

Distr.
GENERALA/2654/Add.3
1 September 1954
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Ninth session

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERALSummary of information transmitted by the Government of France^{1/}

In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of General Assembly resolution 218 (III) of 3 November 1948, the Secretary-General submits the following summary showing such changes in statistics and other appreciable changes as have occurred in recent years in standards of living in Morocco. This summary supplements document A/2654/Add.2, which contains general information transmitted in respect of Morocco for the year 1953.^{2/}

^{1/} This summary is submitted also to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

^{2/} This information supplements the summary of information transmitted in 1952 which appears in document ST/TRI/SER.A/7/Add.1 (United Nations: Non-Self-Governing Territories; summaries and analyses of information transmitted to the Secretary-General during 1952, volume II, 1953).

STANDARDS OF LIVING IN MOROCCO

In addition to the statistical information relating to Morocco, which is summarized in document A/2654/Add.2, the French Government has transmitted to the Secretary-General a report on standards of living in French Morocco, a synopsis of which is given below.

The full effects of the work done during the last five years under the first development plan will not be felt for some little time, but the results already obtained indicate that the standard of living of Moroccans is improving at a more rapid tempo.

For the purpose of appraising the development of standards of living, the report transmitted by the French Government makes use of statistics obtained from the following sources:

1. global estimates;
2. direct investigations;
3. changes in the cost of living in relation to purchasing power.

The uniform results obtained by the use of these three sources show that the purchasing power of the Moroccan worker has effectively doubled since before the war.

1. Global estimates

This method has, among other defects, that of grouping all sections of the population together in order to obtain an average. The figures given below have therefore been selected because they relate to products which are of particular importance for the standard of living of the bulk of the Moroccan population.

The annual per capita consumption of sugar rose from 9.091 kg in 1946 to 31.6 kg in 1953.

The annual per capita consumption of tea rose from 800 grammes in 1926 to 1.750 kg in 1953.

In the case of cereals, the corresponding figures are 378 kg per capita in 1953 as against 294 kg in 1936. It should also be noted that deliveries of wheat flours (which are, with advantage, tending to replace barley) to bakeries in Moroccan towns have tripled since before the war, rising from 443,000 quintals to 1,355,000 quintals in 1953, whereas deliveries to European bakeries increased by only 50 per cent during the same period.

In regard to meat, pre-war consumption was estimated at 10.75 kg per capita; in 1950 it was 16.50 kg. The latter figure does not take into account the consumption of poultry, which is particularly high in the case of the rural population, being estimated at 10 kg per capita in 1950. Further evidence of the increased consumption of meat by the rural population is found in the fact that Morocco, which before the war was a large-scale exporter of sheep, now exports very few and is in fact beginning to import beef.

Annual per capita consumption of fresh fish rose from 1.32 kg before the war to 3 kg in 1952.

There has been a definite improvement in regard to clothing. A study of textile statistics reveals a substantial increase in consumption, particularly of cotton fabrics, which are traditionally and exclusively used by the Moroccan section of the population.

Imports of pharmaceutical products rose from 984 tons in 1950 to 1,152 tons in 1953, despite the development of a domestic pharmaceutical industry.

The number of bicycles imported from 7,000 in 1950 to 14,676 in 1953.

The number of radio receiving sets owned by Moroccans rose from 7,000 in 1938 to 131,195 in January 1954.

2. Direct investigations

In 1949, an investigation was carried out among a purely working-class section of the population of Casablanca. The results obtained accordingly provide a good example of the standard of living of the Moroccan population at its lowest.

According to this investigation, changes in the distribution of expenditure and the number of calories consumed were as follows:

ITEMS	:	1937	:	1949
	:	(distribution of expenditure)		
Food	:	73.0	:	58.5
Clothing	:	7.0	:	17.1
Miscellaneous expenditure	:	9.1	:	10.5
Housing	:	10.9	:	13.9
	:		:	
Total	:	100	:	100
	:		Calories	
Adult consumption	:	2,210	:	2,560

The fall in the average proportion of expenditure on food is an indication of the rise in the standard of living; there has also been a striking improvement in the qualitative composition of the energizing food consumed by comparison with that before the war.

In addition, a monograph was produced in 1952 by the Société d'Etudes Economiques, Sociales et de Statistiques with the assistance of members of the teaching profession in daily contact with the Moroccan population. Two hundred family questionnaires were used covering all parts of Morocco and dealing with over forty occupations.

The average annual income of the small landowner was found to have risen from 2,250 francs in 1935 to 300,000 francs in 1952 and that of the rural worker or khammes, from 1,500 francs in 1935 to 105,000 francs in 1952. In the case of tradesmen and craftsmen, the corresponding figures are approximately 7 to 10,000 francs in 1935 as against 200 - 500,000 francs in 1952.

The purchasing power of these incomes, as represented by the above figures, is shown in the following table, in terms of three basic foodstuffs:

Small landowners	1934	1952
Bread	2,142 Kg	6,250 Kg
Oil	548 l.	1,694 l.
Sugar	930 Kg	2,500 Kg

Rural workers

Bread	1,428 Kg	1,666 Kg
Oil	365 l.	441 l.
Sugar	625 Kg	666 Kg

Urban workers

Bread	1,428 Kg	2,187 Kg
Oil	365 l.	598 l.
Sugar	625 Kg	875 Kg

The figures relating to rural workers, the majority of whom are in the service of Moroccan landowners, require adjustment in view of the fact that such workers always receive some remuneration in kind.

3. Cost-of-living and purchasing power

The retail price index at Casablanca stood at 2,792 in January 1954, taking 1939 as 100. At the same date, the wage index for an unskilled worker at Casablanca was 6,082, again taking 1939 as 100.

The purchasing power of the Moroccan worker, as indicated by the ratio between these two figures, has therefore doubled since before the war. It should also be borne in mind that the social benefits available to workers are considerably more extensive than before the war, thus increasing their purchasing power still further.

The following table shows the comparative changes in the minimum guaranteed wage at Casablanca and in the retail price index there:

	Minimum guaranteed wage at Casablanca (daily wage)	Retail price index at Casablanca 1939 = 100
January 1951	277	2,225
January 1952	342	2,748
May 1952	376	2,725
November 1953	414	2,792
Increase between January 1951 and January 1954	+ 49.4 %	+ 28.1 %