

the end of May made Castro's threat public.

The June 6 *Washington Times* reported that South Africa has demanded a guarantee of non-intervention in Namibia from the Cubans, during the course of regional discussions in Lisbon among Angola, South Africa, Cuba, and as mediator and observer, respectively, the United States and the Soviet Union.

But the diplomats on hand in Havana reported that Castro said that South Africa "is in no position to demand anything." Castro reiterated a plan for withdrawing his troops from Angola over four years.

He then said that Cuban troops were bivouacked only 30 miles from the Namibian border, giving them control over reservoirs supplying water to most of the northern part of Namibia. A squadron of MiG-23 jet fighters is also in the area, and a new airstrip is being built in southern Angola, at Xagongo, 36 miles from the Namibian border.

Reuter reports from Lusaka, Zambia that Angola's ambassador there said that UNITA rebels, meanwhile, were moving their main bases to Zaire to prepare for a thrust at Angola's economic heartland in the north. He said U.S. aircraft were ferrying UNITA equipment. If true, a Cuban thrust to the south would be foolhardy, opening a second front when Cuban and Angolan troops combined, for all their Soviet advisers, have been unable to handle their present single front with UNITA.

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## ***AIDS warning issued in Thailand***

AIDS has struck every risk group in Thailand and is now becoming uncontrollable, the May 21 *Bangkok Post* quoted a Chulalongkorn Hospital expert.

While the number of full-blown cases has remained the same, only 9, over the past four months, the number of persons who have tested positive for antibodies to the AIDS virus has soared, Dr. Prapan Panupak said.

He stressed that those who have tested positive can spread the killer disease swift-

ly, and described the national picture as "hopeless."

In January 1988, 161 people tested positive, but that figure had jumped to 637 by May 1. "At present, we find the AIDS virus among drug users, men and women in the sex-services industry, inmates, children, as well as blood transfusion recipients," he said.

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## ***Missiles stationed closer to Korean DMZ***

North Korea has moved Soviet-made surface-to-air SA-5 missiles within 70 miles of the South Korean capital of Seoul, according to news reports.

The deployment poses a serious threat to the security of South Korea, Seoul's defense minister, O Cha-ok, told an emergency meeting of senior military commanders May 28.

Under the new Soviet deployment, a batch of SA-5 missiles have been installed in the last two months at four sites about 40 miles north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ), and within 70 miles of Seoul.

The U.S. State Department has reportedly sent a formal protest over the deployment to Moscow.

Meanwhile, police in Seoul detained 120 "students" as they headed toward the DMZ the evening of June 6 for a meeting with North Korean "students" to plan a series of demonstrations demanding reunification of the country and the removal of U.S. troops. The crackdown is being described as the "harshest government response" since South Korean President Roh Tae Woo took office.

In a campaign organized by National Council of Churches networks, the "students" from north and south have organized "a grand march" across North and South Korean territory Aug. 1-14: a "joint festival" at Panmunjom Aug. 15, and a "North-South student athletic meet" Sept. 14-17.

The two groups were to meet June 10 at Imjingak to arrange the activities. But now, the "students" from the south will not be making it.

# Briefly

● **HEBERTO CASTILLO**, presidential candidate of the communist-controlled Mexican Socialist Party, announced June 3 that he was giving up his flagging campaign, to throw his support to Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, a nationalist running against the ruling PRI party of Salinas de Gortari. Cárdenas's campaign has gained wide support, leaving the communist front isolated.

● **THE ITALIAN** government June 5 approved a NATO plan to transfer 72 American F-16 fighter-bombers from Spain to Italy. The F-16s, comprising the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing of the U.S. Air Force, are now stationed at Torrejón air base near Madrid. Spain has insisted that they be withdrawn within three years. The costs of transfer will be paid by NATO.

● **EAST BERLIN** will be the site of a large conference June 20-22, sponsored by the East German and Soviet governments. Its theme will be the creation of "nuclear-free zones" worldwide. Two thousand participants from all over the world are expected to attend.

● **CUBA** will host a world conference in September dedicated to the celebration of a Brazilian voodoo-like cult. The World Conference on the Tradition and Culture of the Orixas will celebrate macumba dancing and other cultist activities. A number of temples dedicated to such cults exist in Cuba.

● **SOVIET** officials were inside the Philippines Senate when a "nuclear-free zone" bill, introduced by Sen. Wigberto Tanada, was being deliberated in May. The three Soviets argued that no country should be "burdened" by a foreign military presence, i.e., U.S. bases at Subic Bay and Clark airfield.