



OLL 85-3278

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Liaison

Washington, D.C. 20505

Telephone: 351-6136

28 Oct 1985

TO: Mr. Stephen R. Weissman
Subcommittee on Africa
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Steve:

This should cover your request. Sorry about the delay - our team did not remember your asking for the data.



Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Enclosure

FORM 3-79 1533 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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24 October 1985

MEMO

SUBJECT: Estimated Strength of Cuban Military Contingent in Angola

1. In addition to combat troops, Cuba provides military advisers, instructors, specialists, and technicians to support the Angolan armed forces.

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The following estimates include both the combat troops in ground force brigades, air defense personnel and pilots as well as estimates for advisory and technical support personnel:

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Cuban Military Strength Estimates

1975	3,000
1976	20,000
1977	15,000
1978	15,000
1979	20,000
1980	20,000
1981	25,000
1982	27,000
1983	30,000
1984	35,000
1985	35,000

2. After the initial Cuban buildup following independence in November 1975 that helped to secure the MPLA in power, there was a modest decline in Cuban strength as Angolan security needs temporarily lessened. In the late 1970s, following South African raids, there was a strengthening of the Cuban presence in southern Angola and in 1981, following South Africa's Operation "Protea", the Cubans again augmented their forces in Angola. The last substantial augmentation of Cuban forces followed the battle of Cangamba in August 1983 when Havana responded to Angolan requests for more assistance.

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