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

INTRODUCTION

1. In my report of 11 August 1989 (S/20783), I presented to the Security Council an account of developments relating to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) since my report to the Council earlier this year (S/20625), as well as an account of the manner in which UNAVEM was carrying out its functions in the phase of its operations that came into effect on 1 August 1989 (D-Day plus four months). The purpose of the present report is to bring up to date the information contained in my report of 11 August and to keep the Security Council informed about the activities of UNAVEM prior to and immediately following the inception of the latest phase of its operations, which began on 1 November 1989 (D-Day plus seven months).

I. COMPOSITION, COMMAND AND DEPLOYMENT

2. The composition, command and deployment of UNAVEM remain as described in paragraphs 2 to 5 of my report of 11 August 1989. With effect from 1 November 1989, two mobile teams similar to those deployed in August (see S/20783, paras. 5 and 11), carried out inspections at various locations to verify that Cuban forces had completed their redeployment north of the adjusted 13th parallel, which was due to have been completed by 31 October 1989.

II. OPERATIONS

3. The procedures worked out earlier this year between the Chief Military Observer and his staff and the Angolan and Cuban authorities, to which reference is made in my report of 10 May 1989 (S/20625, para. 8), continued to work well during the period under review. As a result UNAVEM was again able to maintain an accurate record of all movements of Cuban military personnel and equipment into and out of Angola.

4. The net departures of Cuban military personnel in the period between 1 August and 31 October 1989 totalled 9,583 persons (of these, 3,189 departed in August, 3,226 in September and 3,168 in October). Total net departures recorded and verified by UNAVEM since the withdrawal of Cuban military personnel began on 10 January 1989 thus amount to 25,510 persons (see annex). It will be recalled that under the terms of the bilateral agreement signed on 22 December 1988 between Angola and Cuba (S/20345, appendix) a total of 25,000 Cuban troops were to be withdrawn by 1 November 1989. As indicated above, this has been achieved.

5. In addition to military personnel, tanks, guns, armoured personnel carriers, other military vehicles, engineering equipment, aircraft, rockets and large quantities of bombs, ammunition and other war-like stores belonging to the Cuban forces in Angola continued to be withdrawn and were recorded in detail by UNAVEM.

6. It will be recalled that in my report to the Security Council of 17 December 1988 (S/20338, paras. 8 (c) and (d)), which was approved by the Council in its resolution 626 (1988), it was envisaged that on the last day of each phase of the redeployment northwards of Cuban troops (i.e., on the last day of the fourth and seventh months after D-Day), the Angolan and Cuban authorities would confirm to the Chief Military Observer in writing that all Cuban troops had been redeployed north of the adjusted 15th and 13th parallels respectively. They would also inform the Chief Military Observer of all locations from which the Cuban troops had been withdrawn. It was further proposed that, on receipt of this information, the Chief Military Observer would dispatch such international military verification teams as seemed to him necessary to the locations from which the Cuban troops had been withdrawn in order to confirm the redeployment already carried out.

7. In my report of 11 August 1989 (S/20783), I conveyed to the Council the results of the inspections carried out by UNAVEM south of the adjusted 15th parallel in the days following D-Day plus four months. Since then UNAVEM has received no reports of the presence, or suspected presence, of Cuban troops at any location south of the adjusted 15th parallel.

8. Under the timetable annexed to the agreement between Angola and Cuba, 31 October 1989 was the day by which all Cuban troops were to have completed the next phase of their redeployment, namely to locations north of the adjusted 13th parallel. In accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 6 above, the Angolan and Cuban authorities duly informed the Chief Military Observer in writing on 27 October 1989 that all Cuban troops had been redeployed north of the adjusted 13th parallel. They further stated that the locations from which Cuban troops had been withdrawn were the following: Namibe, Lubango, Hoque, Chibia, Matala, Jamba, Menongue and Longa, as well as the bridge over the Quatiri River half-way between Menongue and Longa.

9. During the following days, three military observer teams of UNAVEM, as well as, in some instances, a group consisting of the Chief Military Observer and other senior UNAVEM officers accompanied by Angolan officials, carried out a programme of verifications by fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter and ground transport at all the locations reported to have been vacated by Cuban troops. In addition, on the Chief Military Observer's initiative, inspection teams visited Chonqoroi and Caconda.

On 4 November, the Chief Military Observer reported to me that the programme of verifications carried out by UNAVEM had been completed as planned and that no Cuban military personnel had been observed south of the adjusted 13th parallel. The Chief Military Observer will continue to carry out such further ad hoc inspections as he may judge necessary in accordance with paragraph 8 (e) of my report to the Security Council of 17 December 1988 (S/20338).

10. In reporting to the Security Council on 11 August (S/20783), I underscored the fact that 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 that it requires to carry out its duties. In this regard, I am pleased to state that both the Government of Angola and the Cuban military authorities in that country have again extended their full co-operation to UNAVEM. The Joint Commission (see S/20338, para. 9 (a)), 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, has continued to meet at regular intervals and has made an important contribution to the successful implementation of UNAVEM's mandate. Further evidence was provided of the excellent co-operation which UNAVEM continues to receive from the Angolan authorities when arrangements were made for it to begin its operations south of the adjusted 13th parallel. These included the prompt provision of aircraft, liaison personnel and logistical support.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

11. It will be evident from the preceding paragraphs of this report that UNAVEM has continued effectively to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council in December 1988. Its success again illustrates what can be achieved by a United Nations peace-keeping operation when it receives the full co-operation of the parties concerned. Credit for this also goes to the Governments that have contributed military observers to UNAVEM. Finally I pay tribute to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes, and to the military and civilian staff under his command for the energy and skill with which they have continued to discharge their responsibilities.

Annex

Number of troops withdrawn as of 31 October 1989 and projected withdrawals at 31 December 1989

