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#CUBA-SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA
NEW ROUND OF SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA TALKS SCHEDULED FOR BRAZZAVILLE:
HAVANA, AUG 19, REUTER - THE FIFTH ROUND OF NEGOTATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND ANGOLA ON THE ONE HAND AND SOUTH AFRICA ON THE OTHER, AIMED AT FINDING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA, WILL TAKE PLACE IN BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO BETWEEN AUGUST 24-26, THE CUBAN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, GRANMA, REPORTED FRIDAY.
THE FIRST ROUND, HELD IN LONDON LAST MAY, WAS FOLLOWED BY OTHER MEETINGS IN CAIRO, NEW YORK AND GENEVA.
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ACTED AS MEDIATOR DURING THE NEGOTATIONS.
THE CONTENDING SIDES REACHED A 14-POINT AGREEMENT DURING THE THIRD ROUNDOF NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK WHICH CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWEL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THAT SOUTHWEST AFRICAN NATIONS.
THE AGREEMENT ALSO STIPULATED GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY OF ANGOLA WHERE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN AN ARMED CONFLICT WITH ANGOLAN AND CUBAN FORCES.
IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREEMENT, SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BEGIN A STAGED WITHDRAWEL OF TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA ON NOVEMBER 1.
ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS OF CONTENTION DJRING THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN THE TIMETABLE FOR THE WITHDRAWEL OF 50,000 CUBAN TROOPS NOW IN ANGOLA.
THE FOURTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS HELD IN GENEVA IN EARLY AUGUST WERE CHARACTERISED BY BOTH SIDES AS +DETAILED, POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE.+
LAST WEEK DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN QUITO, ECUADOR, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A NEGOTIATEED SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA.
==REUTER/LEM 1030
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