THE CONSTITUTION OF 
THE 
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA*

PART I: BASIC PRINCIPLES

Article 1: The People's Republic of Angola is a sovereign, independent, and democratic State whose prime objective is the total liberation of the Angolan people from the vestiges of colonialism, the domination and aggression of imperialism, and the establishment of a prosperous and democratic country entirely free from any form of exploitation of man by man, thereby fulfilling the aspirations of the masses.

Article 2: All sovereignty is vested in the Angolan people. The MPLA, their legitimate representative constituted from a broad front including all patriotic forces engaged in the anti-imperialist struggle, is responsible for the political, economic, and social leadership of the nation.

Article 3: The masses are guaranteed broad and effective participation in the exercise of political power through the consolidation, expansion, and development of organizational forms of people's power.

Article 4: The People's Republic of Angola is a united and indivisible State whose inviolable and inalienable territory is defined as the present geographical limits of Angola, and any attempt at separating or dismembering its territory will be vigorously combated.

Article 5: Economic, social, and cultural solidarity shall be promoted and intensified among all regions of the People's Republic of Angola in order to provide for the common development of the entire Angolan Nation and the elimination of remnants of regionalism and tribalism.

Article 6: Under the leadership of the MPLA and the President as Commander-in-Chief, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA), the armed wing of the people, is institutionalized as the national army of the People's Republic of Angola. The

* Text based on the official Portuguese, English, and French editions issued by the Angolan Ministry of Information. Text revised by William B. Simons, J.D. (University of Wisconsin).
FAPLA's responsibility is to defend the country's territorial integrity and to participate along with the people in production and, thereby, in national reconstruction. The Commander-in-Chief of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) appoints and dismisses the high-ranking military officials.

Article 7: The People's Republic of Angola is a secular State with the complete separation of the State and religious institutions. All religions will be respected and the State will afford protection to churches, places, and objects of worship so long as they comply with the laws of the State.

Article 8: The People's Republic of Angola regards agriculture as the base and industry as the decisive factor in its development. The State directs and plans the national economy with a view to the systematic and harmonious development of all the country's natural and human resources and the utilization of its wealth for the benefit of the Angolan people.

Article 9: The People's Republic of Angola seeks to promote the establishment of just social relations in all sectors of production by stimulating and developing the public sector and fostering co-operatives. One of the very special tasks of the People's Republic of Angola is the solution of the agrarian problem in the interests of the peasant masses.

Article 10: The People's Republic of Angola recognizes, protects, and guarantees private activities and property, even those of foreigners so long as they are useful to the country's economy and to the interests of the Angolan people.

Article 11: All natural resources in the soil and subsoil, in the territorial waters, on the continental shelf, and in the air space are the property of the State, which determines the conditions of their appropriation [aproveitamento] and use.

Article 12: The fiscal system shall be guided by the principle of graduated direct taxation, and no privileges of any kind will be permitted in fiscal matters.

Article 13: The People's Republic of Angola seeks vigorously to combat illiteracy and obscurantism, to promote the development of education at the service of the people, and of a true national culture enriched by the revolutionary cultural gains of other peoples.