

background NOTES

Angola

department of state * september 1973

OFFICIAL NAME: Angola

GEOGRAPHY

Angola, a territory on the west coast of southern Africa, is an Overseas Province of Portugal* with the denomination of "State." It has an area of 481,351 square miles, or 14 times that of Portugal itself and almost twice the size of Texas. Angola is

divided into two parts: (1) Angola proper, which lies south of the Congo River and is bounded by Zaïre on the north and northeast, Zambia on the east, South West Africa (Namibia) on the south, and the Atlantic Ocean on the west; and (2) the exclave of

Cabinda, which is on the seacoast northwest of Angola proper and bordered by Congo (Brazzaville), Zaïre, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The territory of Angola proper is largely a plateau ranging in elevation from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level. The coastal strip along the Atlantic is generally narrow, rising sharply toward the interior. In the west-central region is a highland area having elevations of 6,000-7,000 feet above sea level and a more temperate climate. The Moçâmedes Desert is in the south. Cabinda is covered by a dense rain forest, and the climate is tropical.

Angola proper is situated in the equatorial and tropical climate zones. However, because of the various altitudes, the length of the country, and a cold ocean current which flows past the southern half of the coast, climatic conditions vary extensively. In general, there are two well-defined seasons—a cold and dry period from May to October, when plateau temperatures may drop to freezing, and the warm and rainy season from November to April, when temperatures and the humidity are very high in the northern tropical zone. Basically, northern Angola is tropical and the southern area semiarid.

PROFILE

Geography

AREA: 481,351 sq. mi. **CAPITAL:** Luanda (pop. 540,000). **OTHER CITIES:** Nova Lisboa (pop. 89,000) and Lobitá (pop. 74,000).

People

POPULATION: 5.8 million (1973 est.). **ANNUAL GROWTH RATE:** 2.1%. **DENSITY:** 12 per sq. mi. **ETHNIC GROUPS:** Portuguese, various African tribal groups. **RELIGIONS:** Catholic, Protestant, animist. **LANGUAGES:** Portuguese (official), several African languages. **LITERACY:** 10-15%.

Government

TYPE: Overseas Province of Portugal with the title of "State." **HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:** Governor General appointed from Portugal. **POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:** 16 Districts.

FLAG: That of Portugal—narrow green band along the staff and a broader red band. Centered on the dividing line is the Portuguese coat of arms surrounded by a golden sphere.

Economy

GNP: \$1.24 billion (1972). **GROWTH RATE:** 5%. **PER CAPITA:** \$214. **PER CAPITA GROWTH RATE:** less than 5%.

TRADE: *Exports*—\$534 million (1972): coffee, \$155 million; crude oil, \$117.5 million; diamonds, \$58.7 million; iron ore, \$42.7 million. *Partners*—Portugal, \$150 million; Spain, \$26.4 million; West Germany, \$24 million. *Imports*—\$426 million: raw materials and partly finished goods, \$136 million; consumer nondurables, \$127 million. *Partners*—Portugal, \$93.7 million; United States, \$44.1 million; West Germany, \$41.1 million; United Kingdom, \$38.3 million.

AGRICULTURE: Arable land, 22%; Cultivated, 7%. **Products**—coffee, cotton, sisal, corn; **livestock production:** slaughtered, 20,728 metric tons of beef, 2,607 metric tons of other animals (first 9 months of 1972).

INDUSTRY: **Products:** chemicals, tobacco, food.

NATURAL RESOURCES: diamonds, iron ore, petroleum.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE: 27.25 escudos = US\$1.

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: none.

ECONOMIC AID RECEIVED: U.S.—none; most external financial assistance comes through Portugal, and no total figures are available.

PEOPLE

The average population density is 12 persons per square mile, but distri-

*For information on Portugal, see the *Background Note* on Portugal (pub. 8074).

bution is very uneven with more than 70 percent of the people concentrated in the west and north. Densities in the east are less than two persons per square mile.

Angolans are almost entirely Bantu in origin and composed of numerous tribal groupings. However, more than three-fourths of Angola's 5.3 million Africans are accounted for by the four most important tribal groupings:

The *Ovimbundu*, in central and southern Angola, is the largest group, consisting of almost 33 percent of the African population. They are important traders who were also slavers in years past.

The *Bakongo* in the northwest, spilling over into adjacent areas of the two Congo Republics and Cabinda, comprise more than 25 percent of the Angolan African population. The Bakongo tribal groups formed a loose Kingdom of the Kongo, with which European contact was made when Portuguese caravels first landed at the mouth of the Congo River in the 15th century.

The *Kimbundu*, who occupy the terrain inland from Luanda, are culturally, although not ethnically, related to the Bakongo. Among the more detribalized Africans in Angola, they represent about 25 percent of the total African population.

The *Chokwe*, a less developed people who live in eastern Angola, make up about 8 percent of the African population. This mobile, aggressive tribe in the past also engaged in trade and slavery.

Other prominent tribal groupings in eastern Angola include the Lunda, whose language is similar to that of the Chokwes, and the Ganguelas. A tribe of pastoral warriors, the Cuanhama, live in far southern Angola. Numbering only about 54,000 they are related to the Ovambos of neighboring South West Africa.

The growth of the European population has been bolstered, especially in recent years, by Portuguese Government-encouraged immigration, principally from Portugal, Madeira, the Cape Verde Islands, the Azores, and Goa. The European population has risen steadily since 1900 and may presently be as high as 340,000, or almost 6 percent of the total population.

Catholic priests accompanied the earliest Portuguese settlers and administrators. In 1970 Portuguese sources estimated the Catholic population of Angola to be about 2.2 million. Protestant missionaries arrived toward the end of the 19th century from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other countries. Their number has decreased considerably in recent years. Most Angolans continue to adhere to pagan and animistic beliefs.

The diverse tribal backgrounds of the Angolan Africans suggest the wide range of languages prevalent in the territory. No one African language extends beyond the tribal area. Portuguese is the only language common to the whole territory. While the literacy rate among Africans has been estimated in the past at less than 10 percent, the expansion of primary and preprimary education throughout Angola in recent years has increased this figure to approximately 15 percent.

HISTORY

The first European to reach Angola was the Portuguese explorer Diogo Cão who landed at the mouth of the Congo River in 1483. Cão found the land under the rule of an African monarch, the King of the Kongo, whose capital was at the present day São Salvador. In 1490 the Portuguese sent a small fleet of ships carrying priests, skilled workers, and tools to the Kongolese King who received the mission warmly, accepted Christianity, and agreed to send his son, later King Afonso, to Lisbon, Portugal. The initial contacts between Angola and Portugal were thus friendly and characterized by mutual respect.

Slaving activities soon began, however, which led to the deterioration of Portugal's relations with King Afonso and his successors. Internal revolts hastened the decline of the Kongo Kingdom. Meanwhile, the Portuguese expanded their contacts southward along the coast, founding Luanda in 1576.

In 1641 a Dutch fleet seized the rich slave ports of Luanda and Benguela, and the Portuguese retreated to the interior. They held out stubbornly until 1648, when a powerful expedi-

tion from Brazil restored the coast to Portuguese control.

The slave trade continued to dominate the scene until the middle of the 19th century with Angola serving as a major source of supply for Brazilian plantations. It has been estimated that about 3 million Angolan Africans were transported to the New World during the three centuries of slave trade activity.

Angola's boundaries were settled by the Berlin West Africa Congress (1884-85), in which France, Germany, and Portugal won recognition of the borders of their colonies with the Congo. The frontier with Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) was settled in 1905. Tribal wars and uprisings were common, continuing into the early part of the 20th century, when separate uprisings were put down by the Portuguese in northern, central, and southern Angola. Following World War II, Portuguese interest in colonizing Angola increased considerably.

READING LIST

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material currently being published on this country; the Department of State does not endorse the specific views in unofficial publications as representing the position of the U.S. Government.

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GOVERNMENT

By a 1951 amendment to Portugal's Constitution the colony of Angola became an Overseas Province of Portugal, and as such it is considered by the Portuguese to be an integral part of Portugal. In 1972, by virtue of Portugal's Organic Law for the Overseas Territories, based on previous constitutional changes, Angola gained the designation of "State."

Considerable control over Angolan affairs is exercised by the Central Government (Council of Ministers, or Cabinet) at Lisbon through the Overseas Ministry, which is headed by an official of Cabinet rank. This official is advised by the Overseas Council composed of members representing metropolitan and overseas interests. Angola is represented in the 130-man Portuguese National Assembly by seven delegates. Its judicial system is based on Portuguese law.

The territorial Government is led by a Governor General nominated by the Overseas Ministry and appointed by the Council of Ministers. He exercises executive and legislative authority under the guidance of the Overseas Minister at Lisbon.

In his executive duties the Governor General is assisted by the Government Council and the Provincial Advisory Board. The Government Council consists of the Governor General, the Secretary General and the eight Provincial Secretaries, in effect formalizing the Cabinet relationship between the Governor General and his principal lieutenants. The Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces must always be present at Government Council meetings when the subject pertains to defense and security. The Provincial Advisory Board is made up of 16 members consisting in part of those chosen by corporate interest and non-governmental groups and in part those appointed by the government.

In his legislative capacity the Governor General is advised by a 53-member Legislative Assembly; 32 members are elected by direct suffrage and 21 come from within certain interest groups that have legal standing as part of the "corporate state." This latter group includes labor, cultural organizations, civil service, and "native authorities."

For purposes of administration Angola is divided into 16 Districts, with local Governors advised by district boards and administrators of posts. The Districts are subdivided into two categories of smaller units: those based on cities or towns, known as *concelhos*, and less developed rural units known as *circunscricões*. Further subdivision into administrative posts and finally local village *regedorias* completes the governing structure.

The organization of the individual tribes, which generally corresponds to traditional arrangements, has no formal relationship to the modern system of government in the territory. However, native chiefs are considered to be representatives of the government in the areas under their jurisdiction. They hold limited administrative powers and are paid salaries by the state for carrying out their duties as ordinary civil servants. In this manner Portuguese administration is close to and influences directly all activities at the tribal level.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The Portuguese territories in Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea) are among the few remaining European-ruled areas on that continent. As other countries in Africa have become independent, attention has focused on these territories. The outbreak of insurrection in northern Angola in March 1961, following disturbances at Luanda the month before, made Portuguese Africa an important international issue, which has been the subject of study and debate by the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly, and U.N. committees and specialized agencies. The United Nations regards the Portuguese territories as non-self-governing areas and thus believes Portugal has international obligations, under Article 73(e) of the U.N. Charter, to submit statistical and other information on conditions there.

Since the fall of 1961 Portugal has announced various measures of reform for its African territories. Some have been aimed at alleviating the social and political conditions of the Africans (doing away with compulsory labor; expanding school, health, and public

welfare facilities; granting citizenship to all peoples of the territory); others are intended to bolster ties between the overseas territories and the metropole.

Principal authority for Angola remains with the Central Government at Lisbon. The system of government, like that of metropolitan Portugal, is based on the corporate state. There is no parliamentary opposition; the only political party permitted in Angola is the National Popular Action (*Accção Nacional Popular*).

In June 1972 Portugal's Organic Law for the Overseas Territories came into force. It was based on 1971 constitutional changes which claimed to provide additional autonomy to the overseas territories. The plan still gives Lisbon basic policy control over national defense, foreign affairs, fiscal matters, and civil rights. While the reform could represent a first step toward eventual political autonomy for the territories, the pace and character of such change remain to be seen. Meanwhile, Portugal will remain the target of international criticism for its continued rule over Angola.

The independent African states and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have charged the OAU's African Liberation Committee with responsibility for assisting nationalist movements in European-ruled territories of southern Africa. The committee has provided financial aid to Angolan nationalist movements as well as assistance in training and arming guerrilla forces.

The guerrilla warfare which erupted in early 1961 was very intensive, but it declined under the pressure which Portugal's reinforced military was able to bring to bear later that year. But the struggle continues, especially in the densely forested area between Carmona and Luanda and, since 1966, in a sizable part of the sparsely populated savanna area in eastern Angola. Portugal's response has been a blend of military measures, administrative reforms, and expanded efforts to develop Angola's economy and social services.

The Union of the Populations of Angola (UPA) provided the leadership for the 1961 insurrection. Later UPA joined with other groups to form the Revolutionary Government in Angola

in Exile (GRAE) with headquarters at Kinshasa, Zaïre. The GRAE has been recognized by a number of African states, but the OAU voted to withdraw its recognition of the GRAE as a government-in-exile.

A second Angolan nationalist organization, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), formerly kept its headquarters at Brazzaville, Congo, but has now shifted most of its operations to eastern Angola and has announced its intention to move its headquarters into the area as well. MPLA has grown in strength and influence in recent years.

A third and smaller nationalist group is the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). UNITA has been active in the eastern districts of Angola.

Open dissension between and within these groups has been a serious factor in reducing the effectiveness of Angolan nationalism. The OAU has recognized this and has sought repeatedly to bring them together, thus far without result.

ECONOMY

While most of the population of Angola is engaged in subsistence agriculture, the territory's modern economy is developing well with considerable potential for the future. The 1972 gross national product (GNP) was estimated at US\$1.24 billion; per capita income was \$214. The minerals industry has become the mainstay of provincial exports; diamonds, iron, and petroleum exports in 1970 for the first time exceeded coffee exports in value. Banking and construction activities are expanding, transport and other infrastructure are undergoing substantial improvement, and foreign investment, formerly discouraged, is now assuming major importance in Angola's development. Still, the modern sector of the economy is largely in the hands of the Portuguese, who provide the direction, financial support, and skills, while the Angolans, with few exceptions, fill the role of unskilled laborers on the plantations, in the mines, and in the expanding manufacturing plants.

The most important developments in Angola's economy in the last few years have been the discovery of oil in

Cabinda, the opening of major iron mines in the south, and increased development of coffee and diamond sectors. The Cabinda oil field is being developed by Gulf Oil Company, which made the discovery in 1966.

Oil production reached 6 million metric tons in 1972 at a value of \$92.5 million. Iron ore production in Angola totaled 5,073,318 metric tons in 1972, down somewhat from previous years. The 1970 coffee crop also decreased slightly, down to 176,855 metric tons and accounted for about 29 percent of Angola's total foreign exchange. Although export levels and prices were hurt by currency devaluations and abandonment of the International Coffee Agreement, and although earnings did not reach the anticipated record level, the market for Angola's high-quality coffee remained firm during 1972.

Angola's exports increased by 13 percent during 1972, to a total of \$534 million. Major increases took place in the export earnings of crude oil, sisal, fish meal, and diamonds. Coffee still topped the list at almost \$155 million in export earnings. Crude oil took over second place with earnings of \$117.5 million, diamonds accounted for \$58.7 million, and iron ore \$42.7 million.

Under the severe restrictions imposed throughout 1972, Angola's imports dropped by 13 percent to \$426 million. Raw materials and partly finished goods for local industry held the major share of imports at 31.7 percent, followed by consumer non-durables (29.6 percent), capital goods (27.9 percent), and consumer durables (10.8 percent). Import restrictions succeeded in their primary goal of providing a substantial trade balance for Angola of \$108 million. It is clear, however, that trade balances of this magnitude can continue to be sustained only if the Government continues to keep a tight rein on imports of consumer goods.

Portugal is traditionally Angola's leading trading partner. Figures for the first 10 months of 1972 show that the metropole took 27.8 percent of Angola's total exports, mostly diamonds and agricultural products. The United States followed with 16.7 percent, consisting almost entirely of coffee purchases. Then, in order,

Canada (8.5 percent—crude oil), Spain (4.9 percent—crude oil, sisal, manganese, woods), West Germany (4.4 percent—iron ore, coffee, woods), the United Kingdom (3.7 percent—coffee, iron ore), and France (3.5 percent—iron ore). Angola's major suppliers during the same period were metropolitan Portugal, at 22 percent of total imports by value, followed by the United States (13.6 percent), West Germany (12 percent), the United Kingdom (8.8 percent), and France (6.4 percent). Angola's exports to the United States were valued at about \$76 million while imports from the United States reached \$48 million, giving Angola a positive trade balance with this country.

Provincial government ordinary (recurring) receipts and expenditures are balanced at \$453.3 million for 1973, a 10.7 percent increase over the previous year's budget. Planned receipts and expenditures under the Third Development Plan rose 20 percent, to \$59.3 million or over 12 percent of the budget. Other extraordinary receipts and expenditures are expected to drop by 30 percent to \$24 million. Total receipts and expenditures are balanced at \$536.6 million, a rise of 8.3 percent over 1972. The introduction, in November 1971, of severe restrictions on the importation of most consumer goods, and tightened control of the availability of foreign currencies, has slowed the rate of Angola's economic growth and directly reduced government income from such sources as import duties and consumption taxes, thus accounting for the rather modest increase in anticipated receipts. Defense-related spending, including police and paramilitary services, takes 18 percent of the ordinary budget, for a total of \$78.1 million. A further defense expenditure of \$19.8 million in the extraordinary budget brings total defense-related expenditure to \$97.9 million, about 19 percent of the budget.

The United States does not conduct any economic assistance program in Angola.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Portugal's policy is aimed at maintaining the territorial integrity of the nation which, constitutionally, includes

the metropole and the overseas territories. Government statements emphasize the goal of creating a multi-racial, pluricultural society. At the United Nations, Portugal maintains that the situation in Angola and the other Portuguese overseas territories in Africa is a domestic matter outside the competence of the international organization and that the insurgencies in the territories are stimulated, organized, and supported from abroad.

U.S. POLICY

The U.S. Government's attitude toward Portugal's African possessions was set forth in a Department of State policy statement on November 10, 1972: "U.S. policy towards Portuguese Africa . . . supports the right of all peoples to self-determination. We believe Portugal's ability to accelerate the advancement of the peoples of its African territories both politically and economically ultimately will determine what role Portugal will continue to have in the African continent. Portugal's official policy of racial equality, in contrast to the institutionalized racial discrimination of South Africa, is an important factor which will have a bearing in determining this future role, and hopefully will help ease tensions in the area. Supporting self-determination and the peaceful resolution of political disputes we have prohibited the export of U.S. arms for use in the Portuguese territories since the outbreak of the first armed insurgency in Angola in 1961."

Because of the rapidity of change in Africa since 1960 the United States believes that Portugal can play a future

role in the continent if it undertakes an accelerated program of reform designed to advance all the peoples of its African territories toward the exercise of self-determination. The United States has supported efforts in the United Nations aimed at encouraging this and has opposed resolutions which it considered extreme and not conducive to a peaceful settlement of the problem. It has repeatedly taken the position that sound political, economic, social, and educational institutions are important factors in the achievement of genuine self-rule and that they are essential for long-term stability. It has encouraged Portugal to develop such institutions in its overseas territories.

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Territorial Officials

Governor General—Fernando Santos E. Castro
 Secretary General—Maj. Antonio Da Silva Osorio Soares Carneiro
 Provincial Secretary for Treasury, Planning and Economic Integration—Dr. Walter V. Pego Marques
 Provincial Secretary for Economy—Dr. Antonio August de Almeida
 Provincial Secretary for Rural Development—Rui Fernando Romero Monteiro
 Provincial Secretary for Health—vacant
 Provincial Secretary for Education—Dr. Manuel Alambre dos Santos
 Provincial Secretary for Labor and Social Welfare—Antonio Teixeira Marques
 Provincial Secretary for Public Works—Jorge Carlos R. Julio Mestre

Provincial Secretary for Communications—Lt. Col. F. A. Alberto Carlotoe de Castro
 Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces—Gen. Emundo da Luz Cunha
 Army Commander—Brigadier Andre da Fousenca Pinto Bessa
 Air Force Commander—Gen. Manuel Simao Portugal
 Navy Commander—Adm. Henrique Silveira Borges
 Rector of the University—Prof. Dr. Ivo Ferreira Soares

Metropolitan Officials

President—Americo Deus Rodriguez Thomaz
 President, Council of Ministers (Prime Minister)—Marcello José das Neves Caetano
 Foreign Minister—Rui Patricio
 Minister of Overseas—Joaquim Moreira de Silva Cunha
 Ambassador to the U.S.—Joao Hall Taemido
 Ambassador to the U.N.—Antonio Patricio

The Portuguese Embassy in the United States is located at 2125 Kalorama Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

PRINCIPAL U.S. OFFICIALS

Consul General—Everett Briggs
 Economic Officer—William A. Garland
 Consular Officer—Edward Fugit

The U.S. Consulate General in Angola is located at Avenida Paulo Dias de Novias 42, Luanda.



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