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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
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pacific Territories

SOLOMON 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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate comprises a chain of eight large and numerous small islands situated in the South Pacific, north of Australia and about 300 miles east of New Guinea. The terrain on most islands is mountainous and heavily wooded, which accounts for the inaccessibility of many areas. The total land area is 11,500 square miles (29,785 square kilometres) of which approximately 90 per cent is covered by forests.

The majority of the people are Melanesians, mixed with immigrant strains. They occupy the larger islands in the Territory. The Polynesians are a minority group who live on small islands and atolls. The population is concentrated, for the most part, in the coastal areas of the islands. Almost half of the total number of inhabitants (42,000) live on Malaita, 13,000 on Guadalcanal and 8,000 on San Cristobal. The capital is Honiara on the north side of Guadalcanal. It has a population of about 2,400.

Various languages are spoken, but no one language is understood outside a very restricted area. Pidgin English is used as a lingua franca. It is not officially encouraged and efforts are being made to use simple English whenever there is a likelihood of it being understood. The density of the population was estimated at three per square kilometre in 1955 (1.2 per square mile).

	<u>Population</u>		
	<u>1946</u> (Estimate)	<u>1953</u> (Estimate)	<u>1955</u> (Estimate)
Melanesians	90,930	94,000	98,000
Polynesians	3,808	4,350	5,000
Europeans	118	590	700
Chinese	109	250	...
Other Asians	...	10	650 a/
Total	94,965	99,200	104,350

a/ Including Chinese, Indians, Fijians.

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Vital statistics

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1953</u> (Estimate)	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	29.7
Death rate per 1,000 population	18.4	...	...
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	...	...	...

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economy of the Protectorate is dependent almost entirely on the production of copra. The major share (60 per cent) is produced on large coconut plantations established by private enterprise. The remainder is produced by indigenous growers as a supplement to their subsistence agriculture, which in many areas follows the traditional practice of shifting cultivation. The former capital, Tulagi, and a number of other buildings and coconut plantations were destroyed during the Second World War, and by 1957 the Territory had still not fully recovered. For this reason the Islands are likely to rely on grants-in-aid from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for some years to come. They have remained under-developed to a large extent, partly because they are under-populated, but also because of problems of sea, river and land communications and of a lack of continuity in staffing essential government services.

In order to broaden the basis of the economy, efforts have been made, following a favourable report in 1951 by an expert, to encourage the growing of cocoa as an additional cash crop on village small holdings and on plantations.

In the Western Solomon Islands, the pattern of copra production has changed in that the great bulk of the copra is now produced by the Solomon Islanders themselves. A class of indigenous traders has emerged. Local Native Councils have assisted in the purchase of powered craft to transport the produce to buying centres. In Malaita, a peasant industry producing cocoa instead of copra is developing gradually.

Surveys have shown the existence of extensive timber-bearing forests, the limiting factor being difficulty of access. Prospecting has been carried out for gold and silver and small deposits have been found. The extent of phosphate deposits is being investigated.

The Territory depends on launches and trawler-type ships for inter-island transport.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The rehabilitation of the copra industry has been one of the main tasks of the post-war years. More than two-thirds of the pre-war area of 64,000 acres of the large coconut plantations were worked in 1956. The remaining areas are being gradually replanted. The total production in 1957 was just below that of pre-war years.

A Copra Board was established after the war. Its members included government officers and representatives of planters, missions and commercial interests. Through its agents, the Board bought all copra produced in the Protectorate, except that exported by Lever Pacific Plantations Limited to crushing mills in Australia. The copra was then sold to the Ministry of Agriculture in London, under a contract which ended in 1957. The Copra Board, after consultations with Copra Boards of other Pacific Islands, has entered into an agreement by which the bulk of the copra will be sold to Unilevers in London; the small percentage remaining is sold on the open market.

The proportion of first and second-grade copra to the poorer third grade (smoked) copra rose from 8 per cent in 1954 to 41 per cent in 1956. By the end of 1957, more than 35 per cent was of first-grade quality. The grading of copra (with a price differential of 89 between the first and third grades), the introduction of the simple "kukam" drier among indigenous growers since 1954 and a campaign directed towards the improvement of the product contributed to this result. Copra exports rose from 1,900 tons in 1947 to 16,488 tons in 1953, and 20,000 tons in 1957.

The Coreid bug, Amblypelta cocophaga, is the main pest in the coconut industry. Attempts have been made to attack the bug by spraying with insecticides and by the release of certain species of ants. These methods were still in the research stage by the end of 1956.

Cocoa grown by the islanders is centred on Malaita, where there were about 42,000 trees in 1956, all under three years old. The first pods were harvested in 1957. Plantation cocoa was estimated in 1956 at 72,000 trees planted. There were 400 acres under cocoa at the end of 1957. As relatively large quantities of rice have been imported each year, experimental plantings of rice were made in 1956 near Honiara, on irrigated land. Some dry rice was also grown by villagers

on Malaita and Guadalcanal. A sum of £14,312 was approved in 1954 from Colonial Development funds for research in the establishment of rice-growing as an economic crop. However, as no agronomist could be recruited, little has been done under this scheme.

Trial plantings of coffee and pepper were made in 1957. Food grown by subsistence agriculture consists primarily of starch root-crops such as sweet potatoes, yams, taro and cassava.

A Central Agricultural Station has been established near Honiara in 1950 and grows root crops, fruit and vegetables. Experimental plantings of pasture grasses were also made. An Agricultural and Industrial Loans Board, with funds amounting to £75,000 was set up in 1957,^{2/} and has made loans to Europeans and Solomon Islanders to assist them in their projects.

The Land Regulation of 1914, the principal regulation governing land matters, prohibits the purchase of indigenous land in fee simple by anyone other than the Protectorate Government and permits only leasehold as a form of tenure for non-indigenous persons. Since 1914, no private persons have acquired freehold land other than by purchase from non-indigenous owners of freehold land which had been alienated before that year. Before 1914, however, occupation licences for ninety-nine years had also been issued by the Crown for land the ownership of which was impossible to establish. Most of the alienated arable land is confined to the coastal regions of the larger islands. The approximate areas owned or occupied by indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants or held by the Crown are as follows: indigenous land held by law and custom or occupancy: 6,927,600 acres; non-indigenous land (held under title): 354,870 acres; and Crown-land: 77,530 acres. A special lands commission was appointed in 1951 to investigate land tenure throughout the islands and completed its work in 1956.

A new Lands and Titles Regulation has been drafted. It provides for the registration of title and for the conversion of titles based on the deeds system, in order that all titles issued will be based on survey.

In view of the importance of agriculture to the economy of the islands, an Agricultural Advisory Committee, which comprises official, non-official and indigenous members, was appointed in 1957 to bring together all available resource of knowledge and experience in this field.

^{2/} The local currency is the Australian pound (A£) which equals 16 s. sterling or US\$2.24.

Livestock

A 1956 estimate showed that there were about 3,500 head of cattle in the Protectorate, of which about 1,850 were on plantations in order to keep them clear of undergrowth. Large numbers of pigs are kept on Guadalcanal and Malaita. Poultry are kept in most of the villages.

The Department of Agriculture gives advice and assistance on matters pertaining to animal husbandry and is establishing a small herd of cattle and pigs on its demonstration farm.

FORESTRY

In 1949, the sum of £21,347 was provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to establish a forestry department; it began its work in 1952. Although over 90 per cent of the land area is covered with forest, a report made in 1948 recorded that under present conditions there were only about eighty square miles of accessible, productive forests. No forest reservation has been possible but various areas have been earmarked as suitable for reservation. Surveys and exploratory expeditions were made in 1955 and 1956. Experimental plantings of teak and balsa trees were also made.

The timber industry is conducted by two large companies. One resumed operations in 1949 and the other, a new company, made its first shipment in 1951. Most of the timber is exported; two missions and the largest plantation have sawmills to meet their own needs. The local production is supplemented by imports of timber to meet the demand.

Production and exports (superficial feet)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Sawn timber production (for local use)	300,300	504,000
Sawn timber exports	...	2,562,764
Log exports	1,812,111	2,788,108

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FISHERIES

The Protectorate has no organized fishing industry, apart from coastal fishing by the Islanders to supply their own needs. In North Malaita, fish is being smoked on an experimental basis as a commercial proposition. The product has had a good reception locally.

A fisheries expert from the South Pacific Commission visited the Protectorate in 1956 and upon his recommendation arrangements have been made to introduce Tilapia mossambica, a quick growing pond-fish. In the same year two Islanders attended the South Pacific Commission's Fisheries Training Course in Noumea.

A fall in the market for trochus and green snail shell in 1957 materially reduced exports, the value of which in certain years has been second only to that of copra. Local government councils decided to close their reefs to trochus fishing for various periods to allow the reefs, which were being fished out, to recover.

MINING

Prior to 1955, three major companies which had shown interest in mining had withdrawn without completing their programmes. To fill the need for an authoritative publication regarding the geology of the Territory, a study entitled "Geology, Mineral Deposits and the Prospects of Mining Development in the British Solomons" was published in 1955. This report is based on a survey made over a period of three years. The survey was continued and expanded in January 1954 and its results were published in 1957 in a second report. The work done has indicated that, apart from known deposits of gold and manganese, deposits of copper, asbestos and phosphate exist.

In 1956, four prospecting rights, three licences and two mining leases, all for gold and silver, were in existence. That year, work was begun on gold deposits on Gold Ridge in Guadalcanal. However, it was decided later not to continue operations. Alluvial gold production totalled 19.68 fine ounces in 1957, compared with 15.9 fine ounces in 1955.

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POWER AND INDUSTRY

The electricity supply of Honiara is operated by the Public Works Department. A number of small power plants are operated in outstations, generally for limited periods in the evenings.

In 1955, a factory was built in Honiara for the manufacture for export of button blanks from trochus shell. The Territory also has a biscuit factory, bakeries, aerated water plants and small sawmills. Malaita has a boat-building industry which builds cutters for inter-island trade.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Inter-island communications and road construction have remained basic problems. The overseas shipping difficulties of the post-war years have gradually been overcome. More recently, two ships have been calling at the Protectorate ports about eighteen times a year and carried most of the Territory's exports and imports to and from Australia. On an average, six other vessels have loaded copra at various ports, each year, for direct shipment to the United Kingdom. Two other vessels have called at Honiara every three months from Hong Kong (for transshipments from the United Kingdom) and from Japanese ports. Port facilities at Honiara are being improved at a cost of £190,000; a 270-foot quay and sheds are being constructed.

The government fleet for inter-island travel consists of twelve trawler-type ships and launches. In 1956, a 100-ton ship was purchased, which will operate on a fixed inter-island schedule.

Guadalcanal has about thirty-five miles of main roads, most of which were built during the war and are surfaced with coral or gravel. In 1957, 281 motor vehicles were registered.

The Protectorate has four airfields which are used on the service between Sydney and Honiara via New Guinea. The schedule in 1956 provided for one plane a week except every fourth week.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The main source of revenue is from customs duties, of which the most important is the copra export duty of 15 per cent. Trochus and green snail shell, which bear a 10 per cent duty, gave increasing yields in export duty up to 1956. Thereafter

the price fell. Direct taxation is levied in the form of an income tax which is also levied on companies.

The Non-Native Residential Tax of A£2 a year for males was repealed on 1 January 1956.

Periodic budget deficits have been met by grants-in-aid from the United Kingdom Government which, therefore, exercises control over the budget.

Local (Native) government finance is centrally controlled. The Local Native Councils prepare their own estimates which are then submitted to the High Commissioner for approval. A Native Tax is levied on each able-bodied adult male Solomon Islander and varies from 5s. to A£2 a year, according to the district in which the taxpayer lives. The tax is fixed by the Native Council concerned, after considering the recommendations of the High Commissioner. The tax proceeds are credited to the revenues of the respective councils. Residents of some remote outlying islands do not pay this tax. The financial year coincides with the calendar year.

<u>Revenue and expenditure</u> <u>(in Australian pounds)</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue			
Ordinary	194,402	546,840	594,100
Extraordinary		30,000	129,400
Grants from United Kingdom and transfers from surplus balances		<u>125,834</u>	<u>213,803</u>
Total:	194,402	702,674	937,303
Expenditure			
Ordinary	308,810	471,590	737,058
Extraordinary	143,500	124,937	144,083
Special rehabilitation	<u>218,534</u>	<u>15,906</u>	<u>122,515</u>
Total:	670,844	612,433	1,003,656
Main heads of revenue			
Customs duties	22,277	329,236	360,000
Direct taxation	7,350	109,796	66,400
Main heads of expenditure			
Public works	228,755	199,780	248,329
Education	2,394	10,891	36,310

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Development finance

The Development Plan is designed to broaden the basis of the economy and to ensure the provision of essential services adequate to the needs of the Territory. It is financed from three sources: Colonial Development and Welfare funds, the proceeds of war reparations and Japanese assets donated by other colonial Governments, and Protectorate revenue.

Among the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes during the period were: cocoa and rice research, pest control, training of students overseas, construction of two district hospitals, one mental hospital, and several schools, including a teacher training college, geological surveys and tuberculosis and leprosy surveys. Several of the schemes were delayed by shortages of equipment and staff.

Colonial Development and Welfare funds

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
	(thousand Australian pounds)		
Revenue	85	60	207
Expenditure	85	85	140

BANKING AND CREDIT

Australian currency is used throughout the Territory, but United Kingdom coin is also legal tender.

A branch of the Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia was opened in Honiara in 1951. Seven savings bank agencies operate on various islands.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Government controls all foreign exchange dealings.

Imports and exports
(thousand Australian pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Imports	258	1,058	1,498
Exports	38	1,622	1,632

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	<u>Quantity</u>			<u>Value</u> (thousand Australian pounds)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Principal imports (tons)						
Rice	...	1,302	1,793	...	99	117
Wheat	...	221	345	...	65	104
Biscuits	...	224	343	...	32	42
Principal exports (tons)						
Copra	494	16,488	17,316	...	1,333	1,214
Scrap metal	...	3,856	758	...	113	927
Timber ^{a/}	...	1,812	2,478	...	41	68
Trocas and green snail shells	...	562	334	...	106	158

^{a/} Thousand super feet.

	<u>Direction of trade</u> (percentage of value)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Origin of imports			
Australia	...	58.3	50.1
United Kingdom	...	15.1	20.9
All other countries	...	26.6	29.0
Destination of exports			
United Kingdom	...	70	59.4
Australia	...	27	25.9
All other countries	...	3	14.7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The social organization in the Protectorate is based upon the clan or extended family group, which generally assumes responsibility for the destitute and disabled.

In general, poor communications (roads and ships) and lack of staff have complicated the provision by the Government of adequate social services. Much of the work in these fields is done by missions. Since 1954, Native Councils, several of which are island-wide councils, have turned to the development of social services in their areas and have co-ordinated these services with those provided by the Government and by missions.

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An ethnological research project was undertaken in 1952 and 1953 on the Polynesian island Tikopia in order to determine the changes which took place in this society since a previous field study twenty-five years ago.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Apart from a few European and Chinese traders and some Fiji-Indian and Fiji artisans, serving temporarily under written contracts, all workers in the Protectorate are indigenous Polynesians and Melanesians. The majority of the Islanders do not regard paid employment as a normal means of livelihood, but rather as a means of acquiring sufficient capital to enable them to engage in trade, on their own behalf, or to acquire social prestige in their community.

The copra industry is the main source of employment. The Government employs unskilled labour, transport drivers, seamen, mechanics, orderlies and clerical workers.

Immediately after the Second World War, Solomon Islanders were generally unwilling to seek civilian employment. By 1948 the situation started to improve; employment in government departments engaged in reconstruction work was preferred to employment on plantations. The shortage of labour made it difficult for many plantations to resume operations and rehabilitation of the copra industry was slow.

The average number of Solomon Islanders in all categories employed in 1956 was estimated as follows: 1,260 by the Government; 2,500 by agricultural estates; and about 2,240 in other employment. The total of 6,000 compares with 4,213 employed in 1953. Most of the indigenous workers were engaged on short-term contracts. No women were engaged in any industry away from their homes; a few worked as domestic servants and hospital nurses.

The Labour Regulation provides for a maximum of fifty hours of work a week, and the average does not normally exceed forty-five.

Unskilled workers earned A£2 per month in 1948 plus rations, free accommodation, clothing and medical care. Their money earnings have ranged between A£2 and A£2.10s. since 1950. In 1955 and 1956 they received A£2 and a bonus of 10s. in money. The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Regulation is intended to regulate unions, but up to 1956 none had been formed. There have been no major disputes between management and labour, although a number of incidents

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occurred on some plantations in 1949 resulting from differences between members of rival tribes. Most of the minor disputes have been settled by conciliation through district officers or the labour inspector, who was appointed in 1949. In some cases, employers in the copra industry took action by civil process against workers who had broken their contracts.

The Workmen's Compensation Regulation, which came into force in 1952, applies to employers of all manual labourers and of other workers earning less than A£360 a year. A labour expert arrived in the Protectorate at the end of 1957 to examine and report on current legislation and administrative arrangements concerning labour.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A co-operative officer was appointed in 1956 to train local staff and to initiate co-operative societies on the main islands. In 1957, a number of small village societies were in operation, of which four with a combined membership of 180 were registered. These societies were designed to market members' produce and to operate retail stores for the benefit of members.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Following the Second World War, most of the dwellings in Honiara were rebuilt by the Government, as the town consisted of temporary structures erected by the armed forces during the war. The Public Works Department completed thirty-five buildings in Honiara during the period 1952 to 1954, as well as certain administration buildings at out-stations. A number of private buildings and stores were also built in the towns and villages of the Protectorate during the period 1947 to 1956. Plywood and other building materials, left in large quantities by the armed forces, were used for building houses but the majority of the local population have now reverted to the traditional ways of building with thatched roofs.

A town planning regulation was passed in 1954 for Honiara. Under this regulation, 15,000 acres, south of Honiara, were set aside for a national park. Towards the end of 1957, a regulation was enacted which included in the duties of and responsibilities of town councils, which were to be established, the regulation and control of the design, standards of material and methods of construction of buildings within their areas.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

	<u>Crime statistics</u>		
	<u>1948^{a/}</u>	<u>1953^{b/}</u>	<u>1957^{b/}</u>
Offences against the person	53	105	91
Offences against property	71	75	205
Other offences	2,593	195	110

a/ Number of convictions before judicial commissioners and native courts.

b/ Number of cases.

The large number of minor crimes reported in 1948 was due to petty infringements of the law. Much of the work of the Native Courts consisted of hearing cases under local custom in which compensation was paid to the aggrieved party.

Juvenile delinquency is rare. Where it occurs, it is usual for arrangements to be made with missionary societies to care for the persons involved.

	<u>Prison population (on 31 December)</u>	
	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Long term ^{a/}	62	65
Short term	<u>50</u>	<u>85</u>
	112	150

a/ One year or more.

The Central Prison is at Honiara. There are, in addition, five district prisons for short-term prisoners. A male prisoner may earn a remission of his sentence by one-quarter, and a female prisoner by one-third, for good conduct and industry. Prisoners at the Central Prison are given training in handicrafts.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The main endemic diseases in the Protectorate are malaria, tuberculosis and yaws. A Protectorate-wide campaign for the eradication of yaws was begun in July 1956 with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization. It was estimated that the campaign, which involves the

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injection of the whole population, would take two years to complete. After twenty-one months of field work, 90,000 persons had been treated for yaws and examined for signs of leprosy.

A limited tuberculosis survey, begun in 1954 by a Fijian doctor, was completed in 1955. A total of 6,186 persons were tested and 3,112 persons were vaccinated with BCG vaccine.

A leprosy survey was conducted in 1954 and follow-up work was undertaken concurrently with the yaws campaign. The leprosarium at Tetere, Guadalcanal, had a daily average of 81.5 patients during 1957. The Guadalcanal Native Council has established a village near the leprosarium for families whose homes are some distance away from Tetere and who require outpatient treatment.

Mosquito control, by spraying, oiling and clearing, has been undertaken by the Medical Department. An anopheles eradication programme was carried out in 1954 on Ontong Java Island. A World Health Organization Malaria Adviser visited the Protectorate in 1957 and advised regarding a mass anti-malaria campaign.

The rebuilding of the Central Hospital at Honiara neared completion at the end of 1956. A new mental hospital was completed early in 1956. In addition, the Protectorate has three district hospitals and forty-six rural dispensaries. Five religious missions maintain hospitals and dispensaries on various islands.

Assistant medical practitioners are required to complete a five-year medical course at the Central Medical School, Suva, Fiji. Scholarships are available for that purpose.

The Medical Assistants' Training School of the Central Hospital, Honiara, provides for thirty trainees a year on a three-year course. The Nurses' Training School, Honiara, opened in January 1957, also provides a three-year course and at the end of the year had sixteen trainees. A Nurses' Training Centre on Malaita is run by the Melanesian Mission.

There is no administrative separation of curative and preventive services; medical officers of the Medical Department act also as health officers.

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Expenditure
(thousand Australian pounds)

	<u>1947</u> (actual)	<u>1953</u> (actual)	<u>1957</u> (actual)
Recurrent expenditure	48	77	106.3
Subsidies to missions	...	3	5.5
Drugs, dressings to non-Government institutions and medical workers	...	2.5	5.0
Colonial Development and Welfare grants	...	106	6.3
Interim medical and leprosy scheme	<u>63</u>	<u>...</u>	<u>...</u>
	111	188.5	123.1

Medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Medical officers	6	4	4
Assistant medical practitioners	11	9	13
Nursing sisters	...	5	4
Dressers	100	87	93
Local nurses	14	3	10 <u>a/</u>
Sanitary inspectors	1	...	...
Medical assistants	...	...	13

a/ Not including nurses in training.

	<u>Institutions</u>			<u>Number of beds</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
General hospitals	6	...	8	420	...	...
Dispensaries	75	...	46 <u>a/</u>	...	...	...
Specialized units	...	1	2	...	...	...

a/ Government dispensaries only; no figures for mission dispensaries available.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Missions have assumed a prominent role in education. Since the war, the Government and Native Councils have taken on greater responsibilities. In 1946 an education department was established. It administers the Education Regulation, which was enacted in 1954 and came into force in 1957. It provided for the inspection and registration of all schools, for subsidies to missions and for assistance in achieving better standards. In accordance with the Regulation, the schools were co-ordinated in 1957 and figures of attendance at mission schools

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and of mission expenditure became available for the first time. The Education Advisory Committee, on which all education interests are represented, meets twice a year, and serves as an advisory body to the Senior Education Officer. The Department has suffered difficulties in the recruitment of qualified expatriate and local staff. Its recurrent expenditure was 2.38 per cent of the total Territorial ordinary budget of 1957. The lack of text books, equipment and trained teachers has meant that only a limited number of children have received instruction beyond the third year of primary school. Because of lack of staff, an elementary school on Malaita, opened in 1954, had to be closed.

Education is free in most schools. It is not compulsory throughout the Protectorate, but some Native Councils have approved resolutions to enforce better attendance at schools. These Councils have established nine primary schools and have earmarked an increased percentage of their expenditure for assisting mission schools. In addition, the Government has established seven primary schools. The King George V School (a boarding primary school and farm), which was opened on Malaita in 1950, the Melanesian Mission School in the Eastern Solomons and the Methodist Mission School in the Western Solomons are considered to be the leading schools in the Territory. The number of registered, mostly primary, mission schools in 1957 was 214. Village schools, exempted from registration, numbered 224.

A secondary school was opened at King George VI School for boys in 1956 with twenty-five pupils in attendance; this is the only secondary education provided in the islands.

There are no facilities for higher education or full-time technical training. The Territory has no teacher-training college of its own as yet, but some teachers have been trained by the missions and others at the Teacher Training College in Fiji (where five completed the course in 1956). A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £56,000 was approved in 1955 for the establishment of a Teacher and Vocational Training College near Honiara. Construction of the college buildings was begun in the latter part of 1957. In the field of adult education, weekly advanced English classes were started in March 1957 with twenty students, and bookkeeping classes, also with twenty students, in June 1957.

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A grant of £10,282 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was approved in 1952 for a joint overseas training scheme with the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Under this scheme, Solomon Islanders were trained in Fiji and New Zealand. A new scheme of overseas training for Protectorate students only was approved for a period of two years with effect from 1 January 1956. Two boys and two girls were sent overseas each year. In addition, there were two scholarships for boys each year for training at the Central Medical School, Fiji, as assistant medical practitioners. The missions have also provided overseas scholarships, primarily for secondary schools in Rabaul (New Guinea).

Under the Protectorate's school system, seven years can be spent on primary education, two at a district school, three at a central school and two at a senior school, where the medium of instruction is English. Most of these schools are boarding schools and have food gardens. In village schools, which precede the district school, instruction is in the vernacular and often only a few hours a day. Most of the teachers have had no training. In the district schools, some of the teachers are partially trained. Most of the staff in central and senior schools are trained teachers. In 1957, of 389 teachers, forty-three were graduates or had completed secondary school.

At the end of 1957, a new policy laid down that primary education must consist of four years' junior and three years' senior class attendance. A senior school leaving certificate, initiated in 1957, allows entrants to government service to enter the salary scale at a higher level. The certificate is also necessary for students wishing to attend a secondary school.

Many of the text books used in schools are produced locally by duplicator or by mission printing presses. Some text books, suited to local conditions, were prepared by a publisher abroad in 1948. Government grants to missions amounted to A£6,000 in 1955 and 1956 and A£5,700 in 1957.

	<u>Capital expenditure</u> (Australian pounds)	
	<u>1947-1952</u> (total)	<u>1953-1956</u> (total)
Capital expenditure	3,558	395
Colonial Development and Welfare grants	12,000 a/	52,290

a/ Figures incomplete.

Primary schools and enrolments in 1957

	<u>Registered primary</u>		<u>Exempted primary</u>		<u>Total enrolment primary</u>
	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Enrolments</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Enrolments</u>	
Government	7	349	-	-	349
Local Authority	4	89	4	87	176
Aided	21	2,185	-	-	2,185
Unaided	<u>193</u>	<u>6,800</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>4,832</u>	<u>11,632</u>
Total	225	9,423	228	4,919	14,342

Primary school teachers in 1957

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Trained</u>	<u>Untrained</u>
Government)	23	8	15
Local Authority)			
Aided	118	34	84
Unaided	<u>248</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>247</u>
Total	389	43	346

Cultural institutions and mass communications

A nucleus of an Ethnological and Natural History Museum was formed in 1952 and a building to accommodate the material was erected in 1953. Little progress was made thereafter owing to a lack of funds.

The Protectorate has no newspapers or commercial periodicals. Missionary societies published parish-type magazines in English and various local languages for their converts. District commissioners issue monthly newsletters containing items of local interest in their areas and a limited number of copies of a Protectorate news sheet was issued in July 1955 and has been continued every two months.

The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Service, inaugurated in 1952, broadcasts daily, except Sundays, for one hour each night. In 1955, short-wave transmissions were begun and were heard in areas which had not been served previously.

A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was approved in 1957 for the building of a new studio and the purchase of more powerful transmitters.

A cinema was opened in Honiara in 1955. Films provided by the Central Office of Information in London are shown weekly in Honiara and are lent to missions, schools and district stations.
