

FREE TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION  
ISSUED BY FIDEL CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF CUBA, AND  
JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, PRESIDENT OF ANGOLA, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE LATTER'S VISIT TO CUBA ON 19 MARCH 1984

In their joint declaration of 4 February 1982, which was disseminated worldwide, the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba, clearly explained more than two years ago their position in principle regarding the tense situation prevailing in the southern part of Africa. The period that has elapsed since then has done nothing but justify all of the points contained in that declaration, which has won the approval of international public opinion and virtually the unanimous sympathy of all the countries of the world, with the shameful exception of the Governments of the United States of America and South Africa, which erroneously maintain the pernicious formula of so-called "linkage" which is devoid of any legal or moral basis and is repudiated worldwide, excepting by its authors.

The heroic resistance of the Angolan people, firmly supported by their internationalist allies, has persuaded the imperialist aggressors of the impossibility of subjugating the People's Republic of Angola and liquidating its revolutionary process and has obliged it to accept negotiations on a new basis.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola has kept the Cuban Government informed in detail on the course of the discussions currently being conducted with South Africa and the United States of America, with the objective, on the part of Angola, of searching, on a principled basis, for a negotiated solution to the conflict with the South African aggressors which the Angolan people have faced for years, and of creating the conditions that will make viable the immediate implementation of Resolution 435(78) of the

United Nations Security Council and the independence of Namibia.

In accordance with this peace effort on the part of Angola, the joint declaration of 4 February 1982 remains fully in effect and constitutes a principled basis for any negotiated solution that will eliminate the existing tension and ensure peace and total independence for the nations of this Region.

Strictly in keeping with the provisions of this joint declaration, the Governments of Cuba and Angola reiterate that by their own decision and in exercise of their sovereignty they will carry out the execution of the gradual withdrawal of the Cuban Internationalist Military Contingent, as soon as the following pre-requisites are fulfilled:

1. The unilateral withdrawal of the racist South African troops from Angolan territory.
2. The strict application of Resolution 435(78) of the United Nations Security Council; the accession of Namibia to its true independence; and the total withdrawal of the South African troops which are illegally occupying that country.
3. An end to any act of direct aggression or threat of aggression against the Republic of Angola on the part of South Africa, the United States of America and its allies.

Together with these three requirements it will also be necessary, as the Angolan Government expressed in its 26 August 1983 declaration signed by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, to end all aid by South Africa, the United

States and their allies to the counter-revolutionary organization Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). Satisfaction of these demands would mean respect for the norms of international law and the United Nations Charter, and compliance with the many resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, the Non-aligned Movement, and the OAU. The Cuban Government, on behalf of the Cuban people, honours the heroism of the Angolan people, who for almost a quarter of a century have been waging a liberation war against the colonialists, racists, and the imperialist masters and their lackeys, and who have paid a high price in blood in order to gain Angola's independence and to provide internationalist aid to other brother countries.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola expresses the infinite gratitude of the Angolan people for the internationalist aid of the Cuban people for Angola's liberation struggle during the past two decades, and expresses its highest praise for the generosity, sacrifice, and heroism of the 200.000 Cubans who have been sent to Angola to help in the military and civilian fields in order to secure the independence, territorial integrity, and national reconstruction of Angola, thus offering a historic contribution to the cause of all the peoples of the continent.

The two governments express their admiration of and solidarity with the heroic struggle being waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the direction of their sole and legal representatives, Swapo (South West African People's Organization) and the African National Congress, against the disgraceful apartheid regime, and reaffirm their conviction that such a repugnant regime is historically condemned to disappear.

Issued simultaneously in the city of Havana on this 19th day of March, 1984, in Spanish and Portuguese, each original document holding equal validity.

(signed) Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba

(signed) Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola.