

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/2969
19 September 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



Tenth session

QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA

Communication dated 1 September 1955 from the Prime Minister
of Libya addressed to the Secretary-General

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Members of the General Assembly, for information, copy of a communication dated 1 September 1955 from the Prime Minister of Libya transmitting a memorandum on the assistance received by the Government of Libya from the United Nations.

Tripoli, 1 September 1955

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 726 (VIII) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 8 December 1953. This resolution requests that a special report shall be prepared on the question of United Nations assistance to Libya and foresees the addition of this subject to the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly.

The Government of Libya is profoundly grateful to the United Nations for the sustained and generous assistance which has been provided to it and I have now the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum describing the assistance we have received and the results that have been achieved.

On 30 June 1953 my predecessor submitted a memorandum on additional financial and technical assistance for Libya, which was presented to the Economic and Social Council.^{1/}

In that report the Government of Libya presented a statement of the urgent needs for economic and social development and described the machinery which we had established for the planning and co-ordination of this work. It is a source

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 21, document E/2469 and Corr.1.

of satisfaction to my Government that that machinery has proved to be efficient and well suited to the country's needs. The Economic Planning Committee, the creation of which was then reported to the Economic and Social Council, has in particular become the central point for the guidance of our economic and social development programmes.

My Government notes that the United Nations special fund for economic assistance to Libya, proposed in paragraph 1 of resolution 726 (VIII), has not materialized despite the General Assembly's invitation in that resolution itself and the considerations affecting war damages set forth in General Assembly resolutions 389 (V) and 529 (VI). The machinery referred to in the preceding paragraph would therefore have been useless had we not been assisted by certain individual Members of the United Nations. By the end of 1953, Libya had an assurance of financial assistance as a consequence of a twenty-year agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom, during the first five years of which, commencing in 1952, £3-3/4 million (\$10-1/2 million) was to be received annually. £1 million (\$2,800,000) of this sum is to be earmarked each year for development purposes. In October 1954, the Libyan Government formally ratified a further long-term agreement with the Government of the United States as a result of which, for the first six years of the agreement, annual payments of \$4 million will be made in addition to certain sums due retroactively. Further assistance has been extended to the Government of Libya by other United Nations Governments for its economic development; France has provided £100,000 (\$280,000) and has also contributed £163,000 (\$456,500) to the administrative budget of the Government; in the course of 1954 the Governments of Egypt and Turkey each contributed £10,000 (\$28,000) for the economic development of Libya. Among non-member nations, the Government of Italy contributed £10,000 (\$28,000) in 1954, as in previous years, to Libyan economic development.

With this assistance it has been possible for my Government to embark upon more extensive schemes of capital development designed to improve substantially the economic potential of the country. These are, of course, particularly important in the field of agriculture, but steps are also being taken to improve our public utilities, our ports and harbours and our roads, and to build up our educational system and our social services to more adequate levels. In all this work we have been assisted by the invaluable efforts of experts made

available by the United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance and by the United States Point Four Programme.

The measures of improvement which are now under way will as they mature, we are confident, ameliorate conditions in Libya. Even so, Libya remains among the poorest of the under-developed countries and one which, unlike the majority of these countries, possesses no great reserves of productive land or, at present, of skilled labour or discovered natural wealth. In these circumstances, our goal must be to achieve a reasonable degree of agricultural improvement and some economic independence in the shortest possible time. To this end we stand in need of a continuing flow of technical assistance from the United Nations and specialized agencies to supplement our developing governmental services.

In the past the United Nations has, in recognition of the special position of Libya, granted a waiver of the local costs involved in the provision of this technical assistance. My Government would earnestly request an extension of this waiver. Our budget deficit has, as a result of the growing demand on the government services, increased in recent years and the Government's revenues do not yet show signs of expansion.

A totally unexpected misfortune occurred early this year when a large part of the most fertile area of Tripolitania suffered an invasion of locusts which developed with extraordinary rapidity. Despite valuable assistance generously provided from all quarters, the Government of Libya has been forced to withdraw from its Exceptional Budget the sum of £300,000 (\$840,000) to meet the expenses incurred in the course of the locust campaign. Thus, we shall be compelled to postpone the carrying out of an important element in our development programme for which this money had been earmarked.

The Libyan Government also has continuing capital requirements needed to finance the strengthening of the economy on the lines set forth in the Capital Development Programme, for only the highest priority measures have yet been commenced and much remains to be done to raise standards of living significantly. The Government has noted the General Assembly's view, set forth in resolution 529 (VI), that the problem of war damages should be considered within the general framework of the over-all economic development plans for the country; this has, however, increased the urgency of our capital development

needs. The General Assembly's reaffirmation of its recommendations in resolution 726 (VIII) would, in these circumstances, be more than desirable. In particular, should the proposed special United Nations fund for economic development be established, the possibility of a grant-in-aid or of a loan on exceptionally favourable terms would be most helpful to the Government.

In all the fields where technical aid is being provided signs of improvement are beginning to show. The appreciation of the Libyan people is shown in what is, I believe, the most effective manner, namely, by their full and wholehearted collaboration with the experts and their readiness to make the efforts and sacrifices required to promote our country's economic and social development.

(Signed) Mustafa Ben HALIM
Prime Minister

Technical Assistance received by the Government of Libya
from the United Nations

Preface

1. The United Kingdom of Libya came into being as a consequence of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly^{1/} taken at its fourth session in 1949. Since that date the Assembly has shown its interest in the country's progress and has regularly called for and discussed reports concerning the country's economic and social conditions, its needs and its problems. The General Assembly, in the light of the evidence presented, has also urged United Nations Members to assist Libya and expressed the wish that the Libyan economy should be assisted and developed so as to overcome its initial handicaps. On the occasion of the last such examination of the Libyan situation the General Assembly decided^{2/} to place this matter on the agenda of its tenth session in 1955 and, for this purpose, asked the Secretary-General to present a report on the technical assistance rendered to the country by the United Nations. The present memorandum has been prepared to facilitate the General Assembly's debate.

2. Libya has been aided in its efforts to improve its economic situation by substantial financial assistance which has been provided by the United Kingdom and more recently by the United States under long-term financial agreements negotiated with the Libyan Government and accepted by the Libyan Parliament. In addition, contributions have been made by France, Egypt, Turkey and Italy. Technical assistance has been given in the first instance by the United Nations and the specialized agencies at the General Assembly's specific request and also by individual Governments under bilateral aid programmes, notably the United States under its Point Four programme. Many Governments have assisted the international programmes by the release of skilled personnel for service in Libya. Finally, UNICEF has granted substantial assistance to Libya with which to launch a school feeding programme.

3. Such programmes of technical assistance as those just cited require substantial Libyan participation and call for an effort which heavily taxes the country's resources. It is well known that skilled manpower is very

^{1/} Resolution 289 (IV) of 21 November 1949.

^{2/} Resolution 726 (VIII) of 8 December 1953.

scarce in Libya and that professionally qualified Libyan personnel do not yet exist in sufficient numbers, so that the country has to depend heavily on non-Libyan staffs. Nor is Libya endowed with any discovered natural resources of great value, while the limitation of the cultivable area in present circumstances, the harshness of the climate for much of the year and the absence of any known mineral deposits or fuel enhance its difficulties. Libya's permanent economic development must therefore in the foreseeable future depend upon the gradual training of its population and the improvement of its agriculture and related activities.

4. Generous though the current financial and technical assistance has been, it does not yet give the Libyan Government a firm assurance of being able to bring about a lasting improvement in the standard of living of the Libyan people - a standard which remains in all respects too low. All efforts on the Government's part are, however, directed to this aim and with the help and advice of the many national and international agencies working with the Government it can be affirmed that progress is being made. Greater opportunities for progress do nevertheless occur as assistance increases and the economic development of the country gains momentum; the Government therefore desires to underline its readiness to collaborate fully with the United Nations and with every friendly Government willing to lend its support.

5. In this report a broad review is given of the technical assistance which the Government has received from the United Nations and the specialized agencies, together with a description of the salient features of the Government's economic and social development programme, the machinery of planning and co-ordination and a general statement regarding the Government's development policy.

CHAPTER I

6. To comprehend the nature of the Libyan economic problem a brief examination of its total resources is essential. Although several substantial economic surveys have been made,^{3/} basic data regarding the Libyan economy remains scanty; the salient features can, however, be readily presented.

7. Although the total land area is great, being some 1,760,000 sq. kms., the larger part is desert and unproductive. The cultivable land is found chiefly in the coastal plains and the Gebel regions. No reliable survey has been made of these cultivable areas, but it has been estimated that in Tripolitania there are ten million hectares of productive land, eight million of which are used for grazing; over 400,000 hectares of the balance is used for static farming, the use of the remainder depending on weather and the movements of the semi-nomad cultivators. In Cyrenaica, there are believed to be some four million hectares of productive land; a relatively small area is suited to dry farming, the balance being used for grazing and cereal cultivation; there are, however, over 100,000 hectares of indigenous forest. In the third province of Libya, the Fezzan, there are about 2,700 hectares of irrigated gardens in the oases with a further 120,000 hectares of date palms.

8. The population census of 1954, which was organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Libyan Government authorities and was the first to be made in the Kingdom of Libya, has given the following aggregate population figures for the country:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tripolitania	386,846	359,218	746,064
Cyrenaica	152,703	138,625	291,328
Fezzan	27,068	27,370	54,438
Total	566,617	525,213	1,091,830

^{3/} "A General Economic Appraisal of Libya", United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, New York, 1952 (ST/TAA/K/Libya/1)

"The Economic and Social Development of Libya", New York, 1953 (ST/TAA/K/Libya/3).

The analysis of the census returns will take some time; it is, however, estimated that the settled population constitutes over 60 per cent of the total, the balance being divided fairly equally between semi-nomads and nomads.

9. The rural population is for the greater part engaged in a rather simple self-sustaining agricultural system, an important feature of which is a primitive pastoral economy. This agriculture is carried on under conditions of great difficulty due to the unpredictable character of the climate. During the summer the greater part of the country is subject to violent hot winds from the desert while the rains which come in the winter are uncertain and irregular, in some years failing altogether, in other years being too slight to assist the year's farming. By 1954, the Province of Tripolitania, for example, had had crop failures due to drought for three successive years; the crop for 1955, despite an early promise of adequate winter rains, has again failed seriously. An additional burden was placed upon the agricultural community of Tripolitania by a locust invasion of exceptional severity, which developed with great speed and did extensive damage to olive and citrus plantations and to vines. It is, however, the Libyan climate which introduces the greatest element of insecurity. The rains when they come are often violent and, for lack of cisterns, checkdams and other water conserving and water spreading works, carry much soil away into the sea. The principal elements of Libyan agriculture are cereal and date palm cultivation and livestock breeding. In a normal year the annual cereal production is reckoned to be about 100,000 tons. However, there are considerable variations, ranging from as low as 15,000 tons in a bad year to over 150,000 tons in a good year, and in the past three years the production has been considerably below the average of 100,000 tons. The animal population is estimated at about two million head and is increasing; there are also important tree crops, including olives exceeding three million, and additional trees are coming into production every year. In Tripolitania, Italian settlers have the advantage of more advanced techniques and greater financial facilities and maintain a more developed agriculture. Esparto grass, however, which grows wild in the Gebel, is one of the largest single export items in value.

10. Agriculture occupies probably more than 80 per cent of the population and will undoubtedly continue to be the mainstay of the Libyan economy for a long time to come, even though it is subject to such great variations in productivity and yields only a scanty livelihood for the majority of the agriculturists.
11. The development of the country's resources has been based in the first instance upon the improvement of its agriculture by the maximum development of all water resources, the improvement of agricultural methods with associated improvements in the processing, handling and marketing of agricultural produce, the latter having special reference to the needs of overseas markets. This effort is being directed both to the goal of increasing output and exports, as well as to the increase of food production as a means of improving the internal standard of living; most recently work has been put in hand to encourage the revival of the Libyan fishing industry.
12. Alternative occupations remain relatively few, although the growth of foreign enterprises, of tourism and in recent years of construction work offer some new possibilities of urban employment. The presence in Tripolitania of Italian settlers, together with a growing foreign community, has given rise to an increasing internal demand for miscellaneous consumer goods, including foodstuffs, as well as for housing and services. However, apart from these requirements, little more than the traditional handicrafts provide employment in the towns.
13. Modern development in Libya has involved substantial investment not only in agriculture directly and auxiliary activities, e.g. irrigation and land reclamation, but also in those public works which constitute the country's social capital - the public utilities, a national road system, two railways of local importance and several ports and harbours. Over and above this capital investment there has been a substantial private investment in various branches of industry.
14. As far as the development of the country by the Italians during their regime is concerned, it was estimated that total development expenditures for the whole of Libya for the period 1913-1942 amounted to 1,831 million lire, the equivalent of \$159 million, half of which was devoted to agriculture and land reclamation. The investments of private individuals in the same period is estimated to have been the equivalent of about \$114 million for industrial development in the whole of Libya. It was inevitable that the destruction of

the war period,^{4/} the evacuation of most Italians from Cyrenaica and of many from Tripolitania and the long period of Allied military occupation on no more than a "care and maintenance" basis should cause a great loss and deterioration in this capital structure. Moreover, some of the establishments that remained were too ambitious for the modest resources of the new State and now constitute a burden rather than a revenue-producing asset.

15. Since the establishment of Libya a determined effort has been made to restore those elements of this capital equipment which can contribute to its growth and development and to enlarge its useable resources by further sound investment. This has been done in the light of the careful technical and economic appraisals undertaken by the combined missions of the United Nations and specialized agencies and the bilateral programmes of aid to Libya, especially the United States Point Four programme. This work of economic appraisal culminated in the preparation of the five-year Capital Development Programme submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in June 1953 and transmitted by him to the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2469 and Corr.1). A quotation from the introduction to the Capital Development Programme may be given here as it remains today a valid statement of the Government's policy and approach towards its capital development.

"Firstly, the programme has been conceived so as to raise the standards of living of the population of the three Provinces so that these may as far as possible be about equal everywhere. This makes development planning a matter of long-term nature. Secondly, the lack of funds made it impossible for all projects submitted by the Provinces to be included. Therefore, only the most essential projects, which will provide the mere skeleton on which to build for future years, have been considered. Thirdly, in the formulation of projects it was recognized that because of the nature of the country and the people, some development projects, at least in the beginning, were likely to remain relatively small. Prosperity was likely to result from many small projects rather than from a few large ones. In agricultural development this requires supporting subsequent action with an extension service, the financing of which has not been taken into consideration in the development programme. Fourthly, because of the irregularity of rainfall and the consequent variations in production, due consideration has been given in the Capital Development Programme to projects for the conservation of crops in good years and for the building of stocks for use during bad

^{4/} The details of the total war damage were presented in United Nations document A/2000 submitted to the sixth session of the General Assembly.

years. Fifthly, the examination of schemes revealed that in some cases further technical information was necessary, and in such cases funds provided are only for pilot schemes and for the technical investigations. This applies, for instance, to certain agricultural projects such as the Wadi Cam project under which a large dam is to be built in the Eastern zone of Tripolitania. This, as well as other projects of similar nature will only be extended when all technical information has been gathered and the soundness of the project established beyond any doubt. Finally, it was decided that the development programme be reviewed periodically so that necessary modifications could be introduced at a suitable stage in the light of changing circumstances. This plan it is felt is not a blueprint, but will be a dynamic process."

16. The Capital Development Programme was formulated as "a barebone minimum programme". Many proposals of high importance were excluded because of the Government's determination to present only the highest priority projects contributing directly to the strengthening of the economy. Even so, the totals which resulted from this survey of capital needs greatly exceeded the then foreseeable resources. The development expenditures foreseen were distributed as follows:

	<u>Thousands</u>	
	£	\$
1. Agriculture and irrigation	2,504	(7,010)
2. Education	740	(2,070)
3. Health and sanitation	1,339	(3,750)
4. Public utilities	1,611	(4,510)
5. Miscellaneous	<u>223</u>	<u>(620)</u>
Total	<u>6,417</u>	<u>(17,960)</u>

It should be emphasized that in many fields these expenditures were in fact for reconstruction and repair of war damages rather than new development projects, and among the latter relatively few projects relating to social welfare services and education could be included.

17. The programme set forth above was conceived as being capable of execution, finance permitting, in a five-year period; it was to be the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency's main responsibility to implement it following the priorities given, with the understanding that, should lack of finance prove a limiting factor, the Development Agency would consult as to

priorities with the Provincial Administrations or the Federal Government as appropriate. Funds have in fact been forthcoming at the rate of rather more than £L 1 million (\$2,800,000) annually which, although not sufficient to complete the plan in five years, has permitted major projects to be launched.

18. The major source of the Development Agency's budget has been the contribution made by the United Kingdom. At the end of 1953 a financial agreement was concluded with the United Kingdom covering a period of twenty years, during the first five of which commencing in 1952 a budgetary grant-in-aid of £ 3.75 million (\$10,500,000) was to be received annually, of which £ 1 million (\$2,800,000) is earmarked for development purposes. Further contributions have been made by France £ 100,000 (\$280,000), Egypt £ 10,000 (\$28,000), Italy £ 10,000 (\$28,000) and Turkey £ 10,000 (\$28,000).

19. Further assistance to development projects, chiefly private agricultural operations, has been given through the medium-term loans made by the Libyan Finance Corporation since its establishment in 1953. The Corporation is also a statutory body deriving its capital - of which £L 240,000 (\$672,000) is presently paid up - from contributions from Governments. Although the projects financed do not figure in the Capital Development Programme, they of course contribute to its general purposes.

20. In 1955, the Libyan Government was able to finance a supplementary programme mainly of agricultural and water development projects in an Exceptional Budget of £ 1.5 millions (\$3,640,000). This addition to the country's resources was made possible by the most stringent Government economies during 1953 - 1954 and by the retroactive clauses of the agreement with the United Kingdom. The funds have been applied in large measure to projects within the framework of the capital programme and in the first instance to agricultural improvement.

21. After detailed negotiation, an agreement with the United States was signed in October 1954 providing for the payment of \$40 million over a twenty-year period; an exchange of notes amplifying this agreement provides that from 1955 to 1960 the sum of \$4 million would be paid annually; in addition, for the current United States fiscal year \$3 million is to be made available for projects to be agreed upon mutually between the two Governments. In mid-1954, \$ 1 million

had been paid to the Government in respect of economic aid. A total therefore of \$8 million is currently available as economic aid from the United States and is being wholly directed toward major development projects.

22. The following table gives a summary of the total disbursements of funds from all sources in relation to the expenditures foreseen under the Capital Development Programme since the adoption of the Programme. Considering the very great difficulties encountered in constructing and implementing such an initial programme of this kind, the Government regards these results as satisfactory.

TABLE I

LIBYA: Fulfilment of Capital Development Programme^{a/}

1953-1954 - 1954-1955

I t e m	Programme expenditure		Actual expenditure during the first two years		Percentage of total
	£L,000's	\$ 000's	£L,000's	\$ 000's	
<u>Agriculture and irrigation ..</u>	<u>2,670</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>841</u>	<u>2,355</u>	<u>31</u>
Agricultural improvement ..	342	958	358	1,002	105
Irrigation and soil and water conservation	1,241	3,475	323	904	26
Resettlement	369	1,033	10	28	3
Forestry	403	1,128	101	283	25
Animal husbandry	15	42	27	76	180
Grain silos	240	672	-	-	-
Air survey	60	168	22	62	37
<u>Education</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>2,075</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>1,271</u>	<u>61</u>
<u>Health and sanitation</u>	<u>1,339</u>	<u>3,749</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>26</u>
Hospitals, sanatoria and training	368	1,030	206	577	56
Sewerage	240	672	-	-	-
Domestic water	581	1,627	119	333	20
Housing	150	420	21	59	14
<u>Public utilities</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>4,510</u>	<u>759</u>	<u>2,125</u>	<u>47</u>
Electricity	110	308	126	353	115
Telephones	170	476	162	453	95
Ports and harbours	601	1,682	239	669	40
Civil aviation	120	336	107	300	89
Roads and railways	610	1,708	125	350	20
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>801</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>T O T A L</u>	<u>6,647</u>	<u>18,611</u>	<u>2,548</u>	<u>7,134</u>	<u>38</u>

^{a/} The expenditure shown has been made by the Federal Government; the three Provincial Administrations; the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency (LPDSA) and the Libyan/American Technical Assistance Service (IATAS). The figures of actual expenditure given cover the two-year period to the end of March 1955 with the exception of IATAS figures which include also the expenditure during April 1955.

In cases where the actual expenditure figures were not available, the budget figures have been given.

Included in the "Actual expenditure" figures is 50 per cent of the Tripolitanian expenditure on agriculture, forestry and soil and water conservation.

The personal emoluments of the staff of the Department of Agriculture have been ignored.

Note: In this table and elsewhere in the report totals and dollar equivalents may not always be exact because of rounding.

23. Starting in the fiscal year 1955 - 1956 and continuing for some years to come the appropriations shown above will be importantly supplemented by funds from the Exceptional Budget and from the resources of the Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission (LARC). This Commission, set up under an act of Libyan legislation, is entrusted with the planning and supervision of the expenditure of the funds made available to Libya by the Government of the United States under the agreement referred to in paragraph 21. As presently planned these funds will be allocated to the main fields of development work foreseen in the Capital Development Programme. However, the amounts involved will permit the substantial enlargement of the work being undertaken at present. It is not feasible at present to forecast the annual rate of these expenditures; however, the following table shows the allocation of funds as at present determined. Funds from the Exceptional Budget will probably be spent over a three-year period while the much larger disbursement from the United States economic aid will continue for a period of at least five years and in some cases even longer.

TABLE II

LIBYA: Projected Capital Development Expenditures
under Exceptional Budget (1955/56 - 1958/59) and
by LPDSA (1955/56) and IARC (1955/56 - 1960/61)

£L.000's and \$,000's

I t e m	Exceptional Budget 1955/56-58/59		LPDSA Development Budget 1955/56		Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission			
					Funds earmarked 1955/56		Total expected expenditure 1955/56-1960/61	
	£L	\$	£L	\$	£L	\$	£L	\$
<u>Agriculture and</u>								
<u>Irrigation</u>	<u>945</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>40.5</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>807</u>	<u>2,260</u>	Not yet programmed	
Agricultural improvement	370	1,036	17.5	49	125.3	351		
Irrigation and soil and water conservation.....	415	1,162	23	64	504.7	1,413		
Forestry.....	-	-	-	-	80	224		
Animal husbandry	50	140	-	-	96.95	272		
Other agricultural improvement.....	110	308	-	-	-	-		
<u>Education.....</u>	-	-	<u>80.5</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>868</u>
<u>Health and sanitation....</u>			<u>224.5</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>451.6</u>	<u>1,264</u>	<u>693.6</u>	<u>1,942</u>
Hospitals, sanatoria and training facilities....			120.5 ^{a/}	338	350.6	982	441.6	1,236
Sanitation.....	-	-	-	-	16	44	52	146
Domestic water.....	-	-	104	291	85	238	200	560
<u>Public utilities.....</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>728</u>	<u>1,645</u>	<u>4,606</u>	<u>7,790</u>	<u>21,812</u>
Electric power: acqui- sition and extension.....	-	-	65.6	184	1,000	2,800		
Ports and harbours.....	-	-	112.	313	30	84	2,200	6,160
Roads.....	-	-	82.4	231	495 ^{b/}	1,386	3,220	9,016
Tourism (accommodation).	30	84	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flood control.....	-	-	-	-	120	336	120	336
<u>Banks.....</u>					<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,800</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,200</u>
National Bank.....	-	-	-	-	500	1,400	500	1,400
Agricultural Credit Bank	-	-	-	-	500	1,400	1,000	2,800
<u>Miscellaneous.....</u>			<u>152</u>	<u>426</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>280</u>
Public Works Department workshop equipment, etc.	-	-	-	-	100	280	100	280
Civil aviation	-	-	87	244	-	-	-	-
Support for United Nations technical assistance programme.....	-	-	65	182	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	<u>975</u>	<u>2,730</u>	<u>757.5</u>	<u>2,121</u>	<u>4,273.6</u>	<u>11,966</u>		

a/ Includes £L 15,000 for slum clearance

b/ Includes Fezzan Road, Federal Coast Road and Coastal By-pass.

24. Table II does not include future expenditures by the Federal Government or the three Provincial Administrations since these will of course only be determined in the annual budgets.

25. In examining these figures the exiguous nature of the total resources available to the Libyan State must be borne in mind. The country's budget in 1954-1955 was balanced at a figure of £L 6.22 million (\$17.416 million) (including the grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom) and the budget approved in April 1955 provided for total Government expenditures of only £L 9.83 million (\$27.524 million). Although revenues have been maintained despite a succession of poor harvests and despite stringent economies effected in Government administration, the budget deficit in 1954-1955 has been of the order of £L 2.46 million (\$6.888 million). The budgetary grant-in-aid provided by the United Kingdom is therefore a prerequisite for the development expenditures set forth above.

26. The Libyan balance of payments is also indicative of the limited size and scope of the economy balancing as it did in 1953 at about £ 15 million (\$42 million). The net import surplus in that year was £ 7.97 million (\$22.316 million) or about 70 per cent of total imports. In 1954, the import surplus was £ 7.5 million (\$21 million) or 66 per cent of total imports. Considering the import requirements under the Capital Development Programme, it is to be expected that these figures would be high: they are, however, further enlarged by substantial imports made on account of the personnel attached to the several foreign establishments in Libya - such imports being, of course, offset by corresponding inflows of foreign funds from both dollar and sterling sources. Actual financial contributions from friendly Powers amounted in 1953 to £L 2.65 million (\$7.42 million) and in 1954 to £L 4.39 million (\$12.29 million); expenditures by foreign military establishments in Libya were more than £L 6.2 million (\$17.36 million). While the balance of payments for 1954 is not yet computed, there appears to have been no substantial change in the general position in that year; in 1955, it may be expected that the expenditure of the additional United States economic aid will further enlarge the size of the import surplus, but will enlarge still more the size of the offsetting overseas contributions.

27. The foregoing summary has touched upon the major features only of the Libyan economic situation and is intended not as a survey but as background information against which the following account of the technical assistance work of the United Nations in Libya can be examined. Enough has been said, however, to show the acute need which exists for such technical aid and the many opportunities which will develop for further work. It will also be evident that the problems facing the country are long-term and involve the building-up of the agricultural resources and the strengthening of the skills and capacities of the population concurrently with the enlargement of the country's modest capital resources.

28. Because Libya's development problems and needs are numerous and its available resources scanty, the Government has striven by careful programming and the continuing review of development projects to maintain balanced and steady progress in the many fields in which Libya is backward. The Libyan Government's efforts have been seriously complicated by such factors as the uncertainty only recently somewhat alleviated as to the financial resources likely to be made available for development and construction, the emergency needs for relief which are still causing grave anxiety due to the catastrophe of a succession of crop failures coming on top of pressing day-to-day problems of supply and the present lack of reliable economic data with the consequent difficulties of assessing the probable impact of development projects.

Economic Planning Committee

29. Progress toward the implementation of the Government's Capital Development Programme is kept under review by the Economic Planning Committee which has the central co-ordinating responsibility with regard to the whole field of economic policy, though it is necessarily concerned primarily with development work and the co-ordination of technical assistance programmes with the projects being financed by Government resources.

30. The Committee is a Federal Government body, on which are represented the Provincial Administrations and the technical assistance organizations operating in Libya. Its secretariat is the formal point of contact between these organizations and the Government, and is responsible for the day-to-day liaison with them and handles the considerable volume of additional work concerned with technical assistance and associated matters. Both the annual request for United Nations technical assistance and the annual budget estimates of the LPDSA are submitted to the Committee before being passed for final approval to the Council of Ministers. The same procedure will also apply to the United States Point Four Mission's plans for future work, although this has not hitherto been the case. In future, the LARC programme will be placed before this Committee.

31. The primary functions of the Committee are planning and the formulation and co-ordination of recommendations on matters of economic policy. In these matters it is advisory, since the final determination of economic policy rests with the Council of Ministers. It is, nevertheless, by reason of its composition, an authoritative body. Its Chairman is the Federal Minister of Finance, the Alternate Chairman being the Minister of National Economy; the Provincial Representatives are usually Nazirs (the equivalent of Minister at Provincial level) or persons of high standing, and it includes among its members the Resident Technical Assistance Representative of the United Nations and the Director of the United States Operations Mission, the Government's Chief Financial and Economic Expert and the Director-General of National Economy. Senior officials of LPDSA, the Libyan Finance Corporation and LARC attend its meetings as observers and advisers, and it has at its disposal all the expert and technical advice available in the country.

32. When the policy recommendations of the Economic Planning Committee in respect of development projects and of the co-ordination of development work are matters requiring Cabinet approval, they are presented to the Council of Ministers and to Parliament if legislative action is required. Having been sanctioned, one or other of the executive agencies of the Government proceeds with execution. Apart from the executive departments of the Federal Government and of the Provincial Administrations, the chief development agency is LPDSA; the Libyan Finance Corporation is the sole official loan-granting agency; the several technical assistance missions of the United Nations and the bilateral assistance programme authorities also have responsibility for implementation in their special fields. Most recently LARC has been established as the programming and planning agency in respect of United States economic aid. LARC assigns the execution of projects financed by it to Ministries, Nazarates and other Government agencies. The following paragraphs describe the constitutions of these development authorities and briefly report their recent activities.

Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency

33. LPDSA, set up in January 1952, is a Government agency with full legal personality. Its purposes are:

(a) To promote and assist in the economic and social development of Libya by securing the investigation, formulation, financing and carrying out of programmes and projects for technical assistance and developing the resources of Libya with a view to the expansion of production of food and raw materials, and thereby raising the standards of living of the people of Libya;

(b) To assist by its activities in furthering the stability of Libyan economy and especially, during periods of drought or other periods of serious economic stringency, to secure necessary supplies by establishing reserves of food and by creating additional employment.

(c) To assist by its activities the long-range balanced growth of Libyan foreign trade by gradual improvement of Libyan exports and the achievement and maintenance of equilibrium in the balance of payments.

34. The powers of the Agency are vested in a Board of Directors which delegates executive power to a General Manager. Under the statute of the Agency, the Libyan member is the Chairman of the Board, the other members consisting of representatives of each Government contributing towards the Agency's funds. The Agency's funds are derived either from contributions made by other Governments or from allocations by the Libyan Government from the public revenue. One quarter of all such contributions are required by the statute to go to the Stabilization Fund, which exists for the purposes set forth in paragraph (b) above, until the assets of this Fund reach £1,000,000 (\$2,800,000). Thereafter, all contributions go to the Development Fund, though if the Stabilization Fund falls below £1,000,000 it is required to be kept replenished up to that amount. Governments at present contributing to LPDSA are Great Britain, France, Italy, Turkey and Egypt.

35. Members of the Board have one vote for each unit of £10,000 (\$28,000) contributed by the Government they represent. Under the statute such contributions are made to the Libyan Government which allocates them to the Agency, and not direct to the Agency. This gives the Libyan member a number of votes equal to the sum of all the other members' votes and, in addition, he has a casting vote as Chairman - an arrangement which guarantees to LPDSA an

essentially Libyan character. Full consultation with the Provinces and liaison with the two technical assistance organizations and the Libyan Finance Corporation is ensured by the presence of a representative of each Province and organization at Board meetings. The Agency carries out its work either through the Departments of the Provincial Administrations or through contractors. The Agency's broad policy having been established - that the Agency shall direct its activities mainly towards the execution of the Capital Development Programmes - and its annual budgets having been approved, the General Manager and his staff are given considerable freedom in the execution of the programme subject to the Board's annual review.

Libyan Finance Corporation

36. Also established under Libyan Law is the Libyan Finance Corporation, which came into being in 1953. Its purpose as defined in the statute is to assist in the economic and social development of Libya by providing credit and expanding credit facilities for agricultural, industrial and commercial projects and programmes in Libya.

37. All powers of the Corporation are vested in a General Assembly, composed of a representative of each Government or Government-sponsored agency holding paid-up capital. The General Assembly delegates powers to a Board of Directors and appoints its members, but one member is appointed by the Libyan Government. The Corporation has an authorized capital of £1,000,000 (\$2,800,000) of which it was intended that 60 per cent would be contributed by the Societa Finanziamente Esteri (Soffines) (Italian), 20 per cent by the French Government, 10 per cent by the Banque d'Algerie et de la Tunisie (French) and 10 per cent by the British Government. Paid-up capital stands at £240,000 (\$672,000), although the Corporation's General Assembly has authorized an increase of £300,000 (\$840,000) in the current financial year. The policy of the Corporation is to make medium-term loans, from one to five years, to enable agricultural and industrial enterprises to increase their capital equipment, with a view to increasing quickly the output of goods either for internal consumption or for export. The rate of interest is at present 4 per cent, to which must be added a risk

commission - not, however, exceeding 2 per cent - for banks and other institutions which share with the Corporation the risk of the loan.

38. In the financial year 1953-1954 the Board of Directors authorized forty-five loans to a total amount of £76,490 (\$214,000), and in 1954-1955 forty-two loans to a total amount of £138,593 (\$388,000). Loans actually made during the first two financial years amounted to £125,354 (\$351,000). With a view to assisting to the maximum degree possible within the limits of the funds available, the Corporation has acted in consultation with the Libyan Government, the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission and LPDSA, and has concentrated on projects of agricultural settlement and citrus and olive oil production. It has not so far directed its attention to commercial loans.

United Nations Technical Assistance Mission

39. The extensive activities of the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission are described in detail in the next chapter of the present report. The importance of the role which is being played by the Technical Assistance Mission in this young country cannot be over-emphasized. It had its origins in the pre-independence years of 1950 and 1951 when, after consultation with the United Nations Commissioner and the Administering Powers, two teams of experts visited Libya. The first team carried out a general economic appraisal of Libya's potentialities, on the basis of which the second team elaborated its proposals and recommendations for the social and economic development of Libya. These are embodied in the report entitled, The Economic and Social Development of Libya, which has served not only as the basis upon which the present United Nations technical assistance programme has been evolved, but also as an invaluable guide in the formulation of the five-year Capital Development Programme and a long-term programme which has been made possible by the funds administered by LARC, and which is now beginning to take shape. The Technical Assistance Mission does not provide direct financial assistance; nevertheless, the contributions of its experts prepare the way for new development projects or the improved use of available resources. This Mission works in the closest contact with the Government at all levels. It is on a basis of consultations at

departmental level that technical assistance projects, having due regard for precedent and policy, are first prepared. The individual programmes developed with the participating specialized agencies are then consolidated into a country programme and, after review by the Resident Representative, are submitted to the Economic Planning Committee. The formal channel of approach, as has already been indicated, lies through the Economic Planning Committee Secretariat to the Minister of Finance who is the responsible Minister for all technical assistance matters and remains the controlling authority on the Government side.

United Nations Children's Fund

40. The United Nations Children's Fund is also assisting the Government in undertaking a large-scale school feeding programme by the provision of supplies of vitamin capsules, milk powder and soap as well as the milk kitchen equipment needed in every school; this programme is planned to commence in the school year 1955-1956. The Government's contribution to this programme consists of a daily ration of dates processed in a special plant, whose construction has been financed by LPDSA.

United States Operations Mission

41. Another technical assistance organization in Libya, the USOM (Point Four), was set up in the period immediately preceding independence. Its objectives have been clearly stated. They are to co-operate with, advise and assist the Libyan Government and to train personnel in three main fields:

- (a) Agriculture and natural resources
- (b) Education
- (c) Health and sanitation.

The programmes include (a) the further development of the Government's Agricultural, Forestry and Forest Nursery Services, experimental stations, water and soil resources and irrigation systems; the development of improved methods through technical assistance, demonstration and "on-the-job" training - in farming, soil and water conservation, livestock management, range re-vegetation, marketing, co-operatives, land tenure, nursery and forest

production, increased forest planting and conservation, sand dune fixation plantings, location of additional ground water and arable sites, and irrigation and land use. Under (b) is included teacher training, the development of a sound technical education programme, the evolution of an effective and efficient school management programme, the proffering of every measure of aid and encouragement possible to projects which tend to raise the level of learning and understanding. As in the case of (a), these objectives are to be attained through technical assistance, demonstrations and "on-the-job" training. The same methods will be applied to (c) which comprises training in preventive health and sanitation activities, helping to establish preventive health services, and will be directed towards developing procedures in prevention, control and cure of malaria, contagious infections of the eye, enteric diseases and other preventable health problems as encountered through field studies.

42. A further objective is to send selected persons for training courses abroad, within the approved programmes.

43. These objectives are being attained through specific projects under the three main programmes. Thus, the agricultural and natural resources programme includes agricultural extension, in which thirteen United States experts are engaged; two vocational agricultural training schools, comprising between them 125 students; a wool-sorting and scouring programme, which is securing excellent results in Libya's favour on foreign markets; the rehabilitation of three grain silos, now complete; livestock improvement and forestry and forest nursery production projects. The latter project, for instance, has resulted in a production increase from 12,000 to 160,000 young trees in Cyrenaica and from 1 1/2 to 3 million in Tripolitania. Point Four has also embarked on an active water-spreading programme. Several features of the education programme are complementary to some of the activities being undertaken by the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission. The Technical and Clerical Training Centre in Tripoli, though an ILO project, was equipped in part at Point Four expense; a similar institution at Benghazi is entirely a Point Four project, as is the Point Four Arts and Crafts School in Tripoli. The directors of the Men's and Women's Teacher Training Colleges in Tripoli are paid by the United States Mission; twenty-two schools comprising 650 students receive special English language tuition, and 1,500 students attend night classes run by Point Four in commercial

training and secondary school standard English. In Tripolitania ten entirely new schools have been built at Point Four expense, and three existing schools enlarged and rehabilitated. In addition, the United States Mission has made available 45,000 books for libraries. The health programme has been concentrated mainly on trachoma control, but the establishment of a health demonstration centre and the development of the Government prevention services by bringing in United States sanitarians are projected; forty-eight students have completed study courses abroad and twenty-two are currently attending them. These courses are in general more of a practical than academic nature. Point Four has in the period up to 30 June 1955 allocated a total of \$6 million for the projects described above.

44. The Mission is headed by a Country Director and comprises some sixty United States personnel with eighty Middle East assistants. It is at present in the process of re-organization to achieve a greater degree of integration with the Government, and the Point Four annual budget estimates are in future to be submitted to the Economic Planning Committee.

Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission

45. The Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission is a new agency responsible for the administration of United States economic aid. The statute establishing it was passed by Parliament in April this year. The Commission consists of a Libyan Chairman, and three other Libyan and two American members. It has an Executive Director who is an American national, with a Libyan Deputy. At the time of its establishment it had at its disposal a sum of \$12 million and will have at least a further \$4 million annually for the next four years with the possibility of additional economic aid from the United States. In the preparation of projects the Commission operates through a technical committee and a number of sub-committees. Execution of projects will be carried out through the Ministries, Nazarates and other agencies of the Government. The Commission has an essentially Libyan character and its projects, based on a ten-year plan, will all pass at some stage through the Economic Planning Committee. Full co-ordination will therefore be assured, not only on this account, but by reason of the fact of common membership on the technical committee and its sub-committees with other technical assistance and development organizations. Moreover, the Executive

Director of IARC attends the meetings of the Economic Planning Committee as an observer, and the constitution of IARC provides for participation, without vote, of advisers and observers from other agencies and organizations interested in Libyan economic development.

46. It is anticipated that the IARC programme will embrace a number of projects which are already included in the five-year Capital Development Programme, but for which funds have not hitherto been available. However, its main emphasis will be on a ten-year plan which includes large-scale projects which, on account of their magnitude, could not be included in the original five-year Capital Development Programme. The IARC programme has been designed not only to enhance but to balance the growth of the Libyan economy. Thus, the anticipated expansion of agricultural production in the rich Cyrenaican hinterland has rendered the reconstruction of the Benghazi Harbour a prime necessity. This is to be undertaken at a cost of over \$6,000,000. The construction of a new power plant in Tripoli, toward which £1,000,000 (\$2,800,000) is being contributed by IARC, will help make available to the farmers in the fertile coastal belt region more electric power for crop irrigation. Similarly, stepped-up production in the Fezzan will require improved means of outlet, and this will be found in the proposed new Fezzan road. At the same time IARC funds will be utilized to supplement, where necessary, agricultural, health and educational projects already started but for the full development of which present funds are inadequate. The whole concept of the IARC programme rests on a basis of careful integration with the over-all Libyan developmental schemes. However, the emergence of this new agency with the additional finances which it has at its disposal will, in any event, necessitate in the near future a complete review of the Libyan economic development situation. The time is appropriate for streamlining the two programmes, as the five-year programme is already midway through, and further planning must be undertaken in the course of the next year or eighteen months.

47. In the view of the Government, the agencies described above serve the majority of the present economic development needs satisfactorily. All are well adapted to the country's needs, are responsible to the Government's wishes, while each fulfils a distinct function within the framework of the Government's over-all policy. The constitution of the Economic Planning Committee enables it to secure proper co-ordination while the wide range of Libya's needs for development

practically eliminates the risk of overlapping since there is ample scope for all authorities to operate within the Government's development programme.

48. The establishment in 1955 of a National Bank of Libya and of an Agricultural Credit Bank will mark an important enlargement of the Libyan economic structure and the Government is fully aware of the necessity to secure active co-operation between these new institutions and the existing agencies on operational as well as on policy matters.

49. It may therefore be concluded that the co-ordination of development policy and the best use of the country's own resources and those donated from outside is, under the existing governmental organization, well assured.

CHAPTER III

50. It has been advantageous in the development of the programme of technical assistance to Libya that the experts assigned to the country by the United Nations and the specialized agencies are serviced by a central organization maintained by the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and responsible to the Government for over-all policy questions relating to the entire United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance. As the Libyan programme has included assistance from all the specialized agencies participating in the Expanded Programme, the existence of the United Nations Mission in Libya has ensured a proper co-ordination of the many different projects undertaken and has been instrumental in securing continuity of policy and of action as experts have come and gone.

51. The Chief of the Mission, the Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board, has at all times maintained close contact with the Government on policy questions and has been able to advise and assist the Government in every way in shaping the programme. The Deputy Resident Representative, who also serves as Chief Economist, has acted as adviser and as member of Government committees on economic and technical questions, in addition to his duties in the Mission. Under the new programming procedure both officers have assisted the Government and the representatives of the specialized agencies in programme discussions. Finally, since its establishment the Office of the Resident Representative has given valuable help to the Government in respect of language services and documentation supplementing the Government's own limited facilities.

52. In fields of activity of especial importance to Libya, the Government has welcomed the setting up of missions such as those maintained by the FAO and UNESCO. The chiefs of these missions have served the Government as advisers and have given every support in their respective fields in addition to their responsibilities toward the experts assigned to their missions.

53. In the following paragraphs an account is given of the technical assistance rendered to Libya with an indication of the results where specific projects have been undertaken. Such a description by project can, however, hardly give an adequate picture of the impact which the programme as a whole has had on the country. It should therefore be borne in mind that the constant availability at

all levels of the Government service of the advice and assistance of the very considerable number of experts assigned to Libya has been a highly important factor in the formulation of development policies and one which the Government of Libya has greatly valued.

AGRICULTURE

54. A team of FAO experts prepared comprehensive recommendations^{5/} to the Libyan Government shortly after independence. Subsequently, on the Government's request for aid in their implementation, an FAO Mission was established in Libya, with its headquarters at Sidi Mesri, the centre of agricultural experimental work and research in Tripolitania. The FAO Mission Chief serves as agricultural adviser to the Government and to the Provincial Departments of Agriculture on a wide range of policy questions and technical matters relating to agriculture and including the preparation of development plans, in addition to his responsibilities toward the FAO Mission which has generally been maintained at about twelve to fifteen experts. These experts have been carrying out a sustained research and experimental programme and are assisting the Government in the many agricultural activities relating to the improvement of Libyan agriculture; in addition to their technical assignment, they also act as adviser on committees concerned with agricultural affairs. The Government provides substantial support for the FAO projects by direct financial contributions through LPDSA; current support is also given by the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Research

55. FAO has maintained in Libya two agronomists to whom have recently been assigned under an arrangement with the Dutch Government two junior technicians concerned with plant production and research. As a prior condition of their work these experts have assisted the Government in the rehabilitation of the main experimental stations throughout Libya. FAO has contributed considerably to this restoration of research facilities by supplying a substantial quantity of equipment; additional equipment and supplies have been purchased from Government's supporting funds and have been provided by Point Four.

^{5/} See FAO Report No. 21; "Report to the Government of Libya on Agriculture", 1952.

56. An extensive experimental programme has been initiated which includes plant adaptability trials, covering the main crops in Libya, fertilizer trials to determine the quality and quantity of nutrient requirements of these crops, cultivation and management trials to increase yields by improved practices and forage adaptability trials designed to increase the supply of animal foodstuffs.

57. Various crops such as groundnuts, sugar beet and potatoes are being studied in order to determine their relative importance from the farming and economic points of view. Seed multiplication has been continued whereby the most popular and valuable varieties of plants ascertained as a result of these experiments can be multiplied and distributed to the farming communities. These improved seeds have been distributed through the Government's extension services.

58. An FAO plant protection expert has initiated a programme of biological research to determine the intensity and geographical distribution of parasitical attacks in the orchards and gardens of Libya. Control trials have been carried out to ascertain which are the most effective and economic methods of attacking insects and diseases in plants and foodstuffs.

59. Information resulting from these experiments has been transmitted to the farming community by means of publication and demonstration.

60. The FAO also sponsored the creation of PHYTOSAN, a Plant Protection Association paid for by LPDSA, and has been responsible for the introduction to Libya of skilled pruners from Tunisia, whereby improved techniques of olive tree pruning have been taught throughout the main olive growing areas.

Animal production

61. An FAO expert in sheep breeding has assisted the Government in the establishment of the sheep-breeding station in Cyrenaica and the rehabilitation of that in Tripolitania. These stations are being used for breeding of improved sires which will be made available to the Libyan flock owners. Turkish Karaman and Merino sheep, a gift of FAO to Libya, have been imported from Turkey for experimental purposes. Mechanized sheep shearing and dipping demonstrations have been continued. The stations are also used as demonstration centres for range management projects.

Horticulture

62. Under the technical direction of an FAO fruit tree horticulturist fruit tree nurseries are being established in the hill area of Tripolitania. Fruit trees from these nurseries will be planted in reclaimed land. This expert has also assisted the Government in supervising soil conservation works in the hill zones.

Date packing and school feeding programme

63. An FAO date expert has established an experimental date processing plant to investigate the possibility of processing and packing Libyan dates for local consumption and export. It has been shown that by processing the keeping quality of the dates improved. As a result of these experiments a large processing plant is being set up under the general supervision of this expert to provide the processed dates which are to constitute the Government's contribution to the school feeding programme being launched in 1955-1956 with UNICEF assistance and supplies. FAO has also provided an expert on nutrition and school feeding to advise on this programme and to assist the Government in its organization.

Hides and skins

64. FAO experts have introduced improved methods of curing and tanning locally produced hides and skins. They have helped to draft legislation which has been promulgated in the Province of Tripolitania and which enforces the employment of improved techniques. Under this law the export of skins processed by methods other than the one approved has been prohibited. As a result the quality of Tripolitania skins showed a marked improvement during the last year and higher prices in the overseas markets have been obtained. The FAO experts have assisted the Government in modifying slaughterhouses and improving the skin markets and curing yards.

Co-operatives

65. An FAO expert in co-operatives has drafted for the Government's approval legislation covering the formation and operation of co-operative societies.

He is presently engaged in assisting the Government in training officers for the posts of registrar of co-operatives and in the work of initiating co-operative societies.

Forestry

66. An FAO forestry expert was assigned to Libya from the middle of 1952 until autumn 1954. During this time he prepared forestry legislation for the Government and initiated a programme of experimentation. He also advised the Government on its general forestry policy and supervised the fixation and reafforestation of a very large area of sand dunes. He collaborated with the Government and with the United States (Point Four) Mission in the preparation for, and supervised the construction of, water spreading and soil conservation structures; he was concerned with securing an aerial survey carried out at the expense of the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency whereby a large part of the coastal area of Tripolitania was photographed.

67. The forestry expert advised the Government also on the conservation and methods of collecting esparto grass, one of Libya's main natural resources.

Marketing

68. The FAO marketing expert has been successful in sponsoring the creation of a producers' co-operative named "AGREXPORT". This co-operative has purchased a machine for the cleaning, processing and calibrating of citrus fruit. As a result of this operation and Government financial assistance the quality and quantity of Libyan citrus exports have been greatly improved and important new markets have been opened in Northern Europe, markets which hitherto had been closed to Libyan exports. This expert is also responsible for sponsoring the construction in the Tripoli port of a vacuum disinfestation plant through which agricultural produce is being passed for export, thereby ensuring that foreign Governments' phytopathologic requirements are met. The expert has also been successful in assisting the Government in finding valuable export markets for several other Libyan agricultural products, including livestock.

Other activities

69. Over and above the foregoing FAO has provided at various times, when requested by the Government, short-term consultants in many fields, has secured fellowships and scholarships for promising candidates and has obtained equipment and agricultural tools or advised on their procurement and utilization as a service to the Government. In this work as well as in the specific fields noted above, the FAO Mission has at all times worked in the closest collaboration with related technical assistance operations in Libya; thus assistance has been given to the UNESCO project in the Fezzan, advisory and other services have been provided to and received from LPDSA and several projects have been organized co-operatively with the United States (Point Four) Mission's work in agriculture.

EDUCATION

Educational training and textbook production

70. The work of the UNESCO Mission in Libya is based on the recommendations contained in the UNESCO report of the Mission to Libya. This report urged that, especially in the first phase of development in Libya "the emphasis must be on teaching the Libyans to do better what they are already doing. The educational programme includes training in agriculture, in light industries and in handicrafts. But, supporting any specialized training there must be a solid foundation of general education ... an attack on illiteracy, improved facilities for elementary education, and general development of Libyan minds and bodies must be among the top priority projects in any plan for the economic and social development of the country".

71. The purpose of the first project undertaken by UNESCO in Libya was to advise the Libyan authorities on general educational matters, to assist them with the training of men and women teachers for Libyan primary schools and the production of textbooks and instructional materials. For the implementation of this educational training and production project an average of eight experts has been assigned to work with the UNESCO Mission, allocations have been made for fellowships and for the payment of local stipends for Libyan trainees

attending the teacher training centres and substantial quantities of equipment required for the programme have been made available.

72. The duties falling to the UNESCO Mission cover the entire educational field, ranging from advice on general educational matters to the Federal Government to the organization of model primary schools with kindergartens. At the national level it has been necessary to advise and participate in the building up of the educational system in Libya, the drafting of the Education Law, the establishment of a Higher Council of Education and of boards of management for training centres and assisting in the functioning of these bodies.

73. The Men's and Women's Teacher Training Centres in Tripolitania have been assisted by the improvement of their equipment and curricula and help is being given in respect of examinations held by the Administration. Four members of the Mission conducted teaching courses in these centres, while other members were working elsewhere in the country assisting other educational institutions. In Cyrenaica the Men's and Women's Teacher Training Centres are supported by the United States (Point Four) Mission. In all, the members of the UNESCO team conducted teaching courses in the following fields: educational psychology, geography, history, science, the Arabic language, physical education, manual training and primary teaching methods.

74. A further undertaking of the Mission has been the establishment of two model kindergartens and primary schools attached to the two teacher training centres where prospective Libyan teachers could practise and improve their teaching methods. These model kindergartens and primary schools have been welcomed by parents and are very popular in Libya. Three of these schools are now in operation in Tripolitania and three more in Cyrenaica.

75. The third field of activity of importance to the Mission has been the preparation of textbooks on Libyan history and geography for use in Libyan primary schools, a responsibility entrusted to UNESCO working in co-operation with the appropriate Government departments on the recommendation of the Higher Council of Education of Libya. These are the first to be written in Arabic on these subjects.

76. The achievements of the UNESCO Mission assisted in producing the following results:

In 1954, the Men's Teacher Training Centre graduated seventy-two candidates, all of whom have been employed by the Government as teachers. The number of trainees at this Centre as of 31 January 1955 was 585, out of which 311 were admitted in 1954 for a new four-year teacher training course.

In 1954, the Women's Teacher Training Centre graduated sixteen girls, all of whom were found suitable jobs by the Education Department. The number of trainees in this Centre as of 31 January 1955 was 288.

The model kindergarten and elementary schools in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica were attended by 800 children; they made possible the training of twenty-eight women teachers.

Thirty in-service teachers were trained in the field of manual training and sixty were trained in the field of physical education. Displays of physical education and inter-school tournaments were organized.

Several exhibitions were organized of Arabic books for children and adults and of the arts and crafts work of men and women teachers; booklets on methods of teaching were distributed.

77. The UNESCO Mission's work has enjoyed the full co-operation of the Government and the most earnest collaboration of its educational officers. In a country like Libya technical assistance has first to help the Libyans wherever possible to establish or to rebuild their institutions from the foundations; the building and rehabilitation work involved in providing Teachers' Training Centres, new schools and quarters for teachers has been undertaken in large part by LPDSA. Under present conditions any help from outside is greatly appreciated, for it is recognized, throughout the country that the development of education is at the present stage the main road toward progress.

Adult education in the Fezzan

78. This second UNESCO project is intended especially to help the people in the isolated Libyan Province of the Fezzan by creating adult education centres where the people of the oasis villages can take up practical work and have some handicraft instruction, can join in literacy courses and find follow-up literature to help them when they have learned to read; the centres also serve as meeting

places where the community can gather to discuss its problems and the possibilities of further community development. Seventeen such adult education centres are now in operation and the average attendance is about 700. Attached to some of the centres are small workshops and a start has been made in organizing gardens where, with FAO help, simple gardening instruction can be given as well as demonstrations of improved agricultural methods.

79. To service this rapidly growing activity UNESCO provides one expert with one assistant; the Government has undertaken to pay the stipends of local instructors who serve in the centres. The expert has succeeded in adapting the information provided and the work of the centres to the semi-nomadic conditions of the inhabitants, many of whom are absent from their villages for as much as six months a year. The education is markedly rural in character; for example, the Fezzanese have been shown how to deal with the disease which attacks the palm trees, and provision has also been made for assistance in handicrafts work.

80. Efforts are now being made with the full co-operation of the local administration to improve the efficiency of the centres, chiefly by instructing the local teachers in teaching methods as well as by improving their knowledge of the subjects they teach.

81. The local population has shown a keen interest in the establishment of centres, demanding the opening of many more than can be managed. In four oases centres had been opened in 1954 on an entirely voluntary self-help basis with the community supplying both building and voluntary workers. Fezzanese conditions, however, are extremely difficult. The centres are isolated and at great distances from one another, linked only by desert track. Only a limited impact can be achieved with so small a team but the villagers are very ready to seize the opportunities offered by the adult education centres.

TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL TRAINING

82. A shortage of qualified personnel to fill clerical and technical positions in the Libyan administrative and public services is one of the country's most serious handicaps. Training at all levels, by fellowships and by the strengthening of the general educational system, has been used to meet the deficiency. One of

the most comprehensive ventures in the training field is the ILO-organized Technical and Clerical Training Centre. This is a continuing project which has become the ILO's major contribution to the development of Libya and is greatly valued by the Government.

83. Initially, to meet the need for clerical and technical personnel a one-year course was organized by UNESCO in 1950. In 1952, following upon the attainment of independence in the previous year, it was agreed that the ILO and UNESCO should combine to organize a national training centre designed to give a more extended course of instruction and staffed chiefly by overseas instructors. As from September 1953, the complete responsibility for the provision of technical assistance to the Centre was assumed by ILO, working in co-operation with the Tripolitanian Administration. The main object of the Centre was to train junior clerical staff and qualified workers for the Government and later, when urgent Government needs have been met, also to give training for staff for industry and commerce. It was planned also that the Centre should provide supplementary courses for adults and that, ultimately, the Centre should produce instructors both for the Centre itself and for other training courses to be set up elsewhere. This last was the Centre's main long-term objective.

84. The Centre is housed in premises provided by the Government; supplies are provided by the Tripolitanian Administration, equipment valued at some one hundred thousand dollars has been supplied by ILO and additional equipment has come from the United States Point Four programme.

85. From the beginning of the 1953-1954 school year the ILO has borne all expenses connected with international teaching and administrative staff, and has given financial assistance to some students.

86. During the 1953-1954 school year the number of students had risen to 277, some 150 of whom were boarders, others being provided with lunches. Of the total about 165 attended the Clerical Section courses consisting of English and Arabic typing, bookkeeping, commercial arithmetic, commercial correspondence, history and geography. The balance, some 112 students, had instruction, in addition to workshop training in drawing, technology, science and simple applied mathematics. All students take courses in Arabic and English, and in religion, hygiene and physical education.

87. Some 130 students have already completed their two- or three-year courses and have obtained Government employment, eighty-four being from the Clerical and forty-six from the Technical Section.

88. In 1954/1955 there are 299 students at the Centre, of whom 179 are in the Clerical Section and 120 in the Technical Section. Of this number, 190 are boarders and 109 day-boys.

89. At the end of the 1954/1955 school year, thirty-three students will complete their third year course in the Clerical Section and twenty-four in the Technical Section.

90. The Government, recognizing the service such an institution can render, has strongly supported the Technical and Clerical Training Centre. As adjustments in curricula are made and as the new students entering the Centre begin to show the benefits due to the improvement in the general education system, so the graduates should prove excellently qualified for entry into government service. It is appreciated that constant review of the Centre's orientation will be required to keep it in line with the development of the Libyan economy as the Government's own most urgent personnel needs are satisfied.

SOCIAL SECURITY

91. The Libyan Government requested the aid of ILO in its proposal to revise the social security system so that it would provide protection for all non-agricultural workers regardless of their nationality. An ILO expert, after a study of the existing schemes, prepared a draft social insurance bill and an explanatory report which were submitted to the Government. Later, at the Government's request, the expert also drafted regulations for the implementation of the first stage of the scheme proposed in the draft bill. The bill proposes a scheme which would cover the country's regions and various contingencies by stages and in its initial stage is conceived on a modest scale. It was recommended that its extension later should be envisaged only in the light of successful experience and with due account being taken of the financial, administrative and technical resources of the country. The expert completed his assignment in August 1954. The draft bill is being examined by the Government which considers the project to have been of considerable value and plans to invite further ILO assistance when the stage of implementation is reached.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

92. To provide an effective labour code the Libyan Government invited ILO assistance in 1954; an expert spent some months in examining the labour situation in Libya and reviewing existing ordinances and legislation. After a further period of consultation draft legislation was prepared and submitted to the Government which has accepted it in principle. Final revision is being undertaken with a view to its presentation to the Council of Ministers. The Government is anxious to have this legislation put into effect without delay.

ACCOUNTANCY AND BOOKKEEPING COURSE

93. The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration is providing two instructors in accountancy and bookkeeping and one instructor in the English language at the Accountancy and Bookkeeping Centre in Tripoli. The training course at this Centre has been designed to train Libyan civil servants already serving in Federal and Provincial administrations.

94. The curriculum includes principles of accountancy and bookkeeping and government accounting as principal subjects, and English language, with emphasis on the terminology of accountancy, principles of auditing and some general economic information (national and foreign trade, markets, currency, banks, insurance, etc.) as subsidiary subjects. The first year's course began towards the end of March 1953 with more than forty students from the various Government Departments, Federal and Provincial. The period of study was one year.

95. The responsible services of the Government report that the students who have successfully completed this course and returned to the Government Service have been reassigned to new posts which will better utilize their newly developed skills.

96. The success with which the experiment was met has encouraged its repetition at the request of the Government, and the second year's course began work early in May 1954 with about forty students. This course terminated in April 1955. The curriculum for the second year's course was almost the same as the first year's course, except that minor adjustments were introduced to suit Government requirements.

97. Upon a further request from the Government, preparations are in hand for the selection of a further forty civil servants to attend the third course (1955-1956) which is scheduled to begin on 1 July 1955. The curriculum for this course will be on the same basis as those of the previous two courses.

98. Besides providing training for the ordinary civil servants, the Centre is used as a preparatory stage for those who show distinction. They may subsequently be selected for scholarships or fellowships abroad, to continue their training in the same field in order to be entrusted with posts of higher responsibility.

99. In due time the Centre should be further adapted to a level where civil servants, prospective civil servants and/or other students, with a secondary school education - or its equivalent - will be admitted. The inclusion of subjects relating to public administration in the study will be of great help to the civil service.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

100. To assist the Government in the organization of its public service two experts provided by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration have since mid-1953 been engaged in the administrative survey of the Departments and Agencies of the Libyan Federal Government and of the Administrations of the Libyan Provinces of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and the Fezzan with as their broad assignment the instruction "to make recommendations for increasing administrative efficiency and effecting economies through all-round improvements in general administration".

101. The experts first made a brief survey of the administrative arrangements of the Federal Government and of the Provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica with a view to defining the scope of the work in relation to the terms of the assignment and the time allotted and also for the purpose of suggesting, for the Government's consideration, a programme of work. This was done in October, and the opportunity was taken to point out certain basic and obvious weaknesses noted in the machinery of administration for such action as the Government might wish to take. The Government accepted the proposed programme of work and

expressed the hope that agreement would be possible on the experts' recommendations. Accordingly, the experts carried out a detailed survey of Federal and Provincial Departments. A broadly based background to this survey was ensured by the inspection of a representative selection of administrative activities in a wide range of provincial towns - from Zuara near the Tunisian border to Tobruk near the Egyptian frontier, and as far south as Murzuk in the Fezzan. The limited period of the assignment did not permit of a detailed review of public activities governed in large part by technical considerations, such as education and hospitals.

102. On completion of the survey, a draft report in two parts was prepared. Part one, dated 1 November 1954, dealt with the Constitution and Organic Laws, the administrative arrangements of the Federal and Provincial Administrations, and presented recommendations in regard to the main administrative problems common to the four Administrations as disclosed by the Survey. Part two, dated 1 April 1955, dealt with the Civil Service of each of the four Administrations with particular reference to administrative controls and to questions relating to organization, staffing, systems and procedures.

103. Part one of the report contained many recommendations for the correction of defects or weaknesses which the experts had observed in the course of their survey. The Government has welcomed this assistance and has already notified the Mission of its acceptance in principle of part one of the report and has asked for its formal submission in Arabic. This is being prepared. Upon this being available it is intended to press forward with the implementation of the approved recommendations.

104. During the course of their assignment to date the experts also reviewed, and submitted a report on, the administrative arrangements of the Royal Diwan. It is understood that all recommendations made have been implemented. The experts also collaborated with other personnel of the Technical Assistance Administration and other agencies, in such matters as the organization of the accountancy course, and tendered advice in relation to fellowships and scholarships and other miscellaneous matters.

PUBLIC FINANCE

105. The examination and review of taxation and public finance questions has been a continuing element in the technical assistance rendered to Libya. In addition to the review of these problems made as part of the general economic surveys of Libya prepared by United Nations missions, the following specific surveys and reports containing recommendations have been made:

Land tax and land rights

106. An expert specializing in land taxation systems undertook a study of the system of land rights and land taxation prevailing in the Provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. The expert's work was designed to provide the factual basis for the future revision of both agricultural and income tax systems.

Tax administration

107. A staff member of the Public Administration Division of the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations was assigned to Libya to continue the preparatory work of the expert mentioned above and of a Government Committee which had also prepared recommendations in this field. The report produced contained both an examination of the problems and recommendations for the revision of the existing income tax law as well as the proposals for legislation governing agricultural taxation. The Government has these proposals under consideration.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STUDIES

108. A first report on the Libyan balance of payments was published in 1953 as a result of an expert's examination of this question; the report covered the years 1947-1950. A further expert carried the examination forward covering the calendar years 1951, 1952 and 1953; the reports presenting his findings have been accepted by the Government and arrangements are in hand for the publication of this document.

CENSUS AND STATISTICS

109. A major deficiency of the Government services in Libya has been the lack of certain essential statistical and census data on which economic development policies must rest. The provision of the necessary services in these fields has been regarded as a high priority but their development is a matter of time and training, especially in Libya where the specialized training necessary has not been available until organized by technical assistance experts in recent years. Appreciable progress is being made in these two fields.

Census of Libya

110. The Government turned to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration at an early date with a request for assistance in the conduct of the country's first census. Preparatory work was commenced in the latter part of 1952 when an expert in vital statistics and census took up his duties. Legislation had first to be prepared and presented to Parliament based on preliminary inquiries and a first assessment of the nature of the problem. The Census and Statistics Law was adopted in 1953 and steps were at once taken to constitute, at the Federal and the Provincial levels, Higher Advisory Committees on Census on which responsible Ministers and Nazirs served and which became the guiding and authoritative bodies on census questions.

111. Extensive training arrangements, the preparation of many and detailed instructions and the prior numbering of all premises were put in hand prior to the census day which was fixed for 31 July - 1 August 1954 as a day on which the least movement would be occurring among the nomads and semi-nomads.

Enumeration was completed in towns, villages and permanent settlements on 1 August 1954 but the process required longer in the interior due to the difficulties of communication and the great distances separating the several families of the tribes. Despite all these obstacles the process was successfully completed.

112. On 1 May 1955, the preliminary results of the census were placed before the King and were subsequently published. Tabulation of the census data is to be carried out on tabulating equipment which the United Nations Technical

Assistance Administration has provided in Libya. Some fifty junior Government officials are assigned to this work and after training will undertake the necessary mechanical work.

113. The other branches of vital statistics work in Libya have now to be organized and the necessary steps taken to secure accurate information concerning, and the reliable registration of, births and deaths, marriages and divorces, as well as internal and external migration.

Statistical services in Libya

114. A statistician provided since January 1954 by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration has in conjunction with the Provincial Administrations served in the Ministry of National Economy as Executive Director of the Central Statistics Office. In that time the Office has organized the work required for the collection of statistics relating to such series as: building in urban areas; diseases treated in Government hospitals; education; imports and exports; sea-borne shipping.

115. The Central Statistics Office was also responsible for the compilation of the "Inward and outward remittances" and of the "Assets and liabilities of banks", and initiated the publication of:

- (i) A Monthly Statistical Summary
- (ii) Morbidity Statistics in Government Hospitals, and
- (iii) Annual External Trade Statistics.

116. The preparatory work required for the adoption of the Standard International Trade Classification has been done and an alphabetical index of the commodities specified in the Libyan Customs Tariff compiled. The Central Statistics Office took over as from January 1955 the compilation of Libya's external trade statistics. The balance of payments estimates previously compiled by the public finance expert of the United Nations Mission in Libya will in future also be prepared by the Office.

117. For the future, work is in progress on the design of an inquiry into employment and production in urban areas; there is also foreseen a budget inquiry for the construction of an up-to-date retail price index.

118. Finally, a training course in statistical work is provided to Government officials by the statistical experts of the United Nations Mission in Libya and at present twenty-five officials attend the course.

METEOROLOGY

119. Technical assistance in meteorology is being provided in Libya by the United Nations, in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization; these agencies agreed to provide an expert in organization and direction of a meteorological service, one meteorological instructor and an expert in meteorological communications.

120. The first of these experts arrived in Libya in November 1953, and it soon became apparent that an expert in meteorological communications would not be required, since it was Government policy that separate communications should not be provided for the meteorological service, whose needs could be met within the Government plan for an expanded network of public communications.

121. The activities in this field therefore may now be considered as coming under three main heads:

- (1) The welding together into a single whole of the separate meteorological services of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania and the climatological service of the Tripolitanian Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The preparation of a plan for the local training of meteorological observers.
- (3) The preparation of a plan for the training abroad of Libyans as meteorologists to undertake the forecasting and other scientific work of the meteorological service.

122. Action under the first of these three heads is complete. The Meteorological Service of Libya now forms a department within the Ministry of Communications of the Federal Government. Except for such services which are provided by friendly Powers to meet the particular needs of the military bases they maintain on Libyan soil, all meteorological work in Libya is now the responsibility of the Libyan Meteorological Service. A Meteorology Law is now in draft and when adopted will provide the necessary legislative authority.

123. Under the second head, a plan has been prepared and approved by Government for the local training of meteorological observers. A meteorological instructor, provided by the United Nations in co-operation with WMO, is carrying out a series of courses for meteorological observers. The first course for ten students has been completed and the second course for a further ten students has started.

124. Under the third head a plan has been prepared and approved by Government under which the Federal Government will provide scholarships for matriculated Libyan students to study abroad for a university degree in science followed by post-graduate studies in meteorology. Only one student is currently studying abroad under this plan, but it is hoped that the number of students will increase in the coming years.

125. While these plans are maturing, and pending the appointment of a Libyan civil servant as Director of the Meteorological Service, the expert in Meteorological Service is continuing to advise the Government on the day-to-day administration and development of the Meteorological Service.

126. Further assistance in the form of meteorological equipment is at present under consideration.

CIVIL AVIATION

127. At the Government's request, the International Civil Aviation Organization provided an expert for a six months' assignment to draft civil aviation legislation; in addition to this draft a draft meteorological law was also prepared in collaboration with the meteorological expert. This legislation has been approved by the technical officials and is now under consideration by Ministers. In connexion with the complex task of rendering this legislation into Arabic, an Arabic-English Lexicon of Civil Aviation Terminology was drawn up designed to assist the government services concerned.

MINERAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

128. The mineral resources and possibilities of Libya were examined at an early stage in the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, and a report prepared upon this subject and on the geology of Libya. As the various salt deposits in Libya were noted as of potential commercial interest, a second expert subsequently examined these more closely. The expert advised on the question of the relocation of the State Salt Plant at Mellaha and also examined the possibilities of developing the potash deposits at Marada and Pisida and the natron deposits in the Fezzan. The expert's findings are now in the hands of the Government's own minerals experts, who are reviewing the conclusions reached.

129. To further the understanding and knowledge of the geological character and possibilities of the Garian and Jefren areas of Tripolitania, a further United Nations geological expert worked with a United States Point Four water survey team which was drilling in this area. One valuable result of this was the production of a geological map of the area. This is now in use by the Government's mining experts; the experts' report is being reproduced.

ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

130. In 1951 a report on "The Role of Electric Power in the Economic Development of Libya" by a United Nations TAA expert advanced the proposition that cheap and widely available electric power would be a highly important factor in the successful development of irrigated farming in the coastal belt of Tripolitania. To secure this, the expert recommended the development and improvement of the existing electric grid, with a concurrent reconstruction and enlargement of the capacity of the power station in Tripolitania, the financing of which is now under consideration by the Government and is causing it considerable anxiety; it has accordingly appointed a high-level committee of experts to review this difficult problem.

131. Subsequently, in 1953, a second expert reported on some of the technical questions involved in the modernization and improvement of the production and transmission system and this report became the starting point for the consulting

engineers engaged by the Government through the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency. The policy advocated by the report first mentioned is widely accepted and every support possible is being given to the production of low-cost electric power for agriculture.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

132. As no suitable legislation existed in Libya dealing with the administration of ports and harbours, the Government invited the Technical Assistance Administration to assign an expert to the country to examine its needs and, after consultation with local officials and the examination of the administration of ports and harbours elsewhere in the Mediterranean, to proceed to draft suitable legislation for Libya. An expert arrived in the latter part of 1954. He visited all the usable ports and harbours of the country and carefully reviewed the existing administrative arrangements. He proceeded to prepare legislation in consultation with the Port Authorities in the Provinces. This has been submitted to the Government. It is hoped that this legislation may be presented to Parliament shortly.

HEALTH SERVICES

BCG Campaign in Libya

133. In 1952 the Government of Libya requested the two organizations, UNICEF and WHO, to conduct jointly a mass campaign against tuberculosis in the three Provinces of Libya. The aim of this campaign, as of the world-wide campaigns of recent years, is to combat the incidence of tuberculosis in children and young adults by giving the non-immune persons an acquired resistance against that disease by the BCG Vaccine.

134. The two organizations accepted the request and appointed two doctors and two nurses and furnished all equipment needed for such a campaign. The doctors provided were a senior medical officer stationed in Tripoli and a medical officer stationed in Benghazi. The campaign was planned for one year and was intended:

- (1) To test and vaccinate all schoolchildren in Libya;
- (2) To test children and young adults up to eighteen years amongst the general population;
- (3) To train national personnel so that they can keep the work going on after the withdrawal of the international staff;
- (4) To open a chain of permanent centres throughout the country to keep this work going on continuously.

135. The campaign started simultaneously in Tripoli and Benghazi at the end of February 1953 and was started in the Fezzan in October 1953. By the end of 1953 more than 200,000 persons were tested, while it was planned that from 100,000 to a maximum of 150,000 could be tested during the first year.

136. At the end of 1953 the Libyan Government requested the extension of this programme for another year. This request was approved, and the international team had completed by 1954 the mass campaign in both Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

137. Unfortunately, the Government was unable to appoint a counterpart doctor to work with the international team during this year; it had been the Government's intention to make such an appointment so that the work might be continued and supervised by such a counterpart on the departure of the international team. As this had proved impossible, the Government requested the continuation of the programme on a restricted basis, that is, one doctor and one nurse, to which the Government planned to add a counterpart doctor under whom the work would continue.

138. This request was approved and the programme for 1955 is:

- (1) Test and vaccinate the newly admitted schoolchildren in the whole country - Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and the Fezzan;
- (2) Training of the Federal team under the supervision of the Federal doctor to carry on this kind of vaccination in the schools;
- (3) Opening of permanent centres in dispensaries and in Maternal and Child Health Centres.

139. Work is proceeding accordingly in the schools; in addition twelve nurses in Suk-el-Giuma MCH Centre are under training for tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination. The aim of this latter operation is that these nurses who, when trained, will open MCH Centres in different parts of the country will be able to continue the vaccination in these Centres.

140. The Government has not yet found a suitable counterpart doctor to take the responsibility and to supervise this work in the future, but fully intends that such an appointment shall be made shortly.

141. After two years the results which have been achieved under this programme are:

Number tested	-	284,038
Number vaccinated	-	115,077
Number positive	-	90,825

142. An evaluation of this work was carried out by an international assessment team in 1954, but the results are not yet available.

Maternal and Child Health Centre

143. This project has as its primary purpose the training of midwives who are needed to staff the rural maternal and child health centres which the Government plans to establish throughout the country. The Centre also serves the large population living in Suk-el-Giuma, the market town near Tripoli where it is located, and in the neighbourhood; a general improvement in the health of mothers and children there is noticeable.

144. The international team for the project arrived in Libya in April 1954 and, after the necessary preparations were completed, the MCH Training and Teaching Centre was opened officially on 13 July 1954.

145. Twelve Libyan girls - including two from the Province of the Fezzan - who had completed their primary education were recruited for an eighteen months' training course. Those from Tripolitania came from different villages and will, upon completion of their training, be prepared to work in those villages.

146. The United Nations Children's Fund has supplied the project with teaching materials such as charts, books and demonstration equipment to assist the formal instruction that is being given, while UNICEF supplies of milk powder, fish oil capsules, soap and penicillin are invaluable for the Centre's practical work; these supplies are supplemented by drugs and vaccines provided by the Government. The trainees have now completed more than one-third of the course and, in order to ensure all-round experience, participate in turn in the different activities of the Centre. In addition to 4,263 visits to the Centre and 766 home visits during the period under review, routine vaccinations and immunizations are continually being carried out.

147. Two additional centres in Cyrenaica - one in Benghazi and another in Derna - are also engaged in MCH work; they are also provided with UNICEF supplies.

Health education (Regular programme)

148. A training course has been provided by WHO for young women to prepare them for work as assistant health educators and home visitors; the first year's course was completed by June 1954. Following an examination, seven girls were qualified as assistant health educators. Some of these have been lent and appointed to the Health Department of Tripolitania, and are the first such personnel of Libyan origin.

149. A further group of thirteen trainees was recruited in the latter part of 1954 for the same course in health education. Lectures in health education are also given to the MCH Centre trainees and to the nursing students at the Nursing School of the Government.

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

150. Great importance has been attached throughout the development of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme in Libya to the training of local personnel, both in connexion with the work of experts serving in Libya and by the award of fellowships and scholarships for observation and study overseas. Such efforts have inevitably been handicapped in Libya, as in most under-developed countries, because of the extremely limited number of Libyan candidates available

with adequate basic education and suitable technical knowledge and experience. The United Nations and specialized agencies have nevertheless made substantial provision for both fellowships and scholarships over and above the training institutions and similar facilities maintained at the present time by ILO, TAA, UNESCO, and by WMO and WHO, within Libya itself. The following table analyses the 100 grants made by mid-1955 and shows the part played by (a) each agency; (b) the purpose for which fellowships have been granted, and (c) the country of study or observation:

TABLE III

Fellowships and scholarships awarded to Libyans classified
by agency, subject and country of study. 1951 - 1955

(a)		(b)		(c)	
Agency	No.	Subject	No.	Country	No.
TAA	55	Administration	48	Egypt and	
ILO	1	Handicrafts	5	North Africa	38
UNESCO	22	Education	3	Lebanon	22
FAO	12	Teacher training	9	United Kingdom	15
WHO	10	Social welfare	2	France	4
		Agriculture	15	Other	
	100	Forestry	12	European	5
		Health	6	Pakistan	4
			100	Other	12
					100

151. The table shows very clearly the importance which has been attached to the strengthening of the administrative services and to training in agriculture and related activities; it also shows the extent of Libya's dependence for advanced training upon other Arabic-speaking countries.

152. It is the Government's firm policy to take every advantage of this part of the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme as the development of the Libyan educational system begins to show results in the shape of an increased flow of young Libyans able to profit by overseas study.

CHAPTER IV

153. The Libyan Government believes that from the foregoing account of its progress in respect of the development of its limited natural resources it can claim that, with the financial assistance provided by some friendly Powers and with the extensive technical assistance received from the United Nations and the bilateral programmes mentioned, a good start has been made. Without wishing to over-emphasize its difficulties the Government desires, however, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the following very important factors:

- (i) The destruction caused by the hostilities in Libya in the Second World War was extensive and affected all aspects of the national life. Even today minefields exist which hamper agriculture, make desert travel more hazardous and handicap both development and exploration, e.g. for natural resources such as petroleum and other minerals.
- (ii) The Government has so far received neither compensation for war damages nor post-war assistance from UNRRA nor financial aid from any of the other international or bilateral post-war reconstruction schemes of foreign aid.
- (iii) Although extensive pre-war economic development occurred, this was not directed toward the benefit of the Libyan population.
- (iv) The Libyan economy is based on an extremely slender natural resource budget; its people have had little technical training or education, its developed land is limited in extent and its available water scanty; its capital resources are negligible.

154. Despite these heavy handicaps the Libyan Government is determined to raise the standard of living of all its people and, in order to achieve a reasonable independence in the economic sphere, has undertaken far-reaching measures - in all branches of its economic and social life. It has decided upon these measures - using the best technical and expert advice available through the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies and through the bilateral programmes - in the belief that such a policy is demanded of it

primarily for the benefit of the Libyan people. Such a policy is moreover incumbent upon it as a response to the decision of the United Nations which created it as an independent State. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that this policy, even on a minimum basis, involves projects which are beyond the financial resources currently available to Libya.

155. Some of these policy decisions have no appropriate place in the foregoing account of the technical assistance rendered by the United Nations to Libya and the Libyan Government would wish to state briefly, for the information of the General Assembly, the major elements of its current programme for the country's economic development.

- (i) A National Bank of Libya is to be established in 1955 having a nominal capital of £L 1,000,000 (\$2,800,000) and a subscribed capital of £L 500,000 (\$1,400,000). It will have the responsibility of a bank of issue and will serve as a central bank; as Libya has no national banks this Bank will be a valuable addition to the country's economic system.
- (ii) A National Agricultural Credit Bank of Libya having a network of offices throughout the country is to be created, with a nominal capital of £L 5,000,000 (\$14,000,000) and with a subscribed capital of £L 1,000,000 (\$2,800,000). It will have the responsibility of providing an adequate supply of credit to the agriculturist on moderate terms, coupled with technical advice and supervision.
- (iii) In conjunction with the foregoing a co-operative system is to be organized; new comprehensive legislation to facilitate and encourage co-operation has been prepared and early approval is anticipated, and the FAO adviser on these matters will assist the Government to organize agricultural co-operatives.
- (iv) To accelerate effective prospecting throughout the country, new and favourable legislation governing prospecting for and the exploitation of petroleum resources has been adopted by Parliament.

- (v) With the financial aid given by the United States and the United Kingdom, substantial construction programmes for roads and highways, bridges, harbours and power stations have been launched; extensive agricultural development, including water resource development, seed selection and multiplication, and livestock improvement has been undertaken, and many new training and teaching institutions and schools have been started.

156. In conjunction with the foregoing the Government is making continuing efforts to enlarge exports of staple crops, to improve their quality and grading and to find new markets for commodities including early produce hitherto little exported. Steps are being taken to facilitate foreign investment by the adoption of policies and legislation favouring the entry of foreign capital and enterprise; every effort is being made by participation in international fairs and otherwise to draw attention to Libya's attractions and produce and the tourist trade is being steadily developed.

157. To sustain these efforts the Government must depend upon external aid but it may be claimed that the Government has on its side made a considerable effort and has contributed on a substantial scale to the works going forward under the development programme and has made a large supporting effort.

158. The Government's efforts have been absorbed in part, however, by the necessity of repairing the extensive war damage which the General Assembly has recognized as being "one of the major economic and financial problems to be taken into consideration in order that an independent Libya may be established with a sound basis for economic and social progress" (General Assembly resolution 389 (V)). This problem has in fact been considered "within the general framework of the over-all economic development plans for the country" (General Assembly resolution 529 (VI)) and the Government trusts that in any further examination of the question of assistance to Libya its burden in respect of war damage will be borne in mind.

159. As long as living standards remain so low and the expectation of life is so limited, the Government cannot feel that enough has been done. It would therefore wish to recall to Members of the United Nations that the terms of General Assembly resolution 726 (VIII) referred to two possible sources of financial assistance, viz.,

- (i) That voluntary contributions be made through the appropriate mechanisms within the United Nations from all Governments willing and in a position to provide financial assistance;
- (ii) That, if and when further means become available for assisting in the development of under-developed areas, due consideration be given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the specific development needs of Libya.

160. It has been noted above that, although individual Governments have generously assisted Libya, no use has been made of the facilities provided by the United Nations under (i) above. As to (ii), it is understood that plans for a special United Nations fund for economic development will be considered by the General Assembly at its tenth session; only in the event of a favourable decision being reached could this recommendation, therefore, be made effective.

161. Libyan needs for further capital resources - although not large in comparison with those of most under-developed countries - will not be met unless some such new source of assistance becomes available or Governments increase their direct assistance to the country. Should the General Assembly decide upon the establishment of a special fund, it is hoped that the special position of the country and its claim for exceptional United Nations assistance would be supported by the General Assembly so that the Government might turn to the fund for further financial aid, needed to carry through its Capital Development Programme to finality, without interruption through lack of funds.

162. The Libyan Government is determined to maintain its efforts to advance the social and economic development of the country. It must be recognized that this is a long-term undertaking and will involve a prolonged educational and training campaign, a wide-ranging agricultural improvement programme and the reconstruction of much of the capital equipment of the country. In making this effort the

Government counts on having the support and interest of the Members of the United Nations and the assistance of the United Nations organization and of the specialized agencies. The Government of Libya, therefore, expresses the hope that it may be permitted to report further to the General Assembly as to its social and economic progress upon the completion of the first five-year Capital Development Programme.
