



Seventeenth sessionINFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: SUMMARIES
OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN ATLANTIC TERRITORIES

Cayman Islands

In accordance with the statement of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 27 September 1961, the Government of the United Kingdom has transmitted to the Secretary-General the following political and constitutional information on the Territory of Cayman Islands.

This information, which was received on 19 April 1962, is herewith submitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.^{1/}

^{1/} In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, this information is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

C A Y M A N I S L A N D S

POPULATION

The Territory consists of three islands. At the 1960 census, there was a population of 8,803. The racial break-down is not known accurately, but is estimated at 17 per cent of African descent, 31 per cent of European descent and 52 per cent of mixed descent.

GENERAL

The Cayman Islands were a dependency of Jamaica until 1959. The Legislature of Jamaica legislated for the Cayman Islands and could amend or repeal any laws passed by the Islands' Legislative Assembly.

In 1959, a new Constitution was introduced and the first elections were held under universal adult suffrage. Most of the constitutional links with Jamaica were severed, but the Governor of Jamaica remains Governor of the Caymans. Jamaican ministers have no responsibility for the Islands' affairs. The Jamaican Legislature may make laws for them but these may not be applied to the Islands unless expressly stated to do so and unless the Governor by proclamation has declared that they may apply, either as originally enacted, or with modifications.

CONSTITUTION

Although the Governor of Jamaica is also the Governor of the Cayman Islands, the day-to-day administration is in the hands of an Administrator (at present Mr. R. Rose). In the exercise of his functions, he is obliged to consult the Executive Council on all important matters.

EXECUTIVE

The Executive Council is the main executive authority in the Islands. It consists of 2 elected members, chosen by the Legislative Assembly from among the Assembly's own elected members, 2 official members and one nominated member

(appointed by the Governor, under the chairmanship of the Administrator). The present six members of the Executive Council are:

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| President: | J. Rose (in the absence of the Governor) |
| Elected members: | T.W. Farrington W.A. McLaughlin |
| Official members: | E.O. Panton R.C. Laming |
| Nominated member: | T.R. Bodden |

LEGISLATURE

The Legislative Assembly of the Islands consists of 12 elected members, 3 nominated members appointed by the Governor, 3 official members and the Administrator. Elections are held every three years. The Legislative Assembly can legislate on all aspects of the Islands' affairs, subject to the assent of the Governor. Jamaican legislation may also be applied to the Islands subject to the proviso described under "General" above. The purpose of this provision is to enable the Legislative Assembly to avoid some of the costly and lengthy work involved in the preparation of legislation, which would be a heavy burden on such small islands. There are no political parties in the Islands and the elected members sit as independent members for their constituencies.

JUDICIARY

In a reform of the administration of justice in 1957, a Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed. There are three courts in the Islands: the Grand Court, the Quarterly Petty Court and the Petty Sessions Court. The magistrate has taken over a greater part of the summary work of the Petty Courts and Petty Sessions Courts from the justices of the peace and, in the absence of appointment of a judge on the Islands, the magistrate has jurisdiction as judge of the Grand Court, except in cases of capital offences.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The administration of local government is in the hands of the justices of the peace and vestrymen, who have from the beginnings of administration in the Islands played an important part. Owing to the small population and its dispersion over at least three islands there is no demand for an elected system of local government. Nevertheless, the administration is seeking to encourage such a development.

THE FUTURE

The Cayman Islands were formerly members of The West Indies, but following Jamaica's decision to withdraw there was much discussion as to where their future should lie. There was agreement in the Islands that they should not become part of any successor federation which might be formed among the British Territories in the Eastern Caribbean. Some favoured association with Jamaica for external affairs and defence while the Islands exercised full internal government in their own affairs, but the majority wished to remain under British administration with a gradual advance towards internal self-government. A resolution to that effect was unanimously voted by the Legislative Assembly in January 1962.
