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INFORMATION 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

Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla

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 Territories of Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

This information, which was received on 20 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.

A N T I G U A , M O N T S E R R A T A N D
S T . K I T T S - N E V I S - A N G U I L L A

POPULATION

The population of the three Territories at the last census, taken in 1960, was: Antigua, 54,353; Montserrat, 12,157; and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, 56,664. These populations are predominantly of African descent.

CONSTITUTION

Until 1960, the head of the administration of these three Territories was the Governor of the Leeward Islands. New constitutions incorporating a ministerial system were introduced in Antigua and St. Kitts in January 1956, and in Montserrat (the smallest of these Territories) in January 1960. The main features of the Constitutions were as follows:

- (a) The Executive Councils were recognized as the principal instrument of policy and the Governor and administrators were required normally to accept their advice.
- (b) The Executive Councils were composed as follows: Antigua, 4 elected members; St. Kitts, 5 elected members; Montserrat, 3 elected members. In addition, there were 3 ex-officio members, one nominated member chosen from the nominated members of the Legislative Council, and the Governor and/or the Administrator.
- (c) Provision was made for three ministers: for Trade and Production, Communications and Works and Social Services.
- (d) The Legislative Council was composed of 8 elected members (5 in Montserrat), 2 ex-officio members (the Crown Attorney and Financial Secretary), 3 nominated members and the Administrator. Election of members was based on universal adult suffrage.

The accession of these Territories to The West Indies in 1958 led to a desire for further constitutional advance, and conferences were held in March and June 1959, in Trinidad and London respectively. As a result, the present Constitutions came into effect on 1 January 1960.

The main features of the present Constitutions are as follows:

Administrator

The post of Governor of the Leeward Islands has been abolished, and the Administrators in each island are the heads of the administration in each Territory. The Administrator of Antigua is Mr. I.G. Turbott, the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla is Lt.-Colonel H.A.C. Howard, and the Administrator of Montserrat is Mr. D.A. Wiles. The Administrators in each island are constitutionally required to act on the advice of their ministers, except when they must act on the advice of some other authority, or in certain cases requiring special procedures. Appointments of public officers are made on the advice of the local Public Service Commission. The members of this Commission are appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister.

Executive Council

The Executive Council in each Territory is responsible for the general control and direction of the Government. In St. Kitts and Antigua there are five unofficial members, i.e., the Chief Minister and four other Ministers (one without portfolio), who are appointed on his advice. These Ministers may be assigned responsibility for any government business (including financial matters). There are, in addition, one ex-officio member (the principal law officer) and the Administrator, who presides. In Montserrat, in addition to the Chief Minister, there are only three other ministers, including a Minister without Portfolio, and the Financial Secretary, as well as the principal law officer and the Administrator, is a member of the Council. All ministers except the Minister without Portfolio are in each Territory appointed from the elected members of the Legislative Council. The Minister without Portfolio may be selected from either the elected or the nominated members of the Legislative Council. The members of the present Executive Council are:

Antigua

Mr. V.C. Bird (Chief Minister and Minister of Finance)

Mr. L. Hunt (Minister of Trade and Production)

Antigua (continued)

Mr. E.H. Lake (Minister of Social Services)
Mr. E.E. Williams (Minister of Public Works and Communications)
Mr. McC.B. George (Minister without Portfolio)
Mr. D.K. McIntyre (Official member) (Attorney General)

St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla

Mr. C.A. Paul Southwell (Chief Minister and Minister of Finance)
Mr. F.T. Williams (Minister of Communications and Works)
Mr. W.F. Glasford (Minister of Agriculture and Labour)
Mr. J.N. France (Minister of Social Services)
Mr. E.E. Kelly (Minister without Portfolio)
Mr. S. Graham (Official member) (Attorney General)

Montserrat

Mr. W.H. Bramble (Chief Minister and Minister of Trade and Production)
Mr. B.W. Edwards (Minister of Social Services)
Mr. D.C. Fenton (Minister of Public Works)
Mr. M.E. Walkinshaw (Nominated member)
Mr. D.F. Johnson (Crown Attorney) }
Mr. T.E.A. Perkins (Financial Secretary) } Official members

Legislative Council

The Legislative Council consists of 10 elected members in Antigua, 10 elected members in St. Kitts and 7 elected members in Montserrat. In Antigua and St. Kitts there are in addition one ex-officio member (the principal law officer) and 2 nominated members appointed by the Administrator. In Montserrat there is, in addition to the principal law officer, one more ex-officio member but only one nominated member. In Antigua and St. Kitts, a speaker elected by the Council either from within or without its own membership and having only a casting vote presides over the Council. In Montserrat the Administrator presides.

There are elections to the Legislative Council every five years. Elections are based on universal adult suffrage in single member constituencies. Elections were last held in Antigua in November 1960, and the Antigua Labour Party won all 10 elected seats. Elections were last held in Montserrat in March 1961, and the Montserrat Labour Party won 5 seats and the United Workers' Movement won 2 seats. Elections were last held in St. Kitts in November 1961; the St. Kitts-Nevis Workers' League won 7 seats; the United National Movement won 2 seats and there was one independent.

PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL INHABITANTS IN GOVERNMENT

The Chief Minister and other ministers, as well as all elected members of the Legislative Councils, are local inhabitants. In addition, the Administrator of Montserrat is a West Indian.

A Supreme Court and a Court of Appeal for the Leeward and Windward Islands (and for the Virgin Islands) were established by an Order in Council in 1939. Fresh provision regarding these courts was made by an Order in Council of 1959, which also provided for the establishment of a Judicial and Legal Service Commission composed of the Chief Justice of the Joint Supreme Court of the Leeward and Windward Islands; a Federal Justice, a judge or ex-judge of a Supreme Court of any part of Her Majesty's Dominions, and the chairman of two of the advisory Public Service Commissions in the Territories served. Judges of the Supreme Court (other than the Chief Justice) are appointed by the Governor-General of The West Indies on the recommendation of the Commission. The Chief Justice is appointed by the Governor-General after consultation with the Federal Chief Justice. Judges are removed from office only if the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council advises removal for inability or misbehaviour. The Judicial and Legal Service Commission advises the Administrators on the appointment, dismissal, etc., of magistrates, registrars and law officers. The expenses of the Joint Court (including the emoluments of judges) and of the Commission are borne by the eight Territories in proportions specified in the relevant Order in Council of 1959, and the sums required to meet these expenses are charged on the revenue of each Territory by the Order in Council. The judiciary is entirely West Indian.