RR-88-70

UU ISA LEN BAS CAW FBA
:AM-CUBA-GOVERNMENT
CUBA DECENTRALISES LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SEARCH FOR EFFICIENCY:
BY LIONEL MARTIN
HAVANA, MAY 17, REUTER - CUBA'S COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ORDERED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TOWARD THE DECENTRALISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS, GRANMA, THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY REPORTED TUESDAY.

A CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID THE DECENTRALISATION IS AIMED AT OVERCOMING THE BUREACRATIC STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SET-UP WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO RUN A BIG CITY EFFICIENTLY.

UNDER CUBA'S SOCIALIST SYSTEM, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEMANAGEMENT OF NOT ONLY THE USUAL COMMUNAL SERVICES SUCH AS GARBAGE COLLECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BUT ALSO FOR MOVIE HOUSES, RESTAURANTS, LAUNDRIES . FOOD STORES AND REPAIR SHOPS.

GRANMA SAID THAT THE POLITBURO OF THE COMMUNIST PART MADE THE DECISION LAST WEEKEND BECAUSE +IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE GROWTH IN POPULATION AND THE NUMBER OF PRODUCTION, SERVICE AND ADMIISTRATIVE UNITS IN THE BIG CITIES...MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT ORGANS TO EXERCISE ADEQUATE LEADERSHIP, CONTROL AND SUPERVISION...+

THE POLITBURO DECIDED TO INITIATE A PILOT PLAN FOR THE NEW STREAMLINING OF LOCAL POWER AUTHORITY IN CUBA'S SECOND MOST POPULOUS CITY, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, INTHE EASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

THE CITY WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR DISTRICTS WHICH WILL EACH HAVE AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THAT +WILL EXERCISE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT'S ECONOMIC, SERVICE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, PROMOTE AND ORGANISE THE CARRYING OUT SOCIAL AND COMMUNAL PROJECTS AND HELP IN THE PREPARATION FOR MILITARY DEFENSE,+ THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

UNDER THE 1976 CONSTITUTION, SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA IS RUN BY ONE OF CUBA'S 169 MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLIES FOR PEOPLES POWER. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ASSEMBLIES ARE CHOSEN BY POPULAR ELECTION EVERY TWO YEARS IN EACH OF THE PRECINCTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY. UNDER CUBAN LAW, THERE MUST BE MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR EVERY PRECINCT.
==MORE/LEM
MMMM

RR-88-71 1988

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
:AM-CUBA-ANGOLA/SOUTH AFRICA
CUBAN OFFICIAL REFUTES SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER'S STATEMENT:
HAVANA, MAY 16, REUTER - THE FACT THAT CUBAN TROOPS ARE NOW OPERATING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA NEAR THE NAMIBIAN BORDER SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE REGION, A CUBAN OFFICIAL WHO MADE CLEAR HE WAS SPEAKING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN TOLD REUTER MONDAY.

THE COMMENT WAS IN REPLY TO A CHARGE MADE IN CAPE TOWN EARLIER BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER, MAGNUS MALAN, THAT CUBA WAS UNDERMINING THE ANGOLAN PEACE TALKS BY MOVING TROOPS SOUTH TOWARD PRETORIA-RULED NAMIBIA.

+WE ARE OPERATING WITHIN ANGOLAN TERRITORY AT THE REQUEST OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT BUT SOUTH AFRICA ADMITTEDLY HAS TROOPS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT,+ THE CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER SAID THAT HE TOLD THE ANGOLANS AT A MEETING IN BRAZZAVILLE LAST WEEK THAT UNLESS THE CUBAN TROOPS RETIRE FROM AREAS CLOSE TO ANGOLA'S FRONTIER WITH NAMIBIA, +DISCUSSIONS MADE NO SENSE.+

ON MAY AND 3 4 IN LONDON, REPRESENTATIVES OF CUBA, ANGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES HELD TALKS AIMED AT FINDING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA. THE LONDON TALKS AND THOSE HELD IN BRAZZAVILLE WERE SEEN AS PART OF NEW PEACE INITIATIVES THAT HELD OUT HOPE FOR AN END TO THE 13 YEAR OLD ANGOLAN WAR.

THE CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT +FURTHER TALKS DO MAKE SENSE BECAUSE THEIR ESSENCE IS TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WILL STOP ITS AGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA AND WILL ABIDE BY THE U.N RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDECE.+ +IF THE TALKS ARE SUCCESSFUL, CUBAN TROOPS WILL NOT ONLY BE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA BUT WILL BE SENT HOME OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS,+ HE SAID

THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ON MAY 2 THAT ITS NORMAL LINES OF DEFENSE IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA HAD BEEN MOVED SOUTHWARD AND THAT ITS TROOPS ARE NOW CARRYING OUT MILITARY ACTIVITIES CLOSE TO THE ANGOLAN-NAMIBIAN FRONTIER.

ON THAT DAY, GRANMA, THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, PRINTED A MAP WHICH SHOWED CUBAN AND ANGOLAN MILITARY FORCES SLIGHTLY NORTH OF PARALLEL -17, WITHIN ANGOLAN TERRITORY, CLSOE TO THE NAMIBIAN FRONTIER.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE DECISION BY CUBA TO MOVE ITS TROOPS SOUTHWARD +WAS DUE TO THE PIGHEADEDNESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THEIR IRRATIONAL DECISION TO MAIANTAIN THE OCCUPATION OF PART OF ANGOLAN TERRITORY.+

GRANMA SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN AND ANGOLAN TROOPS ON THE FRONTIER, SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS +CAN NO LONGER ACT WITH IMPUNITY IN THE SOUTH OF ANGOLA AS THEY HAVE DONE OVER PAST YEARS WITH ABSOLUTE DISREGARD FOR THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.+

(CORRECTION - PARA 5, LINE 1 SHOULD READ MAY 3 AND 4)
==REUTER/LEM
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