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# Cuba Rejects 'Threats' by Ford on Ties

MIAMI, Dec. 22 (AP)—Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro said today that his country will continue its military support of Soviet-backed rebels in Angola despite "the threats of President Ford not to renew relations with Cuba."

We will never renounce our solidarity with Puerto Rico or Angola," Castro told cheering delegates and foreign visitors at the closing session of the first Cuban Communist Party Congress in Havana.

Castro's speech was broadcast nationwide over radio and television and monitored in Miami.

Castro charged the United States was demanding that it withdraw its support for Puerto Rico and Angola as the price for negotiations to end the 15-year dispute between the two countries and at that price, there shall never be any relations with the United States."

He referred directly to President Ford's statement Saturday that the action by the Cuban government in sending combat forces to Angola destroys any opportunity for improvement in relations with the United States."

Ford noted Cuba has 4,000 to 6,000 troops in Angola.

Castro's statements, coupled with those of President Ford, appeared to end a series of efforts by both countries to seek common ground for renewed ties. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had warned earlier that Castro's backing of Puerto Rican dissidents could shelve any U.S. plans for rapprochement.

The congress on Sunday issued a statement saying it is not opposed "to Cuba solving its problem with the United States but adding that Cuba will continue supporting leftist forces in Angola."

The statement, carried by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina and monitored in Mexico City, was contained in a foreign policy document approved by a congress.

It said Cuba is willing to discuss the normalization of relations with the United States, something which will

also contribute to a necessary international detente," but not if it means giving up its support of Angolan leftists.

In his speech Monday, Castro accused the United States of plotting with racist South Africa "to take over Angola after its independence from Portugal in November to exploit its riches in minerals and oil."

We have supported the progressive governments and revolutionary movements in Africa since the triumph of our own revolution," Castro said. And we shall continue to do so.

That aid has been manifested in different forms. At times, we have sent weapons. Sometimes we have sent men. Other times, we have sent instructors, military instructors. At other times we have sent doctors, construction people."

The prime minister revealed that out of fear of the CIA and the imperialist enemy" the Cuban armed forces had taken extraordinary security measures to protect the lives of the Cuban leaders and foreign dignitaries attending the congress at the Karl Marx Theater.

The congress also designated new members to the party's Central Committee, but Castro did not say how many. It was first created in 1965 with 100 men and women, but a number had been purged, several died and Che Guevara and three others were killed in rebel action in Bolivia.

Elevated to the Politburo were old-guard communists Blas Roca, who was the principal author of the new constitution, and economic and trade specialist Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Others were Pedro Miret, Arnaldo Milian and Jose Machado Ventura.

We are entering a phase of institutionalization of the revolutionary process," Castro said. I can become absent ... and the revolution will continue. The Political Bureau or the Central Committee can be absent and the revolution will continue."