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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



**Imagery analysis report**

## **Militia/Paramilitary Training, Angola (S)**

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## **MILITIA/PARAMILITARY TRAINING, ANGOLA (S)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. (S/D) This report provides detailed analysis of the first extensive militia/paramilitary training facilities observed within an industrial area in Angola. These facilities—in the town of Viana approximately 9 nautical miles (nm) southeast of the capital city of Luanda (Figure 1)—were first observed in October 1978. Both physical and individual combat training areas as well as firing ranges have been identified (Figure 2). While similar training facilities are commonly seen at army barracks and other ground force installations throughout Angola, it is unusual to find them in a nonmilitary area.

### **DESCRIPTION**

2. (S/D) A partially fence-secured garrison area on the northwestern edge of Viana probably serves as both headquarters and housing area for a military training cadre in the city (Figures 2 and 3). This facility has administration buildings, quarters, and vehicle sheds. Training facilities within the garrison area include a Soviet-type obstacle course, a gymnastics training area, an amphitheater, an individual infantry/combat training area, and a volleyball court.

3. (S/D) Although defensive trenching and individual training activities are found throughout the industrial portion of Viana, the primary training area is found at the southeastern end of the city (Figures 2 and 4). This area contains an automatic weapons firing range and two physical training areas, each of which has a Soviet-type obstacle course with a gymnastics training area. Also present are two artillery miniature ranges (not usually associated with militia/paramilitary training). In addition, two baseball diamonds and at least three small probable housing compounds are within the area. The only other observation of military training collocated with an industrial facility in Angola is on the western edge of Huambo in the central portion of the country (Figures 1 and 5). A Soviet-type obstacle course was seen at a fence-secured light fabrication plant and defensive trenching was observed around the perimeter.

4. (S/D) In February 1980, at least 13 prefabricated, multistory apartment buildings were observed in an early stage of construction on the edge of the residential section of Viana, southeast of the garrison area (Figures 2 and 6). These buildings are similar to prefabricated housing units commonly seen throughout Cuba and currently being built in Luanda. Also, an outdoor amphitheater that is probably used for political indoctrination and training is adjacent to the construction area. The new housing units could serve as quarters for either Cuban advisors and their dependents or Angolans working in the area. However, a complex of this size would be much larger than required for a complement of Cubans serving only in an advisory capacity.

5. (S/D) Use of the training facilities, such as the artillery miniature ranges, the automatic weapons firing range, and the various physical training areas, would permit Cuban advisors and workers assigned to the factories at Viana to develop and maintain their military skills. Additionally, many of the same training facilities could be used to provide militia training for Angolan civilians working in the area.

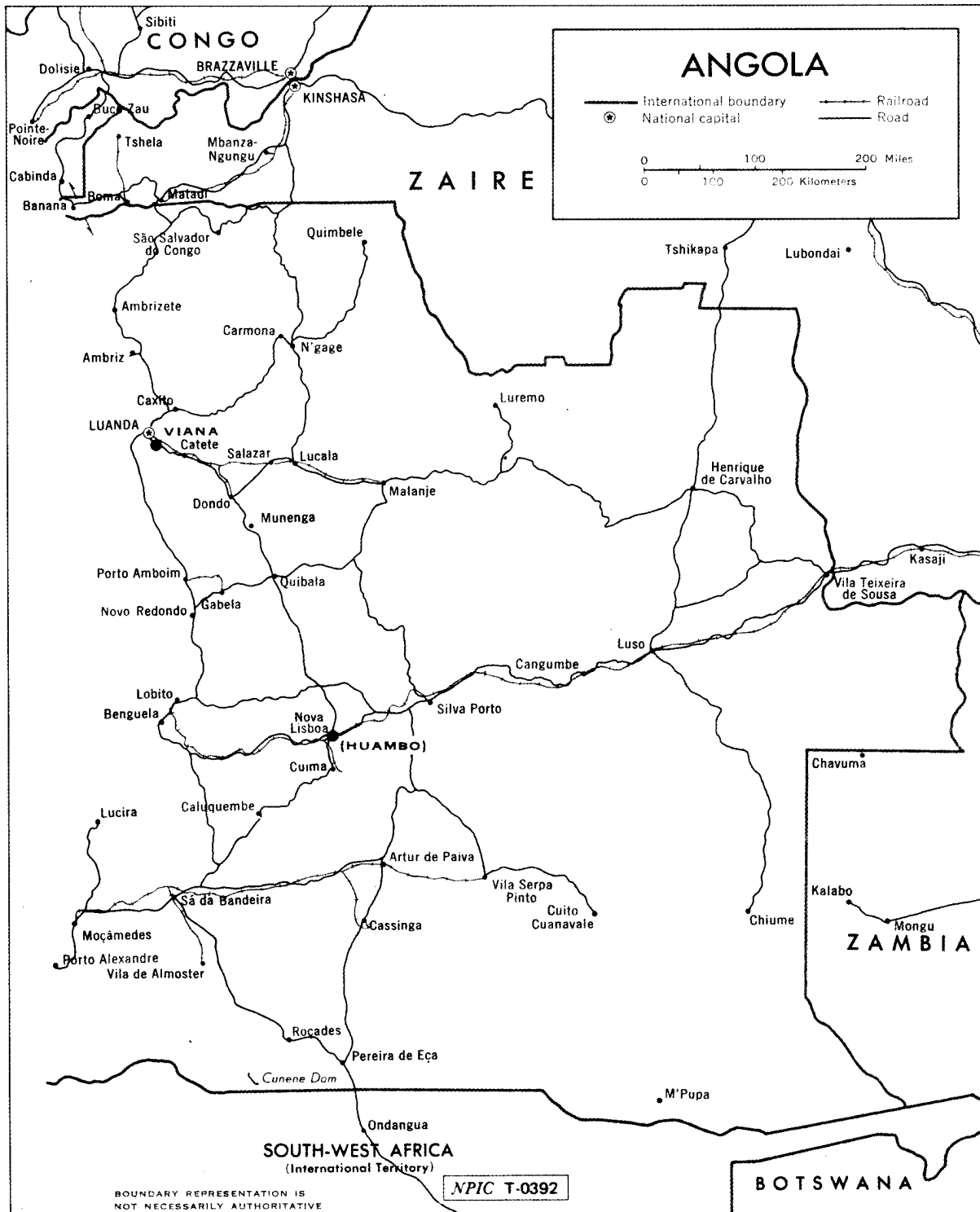


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF VIANA, ANGOLA

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**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All relevant imagery from July 1978 to March 1980 was used in the preparation of this report.

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Third  
World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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