



WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA TO RESUME

Angola and Cuba agreed on the 16 February to resume withdrawal of Cuban troops from the African nation, one month after the pullout was suspended, the Angolan foreign minister said.

The withdrawal of the estimated 28,000 Cubans still in Angola would start again Sunday to comply with US-brokered regional peace accords signed in December 1988 by the two countries and South Africa, said Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Van Dunem.

"It is a sovereign decision of Angola and Cuba.... That reflects our political maturity," he said.

Van Dunem headed the Angolan delegation at talks with Cuba that began on 18 February and led to the decision, which also was announced by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

Havana suspended the troop withdrawal on 25 January, after four Cubans died in an attack by rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA. The incident occurred in western Angola above the 13th parallel, currently the southernmost limit for Havana's soldiers, according to the peace accord.

Van Dunem said the two nations adopted a declaration requesting US guarantees to prevent the rebel attacks on Cubans. He said that attacks endangered the New York accords.

Van Dunem also criticized U.S. aid to UNITA, and what he called Washington's "not very positive" attitude toward Angola's Marxist government.

"We would like the United States to cease its interference in the Angola question," Van Dunem said. "We are sure that if they want to use their influence on UNITA, there will be no more attacks on Cubans."

UNITA chief Joans Savimbi, in a broadcast on the rebels' Black Cockerel Radio Tuesday, said there was no proof Cuban soldiers fought in a recent government offensive. He said he sent a letter to Cuban leader Fidel Castro apologizing for the January attack in which seven Cubans were also wounded. "We guaranteed (Castro) the death of the Cuban soldiers was involuntary and that no such incident will be repeated," Savimbi said. "It's in our interest that the Cubans go home."

UNITA receives a reported \$50 million a year in U.S. assistance, including sophisticated ground-to-air Stinger missiles. The government forces are equipped with Soviet weapons.

More than 31,000 Cubans of an estimated 50,000 were withdrawn before the 25 January suspension. Under the New York accords, 33,000 are to have left by 01 April. All are to be gone by mid-1991.

Fighting has flared in recent weeks in the southeast Angola, where government and rebel troops are battling for control of a strategic airstrip and rebel base near Mavinga, 700 miles southeast of Luanda.

A UNITA statement Tuesday in Lisbon, Portugal, said rebels attacked government soldiers carrying supplies to troops near Mavinga.

SALVADORAN CHIEF ASKS UN FOR HELP TO RESTART TALKS WITH GUERRILLAS

On the eve of White House talks, President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador asked the United Nations today to help restart stalled peace talks with the Salvadoran guerrilla alliance.

But President Cristiani appeared not to go as far as the guerillas say they want, failing to invite Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to assume the formal role of mediator.

After a working lunch together, President Cristiani told the press that he wanted the Secretary General to make "all possible efforts in the sense that the dialogue process should be reinitiated" between his Government and the guerrilla alliance, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. Talks between the two sides collapsed after two meetings last November when the front began a military offensive in the capital of San Salvador.

President Cristiani said the Secretary General's mandate for such a peace initiative should be Security Council Resolution 637 and the declaration adopted by the five Central American Presidents in San Jose, Costa Rica, last 12 December.

The Security Council resolution asks the Secretary General to use his

"good offices" in consultation with the Security Council to advance the Central American peace process, while in their San Jose declaration the five regional Presidents asked him to apply "the greatest possible personal effort, to carry out the actions necessary to reinitiate the dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and the F.M.L.N."

Several hundred demonstrators, chanting slogans that described President Cristiani as a murderer, sought to obstruct his visit to the United Nations at the beginning of February by blocking his 15-vehicle motorcade with a human chain across First Avenue. Organizers of the demonstration said 34 protesters were arrested.

Recently when leaders of the guerrilla front visited the United Nations, they appeared to suggest that the Secretary General, or his representative, should play a more direct mediating role in any new round of peace talks with the Salvadoran Government, attending the meetings and making proposals.

They complained about the slow pace of last year's talks and the low level of the Government representatives taking part in them, and

they implied that President Cristiani had not negotiated seriously.

In Congressional testimony on 24 January, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard W. Aronson told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee that it was not entirely clear if the guerrilla front really wanted to resume peace talks with the Salvadoran Government.

He said that the guerillas had indicated in January that they were ready to resume talks "under United Nations auspices" and that President Cristiani would urge the Secretary General to help restart the talks.

But Assistant Secretary Aronson warned that shortly after the rebel front said it was ready for new talks, it "seemed to backtrack."

Asked by Representative Stephen Solarz, Democrat of New York, if the guerrillas "would be prepared to enter into negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations," Mr. Aronson replied: "I'm not sure. I hope so. As I said, they said yes and then they backtracked. But I hope they would."

HOPE FOR CAMBODIA PEACE

Cambodia's warring factions began to meet in Jakarta starting today. Many diplomats say there could at least be some headway in trying to end 11 years of fighting through a comprehensive solution, which is still a long way off. "I don't think this (meeting) will be the last word on the subject," Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said on arrival in Jakarta on yesterday evening. Mr. Evans echoed many when he said while there would be no dramatic breakthrough in Jakarta there could well be some progress towards a solution for peace.

Australian proposals for the United Nations to oversee a ceasefire and elections are expected to be a major focus in the informal Jakarta talks chaired by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in an aging Government hotel in central Jakarta. The meeting set to run through the 28 February will also be attended by Vietnam, Laos, France, a UN representative and the Association of South East Asian Nations, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. It will be the first time the Phnom Penh government of Hun Sen and the three-party guerrilla coalition have come together since talks ended in deadlock last September in Paris. Those discussions had followed a series of fruitless meetings in the Indonesian capital.

A major factor is the internationally revised Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of one million Cambodians during their four-year rule to 1979 when they were ousted by Vietnam and replaced by the government of Hun Sen. One diplomat ruled out any concessions by the Khmer Rouge, whose military successes since the Vietnamese troop withdrawal five months ago have prompted fears they could dominate a new Government. The group represented at the talks by Khieu Samphan and still thought to be led by the shadowy Pol Pot, is militarily the most powerful of a loose alliance with coalition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk represented by his son Norodom Ranariddh to the talks and his former Prime Minister Son Sann.



ISRAEL CLOSER TO KEY PEACE TALKS; BUT VIOLENT PROTESTS BREAK OUT

Israel moved towards unprecedented peace talks with Palestinians while troops wounded over 90 Arab protestors in some of the most violent clashes in months in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres called US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo "totally acceptable" and political sources said rightist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was leaning towards acceptance.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, of Mr. Peres' doveish Labour Party, added to pressure on Mr. Shamir by saying it was time to take a first step towards peace with Palestinians after 26 months of revolt in the occupied territories.

"We are now in a position to take a first step towards peace with the Palestinians which is

firmly anchored in political reality and which compels us to give a 'yes' or 'no' answer," Mr. Rabin told Israeli students.

Mr. Shamir, whose Likud party is badly split over peace moves, declined to say if he would accept proposals given by Secretary of State James Baker to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Washington on 23 February.

But Mr. Shamir signaled he was likely to accept Mr. Baker's ideas by playing down differences on two key issues - participation of one or two deportees and one or two Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem in the talks, political sources said.

Mr. Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner said the Prime Minister told a parliamentary committee that the policy-making inner cabinet would

decide within a few days on "a minor technical step" towards elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops, some backed by a helicopter firing teargas canisters, shot and wounded at least 92 Arabs during fierce clashes that centered on the Palestinian refugee camp of Rafah, hospitals and clinics said.

The army said troops wounded 29 people, based on a count of those admitted only to hospitals and not UN-run clinics.

The clashes at Rafah began at dawn when residents of the camp on the border with Egypt took to the streets to protest at the killing of a 20-year-old man by troops on Sunday.

The army tried to put down the protests with gunfire and

teargas and clamped a curfew on the camp and adjoining areas.

The army commander for Rafah told army radio: "it reached the point of stone-throwing, blocking roads and burning tires. We are not able to take this quietly, certainly not if Rafah is under curfew."

Earlier this month, troops killed four people and wounded more than 130 in a week after reports that former Rafah residents took part in an attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt. Most of the casualties were in Rafah.

In a move to calm tensions, Israeli military authorities lifted two-year-old closure orders on 14 Palestinian community colleges in the West Bank but refused to reopen six universities in the occupied areas.

EL SALVADOR LEFTISTS CUT OFF ELECTRICITY

Sabotage by leftist guerillas forced authorities to ration electricity in most of El Salvador, and rebels injured nine soldiers in two overnight attacks on 23 February, state electric officials and the armed forces said.

In one of the attacks yesterday, rebels threw a grenade at an air force vehicle in the capital, San Salvador, injuring six soldiers. Three soldiers were wounded in an attack on the Public Security Academy, the armed forces said.

The military press office also accused rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of firing on a helicopter from a refugee camp where five civilians were killed in an air force rocket attack 11 February.

The sabotage of the nine principal power lines was behind the electricity cutoff said Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, head of the state Rio Lempa Executive Hydroelectric Commission.

Visit Conference Services Today!

Located on the Ballroom Promenade, Conference Services is your information and souvenir hub at AMUN.

If you need information about restaurants or places of worship, exciting things to do around Chicago, or questions about AMUN, Conference Services has all your answers. We also have Maps!

Conference Services also has wonderful collectables for sale, such as:

- Handbooks;
- The UN Charter;
- Keychains;
- Buttons;
- Lapel Pins;
- T-shirts;
- Winter Garb;
- Flash Drives;
- Lip Balm;
- Notebooks; and
- much, much more.

Stop by today before all of the exclusive AMUN apparel and merchandise is bought up by your peers!

All articles appearing in this edition of the *AMUN Chronicle* are actual articles first published by *The New York Times*, *The Record Journal*, *New Straights Times*, *Glasgow Herald*, the *Toledo Blade*, and *Reuters* in the years 1989-1990.

IRAN AND IRAQ ARMING TO TEETH DURING 'PEACE PROCESS'

If the bitter eight-year war between Iran and Iraq was as dangerously de-stabilizing for the whole area as major governments insisted, how would they describe now the eighteen-month "peace process" between the two nations? Few of them could answer the question easily, so completely has the issue dropped out of sight, but anyone tempted to dismiss it with an airy wave of the hand may be in for a nasty surprise.

In December 1989, a lengthy interview with the Under-Secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Mr. Nizar Hamdoun, was published in a Turkish newspaper. At the time the Iraqi and Iranian Foreign Ministers were in New York to discuss with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar the appallingly slow speed at which the peace talks have been conducted. Perhaps looking for an opportunity to put on a little pressure, Nizar Hamdoun talked about Iraq's newly-developed missile technology then added: "Considering the future of Iraq and that Iran has not shown any readiness to conclude a comprehensive peace treaty...in the future Iraq may have to utilize some of this capability.

The threat may have been veiled, but it was there nonetheless, and it serves as a warning that the peace between these two giant belligerents should not be taken for granted and that the possibilities of destabilizing the Middle East once more are depressingly real.

The two issues which have emerged with most urgency in relation to peace between Iran and Iraq are the efforts being made by both nations to re-arm themselves and the linked question of the determination of the major international powers to push the peace process to a decent conclusion.

Both Iran and Iraq suffered huge losses of equipment in the course of the war, and though Iraq generally had the better and more sophisticated weapons, many of them were destroyed or have been

made redundant by advances in technology. The Iranian government has dropped heavy hints that any new relationships formed with foreign governments must include an element of weapons sales. The Soviet Union concluded an agreement on co-operation with Iran last summer, and it is likely that the deals involved will include weapons. As the Soviet Union is already a heavy and committed supplier of weapons to Iraq, it is obvious that a good deal of new weaponry will be deployed by both sides.

Western countries, eager for the commercial contracts which are being negotiated by both Iran and Iraq in an effort to restore their damaged economies and infrastructure, are also eager to strike weapons deals or, as they are euphemistically known, defense sales. Those countries willing to help Iraq with military and/or technological assistance include West Germany, Argentina, Britain, France, and Austria. Assessments of Iraq's military capabilities should include the fact that Iraq has many excellent scientists and researchers of its own, and they have been involved in the development of a space-launch missile tested successfully in December 1989, and also of high-capability ground-to-ground missiles with ranges up to 1200 miles.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset in Jerusalem last December that "Iraq is leading other states in our region that have a sophisticated technology and infrastructure, such as Egypt. The Iraqi Government has set itself national priorities, and is devoting huge resources to the development of weapons that are among the most sophisticated and could give it long-range capability." The latest issue of *The Middle East Military Balance* suggests that by "conservative estimates," an Iraqi nuclear weapon is only five to ten years away.

Against this background of sophisticated and large-scale rear-

mament by such implacable foes it would be heartening to be able to report progress on the peace talks, but this has been virtually non-existent. The United Nations began to supervise the cease-fire at the end of August, 1988, under the terms of mandatory Security Council resolution No. 598. This called for an immediate cease-fire, troop withdrawals to internationally-recognized boundaries, and an exchange of prisoners of war. Apart from the cease-fire none of this has happened and 100,000 prisoners from the war continue to be held by both sides.

The cease-fire was something of a triumph for the United Nations and for Perez de Cuellar, but the peace talks have been a disaster. Several rounds of talks were held and then lapsed in a welter of accusations, from both sides, of intransigence and bad faith. Points of contact between and though various ingenious negotiating tactics and offers have been tried, including the linkage of PoW returns to the abandonment of territory, progress has been entirely absent.

The United Nations negotiators have had to bear unfairly much of the blame for this. When the two sides, accuse each other of intransigence they are, for once, both right, but without greater involvement from the major powers the amount of influence available to Perez de Cuellar and his negotiators is limited. Nor are matters helped by the rush to secure commercial contracts with Iran and Iraq linked, as we have suggested, to the transfer of high-technology which can be used in weapons manufacture, and to the actual delivery of weapons. Security Council members might do well to remember that a cease-fire is not a peace, and that this particular cease-fire may yet turn out to be one of the most heavily armed and most destabilizing in recent years.

TURNOVER IN NICARAGUA

The leader of Nicaragua's opposition coalition crushed President Daniel Ortega Saavedra in national elections here on Sunday, apparently bringing an end to 10 turbulent years of Sandinista rule.

The landslide victory by the opposition candidate, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, turned the closely monitored elections into a powerful repudiation of one of Latin America's most prominent and fiercely debated revolutionary Governments.

Celebrating her victory early today after the results were made public, Mrs. Chamorro said, "We have shown the world an example of civic duty, demonstrating that we Nicaraguans want to live in democracy, want to live in peace and, above all, that we want to live in liberty."

President Ortega, looking subdued as the results became known, said, "The President of Nicaragua and the Government of Nicaragua are going to respect and obey the popular mandate coming out of the vote in these elections." Despite Mrs. Chamorro's victory, and President Ortega's seeming acquiescence in defeat, there remains skepticism that Mr. Ortega, a lifelong revolutionary and politician, will be able to persuade the Sandinista Front to accept a Chamorro government. Mrs. Chamorro is scheduled to be inaugurated on April 25.

The vote lays the groundwork for the first democratic transfer of power that this country has known, a turnover that parallels to some degree the changes in Eastern Europe, where Communism has little by little given way to democratic change.

The official voting results, supervised by a large contingent of international observers, including former President Jimmy Carter, gave Mrs. Chamorro a lead of 14.4 percentage points. Her vote total with 82 percent of the ballots counted was put at 633,357, or 55.2 percent of the presidential vote. Mr. Ortega of the Sandinista National Liberation Front received 468,040 votes, or 40.8 percent of the total.

Small parties received the rest of the votes as Nicaraguans elected a President, Vice President and National Assembly, which the opposition will now control.

FRANCE OFFERS TROOPS TO STOP FIGHTING IN LEBANON

France has offered to send troops to Lebanon's Christian enclave in an attempt to avert intervention by the Syrian army and stop fighting that has killed 450 people, Arab diplomats said on 13 February.

The diplomats said the French Government had sent signals to Christian leaders about its readiness to dispatch military units to work as a peacekeeping force and disengage the fighting Christian factions, led by Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea.

Mr. Geagea has welcomed the offer, the diplomats said, but General Aoun is said to believe that such a move would only increase outside meddling in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Since earlier this month, General Aoun, who commands a force of about 15,000 Lebanese Army regulars, has been battling with Mr. Geagea, who commands about 10,000 fighters of the Lebanese Forces militia, for control of the Christian enclave north of here. Neither side has been able to gain the upper hand in fierce battles involving tanks, heavy artillery and rockets.

Msr. Pablo Puente, the Papal Nuncio to Lebanon, is in the Vatican for consultations on alternative measures after the cease-fire he brokered earlier this month between the Aoun and Geagea forces collapsed.

A special French envoy, Bernard Kouchner, the Minister for Humanitarian Action, said before returning to Paris on 11 February that his pleas to the two Christian leaders to stop fighting had been to no avail. Mr. Geagea issued two appeals to President Francois Mitterrand earlier this month for help.

General Aoun has said he could not accept foreign troops on Lebanese soil, diplomats said, citing the general's campaign for total withdrawal of the Syrian forces that now control of two-thirds of Lebanese territory.

The daily newspaper *As Safir*, published in mostly Muslim West Beirut, said on 13 February that it had learned from what it called unidentified reliable sources that France was planning to rush troops to the Christian enclave "under the pretext of separating the combatants."

It said the French Government and the Vatican would do all within their power to prevent intervention by the Syrian army in the Christian districts.

As the reports about a possible French role circulated, news photographers and witnesses who visited the scene of a battle for the strategic town of Qlaiaat northeast of the capital reported that 20 tanks were destroyed and 70 combatants were killed on both sides in the 14-hour confrontation.

General Aoun's army reportedly managed to advance less than two miles, and the town, between the districts of Al Matan and Kesrouan, is now reported to be split into two parts dominated by opposing fighters.

"The two leaders are too far apart, and intermediaries have not been able to find a common denominator," the leading daily newspaper *An Nahar* reported today.

The paper said General Aoun had insisted that a political accord be worked out before the military situation could be stabilized. Mr. Geagea, in turn, has refused to give in to the general's insistence

that he publicly renounce a plan for Muslim-Christian reconciliation brokered by the Arab League.

Before he departed for Rome on 09 February, Monsignor Puente appealed to President Elias Hrawi to avoid military intervention in the Christian conflict. President Hrawi, like General Aoun and Mr. Geagea, is a Maronite Catholic.

Speculation has been rife in the news media here that President Hrawi is seriously considering an offer from Syria to have its units cross into the Christian enclave in a bid to check the factional fighting.

The Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad told Mr. Hrawi when they met in Damascus last month that he was placing the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon at his disposal.

Syria's daily *Al Baath*, in an editorial 13 February that was quoted by Damascus radio and monitored here, reminded President Hrawi of President Assad's offer and urged him to act "against renegade General Aoun, who is destroying his own Christian people." The newspaper speaks for the ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party, which is headed by Mr. Assad.