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politics

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havana, feb 6, reuter -- the cuban and angolain governments declared in a joint resolution made public today that they would initiate a withdrawal of cuban forces from angola if south african forces withdrew from namibia and a truly independent government was established there.

the joint statement was signed in luanda by the cuban foreign minister, isidoro malmeiro, and his angolain counterpart, paulo Jorge.

the statement said that the main reason for the continued presence of cuban troops in angola is "the external aggression carried out by the racist and fascist south african troops in close collaboration with the united states."

the statement charged that "the presence of cuban forces in angola has been the object of slanderous and malicious propaganda of the imperialists and especially the united states, who try to link it to the namibian independence process as a means of preventing the application of resolutions adopted by the united nations."

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+the stationing and withdrawal of Cuban forces in Angola, + the statement said, +constitutes a bilateral question between two sovereign states...in conformity with article 51 of the United Nations Charter.+

it accused the Reagan administration of providing increasing political, economic and military support to South Africa, its gendarme against the people of South Africa, with absolute contempt for resolutions of the United Nations, the African Unity Organisation, non-aligned nations movement and international public opinion. For that reason, + the statement said, +the danger to Angola and other 'front line states' is greater than ever before.+

the joint statement charged that +the United States and South Africa have increased the use of counterrevolutionary bands as an instrument of aggression against Angola.+ it alleged that these bands +use Namibia as their general headquarters, training base, weapon depot and centre of communication.+

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the statement revealed that in April, 1976, and again in mid-1977, the two governments decided on a gradual reduction of Cuban military forces in Angola. In both cases the withdrawal of Cuban troops was suspended following new external threats against Angola.*

the joint statement reviewed the history of the Cuban military presence in Angola since 1976.

to achieve its plan to liquidate the revolutionary movement in Angola,* the statement declared, the U.S. government launched the South African army against Angola on October 14, 1975, taking advantage of the fact that the South African racist illegally occupied, and still do, the territory of Namibia.*

* The statement said that when South African troops advanced 700 kilometers inside Angolan territory and regular foreign forces and mercenaries were threateningly near the capital,* President Agostinho Neto of Angola requested military aid from Cuba.
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with cuban help, the statement declared, the south african troops were expelled from angolan territory by march 27, 1976. the joint statement said that cuban internationalist aid represented a valuable contribution to the struggle of the african people against colonialism, racism and apartheid.

on april 22, 1976, the angolan and cuban governments agreed to a gradual reduction of cuban forces. in less than a year, the cuban military contingent was reduced by more than a third, the statement said.

subsequently, it declared, the magnitude of the south african aggression against kassinga in may, 1973 and the threatening pressure of parachute troops of nato nations near the northwest frontier made even more necessary the maintenance of cuban military forces.

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in mid-1973 the two nations +once again+ initiated the gradual withdrawal of cuban troops, the statement said, +but almost immediately, in september of that year, the south africans carried out numerous aggressions on a broad scale in the provinces of cunene and huila.+

the statement said that in august, 1981, +a wide scale aggression took place with the invasion of the province of cunene by large contingents of regular south african troops.+

the angolan-cuban statement said that if a +true solution of the namibian problem based on strict compliance with resolution 435/78 of the security council leads to a really independent government and the total withdrawal of south african occupation troops to the other side of the orange river, the angolan and cuban governments would reinstitute the program for the gradual withdrawal of cuban forces.+

the statement declared that +cuba+ reiterates that it will comply, without hesitation, with any decision adopted by the sovereign government of the people's republic of angola.
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