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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

Caribbean and Western Atlantic Territories

WINDWARD ISLANDS^{1/}

^{1/} In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1332 (XIII) this summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

NOTE: The following symbols are used:

Three dots (...)	data not available
Dash (-)	magnitude nil or negligible
Slash 1948/1949	crop or financial year
Hyphen 1948-1949	annual average

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Windward Islands comprises the islands of Dominica, 304.7 square miles (789 square kilometres); Grenada, 133 square miles (344 square kilometres); St. Lucia, 238 square miles (616 square kilometres); and St. Vincent, 150.3 square miles (389 square kilometres). The total area is 826 square miles (2,139 square kilometres), and the population in 1957 was estimated at 324,244.

All four islands are of volcanic origin. Situated in the path of the prevailing north-east trade winds, they have a heavy rainfall during the wet season from about June to October. The islands are peopled mainly with Negroes and the offspring of the intermarriage of African and European stocks. Especially in Dominica and St. Lucia, there remain also some Caribs, the original inhabitants, who live in areas reserved for them.

The administrative centre is St. George's, Grenada, where the Governor normally resides.

	<u>Population</u>		
	<u>1 July 1947</u>	<u>1 July 1953</u>	<u>1 July 1957</u>
Dominica	50,139	58,078	64,119
Grenada	73,110	83,047	89,956
St. Lucia	72,259	83,885	90,482
St. Vincent	63,454	72,121	79,687

	<u>Vital statistics</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica:				
Birth rate per 1,000 population	34.3	35.8	37.9	39.9
Death rate per 1,000 population	18.8	13.4	14.5	13.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	137.6	126.9	132.0	
Grenada:	<u>1948</u>			
Birth rate per 1,000 population	34.4	39.5	40.9	51.8
Death rate per 1,000 population	16.5	13.1	13.3	10.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	100.5	67.6	80.5	49.1
St. Lucia:	<u>1947</u>			
Birth rate per 1,000 population	38.4	36.6	40.1	43.4
Death rate per 1,000 population	15.3	13.8	12.6	14.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	116.5	113.1	101.9	95.6
St. Vincent:				
Birth rate per 1,000 population	40.3	42.6	46.4	
Death rate per 1,000 population	16.5	15.6	12.1	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	103.9	122.8	106.9	/...

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Windward Islands economy is almost entirely based on agriculture which has been the major concern of programmes of economic development. The Islands are comparatively small and much of the land area cannot be cultivated because of its mountainous terrain. With the exception of Grenada, all the islands have experienced, during the period under review, an adverse balance of trade. This has been the case even when prices of export crops have been favourable. Adverse circumstance such as prolonged drought, hurricane or a work stoppage involving the loss of many man-days have, on certain occasions, caused the economy to deteriorate considerably. For example, in 1951, Dominica, because of a long drought, had an adverse balance amounting to BWI\$2 million.^{2/} Grenada, following the ravages of Hurricane "Janet" in 1955 was forced to seek aid from the United Kingdom Treasury to balance her budget. Substantial cash remittances from the large number of migrants working abroad have tended to allay the economic difficulties of the Islands.

During the period under review, attempts have been made in all the islands of the group, with varying degrees of success, to establish an organized system of land utilization by introducing crop diversification. The wastefulness of shifting cultivation, for example in St. Lucia, has not yet been eliminated despite improvements in agricultural methods. With the establishment of credit and marketing organizations, beginning in 1941, in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the promotion of co-operative societies among the peasant proprietors, the economic situation has improved and there has been a steady increase in local fiscal revenue. On the whole, the economy of the Windward Islands is not in a sound position and much has yet to be done to make it more self-supporting.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

In Dominica, the Agricultural Department in promoting agricultural development has based its activities on conservation of natural resources, security of land tenure, the maintenance and expansion of crop production for export, the improvement of food supplies, and efficiency in methods of the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products. To this end, a policy has been adopted of working with the farmers through agricultural extension officers.

^{2/} The currency unit of the Windward Islands is the British West Indian dollar (BWI\$) which is equal to 4s.2d. or US\$0.5833.

The enactment of the Agricultural Small Tenancies Ordinance of 1953 was one of a number of steps taken to make selected areas of Crown lands available to settlers for agricultural purposes. A plant distribution service, started before 1947, has continued with good results with the help of Colonial Development and Welfare funds; three cocoa propagation centres supply planting material, and district stations of the central livestock farm provide stud services with good imported stock at nominal fees. An Agricultural Loan Board was set up in 1952 to enable peasants to expand acreage and improve the quality of their production. Bananas, a recently introduced crop, has displaced citrus and vanilla as the leading agricultural product. Beginning in 1950, the Colonial Development Corporation undertook several projects in the Territory. In 1951 its packing plant for the citrus industry began operations. A year later its ice plant began production, and the Corporation's major undertaking, the hydro-electric scheme, was completed in 1953. Because of difficulties of marketing and shipping, however, many of the Corporation's projects proved disappointing, and by 1957 the only surviving project was the hydro-electric scheme.

In Grenada, estate agriculture is responsible for the major portion of the export crops but peasant agriculture by some 19,000 small landowners (1948) is of considerable importance. In 1953, there were 18,610 farms of less than twenty-five acres. Improved methods of production and mixed farming are fostered by the Agricultural Department through intensive agricultural extension work. A government-operated marketing organization was set up in 1957, principally to encourage increased production of food crops. Artificial insemination of cattle, introduced in 1953, has been carried out with success.

The Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association, established in 1946, promotes the interests of the nutmeg industry, the most important industry in the Island, through marketing, regulating and controlling exports. Two large receiving and curing centres at Gouyaye and Victoria were completed in 1953 and deliveries were steadily increasing until serious hurricane damage occurred in 1955. In 1957, the activities of the Department of Agriculture were still mainly concerned with rehabilitation measures.

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The agricultural development programme in St. Lucia is confined to the distribution of better planting material, small soil conservation projects and afforestation. The production of sugar, the principal crop, has fluctuated during the period under review. In 1953, for example, two of the principal sugar factories went into voluntary liquidation, thereby increasing unemployment. The Government's early intervention, with the help of a public loan of \$960,000, helped to finance a new company to take over the two factories and estates in liquidation and thus restore a measure of employment and stability to the industry. Efforts to stimulate banana production resulted in a doubling of exports in 1953 and an even higher output in 1954.

The production of arrowroot starch for export is paramount in the economy of St. Vincent. It was estimated that 79 per cent of the 1945/1946 production came from estates, although about one-half of the estimated acreage was grown by peasants. The low level of peasant production has been the chief concern of the Agricultural Department. Soil conservation through active measures to combat soil erosion, the demonstration of good agricultural techniques, and the promotion of land settlement schemes have met with considerable success during the period under review. By 1955, arrowroot was still the main export crop, more so since interest in the production of sea-island cotton continued to decline. The St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association remains the sole shipping agency and the United States of America is the largest buyer. In 1955, a new government-owned modern central arrowroot factory started operations, producing a better grade of starch. As a result of the success of this project the setting up of more central factories is under study.

	<u>Principal crops</u> (thousands)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica:			
Limes (barrels)	110	323 ^{a/}	450 ^{a/}
Copra (long tons)	2	...	1
Bananas (stems)	...	1,137	1,398
Grenada:			
Cocoa (cwt.)	50 ^{b/}	49	11 ^{d/}
Nutmegs and mace (cwt.)	22	23	36 ^{d/}

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Principal crops (cont'd)
(thousands)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
St. Lucia:			
Sugar (long tons)	6	9	7 ^{c/}
Copra (lb.)	3,364	4,009	551 ^{c/}
Bananas (stems)	...	143	974
St. Vincent:			
Arrowroot (lb.)	5,110	9,728	10,229 ^{d/}
Copra (lb.)	2,654	4,480	4,849
Cotton (bale)	548	374	158

a/ Gallons of lime juice only.
b/ 1948.
c/ Exports.
d/ 1956.

FORESTRY

In Dominica, 60 per cent of the total area consists of Crown lands under forest. A road development programme has made much of the forest land accessible, although commercial exploitation remains limited.

In 1948 it was estimated that 16,000 acres in Grenada were forest lands, the majority of which were privately owned. Only about 3,000 acres were Crown lands and declared forest reserves. Beginning in 1952 the Government planned to increase over a ten-year period the area of forest reserves up to about 10,000 acres. A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for carrying out essential improvement work in the forest reserves was approved in 1953.

In St. Lucia, the total volume of wood cut in 1957 was 86,435 cubic feet valued at BWI\$67,400.

FISHERIES

Fishing methods in Grenada are still primitive, and few facilities exist for storage. The local demand is good but is not adequately met. In 1951, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies approved a scheme for fisheries development followed by the appointment of a fishery officer. Attempts have been made to mechanize the fishing boats to encourage deep-sea fishing. A loan committee supervises the Fisheries Loan Fund, which aids fishermen in repairing or installing engines in their boats.

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In St. Lucia, lobster and turtle fishing for export is undertaken by fishermen who have organized themselves into a Fishermen's Society. With aid from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, they were able to construct, in 1954, a pond for storing their catch.

In St. Vincent, efforts to form fishermen's associations and to purchase essential tackle in bulk were hindered by lack of staff. The Fisheries Committee provides fishermen with short-term credit. Difficulty has been experienced in trying to channel the sales of fish locally through established fish markets. Only about 40 to 50 per cent of total landings, amounting to 397,579 lbs. in 1954 and 515,532 lbs. in 1955, were recorded.

POWER

In Dominica, the Colonial Development Corporation supplies electric power to the chief town, Roseau, and its environs from a hydro-electric generating station. A government-owned diesel power plant supplies the second town, Plymouth, with electric power. In Grenada, a diesel plant is operated by the Government. There are three government stations in St. Lucia, two of which are diesel and the other, hydro-electric. A total of 1.6 million kwhs. of electricity was generated in 1957 as compared with 394,503 units in 1947. There were approximately 1,800 consumers in 1957 as compared with 789 in 1947. In St. Vincent, the electricity-generating plant is owned and operated by the Government. In 1953, a hydro-electric scheme was completed by the Colonial Development Corporation at an estimated cost of £200,000. The Corporation now supplies electricity not only to Kingston, the capital city, but also to Georgetown and Mesopotamia and to the principal arrowroot and cotton-processing factories, cold storage and ice-making plants.

INDUSTRY

There are factories for processing local produce such as limes and other citrus fruit, cotton, copra, sugar cane and arrowroot. Manufactured products include soap, cigarettes and beverages. In addition, handicrafts, such as the making of hats, bags and mats from straw, form a wide-spread minor industry. Training courses in handicrafts have been organized on some islands. In Dominica, legislation has been enacted providing tax relief and other incentives to "pioneer" industries; however, by the end of 1957, only two operations had been declared as such.

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TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

The absence of a good network of roads in Dominica has been a limiting factor in economic development. Attempts were made, with funds provided under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts to improve the situation during the period 1947-1957. By 1952, there were fewer than 100 miles of roadway with an oiled surface and 245 miles of secondary roads. At the end of 1957, there were 107 miles of bitumen-surfaced roads and 279 miles of secondary roads. On the other hand, Grenada has a good network. In 1949, there were 472 miles of first-class roads, 200 miles of which had an oiled surface.

In St. Lucia, a comprehensive programme of road construction has been undertaken. During the years 1954-1956 some thirty-five miles of new roads were constructed, others were still under construction at the end of the period. The road-building programme in St. Vincent was mainly concerned with providing feeder roads to the leeward highway so as to enable the transport of produce.

Grenada and St. Lucia are served regularly by British West Indian Airways. In addition, two other major airlines call at St. Lucia's two airports. Dominica and St. Vincent are served twice weekly by the St. Vincent Government Air Service, which is subsidized by Colonial Development and Welfare funds and which connects both Territories with Barbados. An allocation of \$1.4 million from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was made in 1957 for the construction of airfields in the two Territories.

Communications by steamship among the Windward Islands and with other West Indian Territories have been irregular and inadequate since 1946.

The dredging of Castries harbour in St. Lucia was begun in 1957, the northern wharf was extended a further 250 feet, and work was started on the reconstruction of St. George's pier in Grenada.

Communications

In Dominica and Grenada, modern telephone systems were installed in 1957, the latter operated by a private company.

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PUBLIC FINANCE

Public revenues in the Windward Islands are generally supplemented by annual grants from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for administration purposes only. Accordingly, annual estimates approved by the local legislature require final approval by the United Kingdom. Surpluses at the end of the fiscal year are taken into account in determining the amount of grant-in-aid for the ensuing fiscal year.

Revenue and expenditure (thousand British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica:			
Ordinary revenue	918	1,646	2,290
Ordinary expenditure	860	1,879	...
Main heads of revenue:		<u>1954</u>	
Customs and excise	363	1,022	1,436
Taxes)		255	233
Licence and excise)	317	304	56
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	136	798	633
Grants-in-aid	...	...	331
Main heads of expenditure:			
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	99	698	761
Public Works	193		699
Education	61		298
Medical	53		300
Grenada:	<u>1948</u>		
Ordinary revenue	2,531	3,631	
Ordinary expenditure	3,038	3,949	
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs	1,310	1,872	1,889
Income tax	330	636	684
Licences, excise, etc.	214	347	345
Fees of office	197	219	523
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	210	275	99
Main heads of expenditure:			
Education	237	516	539
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	254	397	99
Medical	278	573	638
Public Works	65	188	471
Central Road Authority	366	267	252

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Revenue and expenditure (cont'd)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
St. Lucia:			
Ordinary revenue	1,121	2,192	
Ordinary expenditure	1,378	2,573	
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs	501	997 ^{a/}	1,161
Excise	157	229	307
Income tax	132	437 ^{b/}	477
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	508	26	1,589
Main heads of expenditure:			
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	378	154	1,176
Public works	225	406	362
Medical	119	222	329
Education	99	273	348
St. Vincent:			
Ordinary revenue	1,679	1,937	3,228 ^{c/}
Ordinary expenditure	1,561	2,395	3,795 ^{c/}
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs and excise	528	1,135	1,307
Taxes	510	340	444
Fees and other duties	85	142	297
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	323	213	146
Grant-in-aid	...	636	535
Main heads of expenditure:			
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	331	223	434
Medical	167	392	463
Education	110	323	377
Public works	153	70	660

^{a/} Import and export duties.

^{b/} Taxes.

^{c/} 1956.

Development finance^{a/}
(thousand pounds sterling)

Source of funds for financing plan

	C.D. and W.	Loans	General Revenue	Total
Dominica	909	200	-	1,109
Grenada	687	-	-	687
St. Lucia	1,280	-	-	1,280
St. Vincent	<u>594</u>	<u>360</u>	-	<u>954</u>
Total	3,470	560	-	4,030

^{a/} Development plans as at 1956, for the planning period 1955-1960.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In the Windward Islands, food, textiles and other manufactured goods have generally been the main categories of imports. However, between 1951 and 1955, the value of manures and transport equipment increased from 5 to 8 per cent of the total value of imports in Dominica. Trade deficits have been usual in these islands. For example, in 1953, Dominica's imports amounted to \$5.1 million as compared with an export total of \$4.7 million. In 1956, the comparable figures were \$6 million and \$5.8 million, leaving a trade deficit of \$423,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Direction of trade (Percentage of value)

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
St. Lucia:			
Origin of imports:			
United Kingdom	34.6	34.1	33.0
Canada	28.8	16.1	36.0
Other Commonwealth countries	12.7	33.8	
United States of America	22.6	10.3	31.0
Other foreign countries	1.3	5.7	
Destination of exports:			
United Kingdom	50.3	62.4	79.0
Canada	.0	1.8	16.0
Other Commonwealth countries	29.1	30.8	
United States of America	20.3	2.4	5.0
Other foreign countries	.2	2.6	
Grenada:			
Origin of imports:			
United Kingdom			34.9
Other Commonwealth countries			39.1
Other foreign countries			26.0
Destination of exports:			
United Kingdom			49.4
Other Commonwealth countries			5.9
Other foreign countries			44.7
St. Vincent:		<u>1950</u>	
Origin of imports:			
United Kingdom		50.0	43.0
Other Commonwealth countries		36.0	31.0
Other foreign countries		14.0	26.0

Direction of trade (cont'd)

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1956</u>
Destination of exports:		
United Kingdom	30.0	33.0
Other Commonwealth countries	34.0	37.0
Other foreign countries	36.0	30.0
Dominica:	<u>1951</u>	<u>1955</u>
Origin of imports:		
United Kingdom	37.2	33.9
Other Commonwealth countries	47.2	45.2
Other foreign countries	15.6	21.0
Destination of exports:		
United Kingdom	47.2	73.8
Other Commonwealth countries	26.7	16.3
Other foreign countries	26.1	9.9

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GENERAL SITUATION

Over 90 per cent of the population of the Windward Islands is Negro. There are no social problems arising from racial differences. Generally, women enjoy the same civil, economic and political status as men.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Trade unions have made demands for recognition and for increase of wages in most industries, and in most cases, discussions between the parties have led to solutions or settlements. The services of the Labour Commission or Conciliation Officer are only requested when progress is unduly slow or a deadlock occurs. Wage Councils whose pronouncement have the force of law are being increasingly used. They prescribe minimum wages for workers in occupations such as agriculture and the various distributive services. Each island has its own Labour Department having responsibility for government activities relating to the inspection of labour conditions, settlement of disputes, and encouragement and advice to the trade union movement.

Conditions of employment

Agriculture continues to provide the largest single source of employment to an expanding labour force. Under-employment is prevalent, a phenomenon partly related to the existence of seasonal economic activities. As a result, many persons go to the United Kingdom regularly in search of work, and other migrant workers obtain employment in places such as the neighbouring island of Guadeloupe, and in the United States. During 1957, an ordinance was enacted in St. Lucia providing for fourteen days' annual holidays with pay for all workers who complete at least 200 days' work in a calendar year, and for compensation where employment terminates after a minimum period of three months. A Wages Council for domestic service was set up in St. Vincent and minimum wages were prescribed. These rates were increased during 1957.

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Wage earners

	<u>1947^{a/}</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Grenada:			
Agriculture	12,432	...	
Factory-workshop	3,980	...	
Trade and finance	2,284		
Domestic service	2,124		
Dominica:			
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	14,300	6,400 ^{b/}	
Transport-communication	3,500	700	
Domestic service	1,500	...	
St. Lucia:			
Agriculture	9,500	17,000	20,000
Peasant proprietors	4,000	...	
Fisheries	1,750	1,500	1,500
Domestic service	2,300	2,450	3,000
St. Vincent:			
Agriculture	10,000	13,000	13,500 ^{c/}
Building-road construction	2,000	2,750	3,000 ^{c/}
Domestic service	2,000	2,100	2,100 ^{c/}

- a/ Figures from 1946 census.
b/ 1955 figure for agriculture only.
c/ 1955 figures.

Wage rates^{a/}
(British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Grenada:			
Agricultural labourers: (daily)			
Males	.78	1.20	1.56
Females	.66	1.00	1.30
Artisans, skilled (daily)	1.44-2.88	2.56-2.88	3.60-4.80
Stevedores (hourly)	.38-.40	.55-.69	.66-.80
Dominica:			
Agricultural labourers: (daily)			
Males	2s. 1d=.50	.96-1.28 ^{b/}	1.12-1.24
Females	1s.5 1/2d.

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Wage rates (cont'd.)
(British West Indian dollars)

Dominica: (cont'd.)	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Transport, communications (daily)			
Males	2s.1d.-7s.	8.00 ^c /	...
Personal service (weekly)	12s.6d.-11.9s.2d ^d /	4.00-5.00 ^e /	3.00-5.00
St. Lucia:			
Agriculture (daily)			
Males	2s. ^f /	.90-1.00	
Carpenters	.12-.24	...	
Stevedores (hourly)	1s.1d.	...	
St. Vincent:			
Agriculture (daily)			
Males	2s.1d.-6s. ^f /	.93	.98
Construction (daily)	4s.6d.-8s.6d.	1.44-3.00	.44-4.00
Domestic service (monthly) ^g /	2.1s.8d.	18.00	18.00

- a/ Generally an eight-hour day.
b/ 1954 figures, daily.
c/ Weekly.
d/ Without meals and lodging.
e/ Cooks only.
f/ Excluding 1s. per day cost-of-living bonus.
g/ Excluding a bonus of 25 per cent.

Workers' and employers' organizations

Employer-worker relations have improved, mainly because of the proper use which is being made of bargaining machinery and the co-operation which has been forthcoming from employers and workers alike in helping to formulate and advise the Government on labour policy and related problems. A representative of Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ORIT) spent some time in St. Lucia during 1957 and the Secretary of the Caribbean area division of this Organization paid a subsequent visit to advise trade unions and to present their case before a commission of inquiry which dealt with a strike.

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Workers' organizations

	1948		1953		1957	
	Number	Membership	Number	Membership	Number	Membership
Grenada	2	2,039	6	...	10	...
Dominica	3	6,516	3	...	3	2,500 ^{a/}
St. Lucia	2	6,360	6	...	5	912 ^{b/}
St. Vincent	3	1,093	4	3,950	5	...

^{a/} One union only.
^{b/} Four unions only.

Vocational education

A scheme providing for the training of ex-servicemen was approved in Grenada during 1957. The British Empire League and the Government each granted \$2,400 towards the cost, augmented by a contribution from the Grenada Ex-Servicemen's Association. It allowed for the selection of eighteen veterans, five of whom were being trained in agriculture, and the rest as electricians, plumbers, tailors and motor mechanics. The Government of St. Lucia selected a number of boys for apprenticeship in several occupations; they will receive an allowance during training. An apprenticeship master who will collaborate with the Education Officer and the Labour Commissioner has been appointed.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

On the whole, co-operative activities have taken a firm hold. In Dominica, for example, where all fresh fruit for export beyond the Caribbean area is required by law to be packed at a licensed packing-house, two marketing and processing societies with 160 members are in existence. The nutmeg industry in Grenada is controlled by the Co-operative Nutmeg Association, which purchases, processes and markets all nutmegs and mace produced there and in St. Vincent, and there are small agricultural credit societies among farmers who receive government loans. There is also the St. Vincent Co-operative Bank, formed for general co-operative activities and assistance. On the other hand, co-operative activity has declined in St. Lucia. Lack of trained personnel, of funds for promotional work, and of credit facilities have militated against the emergence of a strong co-operative movement there.

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STANDARD OF LIVING

The cost of living has continued to rise since the Second World War. In Grenada, the cost-of-living index was revised during 1957 to bring the figures into line with present purchasing and spending habits. Compiled originally mainly for agricultural workers, prices were collated under the old and new methods and the figures issued provide a basis for linking the two indices.

Cost-of-living indices^{a/}

September 1939 = 100

Dominica	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1952
	222	401
Grenada	Dec. 1948	Dec. 1957
	206	290 ^{b/}
St. Lucia ^{b/}	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1957
	227	296
St. Vincent	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1955
	214	309

a/ August 1939 = 100 is base date for all territories except Dominica.

b/ At best, it reflects the trend of living costs for working class families.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

During the ten-year period, a shortage of adequate housing has remained one of the most urgent problems. In 1947, occupancy of sub-standard and congested dwellings by working-class families was prevalent.

Central housing authorities were set up in the islands and assigned the responsibility for remedying the housing shortage. They began to acquire sites for urban development and slum clearance, although the problem of finance was acute. In Grenada, the improvement of housing for working-class families was slow but more recently progress was more rapid: the houses of peasants which had been destroyed by the hurricane in 1955 were completely replaced by early 1957 and by the end of 1956 almost 1,700 pre-cut houses had been erected. Dominica acquired in 1947 the Good Will Estate amounting to some 434 acres and by the

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end of 1956, 132 houses had been completed while seventy-three were under construction.

Progress has been fastest in St. Lucia, probably in response to the additional urgency created by fire in Castries, the capital, in 1948 and in Soufriere, the second largest town, three-fifths of which was destroyed in 1955. In Castries, overcrowding has been reduced in the areas which have been rebuilt and in Soufriere, a housing estate comprising units of one and two rooms for rental to low-income families is nearing completion. The Sugar Labour Welfare Fund Committee, financed by a cess imposed on sugar, also provides help for home improvement among sugar workers. Loans for home construction are granted to civil servants.

The Central Planning Authority has undertaken in St. Vincent the development of a middle-class housing area, which includes oiled roads, pipe-borne water supplies and electricity. More than 120 houses of stone and concrete blocks have been constructed and occupied, and, in the rural areas, mutual aid and aided self-help methods have resulted in the occupation of improved housing by 1,000 families.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Generally, there is legislation providing for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of workers. More particularly, industrial accidents and occupational diseases are covered by workmen's compensation ordinances. There is no system of unemployment insurance.

Social welfare

There is no social insurance scheme. Social Welfare Departments exist in all the islands except Grenada. There, welfare activities are handled by a Government social worker, public assistance being given by way of out-door relief or institutional care. In St. Lucia, which is in some respects typical of the group, the average monthly grant amounts to \$1.50 per person. Friendly societies play an important role in these activities by providing benefits for illness, maternity, death and funeral expenses. Various voluntary organizations also engage in social welfare activities.

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PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Probation services are available and an after-care system exists, but neither is highly developed. Central prisons do not provide adequately for the segregation of first offenders. The main categories of crime are assault, breaking and entering, and larceny. Rehabilitation is limited to the provision of training in courses such as carpentry, shoemaking and vegetable farming. The daily average of male prisoners in St. Vincent increased from 86.72 in 1947 to 113.55 in 1955.

Crime statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica:			
Assault	855	198	362
Breaking and entering	131	76	17
Praedial larceny	465	440	113
Grenada:			
Crimes against the person	...	471	1,125 ^{a/}
Crimes against property	...	1,382	1,438
Other	...	1,710	1,495
St. Lucia:			
Assault	...	571	425 ^{b/}
Breaking and entering	...	119	201 ^{b/}
Praedial larceny	...	409	354 ^{b/}
St. Vincent:			
Crimes against the person	...	160	325 ^{b/}
Crimes against property	...	536	794 ^{b/}
Other	...	1,046	922 ^{b/}

a/ 1956.
b/ 1955

Juvenile delinquency

The Government of St. Lucia established in 1957 a home for delinquents in need of institutional care, and plans are now being prepared to provide a farm school. In Dominica, the first significant step towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency was the inclusion in current development plans of provision for an approved school.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

The most important diseases common to the four islands in 1947 were malaria, yaws, venereal disease, helminthic infestations, and enteric fever. In addition, Dominica had a serious problem of malnutrition. Although the health of the population is reported to be generally satisfactory, there are still a number of serious health problems which require urgent attention. The spread of the principal diseases over the period has remained fairly constant, with pulmonary tuberculosis emerging as an additional problem.

A maternal, child, hygiene and school health service, with headquarters in Roseau, the capital of Dominica, is operated by a senior health visitor under the direction of a senior medical officer. As part of its functions, the clinic distributes free milk, cod liver oil and food yeast to needy and undernourished children. Under a United Nations Children's Fund school feeding programme, all children in primary and secondary schools receive a pint of reconstituted milk daily. Some 49,000 infants, 44,000 pre-school children and 57,000 school children received this help in 1957. Similar projects are being carried out in Grenada and St. Lucia. Since their inception, a general improvement in the health of the children has been reported.

The progress achieved by malaria control measures in Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia is such that total eradication is within sight. For example, in St. Lucia during 1957, the search for malaria cases by examination of blood slides taken from over 3,000 suspected cases in previous malarious areas revealed only eighteen positive cases. Similar results were found in Grenada. In Dominica, the reduction of the incidence in previously heavily infected areas was so great that routine control measures were relaxed. However, it was recognized that if foci of infection were allowed to remain, and favourable meteorological conditions existed for the multiplication of anopheles mosquitoes, the possibility of a severe epidemic of malaria still remained. A survey to evaluate the position was carried out towards the end of the period with the assistance of an expert provided by the World Health Organization, and a programme, utilizing Development and Welfare funds, which will make total eradication a certainty in two years or less has been drawn up for consideration by the Government.

The readiness with which yaws can now be cured has encouraged the Territories in which this disease has been widely prevalent, such as the Windward Islands, to apply to WHO and UNICEF for assistance to carry out mass treatment programmes of the whole population and to use Development and Welfare funds to meet the matching costs required in such projects. In Grenada, for example, such a campaign has met with success. Where many hundreds of active infectious clinical cases existed before mass treatment, the last survey has revealed a very small number: only seven in 1957. The number of reported cases in St. Vincent declined from a rate of 2,329.4 per 100,000 population in 1953 to 527.9 in 1956. Only five cases were found in a survey which covered two-thirds of the population. Similar campaigns were started in the other two islands during 1956.

The relatively high infant mortality rates in three of the four islands (Grenada excepted) points to the necessity of giving more attention to the care of new-born children and exerting greater efforts to advise and assist mothers in all aspects of infant welfare. In these three islands - Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent - one out of every ten infants born does not survive to complete one year of life. To reduce this waste of life, free maternal and child welfare services are being made increasingly available on a regular basis.

The enteric fevers continue in their usual sporadic incidence at a high level. There were localized outbreaks in St. Vincent (thirty-four cases with one death) and in St. Lucia (ninety-six cases) during 1957. A common cause of such outbreaks is sewage-polluted water supplies. Gastro-enteritis is common and is a serious cause of death in infancy. Sanitation requirements include safe water supplies and proper disposal of domestic refuse and sewage. Piped water supplies are generally available in the main towns and usually included in development projects in the rural areas. However, the lack of safe water supplies and of proper sewage disposal remains a major problem. Progress is being made with the help of a public health engineer posted to the Eastern Caribbean by WHO. He has completed surveys in all the islands except Dominica of the requirements for the improvement and treatment, where necessary, of piped water supplies for all inhabited areas, for the installation of a suitable type of domestic latrine in every dwelling house and for adequate sanitation and protected water supplies in all schools. In each case, he

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has put forward a programme to be carried out in stages over a number of years with estimates, quantities of materials, and tools and equipment required for the project on a year-to-year basis.

Tuberculosis continues to be a major health problem but, on the whole, does not appear to be increasing. In St. Vincent, for example, the average number of deaths over a five-year period was fifty-three annually. During 1957, a fifty-bed annex for tubercular patients at the Victoria Hospital in Castries, in St. Lucia, was completed. The Marie-Louise (tuberculosis) Hospital, which was extended to eighty beds in 1956 has contributed greatly to the control of tuberculosis in Grenada by enabling the prompt admission of infectious cases as soon as they have been diagnosed. A Tuberculosis Association was also formed in the Territory in 1956. Despite the reduction in incidence, venereal diseases are still prevalent.

General hospitals exist in the major population centres. In the outlying areas, health centres are being provided. During the period under review, additions to physical plant and equipment were being gradually made, including a new nurses' home at the Castries General Hospital.

Doctors serving in the Territory are trained elsewhere since there are no facilities locally; the Islands send medical students to the University College of the West Indies. Nurses and midwives are trained locally in the general hospitals, but the shortage of the former is acute because of the emigration to the United Kingdom of both qualified and student nurses. Occasionally, public health inspectors are trained in Jamaica.

Medical and health staff

	1947		1953 ^{a/}		1957	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>
Dominica:						
Doctors	7	1	9	...		
Dentists	1	2	1	...		
Nurses	28	...	94	60		
Nurse midwives	23	...	...	...
Sanitary inspectors	...	...	20	...		

Medical and health staff (continued)

	1947		1953 ^{a/}		1957	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>
Grenada:						
Doctors	13	5	15	...	14	
Dentists	4	...	1	...	1	
Nurses	78 ^{b/}	...	77 ^{c/}	...	120	
Sanitary inspectors	...	...	...	...	14	
St. Lucia:						
Doctors	10	...	5	...	11	1
Dentists	...	...	1	...	1	1
Nurses	...	...	...	...	80	...
Sanitary inspectors	...	...	10	...	11	...
St. Vincent:						
Doctors	8	2	11	...		
Dentists	1	...	...	...
Nurses	54	...	52 ^{d/}	...		
Sanitary inspectors	12	...	10	...		

^{a/} For 1954.

^{b/} All qualified nurses were qualified midwives.

^{c/} Including 39 student nurses.

^{d/} Including 19 nurse-midwives.

Institutions

				Number of beds		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica:						
General hospitals	4	4	...	137	...	
Cottage hospitals	...	2	...	...	10	
Clinics	19	...	...	...	...
Grenada:						
General hospitals	5	3	3	199	...	248
Specialized units:						
Mental hospital	1	...	...	
Dispensaries	...	...	9			
Leprosaria	...	1	...			
TB hospital	...	1	5			
Isolation hospital	...	1				

Institutions (continued)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	Number of beds		
				<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
St. Lucia:						
General hospitals	4 ^{a/}	4	4	148	168	178
Mental hospitals	1	1	1	...	...	140
Dispensaries	15	...	...	...	...
Leprosaria	1	1	1	...	...	20
St. Vincent:						
General hospitals	1	1	...	100	120	
Cottage hospitals	2	3	...	12	18	
Specialized units:						
TB hospitals	...	1	...	40	...	
Leprosaria	1	1	...	20	20	
Mental hospitals	1	1	...	100	100	
Dispensaries	20	19	...	...	...

a/ Partly equipped.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

The Windward Islands follow the West Indian pattern of dual control of education, representing collaboration between religious organizations and the Government. Primary education is free for pupils between the ages of five and fifteen, and financial assistance is sometimes provided where voluntary agencies operate fee-paying schools for pupils under five years of age. The enrolment has increased over the years with the erection of new buildings.

Secondary education is mainly provided at denominational institutions, although secondary schools are run by the Government in a number of the Territories: for example, a grammar school for boys in Grenada and another in Dominica.

The work of a home economist from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on secondment to the Caribbean Commission has encouraged the teaching of home economics to girls in schools. The return of graduates from the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute is expected to have a beneficial effect on agricultural practices in the Windward Islands. Vocational scholarships to

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Puerto Rico under the International Cooperation Administration of the United States have given an impetus to the study of technical subjects. The expansion of the Erdiston Training College for teachers in Barbados in 1955 has made possible the training of teachers from the Windward Islands.

Various types of adult education, including courses in agriculture, hygiene and home economics, are provided in each of the Islands. Classes are organized mainly by the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies.

Expenditure
(thousand British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dominica	42	313	329
Grenada	294 a/	516	622
St. Lucia	122	429	454
St. Vincent	64	338	...

a/ 1948.

Schools

	<u>1948</u>			<u>1953</u>			<u>1957</u>		
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>		<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>		<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>	
		<u>Non-</u>			<u>Non-</u>			<u>Non-</u>	
		<u>Aided</u>	<u>aided</u>		<u>Aided</u>	<u>aided</u>		<u>Aided</u>	<u>aided</u>
Dominica:									
Primary	35	-	3	42	-	10	44	-	3
Secondary	1	-	3	1	-	3	4	-	...
Grenada:									
Primary	13	-	42	11	-	41	11	-	43
Secondary	1	-	4	1	-	5	1	-	5
St. Lucia:									
Primary	...	-	47	1	-	69	...	-	52 ^{a/}
Secondary	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	2
St. Vincent:									
Primary	...	-	-	41	-	-	...	46 ^{b/}	...
Secondary	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	1

a/ 1956.

b/ Public and aided.

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Pupils

<u>Schools</u>	1948		1953		1957	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Dominica:						
Primary	4,477	4,841	5,562	5,617	6,291	6,697
Secondary	219	262	341	427	575	597
Grenada:						
Primary	18,385		9,592	5,904	9,821	9,511
Secondary	1,009		555	626	640	660
St. Lucia:						
Primary	10,997		7,001	7,504	17,482	
Secondary	233		315	330	800	
St. Vincent:						
Primary	13,679		7,928	7,534	17,764	
Secondary	433		300	253	596	

Teachers

<u>Schools</u>	1948		1953		1957	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Dominica:						
Primary		235	65	101	97	218
Secondary	12	16	16	27	23	30
Grenada:						
Primary	261	269	281	119	289	144
Secondary		45	35	20	31	33
St. Lucia:						
Primary)		113	266	447	
Secondary)	380	12	11	34	
St. Vincent:						
Primary		391	194	213
Secondary		18	13	12

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CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Working through such groups as youth and women's organizations, the British Council and the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies have performed a useful service. The provision of communal radio receiving sets from the Colonial Development and Welfare funds has also contributed to cultural development. There are few libraries but those that are located in the main towns serve an increasing number of readers. Mobile cinema units and book-mobiles provide for the cultural needs of some of the rural people.
