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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: SUMMARY AND
ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF
THE CHARTER. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Summary of information transmitted by the Government
of the United States of America

In accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of General Assembly resolution 218 (III), the Secretary-General has prepared the following full summary of information transmitted in 1952 showing the progress made over the past three-year period in respect of economic, social and educational conditions in Alaska.

The information has been classified under the main sections contained in parts I to IV of the revised Standard Form approved by General Assembly resolution 551 (VI).

The currency of Alaska is the United States dollar.

ALASKA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Geography, history and people

The area of Alaska is 586,400 square miles, of which 15,335 are inland waterways.

From 1799 to 1863 the territory was under the administration of the Russian-American Company. In 1867 it was purchased from Russia by the United States. In 1884 Congress created the District of Alaska. The territory remained dormant and almost entirely unexplored until the gold stampede in 1898.

The people of Alaska comprise Whites, Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts. More than any other indigenous group in the territory the Eskimos have preserved their language, customs and traditions. However, they are participating more and more in the economy of the Arctic region. They are regarded by their employers as expert machinery operators, mechanics and truck drivers. The Indian population comprises several linguistic stocks, of which the Alhapascans and Thirgits are the most numerous, the former living in scattered villages in the interior largely engaged in fishing and hunting, and the latter, more readily adjusting to the economy and mode of life of the region, participate in its industrial undertakings. The Aleuts, who live mainly in the Aleutian Islands, engage almost entirely in fishing operations or work the boats.

The Alaskan natives constituted almost one half of the total population in 1920 and slightly more than that fraction in 1929; but by 1939 the white population exceeded the native population by a considerable margin. Statistics of population were:

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1950</u>
Total	72,524	94,875	128,643
Whites	39,170	58,200	94,759 ^{a/}
Indigenous	32,458	35,375	33,884
Others	896	1,300	-

a/ Including others.

Government

The actual government of Alaska is both Federal and Territorial. It is divided into the usual executive, legislative, and judiciary branches, executive power being vested in the Governor. The Territorial Legislature consists of sixteen members in the Senate and twenty-four in the House. In 1948 for the first time, three Eskimos were elected to the Territorial Legislature and served with distinction. Two others were also elected to the Senate and two to the House of Representatives in 1951.

Alaskans have long contemplated statehood, and in October 1946 a referendum showed popular sentiment in favour of such change. In 1950, the Statehood Bill passed by the United States House of Representatives failed to reach the floor of the Senate. In 1951, the United States Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs reported favourably on the Statehood Bill, but it failed to pass in the Senate. In the territory, a Statehood Committee has been appointed for the specific purpose of processing the material necessary for drafting a new constitution.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

General

The territory has very substantial deposits of many minerals which have yielded about one billion dollars worth of wealth since 1880. However, mining now ranks second to fisheries in the economic activities of the territory, the total annual production value of the latter being in excess of \$100,000,000. Forests are another outstanding natural resource. A significant advance in the utilization of coast forest timber was the conclusion of a sale of 1,500,000,000 cubic feet of timber for a 50-year period to be used in the manufacture of paper pulp, a large-scale year-round industry employing about 1,200 persons, which will add considerably to the economic activity of the territory. In order to put the territory's financial house in order, comprehensive, sound, and reasonable changes in the tax structure have been adopted. In consequence, the tax yield for the 1949-51 biennium was nearly 17 million dollars or 3 1/2 times as great as that for the period 1941-46, and collections for 1951-53 are expected to net

27 million dollars.^{1/} The inhabitants have been encouraged by the recognition of the strategic importance of the territory.^{2/} Consequently, there has been an upsurge in the contracting field - buildings, roads, and military installations - which has brought the territory to an employment peak surpassing that of World War II.^{3/} In sum, the fiscal year of 1951 has seen gains consolidated, and given evidence of new progress and promise of greater and more lasting advance than could have been realistically entertained during any previous year in the history of the territory.

Agriculture and livestock

The United States Department of Agriculture extends its operation to the territory and works closely with the University of Alaska and the territorial Department of Agriculture. Budgetary appropriations by the Legislature for the biennium 1951-53 amounted to \$95,290. Agriculture, defined as cultivation of cropland, is generally limited to the south-central part of the mainland. The 1950 census of agriculture reveals that 264 farms operated a total of 321 tractors, indicating mechanization as the typical farming operation. The study of agricultural techniques, including the use of fertilizers, improvement of plant variety, and livestock and the control of diseases and pests, is continued under co-operative programmes of the University and field offices of the United States Department of Agriculture located in the territory. All agricultural production is locally consumed. The total acreage of tillable land is about one million acres. The United States Soil Conservation Service operated in the territory for the third year covering 9 districts with a total acreage of 8,757,920 acres. The 1950 census showed there were 525 farms totalling 421,799 acres. Croplands amounted to 9,936 acres, and pasture lands 366,028 acres.

Disposal of public lands to private persons is subject to various United States laws. The holding of land by natives may be either individual or communal. Farm tenancy is relatively uncommon, only 20 of the 525 farms reported in 1950 being operated by tenants. Acreage in crops in 1949 was:

^{1/} Alaska: Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior for 1951, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., p. 1.

^{2/} Ibid., p. 4.

^{3/} Ibid., p. 51.

mixed grain, 163; wheat, 204; oats, 334; barley, 55; hay and forage, 4,207; and vegetables and potatoes, 1,208.

All farm products sold in 1949 amounted to \$1,571,931. Statistics of livestock were: horses, 207; cattle and calves, 2,236; hogs and pigs, 1,201; sheep and lambs, 6,046. Livestock and livestock products sold in 1949 amounted to \$1,064,157. Agricultural credit is generally extended through private banks, although the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a territorial agency, makes certain types of development loans. The United States Farmers' Home Administration is also authorized to make loans for the purchase of machinery, livestock, seed and fertilizer. Two farms were purchased with these funds, seven deeds were delivered, and 83 loans totalling \$83,857 were made.^{1/}

Forestry

There are two national forests comprising a total of 20,883,000 acres with an estimated commercial stand of 84,760,000,000 board feet. The interior forests have not been inventoried but it is estimated there is an additional 125 million acres with a total timber volume of 350 billion board feet. In 1949, funds were appropriated by the United States Congress for the establishment of an Alaska Research Center. Statistics of timber cut were:

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950^{a/}</u>	<u>1951^{b/}</u>
Quantity	73,000,000 ft.	56,000,000 ft.	60,000,000 ft.
Value	\$134,000	-	\$143,600

a/ Alaska: Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior, 1950, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., p. 32.

b/ Alaska: Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior, 1951, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., p. 37.

Fisheries

Fisheries are the most important industry in the territory. Management of the fisheries resources including fur seals, is vested in the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, with which the recently created territorial Department of Fisheries co-operates in enforcement activities.

Statistical data of fisheries:

^{1/} Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska, 1951, op. cit., p. 6.

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Quantity (lbs.)	306,162,827	283,567,873	260,122,531
Value	\$116,948,814	\$95,009,476	\$100,156,141
Persons engaged in commercial fishing	32,689	28,366	27,544

Mining

The regional director of the United States Bureau of Mines was appointed executive officer of Defence Minerals Administration for the territory.^{1/}

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
	<u>1950</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1951^{a/}</u>	<u>\$</u>
Coal (tons)	393,000	2,979,000	475,000	-
Gold (troy ounces)	289,272	10,124,520	-	-
Silver (troy ounces)	52,678	47,640	27,760	25,124
Other minerals	-	17,798,000	-	17,978,000

^{a/} All figures for 1951 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Power

The total installed capacity of hydro-electric power is estimated at 32,000 kilowatts and non-hydro-electric power 45,000 kilowatts. Rate levels differ widely throughout the territory, ranging from 3 to 20 cents per kilowatt hour. A comprehensive survey of potential hydro-electric power development in the territory, conducted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior, revealed that the 72 sites reported on had an estimated potential output of more than fifty billion kilowatt-hours annually. Construction is underway on a hydro-electric project in the Anchorage area which when completed will add 30,000 kilowatts to present capacity.

Industry

With few exceptions, like lumber and fishing, the economy of the territory has been based upon extractive industries with refining or further processing being done in the United States adjacent to markets. The number of industrial establishments were:

^{1/} Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska, 1951, op.cit., p. 57

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Salmon	123	101	117
Herring	32	32	17
Crab	20	17	20
Sawmills	52	55	-
Paper pulp mill	-	-	1

Transport and communications

Roads: The Alaska Road Commission, a United States agency, maintained a total of 3,141 miles of roads. In addition, 80 miles of tramway, 1,080 miles of sled road, and 4,118 miles of flagged trail were maintained to serve isolated areas.

Railways: In 1950 the Alaska Railroad made continuing progress in renovating and rehabilitating this system. One hundred forty-one miles of rail were relaid and ballasting and tie replacing completed on another 109 miles.

Air: The United States Civil Aeronautics Administration in 1951 operated 7,504 miles of civil airways in the territory, of which 4,312 are controlled. In addition, there are 8 landing strips and 12 seaplane facilities completed or under construction. As of June 1951, 14 certificated air carriers and 9 exempted carriers were authorized to operate in the territory. There are also 97 registered pilot-owners.

Sea: Two United States and three Canadian steamship companies serve the territory regularly. Two river boats operated by the Alaska Railroad carry supplies and passengers for the mining industry of the interior.

Communications: All commercial communication channels between the territory and continental United States are operated and maintained by the Alaska Communications System, a branch of the United States Army Signal Corps. There are 32 cable signal stations with 8 branch offices. Sixty radio-telephone stations have been installed and 14 more planned. The Alaska Native Service also operates a total of 102 radio-telephone stations located principally in the sub-Arctic regions.

There are 14 telephone exchanges, 8 of which are privately owned, with a total of 11,763 instruments.

Public finance

	<u>1949</u> \$	<u>1950</u> \$	<u>1951</u> \$
Revenue	8,765,805	15,108,415	18,009,456
Expenditure	8,922,673	13,204,620	16,154,161

Before 1949 there was no basic tax system.^{1/} In 1949, the Territorial Legislature enacted a number of revenue statutes which for the first time constituted a comprehensive and basic tax structure for the territory. The principal enactments provide for a tax on income of persons and corporations; on business licences and occupations; and on tobacco. There is also a sales tax on canned salmon.^{2/} The income tax is geared to the United States income tax and the rate is 10 per cent of the taxpayer's United States tax liability on the basis of Alaska earnings.^{3/} The first general property tax was also enacted in 1949.^{4/}

Banking and credit

	<u>1948</u>		<u>1949</u>		<u>1950</u>	
	<u>Territorial</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Territorial</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Territorial</u>	<u>National</u>
Number of banks	16	4	17	4	17	4
Aggregate capital	\$ 775,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 815,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 980,000	\$ 525,000
Surplus and undivided profits	\$ 1,688,993	\$ 1,173,519	\$ 1,980,423	\$ 1,329,742	\$ 2,133,988	\$ 1,438,927
Deposits	\$33,169,512	\$27,926,106	\$34,641,663	\$31,053,987	\$39,051,829	\$39,052,119

^{1/} Alaska: Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior, 1950, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., p. 1.

^{2/} Ibid., p. 25.

^{3/} Alaska: Ernest Gruening, Governor of Alaska. Putting Alaska's House in Order, Summary Alaska legislation 1949, p. 1.

^{4/} Annual Report of the Governor, 1950, op. cit., p. 2.

International trade

Trade between the territory and foreign countries is insignificant; the overwhelming proportion being with the United States. In 1950, the United States purchased from Alaska a grand total of \$5,000,000,000, of which \$3,000,000,000 paid for fish, minerals, furs and forest products. In return, Alaska purchased from the United States \$2,000,000,000 in foodstuffs, clothing, machinery and other manufactures.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General

In Alaska racial discrimination is illegal. However, geographical conditions more than any other factor determine the attendance of Indian and Eskimo children at separate schools. Similarly, there is no discrimination in employment of Indian and Eskimo personnel. Both races have demonstrated their ability to fit into the economic, social, and political patterns of their respective areas. The Alaska Native Service has directed its educational programmes towards training both Indians and Eskimos to that end, and in 1951 the Alaska Territorial Employment Service initiated a placement programme.

Human rights

The constitution and laws of the United States were specifically extended to the territory by the Organic Act of 1912. Generally, human rights are identical, except for voting in national elections, with all the rights of American citizens in the continental United States. They have the right of appeal, the same freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and free territorial elections.

Status of women

Alaska is the only United States territory which has enacted legislation specifically guaranteeing to men and women equal pay for equal work. Women also have the same rights as men to vote and to hold office provided they possess the necessary qualifications. They are eligible for jury service, subject to the same qualifications as men, and while they are not discriminated against on account of sex in the selection of grand or petit jury, they may claim exemption

from service on the basis of sex. A married woman retains full ownership, control and powers of disposition over the property she owns at the time of her marriage, and her earnings during marriage are declared her separate property.

Labour and employment conditions

The labour policy of the territory is expressed in laws pertaining to industrial safety and health, child labour, equal pay for women, minimum wages and the mediation of labour disputes. The territorial Department of Labour was created "to foster and promote the welfare of the wage earners, to improve their working conditions and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment." An Act in 1951 increased maximum weekly benefit payments from the unemployment insurance fund, and another provided dependency allowances to unemployed workers. The seasonal nature of industry in the territory requires in the summer months a number of workers in excess of the local labour supply. In order to relieve the hardship of stranded workers the Return Transportation Law requires the employer to return employees to the place of hire. During 1951 the Territory Employment Security Commission estimated that 50,000 persons were employed at the peak of the summer as compared with 27,500 in winter.

A survey made by the Alaska Development Board in 1949 showed the total labour force in 1949 at 49,000 distributed as follows:

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	15,950
Mining	1,650
Construction	4,400
Manufacturing	600
Transportation, communication and other public utilities	3,200
Wholesale and retail trade	11,000
Service industries	4,000
Government	5,000
Other industries not reported	3,200

Wage rates for many categories of employment have been higher than in continental United States. A 54-hour week is generally allowed in summer. Almost all labour in the territory is unionized, the majority of resident workers belonging to the American Federation of Labour (A.F. of L.). Both the A.F. of L. and the Congress of Industrial Organization's local unions have played a commendable part in advancing not only the cause of labour but also the social, economic and political development of the territory.

Territorial statutes include provisions relating to regulations of working conditions; wages (including frequency and methods of payment); safety; conditions of employment of women and children; and workmen's compensation.

Standard of living

With the cost of living in Seattle, Washington, equal to 100, comparative figures were:

	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>Fairbanks</u>
Food	137	147
Apparel	119	125
Housing	213	217
Other	125	130
All items	140	147
All items excluding housing	129	136

Town and rural planning and housing

Inadequate and sub-standard housing remains a serious problem in most parts of the territory. During 1948-49 a positive programme of housing development evolved, and the Territorial Legislature created an Alaska Housing Authority with an initial appropriation of \$250,000. A subsequent \$15,000,000 revolving fund was granted by the United States Congress. In 1951, the Alaska Housing Authority extended financial assistance in excess of \$4.5 million to nine sponsoring corporations for the construction of 78 single family dwellings, 16 duplex units, and 273 apartment units. Four hundred twenty-nine character loans amounting to \$192,600 were granted to natives in remote areas. The United States Federal Housing Administration is committed to construct 3,548 units at a total cost of \$38,444,800.

A five-year public works programme, authorized by the United States Congress in 1949, at an overall cost of \$70,000,000 is in progress. The sum of \$8,980,970 has been made available through 1951 for 31 projects, including streets, sewage systems and schools.

Social security and welfare

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
<u>Old age assistance</u>			
Number of persons	1,429	1,636	1,627
Average monthly payment	\$50.60	\$59.69	\$57.26
Total amount	\$867,819	\$1,000,470	\$1,117,614

Aid to dependent children

Average monthly number of children	1,038	1,275	1,573
Average monthly payment per child	\$17.93	\$27.13	\$33.06
Territorial expenditure	\$68,159	\$217,115	\$223,584
United States contribution	\$97,293	\$197,846	\$296,504
Total expenditure	\$165,452	\$414,962	\$520,088

Child welfare services

Average monthly case load	730	904	881
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General relief

Average monthly case load for medical care	19	66	58
Total expenditure	\$28,027	\$88,759	\$96,233
Average monthly case load for subsistence aid	130	164	222
Total expenditure	\$55,114	\$63,842	\$71,795

Alaska Native Service

Total expenditure	\$194,000	\$254,904	\$300,176
General assistance:			
Number of cases	333	332	823
Expenditure	\$32,000	\$108,406	-
Foster home service:			
Number of children aided	251	207	230
Expenditure	\$90,000	\$111,232	-

Public health

Plans for \$22,000,000 worth of construction involving water supply, waste disposal systems and sanitary facilities, have been reviewed by the Division of Sanitation and Engineering. This represents an increase of 1,000 per cent over

1946 plans. The territory appropriated \$999,000 to the Health Department for the biennium 1951-1953; expenditure for the fiscal year 1947-48 was \$199,064 from territorial funds and \$1,289,701 from United States funds.

<u>Medical and health staff</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Physicians	89	89	88
Dentists	32	32	58
Registered nurses	230	230	483

<u>Institutions</u> (Government and private)	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Beds</u>	<u>Number</u>
Hospitals - general	20	-	20
			706
			24
			675
Specialized units:			
Tuberculosis	2	-	2
			104
Mental a/	1	338	1
			328
Orthopedic	-	-	-
			1
			60

a/ Morningside Hospital, Portland, Oregon, cares for the insane of the territory.

<u>Vital statistics</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Total births	3,079	3,518	3,705
Deaths under one year	145	167	187
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	47.1	47.5	50.5
Total deaths	1,197	1,180	1,232
Death rate per 1,000 population	31.8	31.1	29.2

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

General

Both primary and secondary schools are under supervision of the territorial Board of Education, of which the executive officer is the Commissioner of Education. Attendance is required of children between 7 and 16 years of age. The territorial public school system includes school of two main classes: schools within 17 incorporated cities and 7 independent districts, and those in 68 rural areas, 5 of which are located on military bases. The latter are administered directly by the territorial Department

of Education.^{1/} Educational standards are exceptionally high. Illiteracy among whites is negligible and is being reduced among the native population.

<u>Number of pupils</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Territorial primary and secondary schools	11,913	13,909	15,806
Alaska Native Service	5,014	6,451	5,502
University of Alaska	377	1,481	2,142

Inadequate schoolroom facilities continue to be the most important problem of the Department of Education. Considerable repairs and expansion of facilities have been planned for which \$488,818 has been made available.^{2/} A comprehensive plan for the growth and expansion of the University of Alaska was established by the Board of Regents, and a programme outlined for adult education in Alaskan communities, as well as audio-visual instruction for outlying communities.^{3/} The Alaska Historical Museum contains one of the finest collections of Alaskan artifacts and literature to be found anywhere. During 1950, some 8,427 visitors were registered, 312 more than in 1949.

^{1/} Annual Report of the Governor, 1951, op. cit., p. 26.

^{2/} Alaska Compiled Laws Annotated, 1949, 37-7-1.

^{3/} Annual Report of the Governor, 1951, op. cit., p. 27.