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havana, july 26, reuter -- cuban president fidel castro warned south africa in a nationally televised speech today that if its troops invade angola, cuba military force would confront them.

castro spoke at the twenty-ninth anniversary rally commemorating the attack he led on the moncada barracks in 1953 in his first revolutionary attempt to overthrow the regime of cuban dictator fulgencio batista.

+we are not in favour of war, we are in favour of peace,+ castro declared. +but we warn that if south african troops attack the reublic of angola in depth and reach our lines we will combat very seriously.+

the cuban leader said that the angolan government rejects the demand that cuban troops pull out of angola in exchange for the withdrawal of south african troops from namibia. he said that south africans in namibia are +illegal occupants and agressors+ while cuban troops in angola were +allies+.

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castro declared that cuba +has an agreement to withdraw gradually from angola in a time lapse agreed upon between us, when south african troops withdraw from namibia to the other side of the orange river, when all danger of external aggression against angola namibia ceases and when the imperialists stop all support for puppet organisations such as unita.+

+we have already fought against the fascist, racist south africans once and they are familiar with the tenacity and courage of our combatants,+ castro said. +it would be best,+ he continued, +if the imperialists and their cohorts do not promote adventures of this kind.+

the cuban leader called for a +reasonable and just solution+ to the namibian problem and affirmed that cuba's enemies +abandon threats because they are not going to intimidate us.+

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president castro declared that cuba has expended +extraordinary efforts in the sphere of defense+ in recent times. +in the past eighteen months,+ he said, +we enrolled, trained and armed more than a half million citizens, men and women, in the territorial militia.+

the cuban leader said that tens of thousands of citizens had been trained in new combat techniques to lead the militia troops and that recently other tens of thousands of men and thousands of pieces of equipment took part in the building of fortifications and refuges for personnel and supplies.

in one of his few specific mentions of the united states, he accused washington of prohibiting puerto ricans from attending the central american sports games which are scheduled to begin on august 7 in havana. the puerto rican olympic committee expects to send a large contingent of athletes to participate in the games.

castro also blamed the united states for exerting pressures which have made difficult the sale of cuban nickel in western markets.

a western diplomat noted that while the united states was seldom mentioned by name and the reagan administration was not mentioned at all, the speech +did mention the general +imperialists+ and could be characterised as a combative speech.+

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during his three hour speech, fidel castro spoke about the international economic crisis and the cuban economy.

the cuban leader said that cuba's overall economic development +has not gone badly.+ he announced that sugar production the recently completed harvest was the second highest in cuba history but that the dramatic fall in crude sugar prices on the world market will have severe repercussions on the cuban economy.

he predicted that cuba could expect only slight or no economic growth. he foresaw a shortage of imported raw materials for cuban industry and construction and announced that it will probably be necessary to reduce the work day because of the shortages. castro said that cuban communist party policy is that the burden of hardships be shared among cubans so that workers are affected as little as possible.

president castro charged the developed, capitalist nations of +hardening+ their economic policy toward the third world. he said that cuba was protected to some extent by the fact that eighty percent of its trade is with the socialist bloc nations.

however, the cuban leader said, the twenty percent trade with the capitalist nations +had a greater specific weight in importance+ than the amount would indicate inasmuch as cuba depended on many basic products which are manufactured in the non-communist world.