

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



✓  
Distr.  
GENERAL

A/4087/Add.5  
16 April 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Fourteenth session

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

Asian Territories

SINGAPORE<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> 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

As constituted at the end of 1957, the Colony of Singapore consisted of Singapore Island (217 square miles) and adjacent islets (about seven square miles) together with Christmas Island (Sixty-four square miles) in the Indian Ocean. On 23 November 1955 the Cocos or Keeling Islands (five square miles), which belonged to Singapore administratively and are situated about 550 miles from Christmas Island, were transferred to Australian administration. In June 1957 it was announced that arrangements had been made to transfer the administration of Christmas Island also to the Government of Australia.

Singapore Island is situated off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, and is connected with the mainland by a causeway across the Johore Strait. The city of Singapore occupies an area of thirty-two square miles on the south side of the Island, where deep harbour facilities are available. Its geographical position has made Singapore a main centre of communications and trade in South-East Asia. The climate is tropical with high rainfall and humidity. Most of the inhabitants live in the city area of Singapore Island, which in 1956 had a density of almost 5,500 persons per square mile (2.176 per square kilometre).

Over the past decade the growth of population has been rapid. The preliminary results of the 1957 census showed a total of 1,463,300 inhabitants, representing an increase of 522,476 (or 52 per cent) since the 1947 census. The population on the Cocos or Keeling Islands decreased from 1,814 in 1947 to 624 in 1954 on account of migration to Borneo. Singapore has been settled in addition to Malaysians, by immigrant peoples, whose main groups are Chinese and Indians. In the last decade, the population growth was due largely to a rate of natural increase of 3 to 4 per cent per year; moreover, the majority of the inhabitants remained locally domiciled. The high rate of natural increase and the changing pattern of migration helped to increase the proportion of males which appeared relatively small in pre-war population figures. Most of the present population is young; about one half of the people are under twenty-one years of age.

<u>Population</u>				
<u>Ethnic groups</u>	<u>Sept. 1947</u> (census)	<u>June 1953</u> (estimates)	<u>June 1956</u> (estimates)	<u>1957</u> (census)
Chinese	730,133	860,509	967,088	...
Malaysians	115,735	137,697	154,432	...
Indians and Pakistanis	68,978	87,224	98,267	...
Europeans	9,351	16,075	19,555	...
Eurasians	9,110	11,131	11,994	...
Others	<u>7,517</u>	<u>10,536</u>	<u>12,773</u>	<u>...</u>
Total	940,824 <sup>a/</sup>	1,123,172 <sup>b/</sup>	1,264,109 <sup>c/</sup>	1,463,300

a/ 938,144 for Singapore Island.

b/ 1,120,777 for Singapore Island.

c/ 1,261,677 for Singapore Island and 2,432 for Christmas Island. On the basis of the preliminary 1957 census figures, the estimates for 1956 were considered as low.

<u>Vital statistics</u>				
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957<sup>a/</sup></u>
Birth rate per 1,000	45.9	48.7	48.0	42.9
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.3	10.3	8.1	7.3
Infantile mortality, rate per 1,000 live births	87.3	67.0	43.0	41.1

a/ Singapore Island only.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Most of the economic activities and developments have been directly or indirectly connected with the entrepot trade. Although the resulting large earnings derived from this have made unrelated forms of investment less attractive, it has had the important effect of stimulating the growth of such industries as shipbuilding and repair, tin smelting and rubber and copra milling. The fluctuating character of export earnings in recent years and the mounting population pressure on the limited economic resources, however, have led the

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Government to seek ways to improve the efficiency of existing industries and to encourage local and foreign private investment in new industries. For this purpose, an industrial promotion board with an initial capital of \$M1,000,000<sup>2/</sup> was set up in 1957.

The Second World War, including three and a half years of enemy occupation, disrupted the economy of the Territory. After civil government was restored, the task of rehabilitation was undertaken by public authorities and private enterprise. The recovery was rapid, and by 1948 the foundations of the economy had in large measure been restored. In 1950 the Government turned its main attention from reconstruction to the problems of economic development. Although it did not undertake directly any economic or industrial projects, it provided the framework and basic facilities for further development. In addition to the Government itself, public agencies concerned with development were the City Council, the Harbour Board and the Singapore Improvement Trust. The development programmes drawn up in 1950 became a part of the Colombo Plan for economic development in South-East Asia. Singapore's development plan (1951-1957) provided, among other things, for the expansion of harbour facilities, the construction of an international airport, the expansion of electric power for local industrial development, and social investment essential to economic growth and social stability. The plan called for a public expenditure of \$M454.2 million, of which 68.1 per cent was allotted to social services and 31.9 per cent to economic projects. The main emphasis in social services was on housing, health and education. An international airport and a new electric power station, a dry dock and a reservoir, a highway and a large bridge were completed under the plan.

In 1954 a Mission sent by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the request of the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore studied the problems of economic development. The Mission recommended a programme for Singapore at an estimated cost of \$M610.4 million in the 1955-1959 period. The recommendations followed generally the lines that had been adopted in the original plan, but proposed certain modifications. In the light of the Mission's recommendations, the plan was reviewed and an economic

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<sup>2/</sup> The local currency is the Malayan dollar (\$M) which is equal to 2s.4d. sterling, or \$US0.327.

secretariat established in the Chief Minister's Office was given the responsibility of drawing up an over-all development plan. In 1956 a revised plan (1955-1960), estimated at a total cost of \$M562.2 million, was approved.

With the exception of several projects financed partly or wholly from United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare funds, or from loans, Singapore was able to finance its main development programme to the extent of 70 per cent from local income. A development fund was established in 1955 which stood at \$M65 million at the beginning of 1957. Up to 1955, allocations to Singapore under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts amounted to \$M7.3 million, of which \$M482,898 was the unspent balance in 1957. Under the 1955 Colonial Development and Welfare Act no territorial allocation was given to Singapore. However, applications can be made for assistance from a general reserve of \$M12.5 million for new schemes. Technical training facilities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were provided for officials from various government departments. Under the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan, Singapore also received technical assistance from Australia and other members of the Plan. From July 1950 to June 1958 it was allocated 186 training places while at the same time it provided thirty-four training places for trainees from other member countries. The number of experts visiting Singapore during the same period totalled forty-seven. Assistance has also been received through the United Nations and its specialized agencies, chiefly from the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation. Under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development, twenty-nine fellowships were awarded to Singapore students and forty-four experts visited Singapore during the period from 1 July 1950 to 30 June 1958.

#### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agricultural resources are limited, and in relation to the size of the population the cultivated area is small. In recent years, urban requirements have absorbed part of the available land. However, certain areas have now been zoned for agricultural purposes. Except for a 100-acre area reserved for Malaysians, there is no restriction on the alienation of land or on the holding of land by members of any race. A large portion of the land is held under title or has been alienated by lease for periods up to ninety-nine years. The supply of vacant Crown land in the city area is practically exhausted.

The significance of agriculture in the economy has declined. The cultivated area decreased from 50,561 acres in December 1947 to 34,823 acres in December 1956. Most of the cultivated areas were under rubber and coconuts. Although rubber accounted for almost half the agricultural acreage in 1956, only 6,000 acres were well maintained and regularly tapped. Emphasis on rubber plantations has given way to the production of food crops and livestock. Much of the agriculture now consists of the intensive cultivation of vegetables by Chinese gardeners. The locally grown vegetables supplied more than half of the demand; however, Singapore depends on imports from the Federation of Malaya and elsewhere for the bulk of its foodstuffs.

#### Principal crops

Crops	Area (acres)			Production (long tons)		
	1947	1953	1957	1947	1953	1957
Rubber	26,953	15,994	15,700	...	1,601	1,610
Coconuts	7,900	7,800	9,360	15.8 mil.	15 mil.	14 mil.
Vegetable and root crops	9,600	6,310	6,170	nuts	nuts	nuts
Fruit trees	5,280	4,700	4,820	71,400	24,500	24,650
Tobacco	75	372	660	7,050 <sup>a/</sup>	1,500	1,360
				55	222	310

<sup>a/</sup> Bananas and pineapples only.

#### Livestock

Facilities for the breeding of animals as an industry are limited; animal husbandry consists almost entirely of pig and poultry raising by Chinese small holders, and it is generally associated with vegetable and fruit farming. Imported stud animals were widely used by peasant farmers in raising pigs, and supplies of stud stock increased in 1956 with the arrival of a further consignment from Australia under the Colombo Plan. Free boar stud services were made available during 1957. As a result of the introduction of anti-Ranikhet vaccine, the poultry industry also expanded. The local production of pigs and poultry accounted for over 95 per cent of supplies in 1956, and has become a major rural industry. Beef and mutton were mainly imported either as refrigerated meats or as livestock on the hoof.

## FORESTRY

Only small areas of non-productive forest remain on the island. Nevertheless, Singapore is a sawmilling centre, handling timber imported from the Federation of Malaya, Indonesia and British Borneo. The re-export of logs was prohibited. During 1957, eighteen large sawmills, several small sawmills, one large plywood factory and numerous woodworking plants were in operation. All sawmills were owned by Chinese interests and operated by Chinese labour. Sawn timber production was 180,353 tons (of 50 cubic feet) in 1956 compared with 170,400 tons in 1953. The export of sawn timber increased from 16,152 tons (of 50 cubic feet) in 1947 to 73,845 tons in 1956. Under the Colombo Plan, the Singapore Government offers instruction in basic grading practice to students from Indonesia, Pakistan and Hong Kong.

## FISHERIES

The fishing grounds used by local fishermen extend from the inshore area to the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. However, the fishing industry remained essentially inshore. Local production has been encouraged by the introduction of improved techniques and materials and by the application of scientific research. A government fishing unit was established in 1952 to carry out exploratory work in new areas and to demonstrate improved fishing methods. A regional marine fisheries research station, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, was established in Singapore in 1955. A fisheries loan fund was established in 1951 to encourage offshore fishing and to assist fishermen in the purchase of materials on favourable terms. The Government provided aid for the mechanization of small fishing vessels and 653 were power-propelled in 1957, compared with 229 in 1947.

The number of licensed fishermen increased from 3,761 (2,492 Chinese and 1,251 Malays) in 1947 to 5,443 in 1957. The number of licensed fishing boats rose from 1,530 in 1947 to 2,765 in 1957. During 1956, a few large companies were formed to undertake offshore fishery projects and three companies were licensed to exploit distant fishing grounds with the help of Japanese experts.

Because of restrictive measures imposed by importing countries, the entrepot trade in salted fish declined.

Fish handled by auction markets  
(long tons)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Local production	2,209	4,537	5,189
Imports from			
Federation of Malaya	3,378	3,380	3,269
Indonesia	3,883	1,936	1,744
Other countries	<u>21</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>30</u>
	9,491	10,044	10,232

### POWER

The City Council is responsible for public utilities. Prior to 1952, only one electric power station was in operation. Its generating capacity had been increased in 1948 to 37,000 kilowatts. A new station (at Pasir Panjang) was designed with an ultimate capacity of 150,000 kilowatts. Construction began in 1950, and in the period from December 1952 to December 1954 three 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternators were brought into operation. With the installation of two more generators in 1955 and 1956, the total installed capacity was 125,000 kilowatts in 1957. The output was 438 million kwh in 1956 as against 105,687 kwh in 1947.

### INDUSTRY

The main agencies for encouraging industrial development are the Industrial Board, the Singapore Improvement Trust and the Malaya Development Limited, a subsidiary of the Colonial Development Corporation. The latter two organizations are co-operating in supplying industrial sites.

Local industries range from heavy engineering to small handicrafts. They include ship-building and repairing, tin smelting, rubber milling, sawmilling, brewing and aerated water bottling, and cotton spinning. In its initial development, industry tended to concentrate on the processing of products entering the entrepot trade. More recently, the scope of manufacturing enterprises has been widened by the establishment of a number of firms engaged in small-scale production. New factories include biscuit-making, glass and bottle-making, cotton spinning, and the manufacture of tin cans. The first



steel and iron rolling mill, with a potential capacity of 10,000 tons a year, commenced operations in 1956. The production of rubber milling has declined partly as a result of a lack of demand and partly because of reduced imports. The industry encountered further difficulties in supplies when, in October 1955, Indonesian authorities placed restrictions on the export of slab rubber. An increase of import duties introduced by the Federation of Malaya caused the output of Singapore's biscuit factories to fall from 283,200 cwt. in 1955 to 184,300 cwt. in 1957.

#### Industrial production

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Rubber milling (long tons)	180,000	94,118	67,795
Coconut oil (long tons)	42,000	16,463	48,701
Soap (cwt.)	...	237,525	255,000
Bricks (million units)	15.6	49.6	65.8
Pineapple (cases)	30,000	306,836	647,700
Rubber shoes (million pairs)	-	2.8	3.4

#### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### Transport

About sixteen miles of the Malayan Railway owned by the Federation of Malaya lie within Singapore. This single track railway connects the port with the mainland and provides long-distance services as alternatives to road transport and, to some extent, to sea transport. The number of passengers entraining at Singapore for destinations in the Federation rose from 167,487 in 1953 to 236,352 in 1957 while freight to and from Singapore increased from 399,191 to 456,148 tons during the same period.

The principal means of land transport is by road. In 1956 a total of 435 miles (as compared with 279 miles in 1947) linked the harbour with the road system in the Federation of Malaya. Since 1949, a complete resurfacing has been undertaken and in 1954, work was begun on the widening and reconstruction of the main traffic routes from the docks. The construction of a bridge over the Kallang River and of the Nicoll Highway was completed in 1956.

The increase in the volume of road traffic is indicated by the registration of motor vehicles; their number rose from 17,070, including 7,419 motor cars, in 1947 to 50,475 (including 31,451 motor cars) in 1957. In 1947, one person in 126 owned a motor car; by 1953, this ratio was one in thirty-two and, by 1957, one in twenty-eight. Congested road conditions led to the establishment of a Highways Co-ordination Committee in 1956 with the principal function of recommending measures to alleviate these conditions.

Singapore's geographic position has made it a centre of international air traffic. The expansion of civil aviation since 1947 required greater facilities than the Kallang airport could provide and a new international airport was completed in 1955 at Paya Lebar capable of handling international jet aircraft. The United Kingdom Government assisted by providing \$M10 million in Colonial Development and Welfare funds towards the estimated cost of \$M57 million. The airport has a runway of 8,000 feet, and with room for expansion to 10,000 feet. When a permanent terminal building has been built, it is expected that the total cost will have reached \$M46 million.

Aircraft, passengers and freight

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of landings	2,075	5,689	6,098
Passengers:			
Arrivals	13,186	62,391	96,044
Departures	13,252	61,565	95,213
In transit	14,443	16,396	31,167
Freight (thousand lb.):			
Landed	479	1,943	2,873
Dispatched	553	3,036	8,691
In transit	614	1,053	1,305
Mail (thousand lb.):			
Landed	546	854	1,268
Dispatched	493	898	1,271

The port facilities suffered severe damage during the Second World War. The work of rebuilding the port and restoring its organization had been virtually completed by the end of 1948. Since then, these facilities have been further improved and extended. In 1956, a new dry-dock was completed with the assistance of \$M1.7 million in Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Singapore is a port of registry for British ships and is served by passenger and cargo lines from all continents. During 1954, rules came into force implementing the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1948, and ships on international voyage in Singapore waters may now be surveyed and certified according to the standards applied in leading maritime States.

Movement of merchant ships

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of ships and native craft of all tonnages entered and cleared:	58,121	64,197	40,190
Total net tonnage (millions of tons: entry and clearance counted as separate transactions)	23.5	46.3	66.2

Communications

The Singapore postal services are part of a Pan-Malayan Postal Department with headquarters at Kuala Lumpur. Mail traffic increased from 13 million items in 1947 to 97 million items in 1957.

The local telephone service, which was operated by a private company, was taken over by the Singapore Telephone Board, a public corporation, in January 1955. The system is fully automatic; the number of exchange lines increased from 19,000 with 13,000 extensions in 1953 to 30,000 with 18,000 extensions in 1957. A five-year programme of development outlined in 1956 called for a capital expenditure of \$M26 million, of which \$M15 million was to be lent by the Government. Trunk telephone circuits exist between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya; the number of calls increased from one million in 1953 to over 2 million in 1957.

Overseas radio-telephone service has been extended to connect Malaya with most other countries in the world. Towards the end of 1957, links in operation connected Singapore with London, San Francisco, Sydney and Osaka. Some 24,200 radio-telephone calls were handled in 1957 compared with 11,600 in 1953. Telegraph communications between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya have extensions by radio to Thailand and British Borneo. With the installation of a



teleprinter switching system in late 1956, it was possible to obtain direct connexion to the principal telegraph offices in the Federation. The teleprinter circuits to and from the Federation handled 184,000 telegrams in 1957. Overseas telegraph traffic is handled by a private company whose submarine cables provide direct duplex circuits with neighbouring and Commonwealth countries. The number of overseas telegrams handled by the company was 1,381,387 in 1957.

#### PUBLIC FINANCE

Singapore's financial position during the period under review reflected general trade conditions. With the exception of 1954, revenue exceeded expenditure. The 1954 deficit was caused by two items of special expenditure: \$M14.5 million for the acquisition of the telephone and electric company, and \$M36.4 million in settlement of the shares of the Federation of Malaya and North Borneo in the assets of the former Straits Settlement Government.

The major items of expenditure have been social services, defence, public order and public works. The share of education, health and social welfare in the total expenditure rose from about 25 per cent in 1953 to 32 per cent in 1956.

The main sources of revenue are income taxes and customs duties, which are levied on liquors, tobacco and petroleum products. Seventy-five per cent of the total revenue was derived from taxation in 1956 compared with 69 per cent in 1953.

Two local authorities have their own budgets. That of the City Council provided, in 1956, for a total expenditure of nearly \$M136 million as compared with actual expenditure of \$M65 million for 1953. The Rural Board, which is responsible for the areas outside the city limits and the outlying islands in Singapore waters, also collects its own rates and fees, but has been dependent on contributions from the Singapore Government to meet its deficit. The Board's total expenditure was \$M4.5 million in 1956, as against \$M4.1 million in 1953.

The territorial public debt amounted to \$M115 million at the end of 1956 and was not considered high. The fiscal year coincides with the calendar year.

Revenue and Expenditure  
(thousands of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u> (actual)	<u>1953</u> (actual)	<u>1957</u> (actual)
Revenue	56,083	238,519	241,531
Expenditure	62,370	169,731	238,432
Major heads of revenue:			
Customs, excise, licences, etc.	43,342	92,633	123,992
Income tax	-	103,217 <sup>a/</sup>	65,208
Fees of offices and payments for specific services	1,412	11,855	15,999
Rents and interests	2,447	11,072	12,313
Major heads of expenditure:			
Education	2,158	17,422	48,055
Medical and health	6,346	16,617	28,128
Police	6,940	20,790	23,704
Public works	4,962 <sup>b/</sup>	18,012 <sup>b/</sup>	11,052
Public debt charges	6,793	5,950	6,480

<sup>a/</sup> Including \$416 million collected on behalf of the Federation of Malaya.

<sup>b/</sup> Including all capital works. In 1955, special development estimates were established, and all expenditure for works shown under the head of Public Works Non-recurrent in the ordinary estimates was transferred to development expenditure.

Development finance

Public development projects are carried out by the Singapore Government, the City Council, the Harbour Board and the Improvement Trust. The City Council's schemes have been financed largely from loans and those of the Improvement Trust have depended mainly on loans from the Singapore Government. Funds for financing the territorial development plan (1951-1957) were derived to the extent of 69.4 per cent from local resources; 25.3 per cent from loans; and 5.3 per cent from Colonial Development and Welfare allocations. The rise in recurrent expenditure and the increase in development required additional funds. The Government considered increasing taxation as had been suggested by the International Bank Mission, but preferred to have recourse to loans. In the development programmes for the period 1955-1960, estimated at a total of \$4562.2 million, the sources of funds are as follows: loans, 63.7 per cent; local resources, 35.4 per cent; Colonial Development and Welfare allocations, 0.9 per cent.

Development expenditure

	<u>1951-1957 plan</u> (in \$M3.4 million)	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u> (est.)
			(actual expenditure in \$M thousand)				
Agriculture	3.4	-	-	156	90	134	910
Multipurpose projects	-	-	1,793	653	1,353	2,094	3,069
Transport and communications	59.8	-	4,021	11,909	16,766	24,694	21,004
Fuel and power	81.0	20,548	21,139	29,382	34,955	29,894	21,445
Social services	280.5	42,218	37,320	55,659	50,990	50,232	52,128
Miscellaneous	29.5	536	32	-	30,300	8,365	22,117
Total	454.2 <sup>a/</sup>	63,302	64,305	97,759	134,454	115,413	120,673

a/ The development schemes were revised in 1953, and the expenditure of \$M454.2 million was increased to some \$M643 million.

Banking and Credit

The banking system of the Malayan Peninsula is centred in Singapore. About thirty banks operated in the city in 1956 compared with about twenty in 1947. Depositors in the post office savings bank numbered 74,432 on 31 December 1959 and 178,236 on 31 December 1957. At the end of the year, the total amount standing to the credit of depositors was \$M48,958,456, compared with \$M26,770,806 on 31 December 1949.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

As a centre of the entrepot trade, Singapore's prosperity is dependent on the prices on the world market of a number of basic commodities, which determine the economic conditions and trade policies of the neighbouring South-East Asian countries. In the period reviewed about four-fifths of the imports were re-exported. Most imports and exports of the Federation of Malaya were handled by Singapore, the principal exports being rubber and tin.

Largely because of the strong demand and high prices paid for rubber, total trade reached a value of \$M7,613 million in 1951. Owing to the fall in world rubber prices from \$M1.69 per pound in 1951 to \$M0.96 in 1952, the value of trade dropped to \$M5,397 million in 1952. The volume and value of trade declined

further in 1953, but the prices of rubber and tin increased in 1954 and the resulting rise in export earnings continued in 1955 and 1956. An increase in imports during 1956 was attributed to the general Malayan expansion programmes and augmented purchases of capital goods and equipment.

Services in connexion with transshipments, insurance and financing, in addition to capital investments, have counteracted the unfavourable balance of visible trade.

Imports and exports  
(in millions of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Total imports	1,045.9	2,341.9	3,277.4
Total exports	813.2	1,978.5	2,773.1
Principal imports (excluding those from the Federation)			
Rubber	143.6	293.3	547.4
Petroleum products <sup>a/</sup>	43.7	476.4	710.8
Textile manufactures <sup>b/</sup>	311.3	164.4	210.9
Rice			
Principal exports (excluding those to the Federation)			
Rubber	415.4	750.8	1,145.9
Petroleum products <sup>a/</sup>	12.4	292.6	381.1
Tin	44.1	172.3	133.5
Textile manufactures <sup>b/</sup>	42.5	69.8	74.7

<sup>a/</sup> Figures for 1947 and 1953 relating to motor spirit and liquid fuel; and the 1948 export figure **refers** to motor spirit only.

<sup>b/</sup> Figures for 1953 relate to cotton textile manufactures.

Direction of trade  
(percentage of value)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Origin of imports (principal countries)			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16.1	16.2	13.7
Indonesia	21.9	29.4	32.9
United States of America	11.0	4.9	5.3
Japan	...	4.5	6.8
Thailand	6.7	7.1	4.4
Destination of exports (principal countries)			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11.2	12.9	14.8
United States of America	21.2	12.5	10.4
Indonesia	11.5	10.9	8.0
Japan	...	4.9	7.9
Australia	6.6	7.3	4.9

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No serious problems of racial or cultural relations have been reported arising from the existence of plural communities differing in race, religion, customs and language. The human rights and fundamental freedoms have been described as similar to those in the United Kingdom. Women, by and large, enjoy the status generally accepted in modern society.

The influx of population after the war and the high rate of population growth have outstripped housing and social facilities and have led to a high degree of overcrowding in the urban areas. Two post-war trends have favourably affected social stability. In the first place, since 1947 the population has become more settled; there had previously been a high rate of immigration. The percentage of locally born persons was 73 in 1954 as compared with 60.7 in 1947 and 31 in 1921. Under the Citizenship Ordinance 1957, a large number of domiciled aliens have become citizens. Secondly, in recent years the sex ratio among the adult population has begun to approach a more normal figure.

## LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

During the period under review, the Labour Department, which in earlier years dealt primarily with the problems of the immigrant worker, turned to the conditions of work and industrial safety of the settled worker and to questions of industrial relations. A new Labour Ordinance, which came into effect towards the end of 1955, fulfilled in part the Government's policy of raising the minimum standards of working conditions. Under the Ordinance, no workmen can be required to work more than six consecutive hours at a time, nor perform actual labour for more than eight hours a day, or for more than forty-four hours per week. It provides for sick leave with pay, for maternity leave benefits, and for the adjudication of individual claims of manual workers against their employers relating to wages, advances and conditions of employment. Other legislation such as that establishing a Central Provident Fund and an amended Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which also came into force in 1955, provided additional benefits for workers. The Wages Council Ordinance 1953 enables minimum wages and conditions of employment to be laid down by Wages Councils in those industries which do not possess adequate negotiating machinery. Since this Ordinance had not been invoked,

a Committee on Minimum Standards of Livelihood recommended in 1956 the appointment of a special committee to advise on the implementation of the Ordinance in specific industries where wages had fallen below a certain level.

#### Employment Situation

Statistical figures showing the total working population and the extent of unemployment or under-employment are not available. During the 1947 census, 357,000 persons declared themselves gainfully occupied. Persons gainfully employed or available for employment during 1953 and 1957 were estimated at 425,000 and 472,100, respectively. These figures included administrative, managerial and clerical workers, shop assistants and domestic servants, as well as manual workers. The Labour Department's half-yearly survey of workmen showed that the total number of manual workers in employment was 122,999 in September 1957 and 120,555 in September 1956 compared with 123,600 in September 1953. In 1956, of the 120,555 workmen 75,039, as compared with 75,254 in 1953, were employed in private enterprises and 45,516 (43,771 in 1953) in public services. About 55,010 of the 75,039 workmen in private enterprise in 1956 were engaged in manufacturing industries as compared with 65,535 out of the total of 75,254 in 1953. Skilled workers remained in short supply, while in the unskilled group, supply exceeded demand. Chinese workmen formed 61.4 per cent of those employed in 1956, 22.4 per cent were Indians and Pakistanis, 15.5 per cent were Malaysians, and 0.7 per cent were from other groups.

Including allowances, daily wage rates of unskilled labour in government employment increased from \$M2.17 in 1947 to \$M4.15 in 1956. A sample survey made in 1956 covered the fifty-nine principal industries employing a total of 107,927 workmen or 86.6 per cent of the manual working population; it indicated that the average weekly earnings increased from \$M36.80 in 1955 to \$M37.12 in 1956, while the average weekly hours of work decreased from 49.98 in 1955 to 48.42 in 1956. The average hourly earnings rose from 74 cents in 1955 to 77 cents in 1956. The highest average hourly earnings of \$M1.25 for all workmen were recorded in the pineapple canning industry. The average hourly earnings were well above the general average of 77 cents in sawmilling, mining and quarrying, the production of newspaper and periodicals, ship building and repairing, the manufacture of furniture and fixtures, and building construction. The

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average hourly earnings were far below the general average in such industries as rubber cultivation, the manufacture of biscuits, tailoring, and the manufacture of rubber footwear. The Committee on Minimum Standards of Livelihood estimated in 1956 that the average earnings of workers in regular employment was about \$M150 a month, and that the most common wage was between \$M100 and \$M120 a month.

#### Workers' and employers' organizations

An ordinance to provide for the registration and supervision of trade unions, originally passed in 1941, came into operation after the restoration of civil government. In 1947, there were 163 trade unions. Following the enactment in 1948 of Emergency Regulations, which had the effect of making the parties to a dispute attempt to solve their differences before resorting to a stoppage of work, the militant wing of the trade union movement, which had emerged in post-war years, disintegrated. The number of unions was 132 in 1949. Of these, ninety-three were employees' unions, with 47,301 members, thirty-seven were employers' unions with 4,353 members, and two were federations of trade unions. The number of registered employee unions rose from 133 to 216 between 1953 and 1957 and their membership from 73,566 to 140,710. During the same period, the number of employers' unions increased from forty-three to fifty-six and their membership from 5,240 to 6,422.

The number of man-days lost through strikes in 1947 was 492,708. In 1954 a strike of some 10,000 City Council employees led to the loss of 135,206 man-days. In 1955 a wave of strikes, totalling 275, resulted in the loss of 946,354 man-days. The year 1956 saw a diminution in industrial unrest; twenty-nine strikes causing 454,455 man-days lost were reported. In 1957 there were twenty-seven strikes with a loss of 135,206 man-days.

#### Vocational training

Before 1956, apprenticeship training was confined to technical departments of the Government, large establishments such as the Naval Dockyard and the Harbour Board, and a few big companies; their training schemes often attracted applications far in excess of vacancies. In that year, a Joint Advisory Council for Apprenticeship Training was established consisting of representatives of the Labour and Education Departments, of employers' associations and of organized labour; it was formed to plan and organize training schemes, with the aim of



extending apprenticeship training to all firms with facilities for such schemes. Earlier, the International Labour Organisation had assisted in conducting a supervisory training scheme, sponsored by the Government and started in 1954; by the end of 1956, over 3,500 supervisors had received training. To encourage and expand training within industry under this project, a Supervisory Training Association was formed in 1955. During 1956, two officers from the Labour Department specialized in this field in the United Kingdom. A scheme for the training and rehabilitation of certain types of disabled persons was started in 1952 and was continued in the following years.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The scope of the co-operative movement has been limited; it consists mainly of thrift and loan societies. In the past few years, special attention has been given to marketing societies for Chinese farmers and Malay fishermen. Before the appointment of a registrar for co-operative societies in 1956, the registrar in the Federation of Malaya, performed these duties. In the same year, the first rural co-operative conference was held in Singapore and representatives from local societies attended an all Malayan Co-operative Conference in Penang. At the end of 1957, there were ninety-six registered co-operative societies compared with fifty in 1953 and thirty-six in 1947. The total membership in 1947 was 13,300 as against 22,167 members in 1953.

#### STANDARD OF LIVING

National income estimates have thus far been computed for Singapore and the Federation of Malaya as a single unit. The first estimate for the combined areas was published in 1951 and gave a per capita income, for the years 1947-1950 of \$M546, \$M541, \$M465 and \$M776 respectively. The International Bank Mission estimated the per capita income in 1953 at \$M800. A Committee on Minimum Standards of Livelihood, appointed in 1955 to report on government action to promote the establishment of minimum standards of livelihood for the people of Singapore, believed that all private incomes in 1956 should total not less than \$M1,200 million. On the basis of this estimate, the per capita income in Singapore would have been about \$M1,000.

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Partial family budget surveys had shown that poverty existed in certain sections of the population. The principal distinguishable causes of poverty were unemployment and irregular employment and interruption of earnings on account of sickness, old age and death of the family breadwinner.

The first social survey, made in 1947, was concerned mainly with the age and sex composition of the population, the structure of the household and the occupation of wage earners and housing; it showed that 2 per cent of the wage earners were without any occupation. A 1948 budget survey of forty-three families of two or more persons with incomes between \$M50 and \$M250 a month showed that the average expenditure of the four-person families was \$M126 a month, and that of the five-person families \$M149 a month. A survey of urban incomes and housing undertaken in 1953 and 1954 covered 7,158 city households, in which no single earner had an income per month of more than \$M400. The survey estimated that \$M102 a month would be required to maintain a family of man, wife and two children at a minimum standard, and it found that only 19 per cent of all households had an income sufficient for that standard. The Committee on Minimum Standards of Livelihood recommended that no general minimum or standard wage should be laid down by statute or rule. It estimated that the theoretical cost of raising all households in poverty up to the minimum level would be about \$M27 million a year. In preparation for a rural survey, complementary to a survey of urban incomes and housing, a pilot project was conducted during 1957.

Based on the 1939 pattern of expenditure, monthly indices have been computed in the post-war years relating to the cost of living of higher income groups and of clerical workers. With the object of preparing an index of retail prices, the Statistics Department commenced in 1956 an extended family budget survey based on scientific principles; the results of this survey are not yet available.

Cost of living index (1939 = 100)

	<u>Dec. 1947</u>	<u>Dec. 1953</u>	<u>Dec. 1957</u>
Higher income groups	193.6	235.9	248.4
Clerical workers	270.5	332.8	322.5

## TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

The Singapore Improvement Trust was founded in 1927 to relieve congested housing areas and to undertake improvement schemes; it has become a housing authority, acting as a government agent in all matters connected with planning, land use and housing.

In spite of the efforts made by the Government and private organizations, the shortage of housing has remained acute. Before the Second World War, the Improvement Trust had built low-cost housing for the working class. In 1947 a housing committee was appointed to review the entire housing problem. The Committee submitted a plan not only for an immediate alleviation of the situation, but also for a permanent solution through a long-term programme. The immediate plan provided for the construction of 4,336 dwellings between 1948 and 1950 at a cost of over \$M21 million for 36,000 people, while the long-term plan stressed the need for the preparation of a master plan (see below) and of the establishment of new or satellite towns outside the city limits. The Committee's report showed that many blocks in the city contained a population of over 1,000 persons to the acre; that in an area of 1,000 acres more than 300,000 people lived and worked; and that the squatter problem was growing in intensity every year as a result of an annual increase in population of 40,000. It was estimated in 1948 that a quarter of a million people needed to be rehoused and that the natural increase in population would require housing for at least another quarter million people within the next ten years.

The magnitude of the housing problem was accentuated by the scarcity of land, by the shortage of building materials and labour, and by financial limitations. The Improvement Trust started its post-war housing programme in 1947 and received its first housing loan of \$M5 million from the Government in 1948. Up to December 1957, a total of \$M140.6 million in loans was made available to the Trust and \$M89.5 million of that total had been drawn. From 1947 to 1957 the Trust built 14,832 houses and 623 shops and eleven markets. A total of 1,274 houses and seventy shops were completed in 1957 and 4,971 houses and 124 shops were under construction at the end of the year. It was estimated that when these houses were completed the Trust would have provided over 20,000 houses for 140,000 people, or nearly 10 per cent of the population. In

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addition, the City Council, the Harbour Board and the Public Works Department had built, up to the end of 1956, a total of 18,958 housing units for their employees and officers.

As regards long-term planning and controlled development, in 1950 an expert was appointed as planning adviser. The next year the Singapore Improvement (Amendment) Ordinance imposed on the Trust the duty of carrying out a diagnostic survey and of preparing a master plan before the end of 1955.

By the end of 1953, several studies and surveys on population, land use, building and industrial resources, and traffic problems had been prepared. The surveys and the master plan contained proposals which would meet the needs until 1972, when the population was expected to reach 2 million. The plan was submitted to the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing in November 1955, and early in 1956 it was explained to the public.

The main proposals are for the development of 7,000 acres of land for 109,000 homes in urban and suburban areas to accommodate 545,000 people; the creation of three new self-sufficient towns in rural areas for a total population of 200,000; and the construction of at least 10,000 permanent dwellings a year. In 1957, the plan was accepted by the Government in a modified form, and legislation was being introduced for its implementation.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

Voluntary organizations had in earlier years assumed many responsibilities in the field of social welfare. The social problems created and aggravated by wartime conditions however had grown beyond the scope of voluntary bodies and in 1946 a Social Welfare Department was created to meet such emergencies as the handling of refugees and displaced persons. By the end of 1948 the emergency tasks had been completed and the Department assumed functions of a more permanent character. A five-year plan for social welfare development was prepared; in 1949 the Legislative Assembly approved it in principle and the Department began to recruit and train professional staff to carry it out. More recently, the Department has consolidated and improved existing schemes for the relief of distress and malnutrition and for the care of destitute and orphaned children. It has carried out long-term development projects for child and youth welfare,

public assistance and social research. A Social Welfare Council, with representation from both government departments and voluntary organizations, has been created to co-ordinate the welfare activities of the Government, the voluntary organizations and the University of Malaya.

No contributory schemes of social insurance applicable to the population at large have yet been introduced. Workmen's compensation provisions exist for the protection of workers and their families; a Central Provident Fund scheme covers every person who has worked in Singapore under a contract for the same employer continuously for three months; free medical treatment and hospital services are given to needy cases; homes are maintained for orphans and the aged and a broad scheme of public assistance covers most categories of needy persons.

Under a technical assistance scheme an International Labour Organisation expert completed, in September 1956, a study of the existing social welfare measures with a view to producing a comprehensive social security system. The ILO expert worked in close co-operation with the Committee on Minimum Standards of Livelihood, which also made a study of such a system. In its 1956 report, the Committee recommended the introduction of a social security scheme financed primarily by contributions from employers and employees, which would provide for the great mass of workers modest rates of benefit in the event of old age, widowhood and sickness. Cases of need not provided for under the new social security scheme would be dealt with under a revised public assistance scheme.

Under the present public assistance scheme a needy family may receive a maximum of \$M90 per month. The average number of families receiving benefits under the scheme was 16,590 in 1957 compared with 2,254 in 1947. The total annual payment amounted to \$M6,229,655 in 1957 as against \$M228,492 in 1950.

#### Community Development

Two new community centres were established in 1953 combining social work for children during the day with the provision of educational and recreational facilities for adults in the evening. One of the centres was used by the Medical Department and the University of Malaya for teaching principles of public health to the community. During 1956, seven large and twelve small community centres were in operation and one large and five smaller centres were under construction.

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## PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Excluding cases involving dangerous drugs, the number of offences was 12,075 in 1947 and 12,439 (or 12 per 1,000 persons) in 1956. A large percentage of crime during the years 1947 and 1956 was attributed to members of unlawful societies.

Owing to the overcrowded living conditions and to the disruption of homes, the problem of juvenile delinquency reached serious proportions at the end of the war. A school for boys was established in 1947. In 1951 a probation service was started and the staff was trained with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Crime statistics

	Number of cases		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Offences against the person	737	708	964
Offences against property with violence	3,083	1,848	1,848
Offences against property without violence	5,639	4,477	5,595

## PUBLIC HEALTH

In the immediate post-war years, the first task of the health and medical authorities was the rehabilitation of medical institutions, and, by 1948, the pre-war position had been regained. A ten-year medical plan was approved towards the end of 1948 which aimed at doubling the existing clinical facilities and providing adequate medical service for the whole population. By the end of 1956, government hospital facilities had been extended and their bed capacity had doubled; the development of maternity and child welfare services in the rural areas included some forty health centres; the school medical and dental service covered the whole island; and anti-malaria and other public health measures had been enlarged in scope. Between 1947 and 1957, patients admitted to government hospitals increased from 33,960 to 81,809, while out-patient attendance rose from 530,116 to 2,057,293. In spite of these efforts, there was still a shortage of hospital beds and highly qualified personnel.

The infant and general mortality rate has declined and there has been no outbreak of major quarantinable diseases. Malaria has been eradicated as a

result of improved drainage in the city and of residual spraying in the rural areas. Modern methods of treatment have brought leprosy under control. Typhoid fever, poliomyelitis and diphtheria are endemic although the incidence is low. Tuberculosis remains the most serious public health problem. In its anti-tuberculosis work the Government has the co-operation of the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association and in 1951 it also received assistance from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in a programme of tuberculin tests and BCG vaccination. Since then hospital facilities for tuberculosis patients and the school schemes for mass radiography, tuberculin testing and BCG inoculation have been extended. To co-ordinate all existing work, a separate organization for the control of tuberculosis was set up in 1956 within the Ministry of Health. Environmental hygiene and sanitation improved with the extension of the sewerage system; about 90 per cent of the population were served by piped water supply. The remote rural areas depended on wells for water.

A shortage of qualified expatriate personnel existed immediately after the war as the recruitment had been suspended for some years. In 1949, the qualified medical staff was 40 per cent below strength. The medical staffing position eased in the following years. In December 1956, the Government issued a statement of policy on Malayanization under which the posts of Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Director of Medical Services were to be filled by local persons and about forty expatriate staff, consisting of medical officers, nurses and senior technicians, were invited to continue employment for periods ranging from one to ten years.

The training of professional staff in local institutions was not able to keep pace with the increasing demand. The King Edward VII College of Medicine became in 1949 the medical school of the University of Malaya with a total of seventy-two medical students. Both physicians and dentists trained by the school may register in the United Kingdom. To increase facilities for post-graduate medical education and to facilitate the implementation of the Malayanization policy, arrangements were made with the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, under the Colombo Plan, to conduct a short course in 1957 for medical graduate students preparing for a primary examination for the Fellowships in Singapore.

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Expenditure<sup>a/</sup>

(thousands of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Recurrent expenditure	5,238	21,550	34,183
Capital expenditure	182	4,602	5,700
Total	5,420	26,152	39,883

a/ Including the City Council and Rural Board.Medical and Health Staff

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>
Registered physicians	102	155	167 <sup>a/</sup>	249	322 <sup>a/</sup>	329
Dentists	5	141 <sup>b/</sup>	24 <sup>a/</sup>	29	48 <sup>a/</sup>	286 <sup>b/</sup>
Nurses: Female	383	2	403	203	614	204
Male	27	2	194	5	230	10
Pharmacists	5	50	8 <sup>a/</sup>	66	22 <sup>a/</sup>	65
Midwives	184	2	194	5	148	91

a/ Including university teaching staff.b/ Figures for 1947 and 1957 include unqualified dentists.Institutions

	<u>Number of beds</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Government hospitals			
General	550	800	1,182
Kandang Kerbau (maternity)			
excluding cots	220	240	316
Tan Tock Seng (tuberculosis)	400	565	938
Orthopaedic	60	120	120
Prisons	50	160	160
Social hygiene - excluding cots	60	70	65
Infectious disease	250	250	250
Leprosy settlement	347	790	973
Police training school	20	20	20
Mental	700	1,800	2,040
Opium treatment centre	-	-	20
Total	2,657	4,815	6,084

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## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Educational development has been guided by a ten-year plan adopted in 1947 and modified by the first elected Government in 1955, to provide universal free primary education of six consecutive years through the medium of one of the following languages: Chinese, Malay, Tamil and English according to parents' choice. The principles of the plan stressed equal educational opportunity for children of both sexes and of all races, the fostering of civic loyalty and responsibility, and the extension of the capacity for self-government. No provision was made for compulsory education as it was recognized that only when adequate and efficient schools had been provided could compulsory education be effectively enforced.

The plan called for the building of 150 primary schools in the period from 1947 to 1957. In order to meet the needs of the growing school population, a supplementary five-year plan was introduced in 1950 providing for ninety more schools of a simpler kind in the years 1950-1954. After 1951, the building programme was slowed down because of the rising cost in construction and the scarcity of sites. By the end of 1957 over 100 new schools, including ten secondary schools, had been completed and there were enough places to give every child a six-year primary course.

Before the adoption of the ten-year plan, free primary education in the vernacular was confined to Malays. As the first step in the implementation of the plan, free primary education was introduced in 1949 in the first-year classes of all registered and aided schools. By 1954, free education was provided in all registered schools except the top classes. During 1956, education in the primary classes of all schools was provided free for children who were locally born and of the correct age for their class.

The presence of immigrant groups and their desire to preserve their cultural traditions, the efforts of the missionary societies in education, and the establishment of government schools have all influenced the pattern of the educational system. On the basis of the language of instruction, schools were classified as English, Chinese, Malay and Indian (Tamil) schools. While the English schools catered to children of all races, the other vernacular schools

were, in practice, organized on communal lines. For the purpose of developing regional vernacular schools and fostering a common loyalty, it was proposed in 1953 to introduce bilingual education in all schools and to increase grants-in-aid to Chinese schools. In 1954, it was decided to give financial aid to these schools on the same basis as English schools, and by the end of that year about a quarter of the eligible Chinese schools had received full aid. In May 1955, following disorders in some of the Chinese middle schools, a nine-man all-party committee was appointed by the Legislative Assembly to make recommendations for the improvement and strengthening of Chinese schools. Reporting in 1956, the committee made the following recommendations: equal treatment in principle for all schools and in particular the extension of the full grant-in-aid to Chinese schools; bilingual education in primary schools and trilingual education in secondary schools; new syllabuses and textbooks with a common content for all schools; the establishment of government Chinese schools; and a new education ordinance incorporating the old Education Ordinance and the Registration of Schools Ordinance and providing for an educational advisory council and for an education finance board. Practically all the recommendations were adopted by the Government in 1956 although it expressed doubts about the practicability of extending the secondary school curriculum to provide for instruction in three languages. Toward the end of 1956, a new Education Bill and Grant-in-Aid Regulations were drafted and a general Syllabuses and Text-Books Committee was formed. During 1956, all schools applied for full aid and most of the applications were approved. Grants-in-aid rose from \$M15 million in 1956 to \$M20 million in 1957. Following the closing of the two largest Chinese middle schools in September 1956, the Government established government Chinese middle schools. The provision of adequate secondary education has presented problems because of limitations on financial and building resources and the number of suitably qualified teachers.

A programme for the recruitment and training of teachers has been carried out. Since its inception in 1950, the Teachers' Training College has expanded its courses to include both full-time and part-time courses for teachers in English, Chinese and Malay schools. Teachers for the latter schools were also trained at colleges in the Federation of Malaya. At the end of 1956, there

were 2,186 teachers in training at the college compared with 1,049 in 1950. In 1956, teachers taking post-graduate courses at the University of Malaya leading to the diploma of education totalled sixty-five.

Two new secondary technical schools were opened in 1956 with 264 boys attending. A Singapore Polytechnic, costing \$M5.5 million for buildings and \$M2.5 million for equipment, is expected to be completed in the near future and classes began in 1957 in temporary premises. The University of Malaya was founded in 1949 by the union of two existing colleges and is financed by the Government of the Federation of Malaya and the Governor of Singapore. It began with faculties of medicine, arts and science; several departments have been added, such as engineering, geology, social studies and Indian studies. In Kuala Lumpur a division of the University has been established providing courses in engineering and agriculture as well as in arts and science. Singapore also has the private Nanyang University. It opened in 1956 with 580 students in arts, science and commerce, and has taken steps to secure government aid and recognition of its degrees. Financial assistance for students seeking higher education abroad is afforded by the scholarships financed by the Government, the Colombo Plan and funds granted under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

Expenditure  
(thousands of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Recurrent expenditure	3,838	18,395	...
Capital expenditure	<u>219</u>	<u>2,541</u>	<u>...</u>
Total	4,057	20,936	57,147

Schools<sup>a/</sup>

	<u>1947</u>			<u>1953</u>			<u>1957</u>		
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Indep.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Indep.</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Indep.</u>
Registered schools:									
English	13	16	39	80	42	53	179	61	70
Malay	34	1	-	36	1	-	65	1	-
Chinese	-	49	105	-	111	162	9	233	37
Indian (Tamil)	-	5	6	-	21	-	-	17	-
Junior technical	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Secondary technical	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
	48	71	150	117	176	215	257	313	107
Other registered schools )					51			58	
Non-registered schools		14			10			-	
		283			569			735	

a/ In many instances both primary and secondary classes are in one school; information available before 1956 makes it impractical to classify schools by levels.

Pupils

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
English schools	18,779	10,316	45,021	25,803	74,702	51,931
Malay schools	4,621	1,842	5,701	3,535	7,238	6,181
Chinese schools	36,877	16,601	52,634	26,638	70,480	46,994
Indian schools	457	462	461	810	523	828
Junior and secondary technical schools	63	-	294	-	1,128	-
	60,797	29,221	104,111	56,786	154,071	105,934
Total registered schools	90,018		160,897		260,005	
Miscellaneous	2,018		10,414		7,735	
Teacher training	246		751	405	1,234	946
Higher education:						
Singapore students in University of Malaya		79	282	90		622
Official overseas scholarships		15		159		...

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Teachers

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
English schools	359	528	1,446	1,309	2,612	2,303
Malay schools	145	45	228	82	331	191
Chinese schools	742	677	1,187	1,089	1,945	1,791
Indian schools	11	16	19	30	28	19
Junior and secondary technical	...	...	22	-	66	-
	<u>1,257</u>	<u>1,266</u>	<u>2,902</u>	<u>2,510</u>	<u>4,982</u>	<u>4,304</u>
Total registered schools	2,523		5,412		9,286	
Other registered institutions	...		180		245	

## CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The Raffles Library founded in 1844 has been the official repository for all publications printed in Singapore since 1946. The Library was separated administratively from the Raffles Museum in 1955, and came under the portfolio of the Ministry of Education. When a grant was made by a local family, it was decided to provide the Library with a new building at a cost of \$M2 million; the foundation was laid in 1957. The Library has three branches in the suburban areas, and its collection of books increased from 75,000 volumes in 1954 to over 100,000 mainly in English, in 1957. The largest collection of books is contained in the Library of the University of Malaya, which had some 250,000 volumes in 1957, including 134,500 volumes in Chinese.

The Raffles Museum established in 1887 is a centre of collections and exhibitions, mainly of Malaysian natural history, ethnography and antiquities. The Malayan branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, which is the principal institute in Malaya devoted to local anthropological, antiquarian and kindred subjects, is closely associated with the Museum. The Raffles Museum Ordinance 1957 established an art committee to advise the Museum on the acquisition of a collection of subjects reflecting the art, culture and way of life of the various communities who have settled in Singapore.

Since Singapore is an international news centre, several overseas news agencies and newspapers have permanent representatives there. In 1947, Singapore had fourteen daily newspapers (six in English, four in Chinese, two in Tamil, one each in Malay and Malayalam), and seventeen periodicals in English and the vernacular languages. At the end of 1957, there were eleven important newspapers published daily in English, Chinese, Malaya, Tamil and Malayalam, and over 200 journals and magazines published in various languages. The largest of the newspapers had a daily circulation of over 83,000.

Radio broadcasting in Singapore was organized on a pan-Malayan basis. Radio Malaya broadcasts in English, Malay, Tamil and Chinese dialects on four short wave and three medium wave transmitters. The number of licences for listening sets increased from 11,700 in December 1947 to 58,989 in December 1956, and the total number of hours of broadcasting reached 240 per week. Broadcasts to schools have increased: twenty-six hours per week were occupied by such broadcasts in 1956 compared with nine hours per week in 1947.

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