency AIN reported.

Three military judges, headed by the Vice-Minister of the Cuban Armed Forces, were expected to announce verdicts within 72 hours, a Cuban official told Reuters.

The chief defendant, former Interior Minister Jose Abrenates, was charged with abuse of authority, improper use of government money and other resources and negligence in carrying out his duties. He faces 30 years in prison if convicted.

Last month a military court found 14 defendants guilty in the drug-trafficking scandal and sent four of them before a firing squad.

Two of them, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio de la Guardia and Major Amador Padron, were members of the Ministry of the Interior and the other two who died were officers in the Cuban Armed Forces -- much-decorated General Arnaldo Ochoa and his aide, Captain Jorge Martinez.

Ten other officers of the Ministry of Interior were also found guilty of drug trafficking and received long prison terms.

All seven defendants in the current trial have admitted guilt.

A Cuban official said Abrenates did not give information to Cuban President Fidel Castro that could have led to the early exposure of the drug-trafficking activities of his subordinates.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE