

NID 21 Feb. 79.


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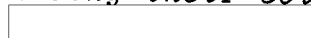


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Cuba-USSR

*Red Star* has announced that Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro and a military delegation will arrive in Moscow today for an official visit at the invitation of Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov. The US Interests Section in Havana commented yesterday that discussions probably will focus on bilateral military collaboration in 1979 and during the next (1981-86) Five-Year-Plan period. It added that, given the situations in Vietnam and Rhodesia, more immediate operational questions might well be discussed. 


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COMMENT: *Angola and Ethiopia are other likely discussion topics. We do not believe that at this point Havana and Moscow would be discussing their collaboration plans for the 1981-86 period.* 

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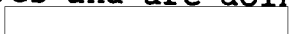
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Cuba

The US Interests Section in Havana reports that an edition of the official magazine of the Cuban armed forces that it received on 15 February carries a seven-page article entitled "These Are the MIG-23s." The article includes numerous articles of varying quality, including clear shots of bomb racks. According to the Interests Section, one photo shows a line-up of nine MIG-23s, of which at least three and possibly as many as eight may be ground attack versions. 

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Saudi Arabia - Lebanon

The US Embassy in Jidda reports that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud informed Ambassador West on Sunday that Saudi Arabia has decided to withdraw its contingent from the Arab Deterrent Force when the current agreement for its presence in Lebanon expires at the end of April. Saud said Saudi troops have already sustained casualties in Lebanon and that his government cannot give Lebanon an open-ended commitment when the Lebanese seem unwilling to help themselves and are doing nothing to take over from the ADF. 

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