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31 Aug 89 CUBA: MORE CUBAN TROOPS AND WAR MATERIAL RETURN FROM ANGOLA.

By Lionel Martin

HAVANA, Aug 31, Reuter - A planeload of Cuban troops and a shipload of war material have arrived from Angola as part of the phased withdrawal of Cuban forces from the African country.

Wednesday's arrival of the troops and material was reported in the official newspaper Granma on Thursday.

The newspaper said a Cuban cargo ship brought back Soviet-made MiG-21 fighter planes, MI-8 helicopters and other weapons. It is the third shipload of war material from Angola since the start of August.

Granma said 140 Cuban soldiers arrived by aircraft.

Under an accord signed last December in New York, Cuba agreed to the phased withdrawal of its 50,000 troops in Angola by mid-1991. The Cuban Armed Forces Ministry announced that 15,600 troops returned from January to July 31, an average of about 2,200 a month.

However, a Cuban government official said the withdrawal schedule could be adjusted if UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerrillas continue their attacks on government and civilian targets.

"If the Angolan government believes that its security is endangered by UNITA attacks, it might have Cuban troops to remain," he said. Cuban President Fidel Castro raised the possibility of delaying the withdrawal in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on August 16.

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