

# NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

## ANGOLA

### WHERE:

Angola is on the west central coast of southern Africa, bordered by Namibia (S), Democratic Republic of Congo (N), Zambia (E), and Atlantic Ocean (W). The capital city is Luanda.

### WHO:

The country was inhabited by the Bantu people and states were formed in the 13th century. The Kingdom of Kongo dominated the states from the 14th century. Portuguese explorers arrived from 1483.

### WHAT:

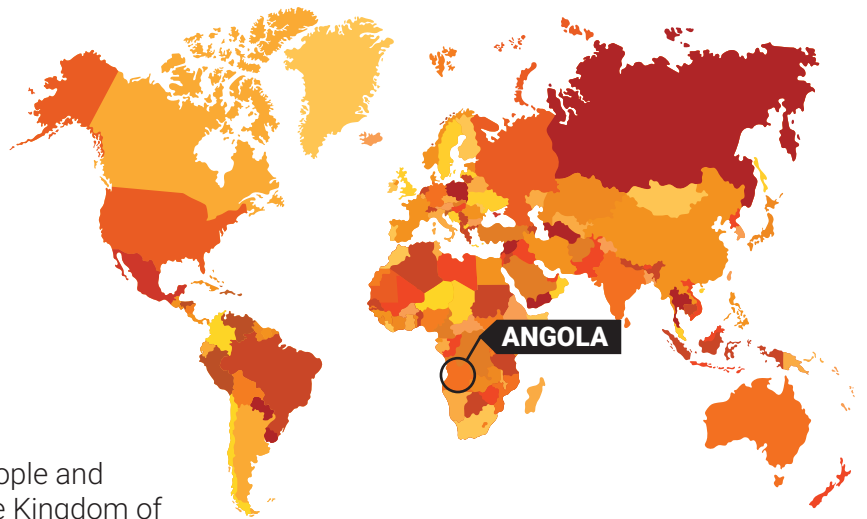
Portuguese began colonising the coast in the 16th century. Kongo fought three wars against the Portuguese, losing the territory of Ndongo. The Portuguese colony that eventually became Angola did not achieve its present borders until the early 20th century and experienced strong resistance from native groups such as the Cuamato, Kwanyama, and Mbunda.

### WHEN:

Angola achieved independence in 1975 after a drawn-out anti-colonial struggle (1961 – 1974). The country descended into civil war almost immediately.

### WHY:

The struggle was between the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba), the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (originally Maoist, later anti-communist group backed by the US and South Africa), National Liberation Front of Angola (backed by Zaire), and the Front for the Liberation of the Exclave of Cabinda, seeking the independence of the Cabinda exclave, also backed by Zaire.



# **NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN ANGOLA**

## **UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION**

### **WHERE:**

Peacekeepers were based in six main areas with staff eventually deployed to 46 different locations throughout Angola. New Zealand personnel were based in the capital Luanda, and in Quibaxe, a rebel stronghold.

### **WHY:**

New Zealand deployed personnel as part of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, focusing on monitoring compliance with peace agreements. Additionally, New Zealand provided humanitarian assistance to Angola, including support for essential needs and life-saving aid.

### **WHEN:**

May 1991 – June 1995.

### **WHO:**

Up to 350 unarmed United Nations Military Observers.

### **WHAT:**

UNAVEM II (United Nations Angola Verification Mission) verification teams provided support in the investigation and resolution of alleged violations of the cease-fire. They responded to requests for assistance and used their good offices to resolve problems within monitoring groups. The neutrality of the Angolan police was to be verified by monitoring teams also composed of members designated by the Government of Angola and by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Their work was to be verified by UNAVEM II police observers. It later included election monitoring and observation in 1992.

UNAVEM II operated in a dangerous and complex conflict situation. While the scope of its mandate was limited by the Peace Accords, UNAVEM II had to take the lead in actively assisting the parties in overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Accords. Its political role remained restricted. UNAVEM II also made a major contribution to the successful internationally monitored conduct of elections in a war-torn country.