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Summary and Analyses of Information Transmitted
Under Article 73(e) of the CharterReport of the Secretary-General
Item 28(a) of the Provisional Agenda for the Second Session)SUMMARY OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK*

By letter of 11 July 1947 the Permanent Delegate of Denmark to the United Nations transmitted information presented by the Administration of Greenland.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Greenland covers an area of about 2,182,000 square kilometers. About 313,000 sq. km are free of ice. The scattered settlements, about 200 in number, are situated at the coasts. The largest has about 1,000 inhabitants. The Greenland population which originally was purely Eskimo is now a mixed European-Eskimo population. At the census of 1901, the Greenland population was 11,621. By December 1944 it has increased to 20,574, Thule included. In December 1944 the native population was distributed as follows: Men (12 years and upwards), 6,160; women (12 years and upwards), 6,963; boys (11 years and less), 3,676; girls (11 years and less), 3,775.

Further, there was in December 1944 a non-native, Danish population of 494.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DANISH COLONIZATION

The information transmitted contains the following statement:

"Denmark's policy in Greenland pursues the sole object of protecting and developing the Greenland population so that in time it may attain an economic and social-ethical standard which will enable it to live in free communication with the rest of the world. Unregulated communication with the outside and the free entry of seamen and travellers would, however, expose the population to physical and moral dangers. For this reason, Greenland is, for the time being, considered a closed area, which means that only ships sent out by the Danish Government, ships holding special permits issued by the Danish Government, or ships authorized to do so by treaty, will be allowed to navigate in Greenland waters. Persons not belonging to the Greenland community will be allowed to enter the country only subject to the permission of the Danish Government. All trading and industrial activities in Greenland are being carried on by the Danish Government which according to existing law is liable to apply all working profits accruing from such activities to the benefit of the Greenlanders. For the past century the Kingdom of Denmark has derived no economic advantage from Greenland. Trade within the country

* By virtue of Resolution No. 66(I) of the General Assembly, this Summary is also being laid before the ad hoc committee on the transmission of information under Article 73(e) of the Charter.

"and free trading activities are in the hands of the Greenland population. The Greenlanders are Danish subjects and enjoy priority as regards all appointments under the Administration of Greenland provided they possess the necessary vocational qualifications."

ADMINISTRATION

Administratively Greenland is divided into South Greenland, North Greenland and East Greenland. The administration comes under the charge of the Danish Prime Minister through a special department: The Administration of Greenland at Copenhagen. In Greenland the administration is in the hands of two Governors ("Landsfoged") for South and North Greenland. East Greenland is administered from Copenhagen. The Governors are the supreme civil and police authorities of the province. They further supervise the health services and trading activities of the provinces and act as judge and probate registrars.

South and North Greenland each has a provincial council under the chairmanship of the Governor of the province. The members of the provincial councils are elected by the municipal councillors and district councillors jointly. No resolution passed by any of the above councils is effective until it has been sanctioned by the Governor or the Prime Minister.

North and South Greenland are divided into municipalities and municipal districts. Each municipality has a municipal council. Every native-born male Greenlander 22 years old and all civil servants having served at least two years in Greenland are entitled to vote and are eligible for election when 25 years old. Each municipal district has a district council. The chairman is appointed by the Governor and is in most cases the settlement manager. He is the representative of the Governor. The district council comprises both Greenlanders and Danes, but the latter must not be in majority.

Bills have now been submitted for the extension of franchise to women and for their eligibility to the councils.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

South and North Greenland are divided into districts, each in charge of a Trade Manager assisted by a number of Assistant-Managers and on the branch trading stations, the so-called "outlying stations", of local managers, who in most cases are Greenlanders. The industrial enterprises owned by the Government, such as coal mines, ship- and boat-yards, canning factories, agricultural and sheepbreeding research stations, and a number of telegraph stations, are managed by special civil servants under the supervision of the Governor. An exception is formed by the cryolite quarry at Ivigtut which is operated by a chartered company in which the Government owns 50 per cent of the shares, so that one-half of the profits (or in some cases more) without deduction accrue to the Greenland community.

COURTS OF LAW

The Governor of the province is the supreme judicial authority, all sentences passed and decisions given by the District Courts being subject to his approval. The District Courts consist of the chairman of the district council and 2 or 4 lay assessors, at least one-half of whom must be Greenlanders.

/CIVIL RIGHTS

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Greenlanders enjoy the same civil rights as the Danes as regards liberty of speech, press, faith and the holding of meetings and also as regards the liberty of choosing an occupation and a place of residence.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The basic principle of Greenland's financial conditions is that "the Danish Government shall make no profits on the Greenland monopoly". During the period up to 1939, the aggregate revenues and expenditures of Greenland have on the whole balanced. This result is in particular due to the revenues derived by the treasury from the cryolite quarries at Ivigtut. In the Estimates for 1947/48 a subsidy from the Danish Government of 5 Million Kr. has been included.*

HEALTH SERVICE

The Governors supervise the health service of the country, each in his province.

The health service is based on a total of 13 hospitals accommodating 350 patients. As a rule, each hospital is in charge of a Danish medical officer assisted by a Danish trained nurse. In the largest the staff comprises 2 Danish medical officers and 3 Danish trained nurses. The smallest is a branch hospital managed by a Danish nurse and occasionally visited by a medical officer.

The total number of physicians in Greenland is 14, and there are 16 trained nurses. About 100 native women assist. They take a two or three-year course in nursing, first aid and midwifery. There is a trained midwife for every 35 women capable of giving birth, distributed equally throughout the country. Wherever there is no permanent physician, a suitable stock of medicines and bandages is provided which is distributed by authorized laymen.

2 dentists serve the inhabitants. All medical and dental attention is paid for out of public funds.

The total annual expenses of the Greenland health service amount to Kr. 500,000.00/ or Kr. 25.00/ per capita.

No ship may contact the Greenland population unless a medical certificate has been issued in respect of every person on board.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

Employment is on a small scale and employees consist partly of the government-employed tradesmen, skilled workers, and partly of day labourers.

* Note by the Secretariat: Approximately one million dollars.

/ Note by the Secretariat: Approximately \$100,000, and \$5.00 respectively.

The applicable law regarding working hours and holidays and the employment of women and children corresponds to the provisions in force in Denmark, subject to the modifications necessitated by the geographical and climatical conditions. Workmen's compensation is provided for day labourers.

In accordance with the general rule of Danish law, Danish legislation for the protection of labour does not apply to Greenland, but the undertakings of the Government in Greenland adhere to the provisions of Danish law in this respect. The wage level of the Greenland workers is lower than that ruling in Denmark. There is no unemployment problem. So far there is no actual labour movement.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

The information transmitted contains a brief statement of policy.

The Dean of Greenland is the highest school authority and supervisor of all educational matters. In each of the 14 large and 3 small parishes the Rector is in charge of the children's schools in the parish. There are 16 Greenland clergymen, one of whom acts as deputy dean, and 3 Danish clergymen, one of whom is Dean. Supervision of children's schools is exercised by three school consultants, 1 Greenlander and 2 Danes. Advanced schools are under the joint control of the Dean and the Governor.

Pro-schools* with Greenland language as the principal language have been established on the prototype of Danish schools at all settlements, with compulsory attendance by all children of ages from 7 - 14.

Private schools are unknown, but parents who so desire may teach their children themselves provided that they submit to the supervision of the school committees.

There are no illiterates in Greenland.

The staff of teachers is as follows:

11 Danish teachers, graduates of Danish Teacher's Schools.

95 Greenland teachers trained in seminaries in Greenland.

92 Greenland teachers with a 3-year training.

36 Greenland teachers with lesser training.

234 Teachers.

In the 196 schools of the country are 3,911 children, which is equivalent to 18% of the native population.

The annual school period is fixed at 9 months. Consideration is given to non-interference with the sealing and fishing voyages. The curriculum calls for 200 school days per year, but it fluctuates between 160 and 215 with an average of 183 school days.

The subjects taught are: Greenland language, arithmetic, writing, Danish, religion, civics, history, natural history, geography, drawing and singing. In several of the larger schools athletics, physics, needlework, and in one school wood carving (sloyd) for the boys, are taught.

* Note by the Secretariat: Elementary schools

In a number of children's schools baths and meals are provided.

The advanced schools are all boarding schools comprising 4 post-graduate schools at which 24 girls and 65 boys are receiving a two-year training in continuation of the elementary school.

There is 1 high school for 25 young men and a seminary with 15 grown-up pupils. The high school has a two-year curriculum and gives a commercial course and a seminary course.

Selected students from the seminary are sent to Denmark where they receive Danish training as teachers or clergymen.

Teaching in the higher schools is mainly undertaken by Danish teachers and the school language is partly Danish.

The Telegraph Operators' School at Godthaab trains Greenland telegraph operators.

A technical school and an apprentices' home for artisan apprentices are situated at Holsteinsborg.

All major settlements are provided with public libraries. The greater part of the books are in the Danish language.

No political societies have been formed.

Two large and a considerable number of small, local periodicals are published.

At Godthaab there is a small broadcasting station.

Five settlements are provided with sound-film cinemas showing selected films two to four times a week.

TRADES

The main trades are fishery and sealing and some sheep-breeding.

Fishery

The most important is the cod fishery. Shark, halibut, salmon-trout and wolf-fish are of less importance.

Sealing and Whaling

Hunting of seals, whales, walrus and other sea mammals, originally the principal trade in Greenland, has of late years lost some of its importance in South Greenland, but is still of vital importance in North Greenland.

Fox Trapping

Fox trapping (white or blue polar fox) is carried out on a limited basis.

The shooting of reindeer, hare and sea birds is of seasonal importance to provide meat.

/Sheep Breeding

Sheep Breeding

Ewes at present amount to about 16,000 head.

THE THULE DISTRICT

The Thule District is under the jurisdiction of the Governor of North Greenland. The administration differs from that of Western Greenland. The councils are replaced by a Hunters' Council consisting of six members, the manager of the settlement, the clergyman, the physician and three elected Greenland members.

The activities correspond to those of the above mentioned councils and the council has judicial powers. All sentences passed, on the request of the person sentenced, are submitted to the Governor for approval.

EAST GREENLAND

Danish colonization here did not commence until 1894. As a consequence, law and social order have been based on the common law and inherited traditions.

The Administration of East Greenland comes under an Inspector. The settlement managers at Angmagssalik and Scoresby Sound, together with the clergymen of the district, maintain peace and order.

In the summer of 1946 the population of East Greenland adopted certain provisions of law which came into force on June 1st 1947, and provide for the establishment of a council in each of the East Greenland districts. The composition and work of these councils correspond to those of the Hunters' Council in the Thule District.

In law cases the Greenland Administration is the supreme judicial authority. The Courts consist of four members not less than two of whom shall be Greenlanders.

All other institutions and communal functions correspond to those mentioned under the headings of Western Greenland and the Thule District. However, the population of East Greenland is of more nomadic habits and subsists mainly on sealing and whaling.
