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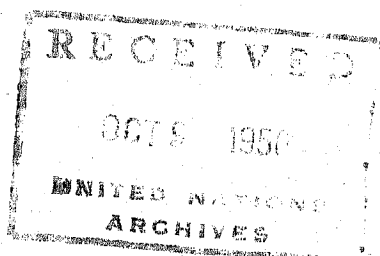
*Letter dated 13 September 1950 from the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the French Republic to the
Secretary-General, transmitting the annual report
of the French Government concerning the adminis-
tration of the Fezzan*

Paris, 13 September 1950

Section A, paragraph 10, sub-paragraph (c) of resolution 289 (IV) relating to the question of the disposal of the former Italian colonies provides that the Powers administering the territories of Libya should make an annual report to the General Assembly.

In the name of the French Government, I have the honour to transmit to you two copies of the reports concerning the Fezzan.

(Signed) V. BROUSTRA
Minister Plenipotentiary
Director of the Conference Secretariat



9/10

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
to
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
concerning
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEZZAN

Year 1950

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INTRODUCTION

In the study of the efforts undertaken and the results obtained in the Fezzan by the administering Power, it should always be borne in mind that the territory is a purely Saharan one. The Saharan population is very mixed ethnically, is partly sedentary and partly nomadic, and has remained at a rather low standard of living, since its requirements are limited by the slenderness of resources; the Saharan economy, which is strictly dependent upon water, has a low production value and its least development requires the appropriation of funds which are too often disproportionate with the results that may be expected. Whenever agriculture in the Sahara is referred to, the areas in question are gardens or minute plots, never fields. Accordingly, the figures in this report should be considered from the Saharan point of view, whether the subject is agricultural land, production of cereals or social development. Everything is on a modest scale, like the country itself.

The essential basic data relating to the Fezzan are contained in the report to the Commission of Investigation on the former Italian colonies, drawn up in 1948 (Vol. 11 -- Libya), and will not be repeated here.

The object of this report is to:

1. supplement the information contained in the investigating Commission's report;
2. describe the measures taken in the Fezzan in pursuance of the United Nations resolution of 21 November 1949;
3. set forth the plans drawn up by the French administration to ensure the rational development of the territory.

CHAPTER I POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Establishment of a transitional regime

In compliance with the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 21 November 1949, a transitional regime was instituted in the Fezzan as from the beginning of 1950. Its object is to ensure wider participation by the local population in the conduct of public affairs, with due consideration for the special position of the territory. The territory is vast and contains inhabited areas separated by great stretches of desert. Its inhabitants, who are of different races and have different customs, are further diversified by their way of life, which may be sedentary, nomadic or semi-nomadic.^{1/} It should also be noted that there is no large urban centre in the territory.

In accordance with the decision of the French Resident in the Fezzan of 24 January 1950, the village chiefs and Jemaa ^{2/}were invited to meet in their respective principal towns to appoint three representatives for each of the 17 mudirias and three for the Ghadames region. These delegates, who met in assembly at Sebha on 12 February, proceeded to elect the chief of the territory.

Ahmed Bey Seif el Nasr was elected unanimously by the 58 representatives. The Tuareg delegates, however, refused to take part in the election, expressing their wish to maintain relations with the Confederation of the Adjer Tuaregs, to which they belong. As the result of the discussion, Ahmed Bey Seif el Nasr was proclaimed chief of the territory of the Fezzan.

The second stage was the establishment, by the French Resident's decision of 12 February, of a transitional regime for the territory. The main points of this regime are as follows:

1. Under its provisions are enacted concerning the constitution of public powers whereby Ahmed Bey Seif el Nasr, the Chief of the territory, is to be assisted in his task of government by three to six Fezzanese Counsellors, eight Assistant Counsellors and a Consultative Assembly, composed of elected representatives of the "Jemaa" and of the nomad tribes.

^{1/} see B: The Population of the Fezzan

^{2/} see D: The Organization of the "Jemaa"

2. It defines the competence of the new Fezzanese public authorities in questions of internal policy, organization and administration.

3. It enumerates the powers retained by the Resident during the transition period; these powers relate mainly to foreign relations and the defence of the Fezzan.^{1/} By a decree of 16 February 1950, Ahmed Bey Seif el Nasr appointed the following Counsellors and Assistant Counsellors:

Counsellor for the Interior and for Justice:

Haj Hamuda ben Tahar

Counsellor for Economic, Agricultural and Financial Affairs:

Nasr ben Salem

Counsellor for Health and Public Education:

El Mahdi ben Ahmed

Assistant Counsellors:

Do ben el Haj Mohammed

Mohammed Lamir ben Mohammed

Haj Ali ben Mohammed Bediwi

Masr ben Tahar ben Brahim

Sherif Ali ben Mohammed

Belgacem Bugila

Tahar ben Abdullah Jerari

Sheikh Mabrug ben Ali

The above persons constitute a small administrative council to assist Ahmed Bey and his Counsellors in all questions concerning the internal life of the territory.

The following were set up by decrees of the same date:

1. A police to be responsible for internal security, headed by a Fezzanese, Salah ben Salem ben Abdennebi.

1/ The texts of the decisions of the Resident, of the decrees of the Chief of the Territory and of the Charter of the Transitional Regime of the Fezzan are reproduced below as annexes.

2. The posts of qadis for each of the four sub-divisions of the territory. The following persons were appointed to these posts:

In the Shatti: Mohammed ben Abdullah el Ayat;

At Murzuq: Ahmed ben Haj Senussi Sofu;

At Ghadames: El Mahdi ben Haj Mohammed;

At Sebha-Ubari: (post vacant -- candidate not yet appointed).

The Consultative Assembly met at Sebha on 14 and 15 March to discuss certain internal affairs. At the request of the representatives of Ghadames, the representative of the Fezzan to the Council of Ten was appointed. The choice fell upon Ahmed ben Haj Senussi Sofu, Qadi of Murzuq.

On 24 July, at the recommendation of his council, Ahmed Bey appointed the following seven persons to represent the Fezzan on the Preparatory Committee of 21:

Ali ben Abdennebi el Maghtuf

Tahar ben Abdullah el Jerari

Mohammed Otran ben Ahmed Sid

Belgacen ben Lamir Bugila

Haj Ali ben Mohammed Bediwi

Ahmed ben Mohammed Tebuli

El Mahdi ben Haj Mohammed Hiba

Thus, the political and administrative organ is now composed as follows:

One Chief of the Territory, assisted by a Council,

One Consultative Assembly

and, in each subdivision:

One Qadi

Some mudirs

Some village chiefs

some village or tribal Jemaa.

The question of the "Libyanization of the services" does not arise in the Fezzan, since, owing to the very small number of representatives of the administering power in the territory, the Fezzanese have always held administrative, judicial and other posts. The problem in this extremely under-developed country is, therefore, one of training a certain number of persons in the procedure of modern affairs and to make them aware of the responsibilities that the political

/development of the

development of the territory will involve. That is the task with which the French administrators are concerned both in Sebha, where the Council has its headquarters, and in the subdivisions.

B. THE POPULATION OF THE FEZZAN

(a) General

The Fezzan is the gathering place of the following three large groups of nomads:

1. In the North and North-West: Arabic speaking and Moslem tribes, parts of which have now settled in the Shatti region.
2. In the West: Tuaregs, belonging to the extensive Ajer confederation, of Berber race and language, superficially Moslemized (Oraghen, Imanghassaten, Tin, Alkum). They are not numerous, but have retained their social structure and original customs. Some of them have become partly stationary in the western part of the Wadi Ajal and in the Wadi Atba.
3. In the South-East: the Tebus, who are of Ethiopian race, speak a Sudanese dialect and are absolutely Moslemized. They are practically the only real nomads in the Fezzan.

The oasis villages of the Fezzan are permanently inhabited by the settled population; these people are Arabic-speaking Moslems, of mixed Arabic, Berber and Sudanese race. Their colour varies from pure white to the extreme negroid type and they include a wide range of mixed blood. They are the Fezzanese proper.

(b) Nomads

The nomads who are based in the Fezzan or who have interests there may be divided into four wide groups.

1. The nomads of the Ghibla. The Ghibla is a region situated between the Jebel Nefussa, Gharian and Mesellata on one side and the Shatti on the other side. It includes two natural regions, the Hammada in the west and the beginning of the great Tripolitanian Oueds in the east. The latter region, which is the only fertile one, is disputed by the various groups of the nomads of the Ghibla, among whom are the following:

a. The nomads based in the Shatti (Megarha, Hothnan, Guayd, Zuayd and some Zentan). They have palm trees and houses in the Shatti and wander in the regions north of the Shatti, where they stop at the line between Shuiref, Gueria, Togba and Sinauen. In exceptional cases of extreme drought, they send their flocks as far as the Jebel, in the Sirte Valley, or to the Tarat region in Adjer territory. Only the Megarhas own cultivated land in the large oueds which run down to the Tripolitanian coast, and they remain in the zone south of El-bey and Ruaus.

b. The nomads based in the Jebel and in the north (Zentan, Ulad bu Seif, Meshashia, Orfella). These nomads follow the north-south line, but are checked by the nomads of the Shatti. They own some palm trees in that region, and only come to it at the time of the date harvest, often in order to pillage.

2. Nomads of the Sirte.

In the troubled periods of its history, the Fezzan has been the scene of competition between the nomads of the Gibla and those of the Sirte. Now there are hardly any more Ulad Sliman, Gedadfa and others. They hardly ever leave the Jebel Soda and the Harruj, which is the area of the Riach, Sukna and some Ulad Sliman.

3. The Tuaregs

The Tuareg tribes which wander through the western part of the Fezzan belong to the Confederation of the Ajer Tuareg, based on the Tassili range. Most of them breed camels and conduct caravans. The following tribes occur in the Fezzan:

a. The Oraghen, whose range is the Tassili, the Messac and the Ramla of Ubari. In winter, the chief of the tribe settles his camp near the well of Tarambie in the Ubari region. The 1,350 Oraghen counted in the territory are semi-nomadic. Approximately 300 of them have become completely settled in the western Ajal.

b. The Imanghassaten, of whom there are 450 in the Fezzan, wander from the Tassili to the neighbourhood of Derj, passing by Ubari Edri and following the western edge of the Hamada. They own several plots of land at Derj itself.

/c. The Keltin Alkum,

(c) The Keltin Alkum, a marabout tribe, vassals of the Oraghen, are based on the Wadi Etba and wander from Shat to Gatrurn through the Oued Aberju and the Hofra. They are semi-nomadic and there are 430 of them in the territory.

(d) Some widely scattered members of the ^{Ajer}/Tuareg tribes, such as Imoqarassen, Ibottenaten, Kel Izaban, Indenden and Kel Tadrart.

4. The Tebus

The 660 Tebus, about 200 of whom have mixed with the Fezzanese, have become absolutely stationary in the Gatrurn region; they wander in the Ben Gnenema and the Tibesti, where they maintain contact with the main tribe of the Tebus, whose race, language and customs they share. They are caravan conductors, and send most of their products to the markets of Gatrurn and Murzuq.

C. SETTLED POPULATION

The settled population, which is uniformly known as Fezzanese, constitutes the majority of the population (approximately 32,000). The original stock is white Berber, with the addition of an Arab-Berber immigration and a strong sprinkling of Ethiopians, so that the population includes a full range of colour.

This settled population is by no means universal in type, since it springs from an amalgam of races. Nevertheless, although they have retained their original dialect (Tamalaq in the Aja, Hausa or Kanori at Murzuq, Tebu at Gatrurn), the Fezzanese speak Arabic and are all Moslems. They classify themselves into two categories, according to their actual or supposed origin:

Ahrar, or free men

Shuashina, or descendants of slaves

In actual fact, this settled population may be classified into two broad categories according to their standard of living.

The more or less wealthy middle class which formerly used to derive a handsome profit from the caravan trade between the Sudan and the coast and at present owns most of the cultivated plots.

/The workers,

The workers, who cultivate the plots, often for the account of the middle class; they work under customary contracts which render their standard of living abnormally low.

The Fezzanese settled population lives in villages built in valleys where the water table is near the surface and hence makes agriculture possible. Their activities are almost wholly agricultural (palm trees, grains and vegetables), trade being relatively unimportant.

D. STATISTICAL DATA RELATING TO THE POPULATION

1. Total population: 42,280 inhabitants (in 1947)

2. Classification of the total population:

(a) By administrative sub-divisions:

The Shatti has 16,700 inhabitants, divided by mudiria as follows:

Stationary mudiria of Brach: 4,990

Semi-nomad mudiria of Megarha: 2,100

Mudiria of Hassauna: 3,010

Settled mudiria of Bergen: 3,150

Settled mudiria of Edri: 3,450

The sub-division of Sedha-Ubari has 13,700 inhabitants, and may be classified by mudirias as follows:

Mudiria of Jeddid: 4,500

Mudiria of Bend-Baya: 3,080

Mudiria of Ubari: 4,320

Nomad mudiria of the Oraghen: 1,350

Nomad mudiria of the Imanhassaten: 450

The sub-division of Murzuq has 10,880 inhabitants, classified by mudirias as follows:

Mudiria of Murzuq: 2,590

Mudiria of Traghen: 2,030

Mudiria of Un El Araneb: 1,440

Mudiria of Zuila: 1,210

Mudiria of Gatrún: 1,720 (with the Tebus)

Mudiria of the Wadi Etba: 1,890 (with the Tuaregs)

(b) In the

(b) In the natural regions

The Shatti	16,700 inhabitants
The Buanis	1,300
The District of Sebha	3,200
The Wadi Ajal	9,200
The Wadi Etba	1,890
The Hofra	4,620
The Shergiy	2,650
Gatrun	1,720

(c) Classification by race

The Fezzanese stationary population is of mixed stock, (Arab, Berber and absolutely Fezzanese). Although some of the Tebus and Tuaregs have become/settled, they are included in the following table under the heading "Tebus" or "Tuaregs".

Sub-divisions	Fezzanese	Tebus	Tuaregs	Arab-Berbers
Shatti	8,800			7,900
Sedha-Ubari	11,900		1,800	
Murzuq	9,790	660	430	
Totals	30,490	660	2,230	7,900

(d) Classification by language

All the inhabitants of the Fezzan, including the nomads, speak Arabic. The Tebus and the Tuaregs are bil'ngual. They have preserved their original languages, Tedda in the case of the Tebus and Tamashaq in the case of the Tuaregs.

(e) Classification by religion

All the natives of the Fezzan are Moslems.

(f) Classification by mode of living

The population of the Fezzan consists of the settled population, which is in the majority, of pure nomads, of whom there are very few, and of semi-nomads who, although they derive their means of subsistence mainly from livestock, also own plots of land or at least palm trees and houses where they live for part of the year. The following table gives a classification of these categories in sub-divisions:

Sub-division	Settled	Semi-Nomadic	Nomadic
Shatti	8,800	7,900	
Gebha-Ubari	12,200	1,500	
Murzuq	10,000	430	450
Totals	31,000	9,830	450

(g) Classification by social class

1. Urban population: There are no urban centres.

2. Rural population: The settled population of the villages may be classified into five groups, according to wealth.

The first three categories, which constitute the poor and even indigent class of the Fezzanese population, comprise 75 per cent of the total population; 20 per cent of the population are middle-class landowners, and 4 per cent rich landowners.

The result of this distribution of wealth is that the trader is often the most important person in the locality, although in many cases the traders are recent immigrants. After them come the religious dignitaries (Shorfas and Marabuts) and the nomads; the remainder, which is the great majority, is mainly preoccupied with earning a bare living and was never consulted in any question until the establishment of the French administration.

TRIBES

The life of the nomads is regulated by the tribal system. The tribe represents the gathering around an originally homogeneous racial core of varied vassal elements, who may be called a clientèle. At present, all these elements in practice live on an equal footing.

Each nomadic tribe or part of a tribe is headed by a chief, who is always a highly respected man, chosen by the members of his tribe, usually from the same family, on the grounds of age, experience or holiness. His authority is unchallenged, except sometimes by the rival pretender. In return, he treats all the members of the tribe with great justice. The internal structure of the Tuareg tribe is subject to matriarchal laws.

The classification of the tribes among themselves is based more on their military ardour and their aptitude for the nomadic life than on their degree of wealth. Thus, the nomads in the Fezzan may be classified in the following order: Firstly, the Tebus, who, having no material needs, are the only real nomads.

Secondly, the Imanghassatn, the Zentan and the Megaraha, who live in villages during part of the year.

/Finally,

Finally, all the half-settled tribes: Guayd, Hothanen, Oraghen.

Their classification into ruling and vassal classes is given in the following tables:

Sub-Divisions	Wealthy Land Owners	Average Land Owners	Smallholders	Agricultural Workers	Jebbad
Shatti.....	79	166	607	313	287
Sobha- Ubari.	95	629	604	662	450
Murruq.....	45	460	428	915	218
Totals.....	219	1,255	1,639	1,890	955

The Jebbad (called Rebaa in the Chatti) is the drawer of water. He is bound to his landowner by a contract of indebtedness; he receives wages equal to one-third of the harvest (one-quarter until 1946). Since he has no possessions and his wages are barely sufficient for subsistence, he can never discharge his debt. The administering Power has taken steps to improve his lot and abolish this form of disguised slavery, by forcing the landowners to give the jebbad one-third of the harvest instead of one-quarter and by paying off his debt for him (see Chapter VIII: Social Conditions, and the annexed note).

The agricultural worker, who possesses only the few tools essential for his work on the plots of land, and works for a landowner, for a wage slightly higher than that of the jebbad. His standard of living is also extremely low.

The small-holder, who possesses only one plot, which he cultivates himself and which enables him to live very poorly with his family.

The average landowner is not much more prosperous than the small-holder. Nevertheless, he does not work and lives on the proceeds of the work of one jebbad or agricultural worker with whom he is associated and whom he provides with seeds and working tools.

The wealthy landowners represent the only prosperous class in the country. They live on the produce of several plots of land, which are worked by jebbad and agricultural workers. In some cases, there is an additional income from other activities (traders and officials).

Classes	Megarha	Hasna	Hothman	Zuayd	Guayd	Zentan	Ulad Ben Seif
Rulers	910	685	327	70	150	107	150
Vassals	1,690	1,665	923	380	550	293	
Totals	2,600	2,350	1,250	450	700	400	150

Tuareg tribes: The Keltin Alkum are vassals of the Oraghen:

	<u>Oraghen</u>	<u>Imanghassaten</u>	<u>Keltin Alkum</u>
Rulers	250	240	---
Clients	<u>800</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>430</u>
Totals	1,050	450	430
Tebus:	450.		

E. EMIGRATION

The Fezzanese emigrate mainly to Tripolitania (approximately one-half), and then to Tunisia and Cyrenaica, in that order. These are the three principal poles of attraction. The largest numbers of emigrants come from the Shatti (three-quarters), although this region has the best water supply.

The following table gives the number of emigrants per administrative sub-division:

<u>Sub-Divisions</u>	<u>To Tripolitania</u>	<u>To Cyrenaica</u>	<u>To Tunisia</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Egyptian Sudan</u>
Shatti	646	164	277	14
Sebha	54	52	69	6
Murzuq	<u>42</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>24</u>
Totals	742	279	410	44

In most cases, adult men leave the country alone, leaving their families behind. Such emigration is, therefore, temporary (two or three years) and even seasonal, as in the mudirias of Traghen, Oumél. Araneb and Zuila. These expatriate Fezzanese work as gardeners or labourers and return to their country when they have been able to buy a few chattels and accumulate some small savings.

C. THE INTEGRATION OF THE FEZZANESE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY

The position under the Italian administration

For administrative purposes the Italians applied to the Fezzan the same rules as those applied in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica: they divided the country into a certain number of small districts, each headed by an appointed official, the mudir. The latter was assisted by a kateb (secretary). His competence was limited and he had to refer constantly to the Italian authorities. In fact, his function consisted chiefly in being responsible for the collection of taxes.

Each administrative district was also a judicial district, with a qadi who was assisted by an assessor and a clerk.

For the purposes of health and hygiene, a certain number of Fezzanese hospital orderlies were trained to staff the village dispensaries.

French Administration

A. 1943-1949

The measures taken ever since the French occupation began have been motivated by the wish to develop an autonomous administration in the Fezzan and to appoint Fezzanese to the largest possible number of posts.

I. Administration

From 1943 to 1949, the French administrative organization in the Fezzan included the following:

1. A military governor, responsible for drawing up the budget of the territory, preparing a programme of public works, directing the economy and maintaining order. He was helped by an assistant.

2. Three officers, each commanding one of the three sub-divisions of Shatti, Sebha-Ubari and Murzuq, with three officer-interpreters.

The expenses of this staff were borne entirely by the French budget.

The following administrative measures were taken:

- (a) The post of mutasarrif (equivalent to that of a local governor), which had existed since the Turkish occupation and had been abolished by the Italians was re-established. Nevertheless, whereas the Ottoman administrative organization had made this official responsible mainly for the collection of taxes, the competence of the new mutasarrif was extended considerably: he served as an arbitrator in tribal disputes, gave instructions to the mudirs, was competent in all Moslem cultural questions and advised the French authorities in administering the Territory.

- (b) The mudirs were retained, but their powers were extended. The mudir is the chief official in his mudiria. He is, in fact, the direct administrator of the territory. He is competent to settle all local disputes, but is obliged to refer to the qadi in cases involving Moslem personal status and to the French authorities in criminal cases.

The 17 mudirs of the Territory are locally recruited Moslem officials. They draw their salary from the local budget. This salary amounts to 156,000 francs a year. Each of them is assisted by a kateb (secretary), who receives 61,800 francs a year, and by a shaush (policeman) who receives 43,200 francs. All these officials are entitled to family allowances of 2,400 francs per child annually.

(c) Each village or part of a tribe is headed by a sheikh, elected by the population. The sheikhs assist the mudirs in all questions which concern their village or the special interests of their electors. Although the sheikhs are not officials properly so-called, they receive an annual allowance of 3,000 francs from the ordinary budget.

(d) An attempt was made in 1945 to set up an intermediate administrative post between the mudirs and the French administration. A qadi was appointed at Sebha-Ubari to supervise and co-ordinate the activities of all the mudirs of one district. This experiment was successful and the institution was extended to the remainder of the Territory.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Justice is administered by the qadis, who are competent in all questions of personal status and Mohammedan law.

The territory is divided into three Mahakma districts, corresponding to each of the administrative districts.

The Moslem judicial staff includes the following:

3 qadis with an annual salary of	156,000
6 assessors	" 61,800
3 aouns	" 43,200

To these salaries should be added the above-mentioned family allowances and the allowances for responsibility for the mahakma treasuries.

/III. EDUCATION

III. EDUCATION

This question is dealt with at length in Chapter VI.

With regard to local staff, Moslem monitors who can teach in Arabic and in French have been recruited. Their number varies from one year to another, and is 6 at present. Each monitor receives an annual salary of 64,800 francs, with family allowances.

IV. HYGIENE AND HEALTH

For the purposes of medical assistance, Fezzanese have been recruited to help French medical officers and to staff village infirmaries.

This staff now consists of the following:

3 first-class hospital orderlies	with a salary of	84,000 francs
10 second class	" " " " "	78,000 "
9 third-class	" " " " "	72,000 "

plus a possible bonus for technical achievement and family allowances (see also Chapter VII).

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The administration has made a point of appointing Fezzanese to the greatest possible number of posts on the ordinary budget.

The post office at Sebha has one employee with an annual salary of 40,600 francs. A postman in each of the three sub-divisions distributes the mail and receives an annual salary of 43,200 francs.

The experimental plots of the territory are maintained by 9 local gardeners, who receive 50,400 francs each.

The administrative buildings are maintained by employees who receive 54,000 francs per year and are guarded by shaushes who receive 97,200 francs.

Nine Fezzanese, who are paid 60,000 francs per year, are employed in the garage and in the car park.

All these employees are entitled to family allowances.

/B. SINCE 1 JANUARY 1950

B. SINCE 1 JANUARY 1950

After the adoption of the United Nations resolution, changes were introduced in the organization of the territory. The first stages were explained in Part A of this report.

The annual salaries for the new posts are given below:

1 chief of the territory	1,200,000 francs
3 counsellors	480,000 "

(plus an allowance of
120,000 francs for each)

8 assistant counsellors	240,000 "	each
8 secretaries	120,000 "	
4 qadis	360,000 "	

The principle of paying an allowance to each member of the Consultative Assembly has been agreed to.

D. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE JEMAA

The "jemaa" is a political institution which has existed throughout the Berber territory since time immemorial. This old traditional body is constituted by a meeting of all the heads of families and represents a real assembly of the people. The jemaa has supreme power, which it does not delegate. It is not only a legislative body, but also an executive and sometimes a judicial organ. It is based upon the principle that the people should make and carry out decisions themselves.

The Italian administrative regime abolished the jemaa and substituted for them a system of "mudirs", officials who were appointed by the administration and whose authority extended over a group of villages belonging to the same natural region or over a nomad tribe or part of a tribe.

Although the French administrators retained the organization which they found upon their arrival, they took care to restore to the jemaa the important function which they should never have lost. Their actions were motivated by a twofold consideration, namely, to set up a relatively simple basic political body which would be well suited to the life of the country and which might constitute the vanguard of the democratic organization of the territory, and, secondly, to make the jemaa responsible for supervising the activities of the mudirs.

At an early stage it was decided that in every settled village or part of a nomad tribe all the heads of families should meet together in local assembly and elect a chief. This chief would assist the mudir in his activities, advise him and defend the interests of his electors. The chief thus became a real municipal delegate. He received no payment from the community, but the administration acknowledged the importance of his services by paying him a small annual allowance, although care was taken not to give him the status of an official.

After this initial reform had proved to be successful, the custom arose, when the post of a mudir became vacant, of requesting the jemaa of the particular mudiria to choose the new mudir themselves, while the authorities confined themselves to investing them with administrative powers.

The jemaa, thus reconstituted, found their real political vocation at the time of the arrival of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation in 1948. The Commission had asked that each village or nomad tribe should appoint representatives whom it could hear. The people chose to be represented by the jemaa. It may be said that the whole male population of the territory -- landowners, traders, agricultural workers and even the jebbad, for the first time in the history of the Fezzan -- were called upon to give their views on problems concerning the community as a whole and exceeding the simple framework of the village or tribe.

This democratic experiment was completed at the time of the establishment of the Consultative Assembly of the Fezzan in January 1950. The jemaa of each village or part of a tribe was called upon to elect six representatives. The persons thus chosen met at the headquarters of each mudiria to appoint three delegates to the Assembly.

When the population had thus proved its attachment to this traditional institution, the Consultative Assembly decided on 15 March to codify the existence of the jemaa. Henceforward, they will consist of 4 to 6 members, according to the size of the community which they represent. The representatives will be elected by an electoral college comprising all the heads of families. They will elect a chairman who will automatically assume the functions of chief of the village or part of a tribe. The

newly-defined functions of the jemaa are to protect the interests of the population, to assist the chief of the village in his work, especially, in the apportionment of taxes, and to take part in appointing the mudir, whom it is to assist, in an advisory capacity, in administering the community.

This resolution, which was approved by Ahmed Bey Seif El Nasr, has come into operation.

The new jemaa, which is really representative of the population's wishes, is a system the basis of which is no less essentially democratic because it is traditional. It should make it possible for the territory to develop along the lines desired by the United Nations. Under the existing conditions, an accurate idea of the wishes of the population can only be obtained through the agency of the Fezzanese jemaa. The persons whom they have appointed to carry out functions on a higher level of the political hierarchy are as representative as possible of the opinion of the majority of the inhabitants of the territory. Every effort should be made to improve and develop the jemaa, the importance of which in the future life of the country cannot be overestimated.

CHAPTER I (ANNEXES)

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decision No. 1

In conformity with the principles adopted by the Assembly of the United Nations respecting the future status of the territories which constitute Libya and the circumstances in which the independence of that country is to be achieved,

Desirous of enabling the population of the Fezzan to play a significant part in public affairs,

The Resident of France in the Fezzan decides as follows:

The Chiefs of the sub-divisions shall convene the chiefs and jemaas of the villages of each mudiria at the chief village of the mudiria as soon as possible.

This mudiria assembly shall appoint three representatives to proceed to Sebha on 12 February to elect a Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan.

Port-Leclerc, 24 January 1950.

The Resident of France in the Fezzan

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN
Addendum to Decision No. 1

In view of the organization of the Ghadames Region, which differs substantially from the administrative organization of the Fezzan, in that it has four mudiria for a population of barely 5,000 persons,

In order to achieve the equitable representation of the population in the election of the Chief of the Territory,

The Resident of France in the Fezzan decides as follows:

The village chiefs and jemaas of the Ghadames Region shall appoint three representatives for the election of the Chief of the Territory, which will take place at Sebha on 12 February 1950.

The Chief of the Region may allow the Tuareg minorities to be represented by a delegate.

Fort-Leclerc, 25 January 1950.

The Resident of France in the Fezzan

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN
Decision No. 2

Considering Decision No. 1 to convene a small Assembly at Sebha on 12 February 1950 to elect the Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan,

Considering the procès-verbal drawn up after the meeting on 12 February 1950 at 11 a.m., at which the Assembly elected Ahmed Bey Seif el Nasr by a unanimous vote of the 58 members present, the Tuaregs having decided not to attend the meeting,

The Resident, representing the French Government in the Fezzan, hereby proclaims His Excellency AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan.

Fort-Leclerc, 12 February 1950.

(Signed) Lieutenant-Colonel SARAZAC
Resident.

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decision No. 3

The Resident, representing the French Government in the Fezzan,
Considering decision No. 2 of 12 February 1950,
Decides as follows:

The provisions of the transitional regime for the Fezzan, a copy of which
is attached to this Decision, shall enter into force on 13 February 1950.

Fort-Leclerc, 12 February 1950

(Signed) Lieutenant-Colonel SARAZAC
Resident

TRANSITIONAL REGIME FOR THE FEZZAN

In conformity with the principles adopted by the Assembly of the United
Nations respecting the future status of the territories which constitute Libya
and the circumstances in which the independence of this country is to be achieved,

Desirous of enabling the population of the Fezzan to play a significant
part in public affairs,

The Government of the French Republic, as the occupying Power in the Fezzan,
has decided to establish governmental institutions likely to lead to the
self-government of the territory.

For this purpose, it has entrusted the task of government to the Chief
of the Territory of the Fezzan, AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR.

Ahmed Bey shall be assisted in his work by six local counsellors, who shall
be competent in matters relating to justice, finance, economic and agricultural
affairs, the interior, public health and public education, and by a Consultative
Assembly composed of the elected representatives of the jemaas and councils
of nomad tribes.

Pending the final settlement of the status of the territories which
constitute Libya, the Government of the French Republic shall be responsible
for all questions concerning external relations and the defence of the territory
and the possible use of a police force for the maintenance of peace and public
security.

/The transitional

The transitional regime has been established on the following basis:

I. CONSTITUTION OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

The Representative of the French Government in the Fezzan, who bears the title of Resident, shall proclaim AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR, Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan. The said Chief will be assisted in his government functions by:

1. Six local counsellors, appointed by him, for justice, finance, economic and agricultural affairs, the interior, public health and public education.
2. A Consultative Assembly composed of elected representatives of the jemaas and the councils of nomad tribes. The Assembly will be convened by the Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan and the Resident as soon as possible.

II. POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

During the transitional period, the Government of the Fezzan shall be competent to deal with the following matters affecting internal policy, organization and administration:

- (a) judicial organization
- (b) the organization of the police and of internal security
- (c) the appointment of officials
- (d) the appointment of a consultative assembly
- (e) the organization of the jemaas and the councils of nomad tribes
- (f) public education
- (g) public works and means of communication
- (h) internal posts and telegraphs
- (i) public health
- (j) veterinary services
- (k) hydraulic works
- (l) agriculture and livestock
- (m) public revenue and expenditure

III. POWERS RESERVED

During the transitional period, the following matters shall continue to be reserved to the Resident-General:

(a) All matters concerning the relations of the Fezzan with foreign countries, including foreign trade.

(b) The defence of the Fezzan should the local authorities be unable to preserve peace and order by means of the police forces at their disposal, the Resident shall be empowered immediately to resume control of the police and security services.

(c) The control of aerial navigation, including control of the bases, airfields and installations existing in the Territory.

(d) Any questions relating to the French forces stationed in the Territory.

(e) Postal, telegraphic, radio-telegraphic and radio-telephonic communications with foreign countries.

(f) Questions of currency and exchange.

(g) The delivery of passports and visas for foreign countries.

(h) Sequestered property.

No agreement may be concluded concerning prospecting for or the mining of the mineral resources of the country without the consent first had and obtained of the Resident.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

French counsellors shall be appointed on the proposal of the Chief of the Government and with the approval of the Resident to advise the counsellors in setting up new institutions.

French shall be treated as an official language on an equal footing with Arabic.

V. MODIFICATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL REGIME

If circumstances require, the Resident may, after consulting with the Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan, temporarily depart from the above provisions.

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decision No. 4

The Resident, representing the French Government in the Fezzan,

Considering Decision No. 3 of 12 February 1950.

Considering paragraph 5 of the transitional regime for the Fezzan,

Decides as follows:

Paragraph 1, "Constitution of the Public Authorities", shall be amended to read as follows:

"The said Chief shall be assisted in his governmental functions by:

1. 3 to 6 local counsellors, appointed by him, for justice, finance, economic and agricultural affairs, the interior, public health, public education, and by 8 Assistant Counsellors."

Fort Leclerc, 12 February 1950.

Lieutenant-Colonel SARAZAC

Resident

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decree No. 1

We, AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR, Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan,
Considering paragraph 1 (a) of the transitional regime of the Fezzan,

APPOINT

As our Counsellors:

For the interior and for justice: HAJ HAMUDA BEN TAHAR

For economic and agricultural affairs and for finance: NASR BEN SALEM

For public health and public education: EL MAHDI BEN AHMED

As Assistant Counsellors:

DO BEN EL HAJ MOHAMMED

SHERIF ALI BEN MOHAMMED

MOHAMMED LAMIR BEN MOHAMMED

BELGACEM BUGILA

HAS ALI BEN MOHAMMED BEDIWI

TAHAR BEN ABDULLAH JERARI

NUR BEN TAHAR BEN BRAHIM

SHEIKH MABRUK BEN ALI

Sebha, 16 February, 1950

Chief of the Territory of
the Fezzan

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decree No. 2

We, AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR, Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan,
Considering paragraph 2 C of the transitional regime for the Fezzan,
Decree as follows:

1. The post of qadi is set up in the sub-divisions of Shatti, Murzuq,
Ghadames and Sebha-Ubari.

2. The following persons are appointed to these posts:

In the sub-division of Shatti: MOHAMMED BEN ABDULLAH EL AYAT

In the sub-division of Murzuq: AHMED BEN HAJ SENUSSI

In the sub-division of Ghadames: EL MAHDI BEN HAJ MOHAMMED

In the sub-division of Sebha-Ubari: to be appointed at a later date.

Sebha, 16 February 1950

Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan

TERRITORY OF THE FEZZAN

Decree No. 3

We, AHMED Bey SEIF EL NASR, Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan,
Considering Paragraph 2, b) of the transitional regime of the Fezzan,
Decree as follows:

1. A police force responsible for internal security is hereby
established.

2. The following person is appointed as chief of police:
SALAH BEN SALEM BEN ABDENNABI.

Sabha, 16 February 1950

Chief of the Territory of the Fezzan

FINANCE AND BUDGET

A. General

An order issued at Algiers by the French Committee of National Liberation on 1 September 1943 provides that "the expenditures incurred in the administration of the Fezzan-Ghadames territory (other than the cost of military occupation) and the revenue therefrom shall form the subject of a budget annexed to the budget of the territories of the South of Algeria."

The budget provides for all expenditures arising from the remuneration of the staff of the administrative and judicial services, the operation of the medical and social assistance and education services and the setting up of facilities for road, hydraulic and building works.

The budget consists of an ordinary and a special budget.

The revenue of the ordinary budget is derived from various taxes, dues and duties, the sale of natron, which is a state monopoly, and, since 1947, by receipts from the sale abroad of series of Fezzan postage stamps. The resources of the ordinary budget are insufficient to cover the cost of maintenance and day to day expenses of the country. The ordinary budget shows an excess of expenditure over revenue of 3,601,904 francs in the financial year 1948 and 16,268,099 francs in 1949, the deficits being covered by grants from the French Government.

The special expenditures, which are entirely covered by Treasury advances from the French Government, relate to the payment of the salaries of European staff and the equipment of the country (hydraulic works, improvement of means of communication etc.). The special budget was relatively small in 1944, 1945 and 1946 during which years topographical, geographical and geological surveys of the territory were carried out. It was not until 1947 that work was begun on the execution of a systematic five-year plan for the drilling of shallow wells. The large scale schemes for the improvement of tracks were also put in hand in that year. Expenditure rose from 310,139 francs in 1946 to 7,193,207 in 1947, 15,116,094 in 1948 and 16,931,009 in 1949.

During the next five-year period, beginning in 1952, it is planned to drill deep wells which will involve a considerable increase in expenditure.

B. Budget

B. Budget estimates for 1950

In the budget estimates for 1950, the ordinary revenue is shown as 33,950,000 francs, including 10 million francs from the sale of stamps abroad. Ordinary expenditure is estimated at 40,657,000 francs, leaving a deficit of 6,707,200 francs.

The total special expenditure is 106,763,365 francs to which must be added 13 million francs in loans making a total of 119,763,365 francs to be borne wholly by the French Treasury. A grant from the French Government will be applied under the following headings:

Construction of buildings	35,000,000
Organization of new services	30,000,000
Well drilling	30,000,000
Improvement of tracks	5,000,000
European staff	7,000,000
Deficit of ordinary budget	6,000,000

The substantial increase in expenditure in 1950 is attributable to the introduction of new political organs and the execution of the first instalment of the schemes for the construction of new buildings and hydraulic works. Expenditure will increase further in future years as the administrative organization of the country is developed and perfected. There is an obvious need for new sources of revenue to offset the increasingly large budget deficit.

C. Taxes

The direct taxes are levied on crops:

(a) In the case of dates, the amount is 5.75 per cent of the crop as estimated by the Valuation Board, 0.75 per cent of which is the Board's fee. In 1948 the tax on dates yielded 7,086,605 francs and in 1949, when the crop was particularly poor, 3 million.

(b) In the case of grains, the amount of the tax is 6 per cent of the estimated crop, 1 per cent of which is the Valuation Board's fee. In 1948 the yield was 2,188,980 francs and in 1949, 2,500,000 francs.

Dates and cereals are collected by the mudirs in keeping with the figures provided by the Valuation Board. The rates of taxation are uniform. Crops of under 100 kilos are exempt from taxation.

Particulars of the various indirect taxes levied in Fezzan and their rates are given in an annexed note.

Direct taxes have been kept at a relatively low level owing to the precarious economic circumstances of the population as a whole. There has been a marked improvement in their position in the present year, and in 1950 the Fezzanese will for the first time have surplus products other than dates to sell. There is reason to hope that in the near future it will be possible to effect an increase in direct taxation which would make it possible to balance the ordinary budget without having recourse to the sale of stamps.

D. Advances and loans granted annually by the administering Power.

Fezzanese farmers generally have no ready cash and sell their wheat as soon as it is harvested in order to procure clothing and tea. The result is a difficult period during the winter months, March and April. In many cases they even sell the wheat they will need to sow their land for the next season. To remedy this situation, the Administration has found it necessary to grant loans of various kinds.

1. Grain seed loans. These loans in kind are granted to the owners of gardens, on application submitted through the mudir and must be used exclusively as seed. The quantity of grain advanced is established in accordance with the following scale:

Up to 1946: 16 kilogrammes of wheat and 4 kilogrammes of barley per well
 In 1947: 15 kilogrammes of wheat and 8 kilogrammes of barley per well
 In 1948: 30 kilogrammes of wheat and 16 kilogrammes of barley per well
 In 1949 and 1950: 30 kilogrammes of wheat and 60 kilogrammes of barley per well

No interest is payable to the administration. The loans are repaid after the harvest, normally in kind. The total of the loans granted is:

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Wheat.....	472,000	978,000	2,226,000	2,120,000	2,650,000
Barley	<u>110,000</u>	<u>202,000</u>	<u>675,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>700,000</u>
	592,000	1,108,000	2,901,000	2,720,000	3,350,000

2. Date loans. During the winter, the poor in the Fezzan live on dates. The dates received as tax are taken up at harvest time and distributed later as

required. These interest-free loans, are repaid in kind at the following harvest. Under this measure, instituted in 1946, 540 tons of dates have been distributed to a value of:

1946	1947	1948	1949
2,000,000	1,400,000	1,200,000	1,200,000

3. Agricultural loans in cash. Annual interest-free loans in cash are granted to farmers for the extension and improvement of their gardens (artesian wells, pump installations, etc.). The loans are repayable at the next harvest, in cash or in kind as the borrower prefers. The value of the loans granted is as follows:

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
1,500,000	1,700,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000

4. Loans to the general food service of the Fezzan. A type of co-operative society has been set up ^{to purchase} at the most favourable prices the foodstuffs the Fezzan is obliged to import and to build up a stock-pile of foodstuffs: in 1947 its working capital was provided by:

- 5,000,000 advanced by Fezzan traders participating in the society;
- 5,000,000 in the form of loans by the Government-General of Algeria;
- 6,000,000 included in the local budget and constituting the participation of the administration of the Fezzan.

Since 1944, the figures for the administration's participation in the financing of the society have been as follows:

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
2,000,000	3,000,000	3,455,700	6,000,000	11,000,000	10,000,000

An appropriation of 10,000,000 is included in the 1950 budget.

The following tables are annexed to this chapter:

1. Two detailed tables of the revenues and expenditures of the territory in 1948 and 1949;
2. Three summary tables of budget revenues and expenditures;
3. Two tables giving revenue and expenditure as a percentage of the total budget;
4. A note establishing the rates of the various indirect taxes levied in the Fezzan.

BUDGET OF THE FREEZAN

REVENUE

Item	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950 Estimates
Local revenue	2,058,978	6,653,832	5,000,873	7,590,165	19,347,621	12,461,577 (1)	23,950,000
Stamps, post, telephone, telegraph	--	--	339,817	12,509,862	14,379,387	6,366,587	10,000,000
	2,058,978	6,653,832	5,430,690	20,100,027	33,727,008	18,828,164	33,950,000
Loans.....	2,000,000	4,300,000	5,145,709	9,200,000	19,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000
Total.....	4,058,978	10,953,832	10,576,399	29,300,027	52,727,008	31,828,164	46,950,000

(1) Low natron production and poor prices for dates.

EXPENDITURE

Item	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Ordinary expenditure (maintenance and current)	2,216,858	2,830,555	4,705,869	16,248,590	21,222,808	20,155,144	40,657,200
Special expenditure (European staff, equipment)	235,445	240,699	310,159	7,193,207	15,116,094	13,931,009	106,763,635
Total....	2,452,303	3,071,254	5,016,028	23,441,797	36,338,902	34,086,153	147,420,835
Loans....	2,000,000	4,500,000	5,145,709	9,200,000	19,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000
Total....	4,452,303	7,571,254	10,161,737	32,641,797	55,338,902	47,086,153	160,420,835

BALANCE

Item	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Revenue							
surplus	-	3,382,578	414,662	245,610	-	-	-
Grants to							
cover excess							
expenditure							
and equip-							
ment...	393,325	-	-	3,587,380	2,611,894	15,257,989	113,470,835 ^{1/}
Plus...	-	3,382,578	414,662	-	-	-	-
Minus...	393,325	-	-	3,341,770	2,611,894	15,257,989	113,470,835

French grant: 135,075,813
- 3,797,240
131,278,240

^{1/} 35 million -- Construction of
buildings
30 " -- Organization of
services
30 " -- Wells
5 " -- Tracks
7 " -- European staff
6 " -- To cover deficit

REVENUE AS PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET

Operation	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
A. Local revenue						
1. Wheat and date tax	13,66	16,75	9,64	8,24	27,51	19,21
2. Duties	42,23	24,53	13,96	15,98	13,46	23,59
3. Natron	45,52	56,87	54,86	11,89	14,23	6,37 ^{1/}
4. State property and miscellaneous	0,59	1,86	15,28 ^{2/}	1,28	2,16	7,01
B. Stamps and posts,						
Telephones and telegraph	-	-	6,26	62,24	42,64	33,82

1/ The production of natron was approximately 20 tons, instead of the usual 100

2/ In 1946, there was a heavy smuggling traffic with the Chad

EXPENDITURE AS PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET

Operation	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
A. Ordinary expenditure						
1. Moslem officials	31,41	36,07	26,74	25,24	17,62	18
2. Medical welfare service	11,17	12,28	14,84	11,32	11,37	11,63
3. Education	4,70	3,02	2,86	8,77	8,72	9,66
4. Upkeep	43,12	40,79	49,38 ^{1/}	23,98	20,69	19,84
B. Special expenditures	9,60	7,84	6,18	30,69	41,60	40,87 ^{2/}

1/ 1944 to 1946 was a period of surveys and preparation; the great reconstruction effort explains the size of appropriations for maintenance.

2/ Between 1947 to 1950 the first part of the hydraulic plan was put in hand; as the Fezzan was unable to bear the cost, the major part was covered by grants of the French Government.

NOTE: It should be noted that these figures are percentages of the total figure.

REVENUE

Budget heading	1948	1949	Remarks
Date taxes	7,086,605	3,000,000	
Grain taxes	2,188,980	2,500,000	
Lagmi palms	194,820	116,400	
Licences	74,000	80,000	
Market fees	4,000,086	4,004,957	
Slaughtering duties	111,145	58,860	
Natron	4,800,000	1,200,000	
State properties	550,000	1,200,000	
Judicial fees	82,108	100,145	
Sale of fiscal stamps etc.	80,000	81,250	
Revenue from posts, telephones and telegraph	14,379,387	6,366,587	
Seizures	--	--	
Miscellaneous revenue	179,877	119,965	
Grants and sums appropriated from the preceding financial year	1,366,284	15,257,989 ^{1/}	
Total	35,093,292	34,086,153	
Pro mem.:			
Loan reimbursements			
1. Agricultural	3,000,000	3,000,000	
2. Food	16,000,000	10,000,000	
Total	<u>54,093,292</u>	<u>47,086,153</u>	

- ^{1/} The Government grant to the 1949 budget consists of:
- 1,122,285: Credit from metropolitan France for works.
- 14,135,604: Grant to meet deficit.

EXPENDITURE

Budget Heading	1948	1949	Remarks
Allowances French staff	1,349,647	2,611,009	
Supplies	2,556,435	2,638,064	
Social welfare officers	649,420	520,000	
Special receptions	109,805	99,967	
Administrative staff	5,113,800	4,928,415	
Education	3,169,059	3,290,721	
Social medical welfare	4,132,796	3,964,061	
Religion	43,000	-----	
Moslem courts	710,487	683,876	
Penitentiary, police	572,000	525,415	
Treasury	43,159	49,224	
Markets department	24,994	13,000	
Agriculture	647,605	559,646	
Animal husbandry	64,800	64,998	
Handicrafts	61,440	65,000	
Roads and tracks	3,965,833	2,783,439	
Administrative buildings	1,405,030	2,406,131	
Mechanical installations	2,966,839	5,071,274	
Waterworks	3,993,787	1,194,612	
Anti-malaria campaign	119,760	252,000	
Rewards, relief	2,254,667	1,000,000	
Natron	374,993	519,956	
Operation posts, telephones, telegraph	520,189	845,245	
Surveys and miscellaneous grants	164,420	-----	
Total	35,093,292	34,086,153	
<u>Special expenditures</u>			
1. Agricultural loans	3,000,000	3,000,000	
2. Food advances	16,000,000	10,000,000	
Total	54,093,292	47,086,153	

GOVERNMENT GENERAL OF ALGERIA

Military Territory of the Fezzan

No. 845/AS-17

CIRCULAR

As from 1 January 1950, the various duties will be charged at the following rate:

Duties on judicial and extra-judicial instruments -- marriages -- divorces

Fixed fee	50 francs
Search	10 "
Stamp	15 "
Paper	15 "
Fee for employees of the Mahakma	10 "

Judgments

Fixed fee 50 francs plus the above charges.

Sale -- Partition -- Exchange

Fixed fee 15 per cent of value of transaction plus above charges.

Acknowledgement of loan as debt

Fee 10 per cent of value of transaction plus above charges.

Power of attorney Affidavits Certification Inventory

Fixed fee of 50 francs plus above-mentioned charges.

Duty on Lagmi palms

Increased from 150 to 300 francs

Licenses

Increased from 500 to 2,000 francs annually, payable in one instalment

Market duties

For all produce other than mentioned below:

Import goods	5 per cent
Export goods	5 per cent
Transit	1 per cent

The following products will pay a duty of 8 per cent on importation or exportation: oil, tea, coffee, petroleum products, perfumery, jewellery.

<u>Slaughtering duty</u>	Camels	500 francs
	Sheep	30 "
	Goats	30 "

Stamp duties

No change from note No. 586/AS--24 of 15 September 1949

/Tobacco and

Tobacco and alcohol

A tobacco monopoly is hereby established in the Fezzan. All tobacco of foreign origin will therefore be sent back to the country of origin.

In the case of attempted fraud or smuggling, the tobacco will be confiscated.

Alcohol of foreign origin will pay a duty of 5 per cent on entry.

A customs service will shortly be established in the Fezzan.

Instructions will be given in due course.

Major Sarazac,
Military Governor of the
Territory of the Fezzan
Fort-Leclerc, 22 December 1949

CHAPTER III

AGRICULTURE

A. Tables of agricultural production

The following figures are based on tax returns and hence certainly lower than the real figures. Some Fezzanese admit that they declare no more than a third or even a quarter of their crop.

DATES

Dates are the chief wealth of the Fezzan which has approximately 12 million palms. Of this number, only one tenth or little more than one million, are productive.

Region	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	Figures in tons					
Shatti	1,110	681	1,371	743	760	1,040
Sebha-Ubari	1,320	547	1,097	466	880	1,570
Murzuq	<u>1,030</u>	<u>691</u>	<u>1,381</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>1,007</u>
Total.....	3,460	1,919	3,849	1,953	2,690	3,617

GRAINS

The only figures available are for winter grains (wheat and barley) the only grains in respect of which tax returns are filed.

In 1950, the production of grain will, for the first time, amply satisfy local needs. This is due to the execution of the first installment of the water works programme. The 32 artesian wells drilled to date have made it possible to bring 480 hectares under cultivation. Part of the labour force has thus been released from the task of drawing water and can be employed in the development of the land. The 1950 grain crop is estimated at 50,000 quintals, or twice that in the best previous years.

(a) Wheat. Several varieties are cultivated in the oasis gardens. They are well adapted to the country and give satisfactory results. The figures for crops since 1944 are as follows (in quintals):

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
6,270	8,170	9,190	7,700	9,600	11,800

/(b) Barley.

(b) Barley. Barley is grown throughout the country and in the salt soil of Shatti its yield is greater than that of wheat.

Production in quintals					
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
3,040	2,330	3,200	2,520	3,400	4,060

(c) Summer grains. (millet, sorghum, maize) These grains are harvested when the wheat and the barley are exhausted and are an important contribution to the economy of the non-nomad population of the Fezzan. No tax is payable on them and it is difficult to estimate exactly how much is grown. The production is undoubtedly greater, on the average, than that of barley.

(d) Vegetables. The Fezzanese generally set aside one seventh of the area of their gardens for vegetables -- cabbages, onions, tomatoes and pimentos -- which are used exclusively for domestic consumption.

B. Table of annual agricultural imports and exports.

Dates are the only agricultural product exported from the Fezzan. The volume and value exported in recent years are as follows:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Quantity in tons.	250	400	150	400	213	270
Value in francs.	7,500,000	1,600,000	1,200,000	6,600,000	5,390,000	7,410,000

On the other hand the Fezzan is obliged to import at least two essential products, oil and soap.

The following table gives the figures for volume and value since 1944.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Sugar:						
Quantity in tons.	70	177	125	158	101	90
Value in francs.	1,450,000	3,185,000	6,100,000	8,817,000	5,805,000	15,300,000

Oil:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Quantity in tons.	15	50	18	10	17	7
Value in francs.	615,000	275,000	1,083,000	1,462,000	2,269,000	1,138,000

/C. Animal husbandry

C. Animal husbandry

As in all the Sahara countries, animal husbandry in the Fezzan is concerned with camels, sheep, goats and the donkeys used to draw water.

(a) Camels. Camel raising is the exclusive prerogative of the nomads. The Fezzan has sufficient pasture land for its camels. However, during exceptional droughts, the nomads drive their camels into the mountains of South Tripolitania, Syrte, or the Tarat region in the Ajjer. The Zellaf and the ramlah of Ubari have good summer pastures.

The camel population of the Fezzan is distributed as follows:

Shatti	Sebha-Ubari	Murzuq	Total
3,375	605	935	4,915

(b) Sheep and Goats. The settled Fezzanese have small family flocks of only a few head. Most of the sheep and goats in the Fezzan are in the hands of the nomads who raise sheep and goats in addition to camels.

The flocks of sheep and goats provide the Fezzanese with most of the meat they consume. The wool is spun and woven locally (approximately 70 quintals annually) and used to make men's garments (Jerd).

Shatti	Sebha-Ubari	Murzug	Total
5,100	3,130	3,000	11,130

(c) Donkeys. Donkeys are used to draw water and are greatly prized because of the variety of work they do and their hardiness.

Shatti	Sebha-Ubari	Murzug	Total
1,100	3,500	2,570	6,170

D. Land tenure.

The legal status of land in the Fezzan varies and one finds:

(a) Nomad pasture lands; these are collectively owned lands, the boundaries of which are not clearly defined and over which property rights are established only by mutual, traditional recognition of tenure between the nomad tribes. Although these property rights rest only on custom they are now well defined. There is no official deed recognizing this collective tenure, and no deeds of transfer.

/The nomad

The nomad or semi-nomad pasture lands receive only occasional rain and provide indifferent pasture. In the hammada, the absence of water holes makes the pasture of little use. These lands are exempt from taxation.

As they have not been developed by the work of man, they might be classed as "dead lands" the ownership of which under Mohammedan law is attributed to the sovereign. However, they are not free and the communities have acquired certain rights by prolonged tenure.

(b) Privately owned lands: These have definite boundaries and are defined in more or less ancient deeds. They may be alienated by any of the traditional methods such as sale, lease, mortgage etc. The deeds relating to them can be classified as follows:

1. Ancient deed antedating the opening of the official registers of the Mahakmas and in some cases as much as 400 years old. They have all the features of normal deeds (origin of property, share of water, limits of object of transfer etc.) but are drawn up on unstamped paper and concluded between private individuals. All they lack is the sanction of an official stamp and the payment of stamp duties. They are much the most common in the Fezzan.

2. Recent deeds executed before the gadi and registered in the Mahakma registers.

The properties defined by these various deeds include:

(a) the arable land of the wadis of Bey and Ruas where the Megaraha take advantage of the rains which fall in the area during winter to grow winter grain;

(b) irrigated cultivated areas. These are the gardens where the settled Fezzanese grow palms and to a lesser extent winter and summer grains and vegetables;

(c) The Hattia areas where the water table is near the surface and the palm trees, propagated by seeds or suckers, can draw their own water. Apart from pollination, the palms are left untended by the Fezzanese.

Dead lands (Maxat):

These lands are unproductive and free from any servitude. Under Mohammedan law, they are the property of the Sovereign until they are developed by an

/individual

individual or by a community whose property they then become.

State lands:

Inherited from the previous governments of the Fezzan, they have been taken over by the French Administration. They consist almost entirely of palm groves.

Sequestered properties:

These are former private properties the owners of which were dispossessed during the Italian Occupation, chiefly for political reasons. They were originally taken over by the French Administration and have been returned to all owners able to show proof of their rights. The status of these lands depends on the future settlement of the Libyan question.

CHAPTER IV

COMMERCE

An essentially agricultural country, the Fezzan's only asset from the commercial point of view are its exports of dates and the approximately 80 tons of natron collected in the lakes of the ramla of Ubari.

The main imports are tea, sugar, oil and textiles. The Shatti, where there is a shortage of grain, imports grain from the Tripolitanian Jebel. The grain is transported by the nomads of ^{the} Gibla who barter it for dates, in some cases at exorbitant prices (1 kg. of wheat for 5 to 10 kg. of dates).

Side by side with the external trade, there is a lively internal trade, carried on in village markets, in agricultural products or the products of local artisans.

During recent years poor prices have been obtained for the Fezzan's dates owing to over-production in North Africa and the poor quality of the fruits offered. While in 1947, 300 tons were sold at prices varying between 15 and 23 francs a kilo, according to quality, the highest price in 1948 was 10 francs and fell even lower in 1949.

The trade balance of the Fezzan is adverse. In 1948 the value of exports was 39,914,900 francs and in 1949 31,513,500 francs, while imports for the same years were 61,001,457 francs and 66,718,200 francs respectively. Detailed tables of the Fezzan's imports and exports are annexed.

COMMERCE

A. Exports and re-exports

Product	1944		1945		1946	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Dates	255 T.	750,000	400 T.	1,500,000	150 T.	1,200,000
Wheat	25 T.	360,000	70 T.	700,000	30 T.	360,000
Other grains	20 T.	120,000	35 T.	300,000	10 T.	100,000
Natron	40 T.	900,000	84 T.	3,800,000	51 T.	2,985,000
Hides	6 T.	1,200,000	2 T.	400,000	--	--
Textiles	300,000 M.	15,000,000	250,000 M.	10,000,000	150,000 M.	9,700,000
Miscellaneous	--	400,000	--	700,000	--	200,000
Carpets	40 U.	55,000	50 U.	100,000	50 U.	100,000
Total	--	18,765,000	--	17,500,000	--	13,945,000

B. Imports

Sugar	70 T.	1,450,000	127 T.	3,185,000	125 T.	6,100,000
Oil	15 T.	615,000	50 T.	2,750,000	18 T.	1,983,000
Tea	8 T.	3,040,000	19 T.	4,850,000	22 T.	5,347,000
Coffee	2 T.5	120,000	6 T.	150,000	3 T.	285,000
Pasta	4 T.	70,000	3 T.4	68,000	5 T.8	300,000
Soap	6 T.	110,000	18 T.	432,000	7 T.	370,000
Dry vegetables	4 T.	60,000	12 T.	240,000	8 T.	240,000
Grain	10 T.	60,000	60 T.	720,000	60 T.	1,500,000
Hides	7 T.	1,400,000	3 T.	600,000	--	--
Carpets	50 U.	70,000	50 U.	120,000	150 U.	225,000
Textiles	500,000 M.	25,000,000	450,000 M.	17,375,000	300,000 M.	13,155,000
Wool	--	--	3 T.5	105,000	10 T.	1,500,000
Miscellaneous	12 T.	1,300,000	18 T.	3,900,000	16 T.	3,000,000
Total	--	33,295,000	--	34,495,000	--	34,005,000

Fort-Leclerc, 6 July 1950

COMMERCE

A. Exports and re-exports

Product	1947		1948		1949	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Dates	400 T.	6,000,000	213 T.	5,390,000	270 T.	7,410,000
Wheat	--	--	--	--	8 T.	200,000
Other grains	--	--	--	--	--	--
Natron	50 T.	2,400,000	115 T.	5,200,000	40 T.	2,000,000
Hides	6 T.	2,400,000	10 T.	1,973,000	2 T.8	2,260,000
Textiles	--	--	11,500 M.	1,837,000	41,810 M.	6,344,000
Miscellaneous	--	200,000	--	4,782,900	--	12,189,000
Carpets	100 U.	250,000	268 U.	742,000	474 U.	1,020,000
Total	--	11,850,000	--	19,924,900	--	31,423,500

B. Imports

Sugar	158 T.	8,817,000	101 T.	5,805,900	90 T.	15,300,000
Oil	10 T.	1,462,000	17 T.	2,269,426	7 T.	1,138,000
Tea	32 T.	6,953,000	28 T.	7,991,000	35 T.	19,524,800
Coffee	3 T.	1,106,000	2 T.	710,000	3 T.	1,020,000
Pasta	8 T.	436,000	6 T.	195,000	2 T.7	243,000
Soap	4 T.	305,000	6 T.	343,160	2 T.6	422,000
Dry vegetables	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grain	110 T.	3,965,000	80 T.	1,481,000	4 T.	160,000
Hides	7 T.	2,600,000	5 T.	1,200,000	2 T.	785,000
Carpets	253 U.	548,000	220 U.	748,000	245 U.	1,206,580
Textiles	170,000 M.	10,953,000	79,997 M.	5,432,421	79,700 M.	2,606,580
Wool	--	--	3 T.250	313,000	--	--
Miscellaneous	18 T.	2,750,000	--	14,612,841	--	24,311,720
Total	--	39,895,000	--	41,001,548	--	66,718,260

Fort-Leclerc, 6 July 1950

CHAPTER V

PUBLIC WORKS

In the matter of public works, the administration has concentrated its efforts on hydraulic works and the improvement of tracks.

A. Hydraulic Works

Since 1946 artesian borings have been carried out in the three natural regions of the country. In 1949, there had been 41 boring operations the results of which varied according to the regions prospected and the technical conditions of the operation; 9 borings, including one very deep one, were non-productive.

22 30-60 metre wells are now in operation.

10 wells bored by modern mechanical methods give an average yield at an approximate rate of 20 litres a second.

Boring machines have also been used to deepen many existing wells.

The land restored to cultivation in 1949 as a result of these operations, amounted to 480 hectares, all of which was redistributed to the population.

The hydraulic works programme for 1950 includes:

four artesian wells;

the equipment of 1 well with a water-tight pipe system;

the installation of a number of norias over dalou-type wells in order to familiarize the population with this system of drawing water which is considerably more efficient than the traditional method.

B. Roads and tracks

The Italians had established an internal network of tracks suitable for vehicular traffic each following one of the populated valleys of the Fezzan, and had built connecting tracks. As they were established in Tripolitania, they had linked the system with the coast by 2 major tracks.

The internal network consisted of:

The Shatti track, from Kneir to Edri via Brach;

The Ajal track from Sebha to Ghat via Ubari and Serdeles;

The track from Sebha to Murzuq via Ghodua;

The track from Sebha to Gatrur via Um el Araneb.

The external network:

The track from Sebha to Misurata, including the passage over the Kneir and Bou Njem sand dunes and the crossing of the Jebel Soda;

The Shatti track to Tripoli, starting from Brach and going through Shueiref, El Gueria and Misda.

Since 1946, the French administration has made a great effort, involving an expenditure of about 41 million francs, to maintain and to improve the existing tracks and to construct new ones.

The yearly appropriations have been as follows:

1946	1,500,000 francs
1947	4,000,000 francs
1948	8,000,000 francs
1949	16,500,000 francs
1950	11,000,000 francs

The internal network has been completely repaired and improved:

track from Edri to Brach;

track from Brach to Sebha and Murzuq via Kneir;

track from Murzuq to Tmessa via Um el Araneb and Zuila;

track from Sebha to Ghat via Ubari and Serdeles.

The following were constructed inside the territory:

The track from Auinet Uenin to Edri, which shortens by 200 kilometres the journey to Gabes and makes it possible to avoid the difficult crossing over the Mequillet col;

The track from Sebha to Brach across the Zellaf;

The direct track from Sebha to Um el Araneb;

The track from Um el Araneb to Gatrur.

This internal network is regularly maintained and is practicable for all types of vehicular traffic.

As regards routes out of the country, the following have been constructed:

Track into Tunisia via Sinauen and Derdj;

Uragla track via Fort Flatters and Aouinet Uenin;

Track to the Chad via Gatrui, Uigh es Seghir, Uigh el Kobir, Korisa.

Lastly, those portions of the major routes from the Fezzan to Tripoli-

tenia which lie within Fezzan territory have been maintained.

The substitution of proper tarred roads for the tracks would involve the expenditure of about 1,564,000,000 francs for the internal network alone and cannot be contemplated for the time being.

CHAPTER VI

EDUCATION

In education, the administration has been chiefly concerned with organizing the campaign against illiteracy. At the time of the French occupation, the vast majority of the population was completely illiterate and the education of the remaining small minority never went beyond the stage of reading, writing and elementary arithmetic.

The difficulties of developing education in the Fezzan are those met with in all countries where social development is retarded by a lack of resources, teachers difficult to find and families incapable of even partly making up for the shortage of teaching staff.

There are two methods of developing primary education in educationally under-developed countries: there is the long-term method which tries to provide only first rate education, and there is the contrary method which prefers to provide a larger proportion of the school age population with an elementary education which can be provided with relatively less difficulty.

The second method has been chosen in the Fezzan. It is the administration's intention to put into effect a programme in which theoretical knowledge will not be neglected but will not, nevertheless, be allowed to take precedence over practical matters. The first aim to be achieved is to give every inhabitant of the Fezzan the means by reading and writing of coming into contact with the outside world and the every-day reality of the country's development, and participating in the life of the territory. The programme also includes instruction in modern agricultural methods for the purpose of better utilisation of the land, on which the prosperity of the territory chiefly depends.

In 1940, at the time of the Italian occupation, the situation was as follows:

Edri, Brach, Murzuq, Jedid and Berguen had teaching establishments. The schools had two classes, one for teaching Italian and the other for Arabic.

The premises were very small and only the school centres at Brach and Jedid, built in 1935, had proper buildings. The school at Berguen was unfinished and the one at Murzuq consisted of two tiny rooms with floors of beaten earth, poorly ventilated and ill-lighted.

The French administration found these schools closed on account of the war. The furnishings had been taken away, the doors and windows torn down and the teaching equipment completely spoiled. Only the Koranic schools in the villages continued to function.

Eleven elementary schools were set up at Jedid, Murzuq, Ubari, Brach, Agar, Berguen, Uenzerik, Edri, Bens Baya, Traghen and Gatrun. Each was equipped with the necessary plumbing facilities, shower-baths, a kitchen for school meals and a dining-room.

Each year, at the beginning of October or at the medical officer's first visit to the centre, all the children are examined and vaccinated. The teacher keeps a register and draws up individual medical cards on which, on each of his regular visits the medical officer notes his observations and the treatment to be given.

Pupils suffering from trachoma, conjunctivitis, ringworm etc. are treated every morning, free of charge, at the local clinic. Under-nourished children are cared for by the Health Services which puts them on a strengthening diet. Quinine is distributed regularly.

The state of permanent malnutrition among children in the Fezzan required a great effort. Every day, each pupil receives a hot meal (macaroni, kous-kous, semolina, etc.) and a ration of 200 grammes of bread. In addition, during the winter, a hot drink is served every morning before school begins.

Since 1947, it has been the practice to give each pupil enough cloth to prepare a garment as worn locally.

The children in these schools have full freedom to attend religious classes outside school hours.

Every village also has one or more Koranic schools which operate quite independently but to which the administration nevertheless devotes considerable attention. They cater for about 2,000 children.

The teaching staff notes that the children attend the school at which they are registered regularly and that the proportion of absentees does not exceed 4%. However, they deplore the apparent lack of interest shown by the parents in their children's school education. For various reasons such as the departure of nomadic families for the pastures, the poverty which requires the children to work in the fields, and others which are less valid, forty pupils did not resume their lessons at the beginning of 1949.

/In the schools

In the schools in which there are French teachers (7 for the whole of the Fezzan) about fifty pupils have reached the level of the second year of the elementary course or of the intermediate course (Algerian educational standard).

In October 1949, there was a new departure. A residential school was opened at Brach for the best pupils in the Shatti region. These children were housed and fed free of charge for the whole school year. The experiment produced good results. The applications for boarding scholarships for 1950 are already in excess of capacity.

The development programme drawn up in 1950 is based on the following principles:

1. As many children as possible should attend schools;
2. Parallel teaching of Arabic and French;
3. Establishment of a technical, craft and agricultural school.

The programme includes plans for the opening of several new school centres, some of which are already being built. As soon as possible, each of the 17 *mdiriat* of the territory will have an elementary school with a course lasting 2 to 5 years. A Fezzanese instructor will give instruction in French.

Three higher elementary schools will be opened at Sebha, Brach and Murzuq, which are the chief towns of the sub-divisions. Pupils recruited in these towns or drawn from the *mdiriat* schools will pursue their studies in Arabic and French. The minimum course will be four years, at the end of which the most gifted pupils will be admitted to an advanced school which is to be set up at Sebha.

Lastly, there will be three agricultural centres (Sebha, Brach, Murzuq) and a craft centre (Murzuq) where the course will last for two years, which will make it possible to provide preliminary technical education.

Young Fezzanese who have completed the elementary course will be given scholarships to pursue their studies in the Moslem schools of Algeria where they will enjoy special facilities. The territory also hopes to profit from scholarships which may be made available to it by the United Nations.

This educational programme, spread out over ten years, involves the commitment of funds amounting to about 72,000,000 francs, to which must be added the salaries of the teaching staff which amount to 8,000,000 francs.

Expenditure on public education in the territory during the last three years was 2,057,578 francs in 1947, 3,469,000 francs in 1948 and 3,650,000 francs in 1949.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

A. General.

The efforts of the administration to improve conditions of health and hygiene in the country are being carried on according to a long established plan.

A staff of Fezzanese hospital orderlies is in the course of being trained. At the present time, each hospital-dispensary, first aid post or clinic, employs local inhabitants trained by the administration's medical officers. The hospital orderlies now working are expected to take courses of further training. The most skilled are to be sent to Tunis and Algiers where they will take courses in specialized establishments.

As regards the premises, each of the 80 villages of the Fezzan is to be provided with essential equipment, which will enable the medical officer and local hospital orderly to treat their patients in the best possible conditions. The hospital-dispensary at Brach has been provided with an operating theatre. Each of the three regions of the territory (Brach, Sebha, Murzug) now has its own surgical organization.

It should be added that the treatment given by the public health organizations is entirely free of charge.

Patients from villages which are at some distance from the hospitals are admitted as in-patients and all charges are paid out of the Fezzan budget.

In cases of serious illness, the patients are evacuated to Tunis either by air or by car. This is also done in the case of specialized surgery. The hospital and transport expenses are in almost every case paid for out of the budget.

The campaign against the endemic diseases from which the Fezzan suffers has been intensified. Thus, the proportion of the population suffering from various stages of trachoma, which was 95 per cent in 1943, has fallen to less than 50 per cent. Malaria (25 per cent of the population in 1943) has been practically eliminated.

Particular care has been given to the question of the protection of health by instruction in hygiene and dietary supervision. Mothers and children have the

/first

first to benefit from these measures. Condensed milk is distributed regularly in the larger communities. The hospital orderlies have been instructed to extend these distributions to the smallest villages. This campaign to protect children should mean a progressive rise in the population, which has grown only very slowly over the last twenty years.

B. Number and composition of the existing services.

(a) Medical officers: Three French military doctors are at present working in the Fezzan.

-- One chief medical officer at Sebha, responsible for the sub-division of Sebha-Oubari and a large part of the troops serving in the Fezzan.

-- One medical officer at Brach for the Shatti sub-division.

-- One medical officer at Murzug for the Murzug sub-division and the garrison troops.

(b) Infirmary staff: These medical officers have at their disposal a staff of 21 locally recruited and trained hospital orderlies. These administer the village clinics scattered among the three populated valleys of the Fezzan and give the patients whatever treatment is prescribed by the medical officers.

C. Equipment.

(a) Medical centre: Each centre with a resident medical officer has a hospital-infirmary.

In addition, there are 17 clinics with resident orderlies operating in the three sub-divisions. They are visited at least once a month by the medical officer of the sub-division.

Each one includes:

1 out-patients' ward,

1 in-patients' ward.

Patients from the surrounding villages can be accommodated there.

These clinics are situated in the following villages:

Shatti: Agar, Gorda, Berguen, Uenzerik, Edri.

Sebha-Utari: Semou, Gorda, Gheddua, Bendbeya, Greifa, Ubari, Reguiba.

Murzug: Agar, Traghen, Um el Araneb, Zuila, Gatrún.

/(b) Materials:

(b) Materials: The equipment and drugs are paid for out of the Fezzan budget. The surgical and laboratory equipment and the drugs are kept at the centres with resident medical officers.

Each hospital orderly has at his disposal the necessary equipment and drugs for dealing with eye diseases, malaria, parasitosis, intestinal and pulmonary complaints, to apply dressings and give the most usual injections.

(c) Treatments:

Most of the patients are treated on the spot. The Fezzan medical officers perform minor surgery and eye operations (trichiasis) on the spot.

D. Statistics.

1. Budget:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Francs.....	274,700	372,459	729,459	2,712,511	4,133,741	4,120,800

2. Number of patients (Moslem population):

Attended by the medical officers:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	18,995	5,084	5,986	6,244	18,507	16,177

By the hospital orderlies:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	6,658	6,752	66,120	52,060	50,525	66,685

Principal diseases and epidemics:

Listed in order of importance:

Eye diseases (the four stages of trachoma, acute conjunctivitis and cataract).

Malaria, all stages.

Intestinal, urinary and cutaneous parasites.

Venereal diseases (bleorrhagia and syphilis).

Smallpox.

Measles.

Typhus.

Recurrent fever.

Tuberculosis (chiefly extra-pulmonary).

Alcoholism (through palm wine: lagmi).

Theinism.

Statistics according to the treatment given:

Eye diseases:

Trachoma: On the arrival of the French, 95 per cent of the population was affected, with 5 per cent corneal complications and 10 per cent trichiasis. At present, 50 per cent of the population is affected, with 1 per cent evolutionary complications and 25 per cent ~~trichiasis~~.

Acute blepharoconjunctivitis: Weeks or Morax type, .05 per cent a year on the average.

Gonococcic: .05 per cent.

Cataract and blindness through various sources: 2 per cent.

Malaria: In 1943, on the average 25 per cent (chiefly at Murzug, Traghen, Brach, Edri and Wadi Ajal); in 1947, only 10 per cent; by 1950, malaria was practically non-existent.

Urinary bilharziosis: 0.25 per cent every year, particularly in children in the Jedid area.

Intestinal parasitosis: (ascaris and oxyuris chiefly); 25 per cent because of dirty habits.

Venereal diseases:

Gonococcic: 1 per cent of male patients, chiefly at the complications stage.

Syphilis: 1 per cent of patients (rarely chancres), chiefly tertiary forms (nervous and cutaneous).

Syphilis hereditaria: .25 per cent found during regular visits (school children and babies).

Smallpox: Endemic among the nomads since 1942. Small local epidemics among the settled population.

1946: 20 cases in the Shatti.

1947: About 200 cases (centres at Terut Semnu and Ajal).

Anti-smallpox vaccination:

1946	1947	1948	1949
18,800	7,122	6,365	4,247

Measles: In 1947, from spring to winter, about 500 cases in the whole territory with a mortality rate of 10 per cent chiefly among children.

/Influenza:

Influenza: Epidemic in Wadi Ajal in 1945.

Typhus: About 100 cases in the summer of 1947 at Edri.

Recurrent fever: Violent epidemics in 1943 and 1944 over the whole territory with a mortality rate of 25 per cent in some villages.

Tuberculosis: 1 to 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 5 to 6 cases of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis, particularly in the joints and peritoneum.

Alcoholism: 5 to 8 cases of cirrhosis and chronic ethylism due to lagmi, particularly in the Edri area.

3. Steps taken to prevent the spreading of epidemics:

Trachoma:

Children's eyes are treated (by drops, etc.) daily and systematically in the schools and when babies are brought for inspection. Treatment with lotions of copper sulphate, lutzolen tablets, autohaemmotherapy with lutzolen, conjunctival exoseptoplix and finally trabal and Panas' operations for trichiasis (140 a year on the average).

Blepharoconjunctivitis: Lotions of argyrol or protargol, zinc sulphate and silver nitrate and yellow mercuric oxide ointment.

Malaria: Quinacrine for use as a prophylactic is distributed free. Carriers are disinfected by quinine (injections or tablets), quinacrine or premaline.

In addition, there are annual budget appropriations for the improvement of malarial regions. (Stocking of springs and wells with fish, draining of ditches and temporary pools.)

The wells are stocked with small fish (gambusia), which feed heavily on mosquito larvae. The results have been excellent and the practice is being spread.

The appropriations used in the anti-malaria campaign since 1944 have been:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Francs...	30,000	28,000	47,000	78,000	199,760	252,000

Smallpox-typhus: Preventive vaccinations.

Measles and influenza: isolation of patients, rhinopharyngeal disinfection.

/4. Special establishments:

4. Special establishments:

There are none in the Fezzan. The clinics have wards for the isolation of contagious patients.

E. Care for Mothers and Children

1. Welfare of mothers and children:

The budget has included an appropriation for such welfare since 1944. The appropriation covers:

(a) The free distribution of tins of condensed milk for frail or sick children or babies which cannot be breast-fed.

(b) The free monthly distribution of cloth and cereals.

These measures apply to all children under 18 months regularly brought to see the medical officers by their mothers.

2. Maternity hospitals: Fezzanese women (except in the case of complications) are reluctant to consult medical officers for normal births; there are no maternity hospitals. Complicated pregnancies or births are treated at home or in the hospitals.

3. Treatment given to children at school:

Regular anti-smallpox vaccination.

Inspection by the medical officer on each round, at least once a month.

Measurements taken at each inspection.

Eyes bathed regularly by the teacher.

Daily care for pupils on the school's medical register, given by the infirmary attendants as prescribed by the medical officer.

F. Medical Personnel.

Recruitment and instruction: The hospital orderlies are recruited locally. They are placed on probation for a minimum period of 2 months with one of the medical officers (Sebha, Jedid, Brach and Murzuq). Subsequently, every 2 years at least, they take a refresher course of 1 month.

Results obtained: The results obtained are in general good. The six hospital orderlies first class are able to give intravenous injections and the rest can give subcutaneous or intramuscular injections. All have some knowledge

/of the common

of the common drugs and anti-smallpox vaccination, and they are all trained to set fractures provisionally. They can recognize the chief epidemic diseases which they bring to the notice of the medical officer on his periodic visits.

G. Health legislation and general provisions.

Laws regulating public health: In principle, the Fezzan is subject to the health regulations in force in Algeria. In addition, in the case of epidemics, the Resident issues temporary regulations and orders vaccinations.

Steps taken for the health education of the population:

- Verbal propaganda by the medical officers and hospital orderlies.
- Demonstration of the use of condensed milk and nursing bottles.
- Installation of shower baths in the hospitals and schools.
- Education given by the teachers to children of school age.
- Refusal of assistance in the case of the repeated presentation of dirty and neglected children.

H. Extent and effects of prostitution.

Prostitution exists throughout the Fezzan, particularly in the Murzug area where morals have always been more lax. There are no houses of prostitution in the Fezzan villages but there are women of easy virtue almost everywhere, who are tracked down when they infect men and given compulsory treatment at a dispensary.

I. Sanitation.

(a) Springs and distribution: In the Fezzan villages, the inhabitants take their water directly from one or more wells. There are no streams or springs (except in the Shatti). The water comes from the water table and is quite plentiful.

(b) Analysis and purification: The French carried out an analysis of the water on their arrival. Bacteriologically, it is drinkable, except in the case of the salty lakes (Jedid, Mandara and the sebkhras). In the Shatti and at Edri particularly, the magnesium salt content gives it a brackish taste and causes newly-arrived Europeans slight diarrhoea. So far there has been no water-borne epidemic disease.

CHAPTER VIII SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ever since its arrival, the French administration has been concerned with finding a solution for the serious social problems existing in the Fezzan. As mentioned earlier in this report, the territory contains a few wealthy families, a minority of persons who are fairly comfortably off and a majority of workers with a very low standard of living. In 1943, most the population was under-nourished.

Owing to the total absence of voluntary organizations (there is not a single Moslem charitable society in the Fezzan), the administration has had to take sole responsibility in fighting poverty, raising the standard of living of the population and preventing unemployment and temporary emigration, which in all the Saharan oases is the consequence of unemployment.

A. Welfare

Since they are generally short of cash, the Fezzanese sell their grain as soon as it is harvested in order to be able to buy tea, sugar and clothing. They do the same with the date harvest. The poorest cannot even buy the tools that they need. Unless they receive financial assistance, they cannot subsist between sowing and harvest time. Various annual loans are granted, all interest free.

a) Loans of seed in the form of winter grain:

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Tons:	32.5	45.2	80.7	77	75

These loans are repayable, after the harvest, in cash or in kind in the borrower's option.

b) Loans of dates: A portion of the dates collected under the tax payable in kind is also lent out during the winter, to be repaid out of the following harvest.

	1946	1947	1948	1949
Tons	200	100	120	120

c) Cash loans: Agricultural loans in cash repayable at harvest time in cash or in kind are granted to the farmers.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Francs:	1,500,000	1,700,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000

/d) Tool vouchers:

d) Tool vouchers: These vouchers are for the distribution of hoes, sickles and "dalous" (leather bags for drawing water) to the very poor.

e) Campaign against unemployment: In addition to the hydraulic works which are designed to extend the area of farming land and which employ a large labour force, there are permanent road or building gangs where unskilled workers can always find work.

B. Raising the standard of living of the lower classes.

When the French administration took over, there existed in the Fezzan a form of serfdom closely akin to slavery. It took the form of binding negro debtors to the land and employing them in the gardens for the heavy work of drawing water. In most cases they received as wages one quarter of the harvest, which was hardly enough to sustain life and certainly not enough to enable them to pay their debts.

According to custom in the Fezzan, the harvest was shared as follows:

One-quarter for the jebbad (drawer of water),

One-quarter for the "dalou" (leather bucket used in drawing water),

One-quarter for the seed,

One-quarter for the land.

The owner of the garden, who supplied the dalou and the seed, received three-quarters of the harvest for doing hardly anything. The jebbad on the other hand, after six months of hard work, was obliged, in order to subsist, either to steal from his master or to be satisfied with eating grated agul roots, since his share and the few perquisites allowed him by the landowner were far from sufficient. When his food-supply was exhausted, which usually happened a few months after the harvest, he was forced to borrow from the landowner in order to avoid dying from starvation. It was usually impossible to repay the debt in full out of the subsequent harvest, or if he did succeed, the debtor was forced to ask for a new loan within a month or two. The debt was carefully kept alive by the landowner, for it furnished him with a tool wherewith to enslave the agricultural worker.

As early as 1944, a decision of the French authorities exempted the share of the jebbad from the tax in kind on grain. In 1946, another step by the administration resulted in a revision of all the contracts between employers and workers on the basis of a two-thirds share to the employer and one-third to the worker.

/Since

Since artesian borings have made it possible to bring land which could not be cultivated before ("mauta" property, i.e. unoccupied and untenanted land) into production, such land has been given over to the jebbadin as their own property. In order to free them from ^{any} obligation to their former masters, the administration reimbursed the landowners for the debts contracted by the jebbad so that the latter could begin to work their new property free of any encumbrance. The administration also provided, free, the tools needed for farming, the dalou and the seed. The first experiment was carried out in the Traghen area where 200 plots of land suitable for cultivation after artesian boring were distributed to the jebbadin.

Apart from the jebbad there are certain classes of Fezzanese society, such as agricultural workers and small landowners, whose condition is almost as wretched. Their lives can only be improved by the extension of irrigation.

Social action on these lines is therefore closely bound up with the country's water system. The administration believes that irrigation ought to be extended since it constitutes the most effective means of improving the lot of the long-neglected majority of the territory's population.

Further particulars regarding the steps taken on behalf of the jebbad will be found in a note attached.

C. Fezzanese Purchasing Group

In 1948, a group of Fezzanese traders set up a company in the form of a co-operative for the purchase abroad and distribution within the country of essential goods. The capital of the company (Chairman: Mr. Belgacem Badi, trader at Murzug) comes from the following sources:

- a) Contributions from the Fezzanese village traders in proportion to population: 5 million francs;
- b) Loan from the Government-General of Algeria: 5 million francs;
- c) Annual renewable advance from the Fezzan budget. The amount, which in 1947 was 5 million francs, was increased to 11 million in 1948 and 10 million in 1949 (the same amount is planned for 1950).

This purchasing group can carry out banking operations, buy the goods needed by the Fezzanese at wholesale prices and build up reserves. Through the operation of an equalization fund, the prices of foodstuffs are the same throughout the territory, even in the most distant villages. The selling prices are

/calculated

calculated according to the lowest rates. Although a kilo of wheat bought for 21 francs in Tunis sometimes costs as much as 32 francs in transport charges, it is still sold to consumers at an average price lower than cost. The selling prices of cloth sold by this group are less than half of those quoted by ordinary traders: 80 francs as against 180 and 200 francs.

The profit on the sales provides 3 per cent of the Fezzan budget in the form of market dues, but it serves chiefly to assist the poor and to bring down the prices of staple foods.

D. Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual

1. Freedom of religion: All the Fezzanese are Moslems. They have full freedom to practice their religion. Fridays and Moslem feast days (Aid el Seghir, Aid el Kebir, Mulud, Ashura) are non-working days in the administrative services and on all public works.

Facilities are granted to Fezzanese who wish to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

2. Freedom of thought: The laws in force place no restriction on freedom of thought. Although no papers are published in the Fezzan, those from Tripoli, Benghazi, Tunis and Cairo are free to enter. The formation of political parties is also free from all restriction. To date, no Fezzanese has requested permission to form such a party.

3. Racial equality: The only Europeans serving in the Fezzan are French soldiers and civil servants. The problem of racial equality does not therefore arise. The Fezzanese can use the same means of transport as Europeans. They can also own them. Existing legislation makes no distinction between Fezzanese and non-Fezzanese.

There was apparently no demonstration in the country in favour of or against the Italians at the time of their defeat.

E. Conditions among the workers.

A distinction should be drawn between workers employed by the administration and those employed by private persons.

1. Workers employed by the administration. These include permanent workers who are attached to different posts and take part in the work of construction, gardening, cleaning and repairing; regular workers who are attached /to gangs

to gangs employed on building, hydraulic works and road repair; domestic workers and lastly reserve workers, who are hired whenever many more workers are required for road gangs or water works.

Permanent workers:

These are paid by the month at the following rates:

Mechanics	(9)	26,500 francs
Gardeners	(10)	4,200 francs
Shaush	(6)	6,000 francs
Messengers	(3)	4,500 francs
Master mason	(1)	26,500 francs

The permanent masons receive daily pay of 250 francs.

All these employees are entitled to family allowances (200 francs a month for each child).

Regular workers:

These receive a daily wage of 150 francs. They are distributed as follows:

Building	30
Water works	60
Tracks	72

Reserve workers:

The number varies according to the work in progress. The maximum has been 600 and the minimum 200. They receive a daily wage of 150 francs.

Hours of work: The working day is 8 hours. Fridays and Moslem feast days are holidays. All workers are granted 15 days paid leave annually. They are given regular medical examinations. Treatment and drugs are free.

Algerian social insurance provisions have been applicable to these workers since 1950.

Work of women, young persons and children: No women are employed by the administration. Several young persons serve as domestic servants in messes or in European households. These posts are very much sought after.

2. Private employees: These are agricultural workers and the jebbadin. The precariousness of their livelihood was referred to above. As an example, in the Ubari region:

A jebbad earns 90 kilos of grain, plus a few perquisites in kind for six months' work;

A small landowner, 150 kilos of grain;

An average landowner, 180 kilos,

A large landowner, 560 kilos.

A weekly holiday has been made obligatory by the French authorities, as has the annual 15 days leave. However, it has not yet been possible to regulate hours of work. These are governed by the drawing of water and vary with the output of the wells and the area of the plots. It is calculated that 12 working hours are needed for the normal irrigation of one garden.

ANNEX

NOTE ON THE REVISION OF THE CONTRACTS OF THE JEBBAD

On the arrival of the French troops in the Fezzan, the attention of the authorities was drawn to the situation of the jebbadin (drawers of water from wells with a pulley system; they work for the landowner). After an exhaustive inquiry, covering more than 70 agricultural centres, it was decided that the share of the jebbad in the harvest should be raised from one-quarter to one-third and that he should continue to enjoy all the benefits which had been granted to him before:

- The "gfiz" or 10th part of every 200 kilos or thereabouts;
- The "dur" or grain sown over $3/4$ of the land cultivated;
- The "gaz" or earth mixed with ears from the threshing floor;
- The "taudi" or handfuls of barley in the corners;
- The "hassida" or gleanings of the barley;
- The "hamil" or unharvested barley stem, etc.

These measures came into application as from the harvest of 1947 throughout the Fezzan, according to written contracts drawn up under the supervision of the chaoukh.

Moreover, an order was given to the mudirs to prepare a statement of the debts of all the jebbadin before 15 October 1946.

Example of a new jebbad contract

The jebbad using a donkey which is his property at a well belonging to his master ("shrik" by association) receives $1/8$ more than is stipulated in the contract of a jebbad who has "only his health" (physical strength) as the saying goes.

Such a contract will therefore involve, as regards cereals:

- $1/3$ of the harvest as the share of the jebbad,
- $1/8$ of the harvest for the donkey, plus the perquisites known as the "awayyed" (enumerated above).

Participation of the jebbad in the date harvest

Except at Jedid and in a very few centres in the Schatti, it was not customary to give the jebbad any share in the date harvest. It was decided throughout the territory that:

1. The jebbad who waters the palms which he has fertilized ought to receive the best cluster of dates from each palm that he waters,
2. The jebbad watering land without palms will receive the harvest from the three best palms of his "shrik";
3. The custom of the "zerafa" or dates falling at the harvest among the stems of the palms or "kernaf" remains unchanged;
4. The custom of filling the basket brought by the members of the jebbad's family when the dates are cut also remains unchanged;
5. The lending of dates at interest, or "faiez", is strictly prohibited.

The jebbad's weekly rest period:

The few hours leave which certain land owners allow the jebbad on Friday mornings (and then it is often to carry fertilizer or grass) are extended to the whole of Friday, which is to be a day of complete rest.

CHAPTER IX

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEZZAN

The prospects for the development of the Fezzan are twofold -- agricultural and commercial -- and are conditioned by the geography and economic history of the country. These prospects leave little room for industrial development.

The Fezzan consists of a group of oases situated in the bottom of a vast depression approximately 800 km. in diameter. The rim of this depression consists of mountain ranges in some parts and of huge sandstone plateaux or vast stretches of desert in others. In the central region a water-table fed by the rainfall in the surrounding region breaks through to the surface here and there. The water comes to the surface, unaided by human effort, in oases which are few and far between. In most cases the water-table is 5 to 10 metres below the surface and at depths greater than 20 -- 25 metres a much more abundant water-table occurs.

This water enabled agriculture of a relatively developed type to be introduced and makes the Fezzan appear a land of great possibilities in comparison with the other Saharan regions. Although the stages in the economic history of the Fezzan cannot be clearly defined, it would appear clear that certain periods of peace in the past enabled the inhabitants to devote great care to agricultural works which the Fezzanese are still turning to account. It is difficult to find any other explanation for the existence of the large palm-groves which are one of the country's main sources of wealth.

But it would seem that during the centuries commerce gained a lead over agriculture in the Fezzan.

The Fezzan is situated at the crossroads of the routes leading from the Mediterranean to the Central Sahara and thence to Equatorial Africa. In the days when the whole of the trade between the Mediterranean and the countries in the interior of Africa was carried by caravan the Fezzan was an indispensable stopping-place on the easier and shorter routes. Agriculture was only the secondary activity of the Fezzan, the backbone of the economy being the profit from trade movements.

The growth of navigation along the African coasts considerably reduced this trade. The trade of the Fezzan no longer leads to the sea but consists merely of trading between the Saharan populations. It is destined to develop anew as the quantity of products which the Fezzan can supply increases. It follows that the commercial development of the country depends on its agricultural development.

A. AGRICULTURE

The agriculture of the Fezzan, which for centuries was regarded as a secondary activity, has not progressed as it might have done.

The deficiencies of Fezzanese agriculture can be set forth in a few lines: water is plentiful and there is no lack of land, but the inhabitants numbering some 45,000 and almost exclusively engaged in agriculture, succeeded with difficulty in extracting from the soil, in two harvests, 25,000 quintals of cereals, a quantity far short of that required to provide them with a normal diet. Not until 1950 will the first results of the efforts made by the French authorities to restore the agriculture of the Fezzan really be felt. The grain harvest in 1950 will exceed 50,000 quintals or more than 100 kg. per inhabitant.

The quantity of meat consumed by the population is almost negligible. Their diet consists entirely of an average of 170 kg. of dates per annum plus the cereals and is therefore very unbalanced. The palm trees are almost uncared for and the working population therefore spends all its time in producing a grain crop which before 1950 was manifestly inadequate to meet the country's requirements.

Every year since 1943 the administering Power has had to supply the Territory with cereals in order to enable it to subsist.

Agricultural methods differ little from one place to another. There are no fields but only "suani" gardens divided into small plots of an average area of 3 sq. m., which are successively irrigated. The tenants devote almost all their efforts to the drawing of water. At the highest point in each garden there is a well with scaffolding which supports pulleys and ropes controlling the movement of a leather bucket known as the dalou. By their combined efforts

one man and one donkey raise some 60 litres of water per minute, a task which they carry on monotonously throughout the day. A young man or young woman working side by side with the water-drawer or jebbad operates the irrigation ditches ("seguia") and allows the water to flow in turn to the various plots in the garden.

B. THE WATER PROBLEM

The most important of all the tasks undertaken by the administering Power for the modernization of the Fezzan consists in freeing Fezzanese agriculture from its dependence on water-drawing by bringing the water to the surface by suitable mechanical means.

The Territory has a large water-table which comes to the surface, by artesian forces, in the Shatti and the Hofra (Traghen). A full geological survey of the region has disclosed the existence at these two points of an artesian water-table at a depth of 50 -- 100 metres in the Shatti and of 40 -- 80 metres in the Hofra. This water comes from vast water-tables at estimated depths of 360 metres in the eastern part of the Shatti, 1500 metres in the western part of the Hofra and between 200 and 1000 metres elsewhere, but no estimate of the effective output of water from the wells to be sunk can yet be made.

The administration made a preliminary experiment consisting in the replacement of the traditional well installations -- briefly described above -- by motor pumps. Of the 28 Bernard motors brought to the Fezzan in 1947 only 5 are still in working order. The cost of one motor is 250,000 francs. The cost of equipping all of the 6000 wells in the Fezzan with these motors would be 1,500 million francs, and the high price of petrol (or other fuels), in a country where it has to be transported by lorry across some 1500 km. of desert, would be a heavy item in the cost of production. Lastly, the time is still far off when all of the Fezzan villages will have a mechanic capable of operating the motors properly, maintaining them and carrying out the necessary minor repairs. The "motor" experiment can be regarded as unsuccessful.

/The technicians

The technicians subsequently considered the possibility of using norias with plaited chains and buckets of palm fibre which could be manufactured locally. This type of noria is the only rustic device which can be used for the speedy conversion of the old installations. The problem of motive power is solved by the existence in the Territory of a herd of camels the number of which could easily be increased. This system has so far met with a lack of understanding on the part of the inhabitants who have no clear idea of the advantages of the noria as compared with the dalou. However, the administration has not lost all hope of convincing them. On its instructions, an industrial firm has produced a model noria, in cast iron, which could be imported after 1950. The cost of this type of noria, including installation, would be some 200,000 francs and the total outlay for its installation in the 600 wells in the Territory would amount to some 1,200 million francs.

At one time consideration was also given to windmills which are very widely used in Tripolitania. These are much more expensive than the norias, as a water storage tank has to be built and upkeep is difficult. The cost of one windmill is 250,000 francs and the installation and storage tank involve a further outlay of 400,000 francs. The cost of constructing 1,500 windmills would be 975 million francs.

There remained the most attractive solution, that is, artesian wells. A thorough survey of water resources in the Fezzan was carried out from 1944 to 1946 by Messrs. LELUBRE, BELLAIR, MULLER and FEUGA, experts in Saharan hydraulics. They drew up a preliminary five-year plan for the sinking of shallow wells in the years 1946 - 1951, to be followed by a plan for the tapping of the deep water-tables in 1952 - 1957.

Forty-one artesian wells have been sunk since 1944 with varying results. Thirty-two of them were sunk in the Shatti where the conditions were most favourable. In that region the water-table is nearer the surface than in the other regions and the landowners are more alive to the possibility of improving their crops.

It was experimental work carried out in the particularly poor region of Traghen (Shatti) which showed that living conditions in the Fezzan could be improved by solving the water problem. The three artesian wells sunk at Traghen, with a capacity of 135 cu. m., made it possible to make a free distribution of 466 plots of land, each 625 sq. m. in area. The farmers were led to abandon

/their land

their land and re-settle around the new water points. A storage tank with a capacity of 180 cu. m. was constructed. As a result, the water from one well can be stored during the night and can be used during the day together with the water which passes directly from the wells into the irrigation ditches.

The cost of one 100 metre artesian well is roughly 3 million francs. There are 30 villages or nomad tribes in the Shatti and the cost of sinking wells in this region therefore amounts to 90 million francs. Plans have also been made for ten new wells to irrigate the lucerne fields which will provide the fodder required by the nomad herds -- this involves a further outlay of 30 million francs.

Fifteen wells at a cost of 45 million francs are planned for the Hofra (Traghen region).

A deep well costs about 40 million francs. The water experts consider that 25 wells of this type should be sunk at a cost of 1,000 million francs.

Thus, the total cost of sinking artesian wells in the Fezzan would be 1,165 million francs plus 236 million francs for 17 test borings.

During the next ten years the development of the Fezzan will be governed by the increase in the number of artesian wells, the resulting revival of agriculture and the social adjustment to this technical revolution. The relatively large area of the "mawat" or wastelands will make development easier by simplifying the land problem.

The inhabitants of the Fezzan, who will no longer be dependent upon the drawing of water, will have to be given agricultural training. They will learn to use the implements provided to them, to work the soil more deeply, to care for their land, to adapt their crops to the soil, to use selected seeds and to improve their "segua" so as to prevent the seeds from being washed away by the water.

The rational organization of agricultural training will go hand in hand with the provision of new facilities for the inhabitants. An agricultural centre will start to operate at Sebha in October 1950.

It would seem that in the first programme for the sinking of artesian wells too much was made of the farmers' ability to adapt themselves and to use the larger water supply for the development of new land. The administration had to postpone the sinking of some wells until a plan for their use had been drawn up and until the users had had time to familiarize themselves with this innovation.

C. Political aspects of the development of the Fezzan

The French Administration has encountered certain political difficulties in its efforts to transform the agricultural economy of the country. The traditional hydraulic methods were conducive to the maintenance of social conditions in which two distinct classes were opposed to each other; on the one hand, the large and medium landowners, the successors of the large merchants and the merchants themselves, members of religious bodies, officials and nomads who own almost all of the gardens and have them cultivated, and on the other, the "métayer" water-drawers and labourers working for the members of the first class described above. The jebbadin (water-drawers) were bound to their employers by a debt system, and their status was therefore that of serfs rather than of free workers. The class of large and medium landowners forms about one quarter of the population, and the actual workers, three quarters.^{1/}

In 1946 the French authorities increased the jebbad's share of the crop to one third. It had previously been only one quarter. Further action should be taken in this connexion as a large part of the Territory's small income now goes to a very small minority which contributes little, by its work, to the prosperity of the Fezzan.

The distribution of land around the new wells, particularly at Traghen, was made for the benefit of the whole population and, as a result, the jebbadin became landowners once their debts had been paid by the administration. The large landowners were deprived of the usual labour for their gardens and were only too glad to accept an irrigated plot which they must now cultivate themselves.

^{1/} The 1947 census gives the following figures:

Large landowners: 1732	}	One quarter of the population
Medium landowners: 10,040		
Small landowners: 13,112	}	Three quarters of the population
Agricultural workers: 15,120		
Jebbadin: 7,640		

The success of the technical revolution now in progress is bound up with that of a veritable social revolution, on the completion of which all the inhabitants of the Fezzan will be concerned as landowners to make the land they cultivate adequately productive.

D. The problem of the palms

Freed from the slavery of water-drawing, the Fezzanese will have to learn how better to cultivate their palm trees so as to obtain a better yield.

At the present time, the attention they give to their trees is confined to fertilizing them in May and gathering the harvest in November and December. In no case are the trees cared for or pruned. The proportion of trees totally neglected and therefore producing no crop is estimated at more than 80%.

Nevertheless, the annual fruit crop amounts to 15,000 tons, about one third of which is sold to nomads in the territory or from neighboring territories.

A first effort has already been made to increase production.

Fertilization has been extended to a greater number of trees and certain processes derived from Algerian or Tunisian techniques have been taught to the Fezzanese. These steps should be followed by a more elaborate plan for improving the quality of the fruit and making it exportable. Owing to its inferior quality, the Fezzanese date does not find a good market but has to be sold off cheap. While some results may be expected from the selection of native plants such as the Tassert and Selaula, the primary objective should be the systematic introduction of new trees, particularly from Deglat, which provide fruits that are universally esteemed. The study of the acclimatization of various kinds should be spread over a period of fifteen years. The cost of introducing 3000 suckers and maintaining them for fifteen years would be about 65 million francs. The process of substituting these new plants for the old trees will be long and costly. It is not at present possible to give any estimate of the expense in figures.

E. New crops

The production of dates, a heavy crop already abundant in the Sahara, is not necessarily the true vocation of a country which can engage in the
/production

production of much more lucrative crops. During the period in which an attempt is to be made to adapt new kinds of palms, experiments should be conducted with olive trees, apricot trees and the various fruit trees, the cultivation of which on irrigated land can be contemplated in hot countries.

The cultivation of tomatoes has already yielded good results. It is to be increased. Dried tomatoes bring a price double that of wheat. Now that the cereal harvest is sufficient to provide the staple foodstuffs, increasing attention must be given to the growing of vegetables.

Experiments have already been tried, and will possibly be developed, with beans, flax, peanuts, tobacco, the castor oil plant and various oleaginous plants.

As said before, the development of agricultural production in the Fezzan in the immediate future is entirely bound up with the question of water. The main features of the solution which that problem demands have already been outlined. Experiments that may be regarded as conclusive have already been conducted. It is now for the geologists precisely to demarcate the areas in which efforts should be intensified. A general survey of soils and water resources is now being made. It appears that the next well-boring operations will have to be carried out in the particularly poor areas of Wadi Ajel, Wadi Etba and the area between Murzuq and Zuila. The introduction of new crops will depend on the completion of this work.

F. Trade

The first objective of the revival of Fezzanese agriculture, that of providing the population with adequate means of existence, has now been attained. The further execution of the water resources plan will soon produce a surplus of exportable products which will make the Fezzan one of the suppliers of all the population groups in the central Sahara. Thanks to its geographical situation, the territory has enjoyed prosperity in the past. A relative flourishing economy at that time won it the name of "Granary of the Ajjer". To-day it entertains the ambition of soon becoming the "Counter of the Sahara" in the sense in which that word is understood in the population centers of southern Algeria and southern Tunisia, where the grocer is the only trader and the supplier of all consumer goods.

/At the

At the present time, the commercial life of the Fezzan functions as follows. Textiles, tea, sugar, oil, wool and miscellaneous goods come in from Tunisia or Tripolitania. These products are exchanged for cash, or, when they are brought in by nomads, for dates.

Part of the commodities is consumed in the Fezzan; while the rest passes through Ghat to the Sudan, Air, Damergu and the countries of Nigeria or through Gatrum to Kuar, Kanem, and the regions of Chad, Tibesti, Borku, Wa'ai and Darfour.

In exchange, all these countries of central Africa send to the Fezzan hides, manufactured goods, butter from Chad, coffee and textiles, which are consumed in the Fezzan or redistributed. Some merchants, mostly Tripolitanians or Tunisians, make large profits, completely unrecorded in the statistics, on the sale of Saharan consumer goods, some of which are produced in the Sahara while others are imported European goods. The origin of the trade in European products is the difference in prices charged in the various areas bordering on the Sahara, a difference which in turn is due to the fluctuation of rates of currency exchange.

While the vicissitudes of political life in the Fezzan have occasionally seriously interfered with interchange, they have never completely interrupted it. Since the opening of the frontier between Libya and the French Sahara, Fezzanese trade has again turned in that direction, and the traditional routes are experiencing renewed activity.

The prospects of agricultural development in the Fezzan offer a guarantee of the future of these routes. They should be the normal channels for the movement towards the countries of the Sahara of the foodstuffs, mainly cereals and vegetables, which, alone of all the desert countries, the Fezzan can supply in sufficient quantities. In the trade now carried on, transit operations are most important, while the export of surplus Fezzanese products produced in the Fezzan is of merely incidental significance, but the positions should gradually be reversed.

G. Road Traffic

To make the development of road traffic possible, the administering Power has been endeavouring to maintain the network of tracks and to regulate the traffic.

/A direct

A track between Sebha and Brach across the Zellaf has made it possible to reduce the distance between these two centres from 200 to 70 kilometres. The track leading to south Tunisia and Gabes has been remade, particularly between Derj and Bir Ghazeil. A new track has been constructed connecting Derj with Edri and running through Awinet Wenin, thus reducing the distance from Gabes to Sebha by 200 kilometres. Already in 1948 two scrapers, three bulldozers, one motorgrader and a leveller were in permanent service on this road, work on the remaking of which will be completed in 1950. Then work will be done on the very important tracks leading in one direction towards Ghat and in the other towards Gatrún and Korizo. The section of the track between Gatrún and Un el Aranab has already been prepared.

The Fort-Lamy-Gatrún-Sebha route is already used regularly by the Chad traders. Since 1948 experiments have been made with a commercial road connexion from Tunis to Fort-Lamy, the same route as that followed twice a month from 1943 to 1946 by the motor supply convoys of the Leclerc army.

In the autumn of 1950 a relay post will be established at Sebha on the Tunis-Fort-Lamy commercial route, with a fleet of lorries and a large repair shop. The opening of regular traffic by motor convoy with the Chad will restore to the Fezzan part of its former commercial importance and considerably enlarge the territory's economic prospects.

H. Air Traffic

While Saharan trade in general should profit by the restoration of connexions with the Fezzan, a new trans-continental trade should enable the Fezzan to recover its function as a stopping-point which it held until the beginning of the century. With the development of air services, the Fezzan has a chance of gaining a place on the great highways of world trade.

Sebha is in fact on the direct route leading from the countries of Western Europe to the countries of central Africa. Normally, the Fezzan would be traversed by the routes: Paris-Brazzaville, Paris-Tananarive via Zouar and Nairobi, Brussels-Leopoldville, and Tripoli-Kano. The adoption of this route would shorten by 600 kilometres the Paris-Brazzaville crossing as at present operated, and the Paris-Tananarive crossing by 1000 kilometres. In addition, atmospheric conditions are generally more favourable over the Fezzan than in the more western parts of the Sahara.

The main airfields have already been equipped. The three principal aerodromes at Ghadames, Sebha and Ghat already have radio direction-finding equipment, modern radio transmitters and meteorological stations. The marking of the runways, which is satisfactory at Ghadames and Sebha, will have to be improved at Ghat.

The first urgent task will be to mark out two runways on the auxiliary airfields, which have generally up to the present been marked rectangularly only. This incidentally, must also be done for the airfields in French Equatorial Africa. The north-south line will thus be marked off at the following points: Derj, Bir Ghazeil, Awinet and Wig el Seghir. In French Equatorial Africa, where Largeau and Fort Lamy are the principal aerodromes, subsidiary aerodromes already exist at Wur, Zuar, Scherdas, Korotoro and Mussoro.

Once this essential work has been done, the civil aviation services must be induced to do something about the breakdown equipment, at present very rudimentary, at each of the main aerodromes.

Hotel accommodation is already satisfactory: there are suitable hotels now at the Sebha and Ghadames stops.

I. Secondary Economic Activities

The main purpose is to make of this territory, which before the last war was regarded as the miserable hinterland of a relatively rich coastal belt, a group of oases able to assume a pre-eminent position in the framework of the Saharan economy owing to the abundance of their situation from the point of view of commerce.

The essential importance of agriculture and trade in the Fezzan should not lead one to ignore a number of secondary economic activities the development of which will contribute to the country's prosperity.

(a) Stock-raising.

Stock-raising is still in a rudimentary state. Pasture land is too scarce to provide nourishment for large herds. Statistics (the accuracy of which, by the way, is doubtful) provide the following figures: 12,000 sheep and goats, 6,000 donkeys and 5,000 camels.

/The settled population

The settled population is chiefly interested in the raising of donkeys, whose part in the drawing of water has been explained above. They are fed largely on dates. During recent years the administration has regularly imported Tibesti donkeys, which are particularly robust and well-adapted to the desert.

The sheep and camel-raising on the other hand is largely confined to the nomadic populations, which move their flocks across the areas bordering on the Fezzan basin: arabicized Berbers of the northern tribes, Tebus from the districts of French Equatorial Africa, and Tuaregs from the Algerian frontier. These groups move from one country to another without heeding frontiers. It is difficult to estimate their size. They are thought to amount to about 5,000 persons. The name Fezzanese is reserved to the settled population, and is not applied to the nomads.

The stock-raising in which they engage is intended almost exclusively to supply their own consumption requirements, and only when forced by necessity can they be induced to sell their animals. To assist them to increase their flocks, the watering points where, for any reason, the water supply has failed or is polluted should be put in order. Thus the Bir En Nahia and Bir Mangul wells in the Hamada el Homra have been restored. In some cases new wells will have to be dug. On the whole, however, it is difficult to see how nomadic stock-raising could be made to contribute to the economic development of the Fezzan without forcing the populations concerned to adopt a semi-settled mode of life. To the extent to which the great nomadic proprietors who live on the labour of their jebbad are deprived of their income, this transformation will take place automatically. Every time irrigated lands are distributed in lots, portions will be assigned systematically to those of the nomads who are already established in the villages (the Guirza well among the Megarha; lucerne fields in years of drought). As regards the remainder of the tribes, it will be necessary, in so far as they are amenable to new methods, to establish at every agricultural experimental station a stock-raising centre where demonstrations will be given of the care of stock. At the same time these centres will encourage the development of a settled type of stock-raising which, however, must always be on a somewhat small scale.

In present circumstances, the oasis Fezzanese have only a small number of sheep. Their flocks must be increased to provide the population with a better-balanced diet than it now enjoys. The development of forage crops is the principal condition to the introduction of a family type ~~of stock~~ stock-raising capable of satisfying the country's meat requirements. The establishment of a sheep population of 50,000 within 10 years may be regarded as a reasonable objective. Experiments giving satisfactory results have been made with the introduction of the long-tailed barbary sheep, the features of which are so perfectly adapted to the Tunisian climate.

The camel herds of the settled population must increase at a similar rate. If the use of norias can be developed, the Fezzanese should have a camel population of about 20,000 living on dates of inferior quality.

(b) Craftsmen.

The increase in the number of sheep will provide the craftsman class with a more abundant and cheaper raw material than that offered by the nomadic populations. Wool and hides are very important in the various crafts, which in the Fezzan are little developed.

Most craft work is done by the family or at most within the village. Products rarely pass from village to village. None are sent out of the Fezzan.

At Brach and Jedib sandals and slippers are made; at Jedib, Semnu and Traghan, reed mats; at Temessa, textiles; at Gatrún and Tedjeri, articles made of esparto grass. Pottery techniques are particularly rudimentary. The art of baking clay is unknown in the Fezzan.

Owing to its central situation and its relatively advanced position with regard to the development of craft techniques, Murzug already has a centre where some ten mastercraftsmen in leather are assembled at one place and work under the head of a craftsmen's guild. The volume of production is not great, but the products are interesting from the artistic point of view: some finely executed objects such as embroidered leathers might well find outlets in the Mediterranean countries and in Europe.

An apprenticeship centre for carpenters, cartwrights and mechanics will as a matter of course find its place beside the repair shop which the road transport company operating the Tunis-Fezzan service is to set up at Sebha. Owing to this proximity, the operational expenses of the apprenticeship centre will be considerably reduced.

J. Miscellaneous Industries

Fezzanese production has not hitherto involved the operation of any transforming industry. Studies made in connexion with the distillation of dates have been abandoned because of the uneconomic nature of the operation.

The Fezzan already possesses an extractive industry, though a rather small one, the soda industry. About 100 tons of this carbonate of soda collected from lake surfaces in the Oubari area is exported annually to Tripoli or Tunis. Markets have never been very numerous, ^{and} it does not seem possible to find others than those provided by the tobacco factories of Egypt, Tripolitania, Tunis and Algeria. Production may be increased without difficulty, since the extractive processes are simple and the raw material comparatively abundant; but before anything is done in this connexion, outlets for the increased production must be found.

The question of petroleum is still in the realm of conjecture. The contradictory statements of geologists do not make it possible to form a definite opinion of the oil-bearing potentialities of the Fezzanes sub-soil.

K. CONCLUSIONS

The drawing-up of a development plan for the Fezzan was a relatively simple matter, owing chiefly to the fact that the country's economy was essentially agricultural and dominated by geographic and historic conditions common to all the oasis areas of the Sahara.

The immediate objective set by the French authorities as soon as the occupation of the territory commenced has been attained: to enable the Fezzanese to find on their own soil sufficient resources to ensure their subsistence, to impress upon a people living in wretched material conditions and in constant fear of a return to the time of insecurity that they are part of a community capable of development, to put a stop to the most flagrant social inequalities and to organize the first stages in education, public health and hygiene.

The second purpose of the administration is to increase the agricultural capacity of the country by a long-term water supply policy making it possible to cultivate fresh land and restoring to this territory its former important place in the great movements of African trade.

/This purpose

This purpose will be accomplished only to the extent to which the Fezzan has sufficient human and material resources. In present circumstances, the territory can supply only a small portion of either.

The Fezzan has no technical expert, no university graduate, and the number of persons capable of assuming responsible positions in a modern organization is extremely small.

The equipment of the territory cannot be financed out of the Fezzanese budget, the ordinary resources of which will for long remain slender. The development of the Fezzan can be ensured only by the influx of capital from abroad. The special conditions governing the economy of the Sahara imply that any advances that are made will not yield a return for a long time.

The administering Power is of the opinion that in the territory's present circumstances, and for the purpose of promptly and rationally utilizing the resources available, multiple-purpose centres should be established to act as points for the dissemination of knowledge. The jointly undertaken and often overlapping efforts of the mudirs, teachers, medical officers and agronomists will be repeated in the neighbouring villages by monitors, hospital attendants and agricultural monitors whose own knowledge is still undeveloped but who will in the end carry out the most urgent work.

The geographical situation of these centres will for practical purposes be determined both by the distribution of the population and considerations of water supply. Of the comparatively developed villages those will be chosen where water can be brought to the surface without effort and where consequently men can be relieved of the work of drawing water and instead apply themselves to the business of developing new land.

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