

Cuban Letter On Pullout From Angola

Stockholm

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has told Swedish Premier Olof Palme that Cuban troops are being withdrawn from Angola at a systematic weekly rate, a key aide to Palme disclosed last night.

By the end of the year, the Cuban leader wrote, his forces in Angola will be reduced "drastically."

The letter, delivered by special messenger to Palme a few days ago, specified the number being pulled out each week, but the number was not revealed.

The contents of Castro's letter were passed to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who was here yesterday for talks with Palme.

If the letter is accurate — and Swedish officials can think of no conceivable reason for deception — it holds the promise of relaxed tensions at several points on the globe.

Washington was considering a resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba until Havana sent troops to Angola. In addition, Washington has been deeply concerned over the possibility that the estimated 12,000 Cubans might be sent to support liberation movements in Rhodesia, Namibia and ultimately South Africa.

According to Swedish officials familiar with the message, Castro wrote that the Cubans are not

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going to be "20th Century crusaders." He said that he has no intention of sending them elsewhere, either in Africa or Latin America.

Angola, he wrote, was a special case in which Cuba responded to request for help from a legitimate government, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

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