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Cuba: Castro Announces End Of Foreign Military Involvement

by Erika Harding
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During a televised statement on Feb. 26, Cuban President Fidel Castro said there was no longer any need for a Cuban military presence in Latin America and Africa. In the 1960s, the Cuban military provided support to guerrilla movements in Venezuela and Bolivia. In the 1970s, Cuba sent troops to Angola, Ethiopia, the Congo and Guinea. Cuban military advisers were sent to Nicaragua in the late 1970s. Although Washington and other world powers had viewed Cuba's foreign military involvement as a form of Soviet intervention, Castro said Moscow had never approved of the Cuban presence in foreign countries nor its support of liberation movements. On March 4, the Cuban Communist Party's official newspaper Granma reported that Manuel Pineiro Losada had been replaced as the head of the party central committee's international department. Pineiro Losada headed the department since October 1990, and previously served as director of the Americas department. In the latter position he was responsible for Cuba's relations with Latin American political parties and insurgency groups. Political and diplomatic analysts in Havana interpreted the removal of Pineiro Losada as a reaffirmation of the decision to end Cuba's foreign military presence. (Source: Inter Press Service, 02/26/92, 03/05/92)

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