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SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e  
OF THE CHARTER

Report of the Secretary-General

(Item 23 (a) of the Provisional Agenda of the Third Regular Session)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND <sup>1)</sup>

On 23 August 1948 the United Nations Secretariat received information transmitted by the New Zealand Government under Article 73 e of the Charter in respect of the Cook Islands.

A summary of the information follows. It is classified under the main headings which are contained in the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of the information. Unless otherwise stated the information relates to the year 1 April 1947 - 31 March 1948.

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- 1) This summary is also being laid before the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter.

## COOK ISLANDS

### . General Information (Optional Category)

#### A.-C. Geography, history and people

The Cook Group (excluding Niue) comprises 15 islands of approximately 100 square miles scattered over about 850,000 square miles of ocean from 9° to 23° south latitude and from 156° to 167° west longitude. The islands fall into two natural divisions, the Southern Group, where most of the population is concentrated, and the Northern Group. The climate is mild and equable. Rarotonga is the administrative seat. In March 1948, the population was estimated at 14,456 (14,145 indigenous persons and 311 Europeans).

Other details on the geography, history and people of the Cook Islands were given in the information transmitted, but are not summarised.

#### D. Government

The inaugural session of the Legislative Council, established under provisions of the Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946, was held from 5 to 25 November 1947. The session marked an important stage in the political progress of the inhabitants.

#### E. Human rights

Information on civil rights protected by law has not been furnished.

## II. Social Conditions

#### A. Social problems of race and cultural relations

None reported.

#### B. Labour and employment conditions

Wage earners are engaged in the Administrative Departments, in plantation work and in the handling of fruit for export. Basic wage rates for labourers range from 7s.<sup>(1)</sup> to 9s. daily up to 18s. daily for more responsible work. Wage standards are fixed for such types of work.

The Cook Islands Industrial Union Regulations, 1947, govern employment relations. The newly-established "Industrial Union of Workers" embraces all classes of workers and is affiliated with the New Zealand Federation of Labour. Membership is voluntary. There is also an organization known as the "Waterside Workers' Association". Provision is made in the above regulations for the settlement of

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(1) Note by the Secretariat: £N.Z. = \$3.22 (U.S.)  
= 16s. (sterling).

industrial disputes by conciliation or, failing voluntary settlement, by decision of an Industrial Relations Officer. Appeal is made to an Industrial Magistrate appointed by the Minister of Island Territories. During 1947 there was a waterfront dispute involving the new union and other organizations actuated by sectional interests. While the dispute remains unsettled, waterfrontwork has proceeded without interference.

The following labour legislation has been enacted during the year:

Industrial Unions Regulations, 1947  
Trade Dispute Intimidation Regulations, 1948

The British Phosphate Commission recruits labourers for work in the Society Islands. On 31 March 1948, 352 Cook Islanders were employed there. Contracts are individual and on an annual basis. There is no movement of migratory labour into the Group, although some migration occurs from the less fertile islands of the Northern Group to islands of the Southern Group.

C. Public health and sanitation

Health service objectives are implemented by a system of village sanitary inspection and group medical examination, combined with modern treatment of disease in hospitals and other medical facilities. Filariasis and tuberculosis provide the main health problems.

Health services include 2 European medical officers, 7 medical practitioners (Native), and 6 mosquito inspectors. Hospital and sanatorium staff include 5 European matrons and sisters and a number of trained Native nurses.

Public health expenditure for the year ended 31 March 1948 totalled £. 29,398.

There is a general hospital and tuberculosis sanatorium in Rarotonga, and dispensaries in the outer islands with accommodation for a few patients. All Indigenous inhabitants receive free medical and surgical treatment. Training facilities for medical practitioners are available at the Central Medical School, Suva, and for nurses at Rarotonga.

The following summary of vital statistics for the year ended 31 March 1948 must be regarded as approximate only:

a) Number of deaths	440
Rate per 1,000 population	Not given
b) Number of births	635
Rate per 1,000 population	Not given
c) Number of deaths under 1 year	171
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	269.29

d) Diseases causing high morbidity (number of cases not given)

Tuberculosis  
Whooping cough  
Filariasis

e) Diseases causing high mortality (figures available from 3 islands only. Deaths are often recorded without any cause being attached).

	<u>Number of deaths</u> <u>year ended 31 March 1948</u>	<u>Death rate</u> <u>per 100,000 population</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49	Not given
Pneumonia	26	" "
Whooping cough	25	" "

As regards nutrition, food supplies were adequate.

E. Welfare and relief

A child welfare organization, covering all phases of maternity and child welfare work, operates in the three most populous islands. Regular clinics were held and lectures given to Child Welfare Committees in each village.

F.-G. Crime statistics and description of penal administration

Information transmitted but not summarized.

III. Educational Conditions

The immediate objective, to ensure literacy, is practically achieved. The broader objective, to widen the scope of education, is made difficult because of the scattered and isolated position of the Islands and the smallness of the population.

The Education staff consists of 13 of European origin and 133 of Indigenous origin.

Education expenditure for the year ended 31 March 1948 totalled £ 25,644. Subsidies and grants from New Zealand included £ 716 for milk in schools and £ 1,357 for scholarships. Subsidies are paid to the London Missionary Society to assist education in the Norther Group.

Information on school buildings, curriculum and languages of instruction was transmitted but is not summarized..

Opportunities for secondary and higher education are available in New Zealand. Eleven scholarship students and 2 teachers are currently enrolled in New Zealand schools.

There are 11 Administration schools, and 13 missionary schools, having a total enrolment of 3,700 in 1947. There are no secondary schools at present. Teacher training is available in Rarotonga and in New Zealand.

Information on other educational subjects was transmitted but is not summarized.

For information on development programmes see Section IV,1.

#### IV. Economic Conditions

##### A.-C. Natural resources and production

Agricultural crops, principally fruits, vegetables and copra, are the main resources. Pearl shell and handicrafts are produced. Timber resources are limited and fishing is confined to domestic needs only. There are no secondary industries of any consequence.

Principal crops include copra, citrus fruits, tomatoes, arrowroot and pineapples, produced mainly for export, and Native foods.

There is no organized livestock breeding. A few cows, goats and horses are kept for domestic use. Conservation practices are carried out in respect to export crops.

Most of the land is held by the Indigenous inhabitants as "customary land" and passes from one generation to the next according to custom and usage. Alienation of customary land is prohibited by law.

Oranges and copra are purchased at prices fixed by the New Zealand Government for export. Tomatoes are purchased by trading firms for sale in New Zealand.

Apart from pearl shell fishing and handicraft production the only industries consist of an orange juice factory and a clothing and footwear factory.

##### E. Communications and transport

<u>Type of communications</u>	<u>Extent</u>
Sea	Regular shipping service with New Zealand Two ships provide inter-island service.
Air	Regular service to Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand.
Roads	Mileage not given
Telegraphs	Service available in all islands.
Telephone	Service in Rarotonga
Radio	1 main station 11 sub-stations

F. Public finance

Government revenue and expenditure totalled £ 78,733 and £ 147,106 respectively for the year ended 31 March 1948. Subsidies and grants from New Zealand totalled £ 70,991, resulting in a final surplus of £ 2,658. Principal items of revenue are receipts from stamp sales, customs import duties and income tax.

G. Banking and credit

There are no banking facilities.

H. International Trade

In 1947, imports and exports were valued at £ 253,243 and £ 158,525 respectively. The bulk of the trade was with New Zealand. Foodstuffs comprised 33% and piece goods and apparel 14.3% of imports. Principal exports, by quantity and value, were: citrus fruit, 56,973 cases, valued at £ 48,515; copra 793 tons, valued at £ 35,727; tomatoes, 22,048 boxes, valued at £ 21,049; and handicrafts, pearl shell and manufactured goods, £ 40,017.

For custom purposes the Group is considered part of New Zealand.

I. Development programmes

Plans are being made to establish a teacher training and secondary school in Rarotonga. Construction of new buildings and installation of equipment are planned for the Rarotonga radio station. Work has begun on an electric power installation in Rarotonga.

NINE ISLAND

I. General Information (Optional Category)

A.-C. Geography, history and people

Niue Island is situated east of the Tonga Islands at 19° south latitude and 169° 48' west longitude. It has an area of 100 square miles and a population of 4,313 inhabitants (4,289 Indigenous inhabitants and 29 Europeans).

Other details on the geography, history and people were given in the information transmitted, but is not summarized.

D. Government

See document A/325

E. Human rights

The islanders enjoy full civil rights, and there is no discrimination of race or creed.

## II. Social Conditions

### A. Labour and employment conditions

The Administration is the principal employer of labour. Work for wages consists chiefly in the discharging and loading of ships. Wage rates are high.

The Cook Islands Industrial Unions Regulations provides for registration of unions and the settlement of disputes. There are no unions and no disputes were recorded during the year.

The following labour legislation, enacted during the year, is applicable to Niue Island:

Cook Islands Industrial Unions Regulations, 1947  
Cook Islands Trade Dispute Intimidation Regulations 1948

There is no migratory labour. A number of Niueans travel to New Zealand annually to seek employment or to learn trades.

### B. Public health and sanitation

During the past year the health of the people has not been good. Filariasis and yaws are the main health problems. An epidemic of whooping cough in November 1947 resulted in the death of 58 children.

There is 1 hospital with 10 beds and a dispensary. The public health staff includes 1 Niuean medical practitioner, 1 matron (European), 6 nurses (1 European) 2 dentists (Niuean) and 3 technical assistants (Niuean). Medical and dental treatment is provided free of charge to Niueans. The following summary of vital statistics must be regarded as incomplete:

a) Number of deaths	110
Rate per 1,000 population	25.43
b) Number of births	166
Rate per 1,000 population	38.37
c) Number of deaths under 1 year	Not given
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	253

#### d) Diseases causing high morbidity

	Number of cases in 1947
Yaws	1,218
Whooping cough	606
Mumps	575
Pneumonia	427
Influenza	197
Filariasis	132

#### e) Diseases causing high mortality

Data, other than for whooping cough, not furnished.



C. Housing conditions and programmes

The housing programme includes the building of several residences.

D. Welfare and relief

A mobile child welfare clinic, now under construction, will be used to examine children in the villages and treat minor ailments.

E.-G. Crime statistics and description of penal administration

Information, other than that relating to the police establishment, has not been furnished.

H. Information on development programmes

See section IV, I.

III. Educational Conditions

The objective of education is to raise intellectual and cultural standards and to select and train the most promising children for ultimate participation in the management of their own affairs.

Education expenditure, other than for school buildings and equipment (£ 2,750)(1) has not been furnished.

In 1947 school enrolment totalled 1,107.

Scholarships are available for secondary and higher education in New Zealand and at the Central Medical School, Suva, Fiji. Training for nursing is available at Apia (Samoa) hospital.

Information on other educational subjects was transmitted but is not summarized.

For information on development programmes, see section IV, I.

IV. Economic Conditions

A.-C. Natural resources and production

Agricultural crops are the principal resources of the Island. The forests provide a limited supply of timber and material for handicrafts. Pigs and fowls are kept, and there is some fishing.

Principal crops are copra and Indigenous foods.

(1) Note by the Secretariat: £. N.Z. = \$3.22 (U.S.)  
= 16s. (sterling)



Land is vested in the Crown, subject to title rights held by custom and usage. Alienation of Native land is prohibited.

Copra is purchased by the trading stores on the Island at prices fixed by the Administration.

E. Communications and transport

<u>Type of communication</u>	<u>Extent</u>
Sea	15 shipping calls during 1947
Main roads	70 miles
Minor roads	24 miles
Telegraphs	Radio-telegraph facilities
Telephone	Single-line system
Radio	1 station

F. Public finance

Estimated revenue and expenditure for the year 1948-49 is £ 23,264 and £ 66,175 respectively, making a deficit of £ 42,911 to be provided by Government subsidy.

Revenue is derived principally from post office, radio, court fees and fines and export taxes.

G. Banking and Credit

There are no banking facilities.

H. International trade

Total value of imports and exports in 1947 was £ 58,796 and £ 45,591 respectively. Principal exports were copra (695 tons, valued at £ 28,505), and plaited ware (£15,797). The bulk of the trade was with New Zealand.

The New Zealand customs tariff is applicable, and there is free trade between Niue and New Zealand.

I. Development programmes

The various development programmes include improvement of roads, landing facilities, deep well water supply, workshops and an airport.

It is proposed to replace the mission schools with 4 regional and village schools.