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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
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Summary of information transmitted by the
Government of Denmark^{1/}
(Development)

With a view to supplementing the statistical data given in document A/1272 and in pursuance of paragraph 4 (b) of General Assembly resolution 218 (III), the following summary gives in a brief form information on the progress achieved in accordance with development programmes in Greenland.

The currency of Greenland is the Danish kroner.

^{1/} This summary is also submitted to the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter.

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GREENLAND

A. Administrative methods

1. In November 1948, the Danish Government appointed a Commission to make an overall study of conditions in the Territory and to submit recommendations, including proposals for reorganization of the service in all cases where that seemed necessary. The Commission was comprised of representatives from the Greenlanders, from the Danish Parliament, and from the Danish Civil Service, including the Administrator of Greenland. It made a comprehensive report in March 1950. Various proposals have already been put into effect.

B. Finance

2. The Commission studied the public finance structure of the Territory and made recommendations for major changes. It was recognized that a transition to an income tax system was not feasible as the monetary economy had not yet developed to an extent where it had replaced the system of payment in kind, which still prevails. However, it was proposed to provide revenues through customs and excise taxes and not to rely on the sales tax or the "administration" tax. The items chosen for the levy of the excise tax are: coffee, tea, tobacco, beer and other spirits, sugar and candy. These were selected with the view to imposing taxation on that portion of the population best able to bear it.

3. While territorial revenue will increase under the new system of taxation, the plan for general development looks to the metropolitan Government to provide the necessary funds for a rather progressive programme. Some of the financial aspects of the plan are given below:

<u>Educational projects:</u>	<u>Kr.</u>
New school buildings, and reconstruction of old buildings, housing for students and teachers	6,019,000
Adult education	835,000
Radio station and facilities	1,115,000
Additional contribution for teachers' salaries, and depreciation, maintenance, and other expenses of new construction	1,022,000
Depreciation on buildings for adult education and radio facilities; salaries for adult education and radio service personnel	347,000
Films and library services	98,000
The Church	25,000
Total	<u>9,461,000</u>
	<u>/Public</u>

Public health projects:Kr.New hospitals, dental clinic, and tuberculosis
sanitarium

13,757,000

Quarters for medical staff

1,940,000

Motor launches for medical staff, and special X-Ray ship
Total800,000
16,497,000

I. Construction Expenditures

A. The supply service

Kr.

Purchase of mobile crane, tractors, trailers etc. for the Royal Greenland Trading Company's plant in Copenhagen	380,000
Erection of new shops, expansion and modernizing of older shoprooms	1,880,000
Purchase of 2 motor vessels	1,500,000
Construction of 2 main harbours	10,530,000
Extension of the harbour in Julianehaab district	<u>3,000,000</u>
	17,290,000

B. Fisheries

Purchase of a cutter for marine biological research	700,000
Loan for purchase of fishing boats, 10 to 15 tons	1,500,000
Purchase of a school ship	300,000
Loans to private trade and industrial activities (estimated)	<u>2,000,000</u>
	4,500,000

C. Sheep-farming

Tractors, ploughs, and a refrigerated ship	60,000
Buildings for a new agriculture service station, including residences	300,000
Wool-combing machine for rental	<u>5,000</u>
	365,000

Total 22,155,000

II. Working ExpensesA. The supply service

Depreciation, interest, maintenance
and other expenses on:

Kr.

New installations at the Royal Greenland Trading
Company's plant in Copenhagen

48,000

Shop buildings

119,000

2 motor vessels

550,000

2 main harbours

900,000

Harbour extension in Julianehaab district

250,000
1,867,000

B. Fisheries

Depreciation, interest, maintenance
and other expenses on:

Cutter for marine biological research

100,000

Subsidies for purchasing bigger fishing boats

50,000

Fishing courses in Godthaab

10,000
160,000

C. Sheep-farming

Depreciation, interest, maintenance and other expenses
on tractors, ploughs, and refrigerated ship

17,000

1 assistant agriculture officer and 1 assistant
horticulture officer

30,000

employment of a consultant in sheep-farming and
horticulture in the Greenland Department

3,000
50,000

Total

2,077,000

C. Progress

4. The most important development in the Territory is the change in the occupational trade of the community from a hunting to a fishing economy. This is having far-reaching effects on the lives of the people. The dispersed settlements which were natural and expedient in relation to hunting are giving way to a concentration in larger settlements where there is a good harbour with sufficient quay space for fishing boats and larger vessels, well-equipped repair shops, facilities for the purchase of goods, and facilities for the sale of the fish and its preparation for export. The areas where population growth is taking place are characterized by these requirements of a fishing community.

5. This population movement and change began spontaneously some years ago. The Government has been encouraging, rather than pushing it. The Commission, recognizing the importance of this movement of population, has recommended the use of educational methods to convert those Greenlanders who have not yet seen the advantages to be derived from concentration in the larger rather than the small scattered settlements. However, it is also realized that the re-schooling of a population of hunters into a population of fishermen must of necessity take some time.

6. Government. The Commission has proposed the establishment of a Central Administration in the Territory, with the replacement of the Provincial Governors by a single official with supreme authority to be known as the Territorial Governor. He would be provided with expert assistants in various fields.

7. The District Councils would be abolished, the two Provincial Councils would be merged into one, and the Municipal Councils would be enlarged.

8. Public health. The public health programme recommended by the Commission envisages the erection of a number of new hospitals and the reconstruction of the old ones. A special nursing home for certain types of tuberculosis is to be established at all the medical stations, and a central tuberculosis sanitarium is to be constructed. A specialist will be in charge of the sanitarium, and he will have the benefit of a fully equipped sero-bacteriological laboratory which will work in close collaboration with the Serum Institute in Copenhagen.

9. In 1949, a special campaign against tuberculosis was launched with the help of the Danish Red Cross, which provided eight nurses for the summer crusade. All persons under twenty years of age (10,000) were examined, and all who showed a negative reaction (2,500) were vaccinated.

. The judicial

10. The judicial system. The arrangement under which the judge and the prosecutor were one and the same person, the absence of any distinction between the executive and judicial power, and the different treatment of Danes and Greenlanders under the law, were a source of great dissatisfaction in the Territory. The Commission made specific recommendations to correct each of these problems. Future administration will be the same for Greenlanders or Danes. The system of courts will be reorganized with adequate provision for appeals continuing as high as to the Supreme Court in Copenhagen. Counsel will be provided for those accused of crime. The judicial and executive power will be separated.

11. Education. The fundamental change in educational policy which has been recommended by the Commission is the complete separation of schools from the Church, both in respect of personnel and plant. Management of the school system is to be placed under a School Board comprised of the Governor, the Dean and the Director of Schools. Trained inspectors will supervise the elementary schools. At each school the population will elect a representative to discuss school matters with the Municipal Council, and the school committee, and the authorities.

12. A Danish language secondary school will be established. The 2-year high school at Godthaab will be extended into a 4-year course. The seminary 2-year courses will be extended to 3 years, with the requirement of 4 years of high school for admission, so that teacher training will take seven years instead of six. Evening schools for adults are to be conducted at all of the large settlements. Kindergarten schools, of which there is only one, are to be extended to other settlements.

13. The proposed pedagogical organization of schools is as follows: at all settlements there will be 7-year elementary schools. At some settlements, there will be so-called "A" and "B" elementary schools. The special characteristic of these is that after the first two years the "A" school students will complete the remaining five years with instruction in the Greenland language only, while for the same period of years the "B" school students will complete their schooling with restriction in the Danish language. Next, three 2-year post-primary schools are provided for; then, provision is made for a domestic science school into which students may go from the elementary or the post-primary schools.

There is to be one 2-year catechist's school and one 4-year high school. There is also to be one 3-year seminary, one 4-year technical evening school, and one 1-year technical day school.

Agriculture

14. Sheep-farming. Due to extreme winter conditions in 1949, half of the sheep stock perished. The loss was considered very severe because the flocks had been increased to about 22,000 head. To aid the distressed farmers, the Government sold hay at cost price in Copenhagen, not adding shipping charges, and granted them interest-free loans to avoid further reduction of the stocks by sales of animals to provide cash for expenses.

15. The Commission has recommended the production of winter fodder, the stabilization of sheep-farming, the reorganization of the Government Sheepbreeding Station to enable it to undertake educational work among the farmers and research, and the establishment of a farm machinery pool.

16. Fisheries. Cod fishing is the most important line of the trade, but it is recognized that complete reliance should not be placed on this alone, as with a change of climatic conditions the cod might again retire from the coastal waters. Accordingly, the Commission has proposed the promotion of fisheries other than cod; that fishermen maintain the practice of having a secondary trade; that larger boats be provided for the trade; and that research be undertaken to obtain advance warning of changes. Training in the use of a cutter with full technical equipment and modern fishing tackle will be provided by the acquisition of such a vessel, and the inclusion of a special course for fishermen in the school at Godthaab. In the mean time, during the winter of 1949 a number of Greenlanders attended the five-month course in Esbjerg, Denmark, at the Fishery High School.

17. Three private Danish fishing companies are operating in Greenland waters, and two of them are manufacturing fish products in the Territory. The Government has arranged to co-operate with one company by delivering cod fillets and shrimps. Profits will be shared with the Government.

Industry

18. Coal. The annual production of coal is about 7,000 tons. Due to extremely unfavourable shipping conditions from the coal field, it has not been possible to increase output. The Commission has recommended the importation of

/coal rather

coal rather than further production under an increasing deficit operation of the field. In 1949, the territory used 3,350 tons of imported coal as compared with 1,859 tons in 1945.

19. Cryolite. This mineral is found only in Greenland. It is mined by a company in which the Government owns half of the stock. It is used in the aluminium and enamel industries. Shipments are made to Denmark and to the United States. Income from cryolite provides a large part of the cost of cultural work in the territory.

20. Power production. In 1949, power plants and fuel oil distribution tanks were constructed at four of the leading settlements. During the summer of 1950, power plants are to be built at three more settlements. It is also planned to erect a large central fuel oil tank plant capable of holding a supply from a trans-Atlantic tanker; from the central plant the fuel oil would be distributed in small vessels to the coastal settlements. The tank plant would be built by the Government, but the intention is to lease it to a leading Danish oil company, subject to Government price control.

21. Canning factory. The shrimp canning factory operated 25 days and produced only 38,362 tins of 90 grammes each, due to the severe winter conditions, as compared with 110,198 tins in the year ending March 1949. A new shrimp cannery is under construction at Narssaq, and another is contemplated at Disko Bay where marine-biological research has indicated the existence of a very rich shrimp bank.

Transport and Communications

22. The Commission was dissatisfied with existing transport and communications facilities and recommended a complete reorganization. It is proposed to build two large ports, one for North and the other for South Greenland. Ocean-going ships would call at these ports. Trans-shipment would be made by the smaller vessels belonging to and operated by the Government Trading Company. One of the objectives of the new plan is to avoid the use of women and children as dockers.
