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INTERIM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS
ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council decided to establish under its authority a United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM). By paragraph 5 of that resolution the Security Council *inter alia* requested the Secretary-General to keep the Council fully informed of further developments. This report contains a preliminary account of developments relating to UNAVEM since the arrangements for the establishment of the Mission, referred to in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 626 (1988), entered into force on 22 December 1988 (see S/20347). It also describes the first month of UNAVEM's operations since the withdrawal of Cuban troops and equipment officially began on 1 April 1989 (D-Day).

I. COMPOSITION, COMMAND AND DEPLOYMENT

2. UNAVEM is under the command of the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes (Brazil).

3. As of 1 May 1989, the strength of UNAVEM was 70, as follows:

United Nations military observers

Algeria	7
Argentina	7
Brazil	7
Congo	7
Czechoslovakia	7
India	7
Jordan	7
Norway	7
Spain	7
Yugoslavia	7

Total 70

4. Twenty-two international and 15 local civilian staff members have been assigned to UNAVEM.

5. In order to enable UNAVEM to verify the redeployment northwards and the phased and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from the territory of Angola in accordance with the timetable agreed between the two countries, the observer group has been organized into a headquarters, located at Luanda, and a number of military teams which, by 1 April 1989, had been deployed at the ports and airports to be used by the Cuban troops over the 27-month period provided for their withdrawal. These teams, each consisting of eight military observers, are operating from Luanda (port and airport), Cabinda, Lobito and Namibe, where they maintain a 24-hour watch in each location. In addition, two mobile teams have been established to carry out the necessary verifications.

6. It will be recalled that, in my report of 17 December 1988 (S/20338, para. 11), I stated that my estimate of UNAVEM's required strength was based on information provided by Angola and Cuba about the ports and airports which would be used during the various phases of the agreed timetable. I added that this estimate might have to be adjusted upwards if additional ports and airports were to be used at a later stage. This remains valid. However, it is also possible that, in the light of UNAVEM's experience in carrying out its task of verification south of the 15th parallel after the end of July (D-Day plus four months), it will prove feasible to reduce the current strength after the end of October (D-Day plus seven months) when the remaining Cuban troops will be deployed north of the 13th parallel and the port of Namibe will no longer be in use for the withdrawal of Cuban troops and equipment. I shall naturally keep the Security Council informed of developments in this regard.

II. OPERATIONS

7. Given that, under the terms of the timetable agreed between Angola and Cuba, the withdrawal of the first Cuban troops was to begin in January 1989, an advance party of 18 military observers was deployed to Luanda on 3 January 1989 and others arrived shortly thereafter. UNAVEM observer teams were thus able to verify and record the departure of the first 450 Cuban troops from Luanda airport on 10 January 1989.

8. During the following weeks, the Chief Military Observer and his staff worked with the Angolan and Cuban authorities to refine procedures which would enable UNAVEM to verify the departure from, or arrival in, Angola of all Cuban military personnel, whether on termination of their duty in Angola or for rotation, leave, medical treatment, transit or any other purpose. Similar procedures were worked out for the verification of all movements of Cuban military equipment into or out of Angola.

9. During the period from 10 January to 31 March 1989, the net departures of Cuban military personnel recorded and verified by UNAVEM totalled 4,624 persons. It will be recalled in this connection that the timetable agreed between Angola and Cuba (see S/20345, appendix) provided for the withdrawal of 3,000 Cuban troops by

1 April 1989. Between 1 April 1989, when the ports of Cabinda, Lobito and Namibe came into use, and 30 April, the net departures recorded and verified by UNAVEM totalled a further 2,261 persons.

10. As with all peace-keeping operations, an essential condition for UNAVEM's ability to fulfil its mandate is that it should receive the full co-operation of the parties concerned, especially as regards the freedom of movement and other facilities it requires to carry out its duties. In this regard I am pleased to report that both the Government of Angola and the Cuban military authorities in that country have extended full co-operation to UNAVEM. Both Governments have appointed senior liaison officers to the Joint Commission whose mandate is to co-ordinate United Nations verification of the redeployment and withdrawal of Cuban troops and to resolve any problems that may arise. I am especially grateful for the efforts which the Angolan authorities have made, in the difficult conditions prevailing in that country, to make available to UNAVEM the office and residential accommodation which it needs both at its headquarters at Luanda and at the ports and airport where its task of verification is carried out.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

11. It will be evident from the preceding paragraphs of this interim report that UNAVEM is effectively carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council in December 1988. The credit for this goes to the Governments of the 10 troop-contributing countries which responded so rapidly and at such short notice to my request for military personnel. Credit is also due to the Governments of Angola and Cuba for their excellent co-operation with UNAVEM. Credit is due finally to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Ferreira Gomes, and to the military and civilian staff under his command, for the energy and skill with which they have brought about this satisfactory outcome.

