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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION ON
AFRICAN AND ADJACENT TERRITORIES UNDER UNITED
KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General

GIBRALTAR

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 Gibraltar.

This information, which was received on 1 April 1963, is herewith submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth 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.

GIBRALTAR

POPULATION

1. Gibraltar is a narrow peninsula with an area of 2 1/4 square miles. The population at the census taken in October 1962 was 24,075, of whom 17,985 were Gibraltarians, 4,809 were British subjects not classified as Gibraltarians (this figure includes families of members of H.M. Forces but excludes servicemen), 1,132 were non-British, 149 were visitors with temporary permits of residence, and 427 were transients.

CONSTITUTION

2. The main features of the present Constitution are as follows:

Governor

3. The Governor (General Sir Dudley Ward) is head of the administration of the Territory. In the exercise of his powers he is advised by the Executive Council. He normally acts in accordance with the advice he receives from the Executive Council and does not, in practice, take decisions without the support of the non-official members of the Council.

Executive Council

4. The Executive Council is the principal executive organ and normally takes decisions on all matters affecting the internal government of the Territory, including the budget. It is composed of four non-official members (of whom three are elected and one nominated) and four ex officio members. The present members of the Executive Council, under the chairmanship of the Governor, are as follows:

Mr. J.A. Hassan^{a/} Chief Member
Mr. P.G. Russo Member for Lands and Works
Mr. S.A. Seruya^{a/} Member for Ports and Tourism
Mr. P.J. Isola^{a/} Member for Education
Mr. G.J. Gomez Financial Secretary
Mr. J.D. Bates Colonial Secretary
Mr. J.P. Webber Attorney-General
Brigadier H.E. Boulter . . . Military Representative

^{a/} Elected member of the Legislative Council.

5. All the above, except for the last three named, are inhabitants of Gibraltar.

Legislative Council

6. The Legislative Council passes laws for the peace, order and good government of Gibraltar. It normally meets under the chairmanship of a Speaker (Sir Joseph Patron) and has twelve members, of whom seven are elected, two are nominated and three are ex officio civil servants. As a result of constitutional changes introduced in 1959, members of the Legislative Council now undertake the supervision of departments of the administration, and the leader of the largest group in the Legislative Council is designated Chief Member.

7. The present list of Members is as follows:

Mr. J.A. Hassan Chief Member
Mr. A.J. Risso Member for Labour and Social Security
Mr. A.W. Serfaty Member for Medical Services
Mr. S.A. Seruya Member for Ports and Tourism
Mr. P.J. Isola Member for Education
Mrs. D. Ellicott Member for Postal Department
Major J.M.E. Gareze^{a/} . . . Member for the Gibraltar Regiment and Civil
Defence
Mr. P.G. Russo^{a/} Member for Lands and Works

^{a/} Nominated member of the Legislative Council.

POLITICAL PARTY

8. The main political party in Gibraltar is the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights which was formed in December 1942 "to do its utmost for the welfare of all citizens of Gibraltar and for the furtherance of civil rights in the Colony". There are two other smaller groups active in local politics - the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Gibraltar Commonwealth Party.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

9. The elected members of the Legislative Council are elected on a basis of universal adult suffrage by proportional representation. The last elections were held in September 1959; there were thirteen candidates and the following were elected;

Mr. J.A. Hassan (Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights)
Mr. S.A. Seruya (Independent)
Mr. P.J. Isola (Independent)
Mr. A.J. Risso (Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights)
Mr. A.W. Serfaty (Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights)
Mr. A.J. Balderino (Transport and General Workers' Union)
Mrs. D. Ellicott (Independent)

In 1959 the life of the Legislative Council was extended from three to five years.

JUDICIARY

10. The courts of law in Gibraltar consist of the Supreme Court, the Court of First Instance and the Magistrates' Court. The Judiciary comprises the Chief Justice, a judge of the Court of First Instance, a Stipendiary Magistrate, and twenty-one local justices of the peace. The Chief Justice presides over the Supreme Court, which has both original and appellate jurisdiction. The Court of First Instance has jurisdiction comparable to that of County Courts in England and is subordinate to the Supreme Court. The Magistrates' Court is normally presided over by the Stipendiary Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more justices of the peace.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

11. All junior posts and many of the senior posts of the Civil Service are filled by locally recruited personnel. Senior posts in the administration held by Gibraltarians include that of Financial Secretary, Commissioner of Lands and Works, and Chief Medical Officer. Overseas officers are replaced as and when suitably qualified local personnel become available. As already noted, a majority of the members of both the Executive and Legislative Councils are local inhabitants and have considerable say in the day-to-day administration of the Territory.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

12. Municipal affairs are in the hands of the Gibraltar City Council which has eleven members. Seven councillors are elected and hold office for three years; at present five belong to the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights and two are Independents. The leading elected member is Mayor of Gibraltar. The remaining four members are appointed by the Governor. The last elections were held in December 1962. The functions of the City Council include fire prevention, public health, highway maintenance, public markets, water, electricity, gas and telephone services.
