

77 CUBA PULLOUT IN ANGOLA IS SEEN

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Inference Is Drawn From

Castro Letter to Palme

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WASHINGTON, May 27 (AP)

—Prime Minister Fidel Castro has implied that he will complete the withdrawal of all Cuban combat forces from Angola in about a year, reporters on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's plane flying from London to Washington were told today. This inference was drawn from a letter sent by Mr. Castro to the Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme. Mr. Kissinger was told of the letter when he was in Stockholm earlier this week, but he did not read the text itself until the Swedish leader cabled it to him in London.

A reading of the letter was said to have shown that Mr. Castro planned to increase the withdrawals from an original rate of 200 men a week.

At present Cuba has 13,000 to 15,000 troops in the West African country where they fought alongside troops of a leftist nationalist movement that has established itself as the Government of Angola.

Already On, Castro Said

When the Castro letter was disclosed earlier this week, the Cuban leader was quoted as having said that withdrawals had already begun. Mr. Castro sent the letter to Mr. Palme on May 21, in response to an article in which the Swedish leader criticized Cuba for intervention in the former Portuguese colony.

According to the accounts of officials who have seen the message, Cuba will reduce its forces to about 5,000 troops by the end of 1976. The rest will be withdrawn over the following six months. Mr. Kissinger has said he would not object to the presence of Cuban technicians in Angola if they remain in relatively small numbers—perhaps 500. However, he has also said that under no circumstances would the United States accept a partial withdrawal, and that he would approve a systematic and well-defined timetable.

Mr. Kissinger returned to Washington from nine days in Europe attending conferences of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Central Treaty Organization, as well as meetings with European leaders.