

Castro Says Troops To Stay in Angola

Miami

Prime Minister Fidel Castro said yesterday that Cuban troops and arms will remain in Angola to protect the African nation from future invasions and to help it along the road to development, as long as they are needed.

Castro and Agostinho Neto, the Angola president, were the keynote speakers at the 23rd anniversary of the start of the Castro revolution.

"Cuban military units and arms will remain in Angola to help the Angola republic in case of foreign aggression," Castro said from Pinar del Rio, the capital of the island's most western province of the same name.

"They will stay as long as necessary until the Angolan armed forces are organized, equipped and trained; for the time they need us to turn back any invasion; until when they don't need our military assistance," Castro said in a speech over Radio Havana monitored in Miami.

In Washington, a spokesman for the State Department declined comment on the Castro speech, calling the subject "a sensitive matter."

But he pointed out that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has said that no warming of U.S.-Cuban relations can come about as long as Castro's troops remain in Angola.

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