

## ANGOLA

**Date of Elections:** 11 November 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament for the first time since independence was attained in November 1975.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Angola, the People's Assembly, is composed of 229 members elected for 3 years.\*

### **Electoral System**

All Angolan citizens who are at least 18 years of age and have not been deprived of their civil rights are entitled to vote and be candidates for Parliament. Barred from election are Angolans "who were active members of factionalist, puppet groups" and those who have "participated in criminal actions against the people and have not been rehabilitated".

Although parliamentary candidates need not necessarily be members of the country's ruling party, they must be "the most active politically and the most experienced". They are elected by colleges set up in each province and composed of members of the respective provincial assemblies and representatives selected by the populace in their work- or living-places. Candidates must answer all questions posed by citizens at public meetings and their candidatures must be approved by a majority of the people in their districts. This rule also applies to candidates chosen by the party-sponsored mass organizations (such as those of women, youth, labour, etc.).

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following the attainment of independence and the promulgation of a Constitution in November 1975, the Council of the Revolution was "the supreme organ of the State" and, *inter alia*, exercised legislative powers.

On 19 August 1980\*, it was announced that this Council would be replaced by the national People's Assembly foreseen in the Constitution and that 18 provincial people's assemblies would also be elected. On 23 August, voting for electoral colleges which would choose these legislators began. Most candidates were members of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola—Party of Labour (MPLA-PT), the country's sole political party which had been restructured as a Marxist-Leninist group in December 1977.

\*See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 6-7.

The newly-elected People's Assembly was installed on 11 November 1980. The President of the Republic, Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, had assumed office in September 1979; he re-organized his Council of Ministers in March 1981.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola—Party of Labour (MPLA-PT) . . .	229

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according  
to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	64
Workers . . . . .	58
Peasants . . . . .	48
Members of defence or security forces . . . .	20
Intellectuals . . . . .	7
"Elements of the State apparatus"	6
Others . . . . .	26
	229