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EVIDENCE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING FNLC FORCES:

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] FNLC leader Mbumba had stated [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] that Angola and

Cuba had been helping the insurgents, particularly with arms and training.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] two Cuban and six Angolan advisers accompanied the

25X1 rebels when they started moving out of Angola in early May.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Cuban, Soviet, and East German personnel were engaged in the training of FNLC rebels in Angola.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] military training

25X1 for the Katangans was still going on with the active support of Cuban instructors.

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FNLN recruits in Angola had

just completed their training and were under the control of Cuban and East German instructors.

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the Cubans were training [redacted] Katangans in north-eastern Angola.

different?

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the Cubans

had established guerrilla training bases

for the ex-Katangan gendarmes in the Angolan towns of Cozambo, Luacano, Nova Chaves, Chicapa, Mariege, Chiluge, and an area approximately 200 kilometers north of Cangumbe.

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Cuban military advisers had helped train the

insurgents and had coordinated closely in the planning of the invasion.

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25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Cuban and East

25X1 German personnel were training the insurgents [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] and [redacted] the Cubans had controlled the shipment

25X1 of arms and equipment from Luanda to a rebel training

25X1 base [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Training programs under Cuban direction

and under Cuban instructors [redacted] were established for

the Katangans at two camps in northeastern Angola. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] the Katangans had agreed to help the

MPLA against UNITA in exchange for an MPLA promise to help

the Katangans liberate Shaba province in Zaire.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] the Katangans were not a significant threat until

1975 when they were reequiped and reorganized by Cuban advisers.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Cuba would train and support Zairian forces

opposed to President Mobutu. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

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Castro's Veracity

On balance Fidel Castro has had a fairly good track record for veracity given the fact that he has ruled Cuba through almost 20 years of turbulent international involvement. To be sure Castro has never been adverse to shading the truth and has frequently resorted to legalistic hairsplitting and definitions designed to obfuscate the reality of a situation. Nevertheless, as a general rule he has preferred silence on sensitive subjects to avoid being placed in a situation where he could be caught in an outright lie. This has not always been the case, however.

Latin America

Through at least the autumn of 1962, the Castro regime denied that Cuba was providing material support to anti-regime groups outside Cuba. In several public statements Castro claimed that such assistance was unnecessary since the people of several countries in Latin America, thanks to Cuba's example, were becoming aware of their revolutionary potential. In fact, Cuba was supplying covert material assistance--primarily financial aid--to guerrilla groups in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Nicaragua, and Bolivia,

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In addition, Cuba was providing training on the island to a large number of would-be guerrillas from the rest of Latin America.

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Angola

In his summary speech to the first Cuban Communist Party congress on 22 December 1975, Fidel Castro intimated that Cuba sent combat troops to Angola only in response to US complicity in the South African invasion of Angola on 21 October 1975. Moreover, at a Kingston press conference during his visit to Jamaica in October 1977, in response to a journalist's question, Castro said "...what is historical and what absolutely no one can deny is that Cuban soldiers went to Angola at the request of the Angolan Government when the fascist and racist troops of South Africa, in a lightning war, imitating Hitler's divisions, invaded Angola and were advancing at the rate of 78 kilometers a day. It was at that time we gave our support..."

The Cuban decision to commit combat troops in Angola, in fact, was made between mid-July and late August 1975. Some Cuban troops reportedly entered combat on the side of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) [redacted]

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[redacted] the Cuban airlift to Angola began, with five Cuban planes carrying men and/or arms for Angola crossing the Atlantic before November. By the end of October there were probably at least 2,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

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Zaire - 1977

In May 1977, Castro publicly denied that Cuba had had any involvement with the then ongoing Shaba conflict. Castro's statement was made in an interview that was to be televised in the US:

Question: Did Cuban advisers train troops to fight in Zaire?

Castro: No. Absolutely not. We have had no contact, (given) no training, no weapons. Something else, we did not even know that those events were going to take place. The CIA knows, the US government knows, the French Government knows and everyone knows that we Cubans have neither trained, nor armed nor had anything to do with that problem of Zaire, which is a strictly internal affair. Everything else is a lie to justify the intervention of France, Morocco, Egypt and other countries, with the logistical support of France, to Zaire. That is why we have stopped the program of evacuation of Cuban military personnel from Angola, because we have more than justified reasons to believe that behind all this could be an ulterior plan of aggression against Angola.

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US-Bombing of Cuban Airliner

In an emotional speech on 15 October 1976, nine days after a Cuban airliner crashed with the loss of 73 lives as a result of a terrorist bomb, Fidel Castro charged that the US was

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directly involved in the bombing. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] however, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Cubans did not believe the US

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was directly involved. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Castro's charge suggests that despite the facts of the case he believed he needed a scapegoat against which an enraged Cuban population could vent its wrath.

Talking Points - The Cuban Presence in Angola

I. The President has been fully briefed concerning Cuban involvement in training and planning the recent incursion by Katangan troops into Shaba.

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II. It seems incredible that the U.S. is placed in a position of having to convince the media of its position vis-a-vis a communist dictator whose past statements about Cuban involvement in similar situations have been consistently false. For example:

A. Latin America: Until the fall of 1962, Castro consistently denied supplying guerrillas outside Cuba, when in fact he was aiding, mostly financially, guerrillas in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Nicaragua and Bolivia. At the same time he was making these statements he was in fact training Latin American revolutionaries in the art of guerrilla warfare in Cuba.

B. Angola: In a press conference in Kingston, Jamaica in October of 1977, Castro said, "Cuban soldiers went to Angola at the request of the Angolan government when the fascists and racist troops of South Africa invaded Angola and were advancing--it was at that time we gave our support." In fact, the South African invasion began on 21 October 1975. The first troop ship left Cuba for Angola the first week of September 1975. The Cuban airlift to Angola began on 30 September 1975. There were at least 2,000 Cuban troops in Angola by mid-October 1975, i.e., at least a week before the invasion took place.

C. Zaire 1977: When interviewed for U.S. television in May of 1977, while the first Shaba invasion was going on, the following exchange took place:

Question: Did Cuban advisers train troops to fight in Zaire?

Castro's Answer: No, absolutely not. We have had no training nor weapons. Something else--we did not even know these events were going to take place.

25X1 FACT: [redacted] the Cubans
25X1 had in fact trained Katangans and helped plan the invasion [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

III. It is impossible to believe that the Cubans had no part in the plans or training or foreknowledge of the attack in a country in which:

A. There are 5,000 Cuban civilian advisers filling top managerial and technical positions;

B. They are developing a national education system, running the public health service, assisting in the coffee and sugar harvest and reconstructing roads and bridges destroyed during the civil war;

25X1 [redacted]