



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND
PEOPLES

DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES: INFORMATION ON TERRITORIES TO
WHICH THE DECLARATION APPLIES

Working Paper prepared by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Special Committee for the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, which was approved by the Assembly in its resolution 1956 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963, states:

"With regard to the Territories which still remain to be considered by the Special Committee, it is the intention of the Special Committee to consider them as a matter of priority in 1964. In order to facilitate such consideration, the Secretariat has been asked to prepare the necessary documentation giving background information on the Territories included in the preliminary list which have not yet been considered by the Special Committee and make them available to the members of the Committee as soon as possible." ^{1/}

2. This working paper is submitted to the Special Committee in accordance with the instructions of the Special Committee referred to above.

3. The working paper has been prepared on the basis of official information as well as information available from other published sources, in accordance with the decision of the Special Committee contained in chapter I, paragraph 112 (b) of its report for the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.^{2/}

4. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Administering Members under Article 73 e and on political and constitutional developments, and to take it fully into account in examining the situation regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Accordingly, the information under Article 73 e, as well as information on political and constitutional developments transmitted by the Administering Member concerned, has also been taken into account in the preparation of this paper.

^{1/} A/5446, Chapter I, para. 51.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25 (A/5238), p. 18.

I. MAURITIUS^{1/}

GENERAL

1. Mauritius, an island of volcanic origin, lies in the Indian Ocean about 500 miles east of Madagascar. It has an area of 720 square miles (1,865 square kilometres), excluding its four dependencies, which have an aggregate area of 89 square miles (231 square kilometres). The northern part of Mauritius is a flat plain rising to a fertile central plateau. Bordering the plateau are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet (831 metres). There are many short, swift rivers with waterfalls, some of them used to generate hydroelectric power.
2. At 30 June 1962, the date of the latest census, the population of Mauritius totalled 680,305, bringing population density to an average of 945 per square mile. Over-population and the continued high rate of population increase are a major problem on the island. Approximately 67 per cent of the population is Indo-Mauritian; 29 per cent is referred to as the "general population", consisting of a mixed population of French and African origin, and Europeans (approximately 10,000) mainly of French origin; and 4 per cent is Sino-Mauritian or Chinese.
3. Port Louis, with an estimated population of 89,900 in December 1960, is the capital of Mauritius. Other main towns are Curepipe, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes.
4. The most important of the dependencies is Rodrigues, a mountainous island of volcanic origin with an estimated population of 17,467 inhabitants, situated 350 miles to the east of Mauritius. The other three dependencies, which had a total estimated population of 1,900 in 1960, are the Chagos Archipelago, 1,180 miles north-east of Mauritius, Agalega, 580 miles north of Mauritius, and Cargados Carajos, 250 miles north of Mauritius.

^{1/} The following information transmitted by the Administering Power has been taken into account in the preparation of this paper: (a) Information transmitted under Article 73 e for the year ending 31 December 1962, received on 14 June 1963; and (b) Information on political and constitutional developments transmitted separately on 7 March 1963 (A/5401/Add.8).

GOVERNMENT

Status

5. Mauritius is a Colony and has been under British control since 1810.

6. The island of Mauritius was reportedly first settled in 1638, when a small Dutch settlement was established. The settlement was abandoned in 1710 and France claimed the island in 1715, introducing a new settlement beginning in 1722. Mauritius was later captured by a British expedition in 1810.

7. A Council of Government was first established in the Territory in 1825, and in 1886 the first Legislative Council with elected members was established.

Constitution

8. The present Constitution of Mauritius, set out in the Mauritius (Constitution) Orders in Council 1958 to 1962, embodies the first of two stages of constitutional change proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at a conference held in London during June and July 1961.^{2/} Its main provisions are set out below.

(a) Governor

9. The Governor is the Queen's representative and the formal head of the Government. Except as otherwise specifically provided, he is required to seek and act on the advice of the Executive Council. His assent is required for laws passed by the Legislative Council.

(b) Executive Council

10. The Executive Council, presided over by the Governor, consists of thirteen ministers: the Chief Minister, who is the leader of the majority party in the Legislative Council; nine other ministers appointed by the Governor from the elected or nominated members of the Legislative Council; and three ex officio ministers (Chief Secretary, Attorney-General and Financial Secretary). In the present Executive Council, all ministers except the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary are Mauritians. Six of the appointed ministers, including the Chief Minister, are members of the Labour Party, two are members of the Muslim Committee

^{2/} See paras. 23-32 below.

Action, one is a member of the Independent Forward Bloc and one is a nominated member of the Legislative Council. The ministers are responsible for the administration of specified departments or subjects and accept the rules of collective responsibility.

11. The Executive Council is the principal instrument of policy in the Territory, being responsible for the direction and control of the Government. Except in specified matters, including external affairs, defence, internal security and public service appointments, the Governor is required to consult the Council and normally to act in accordance with its advice. He is authorized to act against the advice of the Executive Council if he has obtained the prior approval of the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies, or in cases of urgent necessity, provided he reports his action to the Secretary of State.

(c) Legislative Council

12. The Legislative Council is composed of a Speaker appointed by the Governor from outside the Council and fifty-five members, of whom forty are elected by universal adult suffrage, three are ex officio (Chief Secretary, Attorney-General and Financial Secretary), and twelve, the maximum allowed under the Constitution, are nominated by the Governor. The normal life of the Legislative Council is five years.

13. The Legislative Council has power to legislate for all aspects of the internal affairs of the Territory, including its budget and taxation, subject to the proviso that the Council may not proceed on any Bill imposing or increasing a tax or increasing expenditure from revenue or other territorial funds except on the recommendation of the Governor or with his consent. All laws passed by the Legislative Council are subject to the assent of the Governor. The Governor's assent to certain types of bills is subject to his receipt of prior instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or, in cases of urgent necessity, subject to report to the Secretary of State. Such bills include those affecting the currency of the Territory, those imposing differential duties, those affecting the control of naval, military or air forces, those inconsistent with United Kingdom treaty obligations, and those of an extraordinary nature and import which might prejudice United Kingdom prerogatives, the property rights of British subjects not residing in the Territory, or trade, transport or communications of any part of

the dominions or any territory under United Kingdom protection. The Governor, if he considers it expedient in the interest of public order, public faith or good government, may declare in effect a bill or motion introduced in the Legislative Council if it fails to pass or be carried; he is required in such cases to report to the Secretary of State, and to forward any objection to his action made by any member of the Legislature. Any law or motion thus declared in effect by the Governor is subject to revocation by the Secretary of State. Any law passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor is subject to disallowance by Her Majesty acting through a Secretary of State.

Electoral System

14. Universal adult suffrage was introduced by the 1958 Constitution. The forty elective members of the Legislative Council are elected in single-member constituencies, the candidate polling the largest number of votes winning the seat. Elections are normally held every five years.

15. New elections were held in October 1963, after the dissolution of the old Legislative Council by the Governor.^{3/} The results of these elections were as follows:

		(Previous membership of the Legislative Council)
Mauritius Labour Party	19	(23)
<u>Parti Mauricien</u>	8	(3)
Independent Forward Bloc	7	(6)
Muslim Committee of Action	4	(5)
Independents	2	(1)
Trade Unionists	-	(2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	40	(40)

Judiciary

16. The laws of Mauritius are mainly based on old French codes (Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure). However, a number of more recent laws are based on English precedents, such as the Bankruptcy Law, the Company Law, the Law of Evidence, the Law of Criminal Procedure and the

^{3/} See para. 34 below.

Labour Laws. The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court, which has similar powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England. It consists of a Chief Justice and three puisne judges. Appeals lie to the Court of Criminal Appeal (which is constituted by three of the judges of the Supreme Court) and in certain cases to the Privy Council in England.

17. There is an Intermediate Criminal Court consisting of three senior magistrates, which has jurisdiction to try criminal cases and power to impose sentences of up to five years of penal servitude. In addition, there are eleven magistrates who preside over the several district courts which deal with less serious offences.

18. All the judges and all the magistrates are of local origin.

Public Service

19. Appointments to the Public Service are made by the Governor at his discretion. He is advised by a Public Service Commission, but is not bound by its advice.

20. At the end of 1962, there were 66 pensionable overseas officers in the Public Service, comprising 19 local officers who were members of the Overseas Civil Service, and 47 other officers. Non-pensionable overseas officers numbered 31 and local and other officers totalled 338. Non-overseas local and other officers of all categories, excluding daily-paid staff, numbered 10,585.

Local government

21. There is a well-established system of local government in Mauritius. The capital is a municipality with a wholly elected membership of sixteen. In the three other main towns, there are town councils with a majority of elected members. The franchise for municipal and town council elections is on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and certain taxpayers' qualifications. Rural local government is based on village councils consisting of 7 to 9 elected members with 3 members appointed by the Governor. There are more than 100 village councils, which undertake such functions as road repairs, construction of bridges and markets, improvement of water supplies, etc., with funds provided by the central Government. District councils co-ordinate and supervise the work of village councils in their area. These consist of 15 members, including 10 chairmen of village councils elected by and from village councils in the district, and 5 persons appointed by the Governor. In 1962, government servants ceased to be members of village councils while the civil commissioners changed their role from member of district councils to that of adviser.

22. Local government elections were held in the Territory in December 1963.

Recent developments

23. A two-stage plan for the constitutional advance of Mauritius towards full

for the Colonies at a Conference held in London from 26 June to 7 July 1961. The Conference was attended by the main political parties in the Territory, namely, the Mauritius Labour Party, the Independent Forward Bloc, the Muslim Committee of Action, and the Parti Mauricien, as well as by two independent nominated members of the Mauritius Legislative Council.

24. According to the first stage of the plan, which was brought into effect in 1961 and 1962, the leader of the majority party in the legislature would have the title of Chief Minister. He would be consulted by the Governor on such matters as the appointment and removal of ministers, the allocation of portfolios, and the summoning, proroguing and dissolution of the Legislative Council. While not in general bound to accept the Chief Minister's advice, the Governor would act on his advice in the appointment or removal of ministers belonging to the Chief Minister's party. The number of unofficial ministers in the Executive Council would be increased to ten, and the Colonial Secretary would be re-styled Chief Secretary.

25. Under the proposed second stage, the Executive Council would be called the Council of Ministers, and the Chief Minister would be given the title of Premier. The Chief Secretary would be the only official member of the Council; he would also become Minister for Home Affairs and an unofficial Deputy Minister for Home Affairs would be appointed. Provision would be made for the post of Attorney-General to be filled by either an official or unofficial Minister. If the former, while ceasing to be a member of the Council, he would be available to attend meetings as an adviser. If the post were filled by an unofficial minister, a new official post of Director of Public Prosecutions would be created, with sole responsibility for the initiation, conduct and discontinuance of prosecutions.

26. The legislature, to be renamed the Legislative Assembly, would contain forty elected members as before, but the maximum number of nominated members would be increased from twelve to fifteen; it was contemplated that two or three of these appointments should be held in reserve. The Financial Secretary and, if an official, the Attorney-General, would cease to be members of the Legislative Assembly.

27. The Speaker would be elected by the Legislative Assembly from among its members rather than appointed by the Governor from outside of the legislature as at present. Provision for the election of the Speaker is not to become effective until the retirement of the present Speaker, who is not required to vacate his office by reason of the dissolution of the legislature.

28. In the second stage of the plan, the existing Public Service and Police Service Commissions and a proposed Judicial and Legal Service Commission would remain advisory to the Governor, who would, however, be required to consult the Premier in respect of the appointments of the senior administrative officer in a ministry and heads of departments. Later, during the life of the Legislative Assembly following the next general election, the commissions would become executive. At that time, while the Governor would continue to appoint the chairman and members of each commission in his discretion, he would be required to consult the Premier in respect of these appointments.

29. Under the constitutional proposals, external affairs, defence and internal security would remain within the responsibility of the Governor, but he would consult with the Premier on these matters. Operational control of the police and special force would continue to be the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police under the authority of the Governor.

30. The proposed constitution would also include provision for safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the redress of infringements of these rights and freedoms in the courts.

31. According to a communiqué issued at the end of the Conference, the proposals were unacceptable to the Independent Forward Bloc and the Parti Mauricien. The Mauritius Labour Party considered that the proposals did not provide the measure of advance which they were fully justified in claiming, and the Muslim Committee of Action did not consider that they adequately safeguarded the interests of the Moslem community. These two parties nevertheless reluctantly accepted the proposals as a compromise. The communiqué stated that the Secretary of State informed the Conference that, while it was clear that unanimous agreement could not be reached, in his view a sufficient measure of acceptance had been indicated to justify his recommending the adoption of his proposals.

32. The second stage of the plan was to be implemented after the next general elections, if the constitutional proposals were then approved by the new Legislative Council and recommended to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Chief Minister. The new Legislative Assembly is to meet on 3 March 1964.

33. In July 1963, the Chief Minister, Dr. S. Ramgoolam, stated that his country should achieve independence by the middle of 1964.

34. On 14 September 1963, the Legislative Council which had been in existence since 1959, was dissolved by the Governor. In the elections which took place on 21 October, the Labour Party headed by Dr. Ramgoolam was returned to power as the party receiving the highest percentage of votes. It was supported in the Council by the Muslim Committee of Action.

Political parties

35. The main political parties in the Territory are now the Mauritius Labour Party, whose leader, Dr. S. Ramgoolam, is the Chief Minister; the Parti Mauricien, headed by Mr. J. Koenig; the Independent Forward Bloc, under the leadership of Mr. S. Bissoondoyal; and the Muslim Committee of Action, headed by Mr. A.R. Mohamed. Two other parties which had contested seats in the 1959 general elections are the Trade Unionist Party and the Independent Labour Party.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

36. The sugar industry dominates the whole economy of Mauritius. Sugar cane covers 90 per cent of the total area under cultivation and the yield represents 96 per cent of all arable production and accounts for about 97 per cent of the Territory's exports. The Territory is dependent on imports for most of its local food requirements, although some maize, vegetables and fruit, livestock, fish, tobacco and tea are produced locally, tea yielding a small surplus for export. Aloe fibre for making sacks is also produced. Mauritius is completely lacking in mineral resources. Its main industries are the processing of local crops, namely, cane-milling factories, alcohol distilleries, tea, fibre and sack factories. There are also small manufacturing enterprises producing wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks, and various small trades, including printing, tanneries and mechanical and electrical workshops. Efforts are being made to develop a tourist industry.

37. Domestic exports amount to about Rs.300 million^{4/} a year. Imports, valued at over Rs.286 million in 1959, rose to over Rs.331 million in 1960 and to over Rs.323 and Rs.322 million in 1961 and 1962, respectively, establishing a recurrent

^{4/} One Mauritius rupee is equivalent to ls.6d. sterling; 1 million rupees to £70,000 sterling.

unfavourable balance of trade in recent years. Over 90 per cent of the Territory's exports go to the United Kingdom and other preferential tariff countries, more than 80 per cent to the United Kingdom alone. About 70 per cent of the Territory's imports come from the United Kingdom and other preferential tariff countries, the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom itself having been reduced from 36.9 per cent in 1959 to 29.9 per cent in 1962.

38. The Territory has enjoyed relative prosperity since the Second World War, owing largely to increased sugar production and favourable prices under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, which runs to the end of 1968. From 1953 to 1961 the gross national product increased by 24.6 per cent, from Rs.566 million to Rs.705 million, though temporary setbacks have been experienced. In 1960, two cyclones inflicted severe damage on the island. Sugar production fell from a record high of 580,372 metric tons in 1959 to 235,578 metric tons in 1960, resulting in a reduction of exports to Rs.184,985,942 and a drop in the gross national product to RS.559 million. Another cyclone which struck the island in February 1962 reduced the sugar crop from an estimated record high of 650,000 metric tons to 532,000 metric tons.

39. Ordinary recurrent revenue of the Territory, derived mainly from import, excise and export duties and income tax, increased from some Rs.15.6 million in 1938/39 to Rs.55 million in 1949/50 and Rs.154.5 million in 1961/62. Recurrent expenditure for the same years amounted to Rs.16.4 million, Rs.50 million and Rs.156 million, respectively. For the financial years 1960/61 and 1961/62, capital revenue amounted to almost Rs.36 and Rs.39 million respectively for the two years. The bulk of the capital revenue for the two years combined was derived from loans (Rs.24.5 million), transfers from the recurrent budget (Rs.19.5 million), grants (Rs.16.1 million) and capital receipts connected with Colonial Development and Welfare schemes (about Rs.12.9 million).

40. A five-year development programme for the period 1957-62, initially estimated to cost some Rs.210,252,000, had to be wound up because of the 1960 cyclone damage to the Territory, and a new five-year programme was formulated covering the period 1960-65. The new development programme places emphasis on cyclone repair and reconstruction and the construction of cyclone-proof houses, as well as some measure of diversification of the economy by the encouragement of

secondary industries. Projected sources for financing the programme, to a total of Rs.326.9 million, are local resources (Rs.158.5 million), loans and grants from the United Kingdom for a low-cost cyclone housing programme (Rs.72.2 million), other loans and grants from the United Kingdom Colonial Services Vote and Colonial Development and Welfare funds (Rs.45.9 million), external sources (Rs.50 million) and miscellaneous grants (Rs.3 million).

41. At 30 June 1962, the Territory had a public debt of Rs.152,150,916 of which Rs.18,667,283 was covered by an accumulated sinking fund.

42. A loan of \$7 million was granted to Mauritius by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in September 1963. The loan would be used to finance the construction of a 12,000-kilowatt diesel power station at Port Louis and an expansion and improvement of the transmission and distribution system, thus increasing the Territory's public power supplies by nearly one third.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Labour

43. The main labour force in Mauritius is made up of the sugar plantation workers, whose number reaches its maximum from July to December during the harvest season. Approximately 67,000 workers were employed on the plantations in September 1962.

44. There were at the end of June 1962, 69 trade unions consisting of 32 associations of employees in private employment, 24 of government servants, 11 of employers and 2 registered federations. The membership of the Plantation Workers' Union then stood at 13,956 and that of the Agricultural Workers' Union at 4,596.

45. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security is responsible for implementing labour laws and for advising on all matters involving the rights and welfare of workers. Through its Employment Service Division, the Ministry registers unemployed workers, provides information on employment opportunities and a full placing service, collects and analyses statistics, in co-ordination with the Central Statistical Office, relating to employment information and promotes vocational training schemes.

46. The Ministry prosecutes labour law breakers before the Industrial Court. Labour laws are kept constantly under review to give effect to International Labour Conventions which have been applied to the Territory.

Health

47. Medical and health services, which until April 1962 had been administered by a Director of Medical Services, are now the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Reform Institutions. There were eight general hospitals (1,566 beds) and 42 dispensaries (32 of which were in the rural areas) run by the Government in 1962, while private institutions included 25 sugar estate hospitals (500 beds), 18 dispensaries and 5 nursing homes and clinics (89 beds). In addition, the Government provided or subsidized the following facilities: 9 maternity and child welfare centres, 18 social welfare centres, a mental hospital, an emergency tuberculosis hospital, a leprosarium, a chest clinics, 7 maternity wards in hospitals as well as 10 mobile clinics for medical, dental and ante-natal care.

48. Medical and health staff in the Territory were as follows:

	<u>Government</u>	<u>Private</u>
Registered medical practitioners	98	64
Dentists	6	25
Nurses of senior training	11	-
Nurses in hospitals	259	-
Dressers in hospitals	287	-
Midwives	74	-
Sanitary inspectors	64	-
X-ray technicians	14	-
Pharmacists	3	51

49. Assistance by the World Health Organization is provided for the eradication of malaria and tuberculosis from the Territory. In 1962, 226 cases of malaria were reported, none of which was mortal (in 1945 there were 3,534 deaths). There were sixty-four deaths of tuberculosis in 1962, compared with seventy-five in 1961 and ninety-three in 1960. The normal death rate in the Territory is .93 per cent. Infant mortality is 6 per cent.

50. Government expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1961/62 was Rs.17,426,996 or 11.17 per cent of the Territory's budget.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

51. The primary school age population in the Territory has been estimated at 137,000, out of a total population of about 700,000. The educational system provides for a primary course of six years, and the number of children attending primary schools in 1962 was 125,667, of whom 22,942 were in Standard VI, the final year of primary schooling.

52. Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to university courses. Secondary schools offer either a five-year course leading to the Cambridge School Certificate or a seven-year course up to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate level. The four government secondary schools can meet only part of the demand. In October 1962, there were 1,750 pupils in these schools. (The previous year the number of applications for admission was seven times the number of places available.) A number of private schools - offering either the five-year or the seven-year course - are subsidized and are known as "approved secondary schools". They numbered thirteen in 1962 and had an enrolment of 4,688. The number of unaided secondary schools was eighty-eight, with an enrolment of 20,423 during the same year.

53. In addition to the "academic" education provided by the schools referred to above, the Technical Institute offers technical and commercial courses of three or five years' duration and had an enrolment of 147 in 1961. The government central schools, one for boys and one for girls, provide a three-year course in ordinary academic subjects, with a bias for practical subjects such as woodwork and metal-work for boys and domestic science for girls. There were eighty boys and seventy-eight girls on roll in 1961. There was a total enrolment of 319 in these three institutions in 1962. In the same year, 575 students were in the Teachers' Training College.

54. The institution for higher education in the Territory is the College of Agriculture in which sixty-seven boys were enrolled in 1961.

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55. The Government of Mauritius awards annually six scholarships to Form VI students (four boys and two girls) for university education in the United Kingdom or other approved countries. In addition, twenty awards were made by Commonwealth countries under the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan.

56. Under the Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, the progress and development of the educational system of the Territory is the direct responsibility of the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs. Expenditure on education during the financial year 1961/62 amounted to Rs.23.53 million of which Rs.20.66 million was recurrent and Rs.2.87 million was capital expenditure. Recurrent expenditure represented nearly 14 per cent of total government expenditure of a recurrent nature.

II. SEYCHELLES^{1/}

GENERAL

1. The Territory of the Seychelles comprises some ninety-two islands situated in the Indian Ocean, approximately 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) east of the Kenya coast. Thirty-two of the islands are granite and the rest coral. The total area of the islands is about 156 square miles (404 square kilometres), including the Aldabra lagoon, which measures over 50 square miles (129 square kilometres). The granite islands, which have a total area of 103 square miles (267 square kilometres), are predominantly mountainous. They form a fairly compact group, none being more than 35 miles from Mahé, the principal island. Mahé covers an area of 55 square miles (142 square kilometres). The other important granite islands are Praslin and La Digue.
2. The outlying coral islands, situated at distances varying between 60 and 612 miles from Mahé, are flat, elevated coral reefs at different stages of formation. They have no permanent inhabitants.
3. The population of Seychelles at the time of the last census, in 1960, numbered 41,425, of whom 40,594 were native-born Seychellois and 831 were foreign-born. It was estimated that the population had increased to 43,748 at 30 June 1962. The population comprises descendants of the early French settlers, Africans, persons of mixed race, and a small number of Indians, Chinese and Europeans. Nearly nine-tenths of the total population lives on Mahé. The capital, Victoria, with a population of over 10,000, is the only important town.

GOVERNMENT

Status

4. In 1810, the United Kingdom took possession of the Seychelles from France, which had occupied them since 1768. The Seychelles were incorporated as a dependency of Mauritius from 1810 to 1903, when the Territory became a separate Crown Colony.

^{1/} The following information transmitted by the Administering Power has been taken into account in the preparation of this paper: (a) Information transmitted under Article 73 e for the year ending 31 December 1962, received on 19 June 1963; and (b) Information on political and constitutional developments transmitted separately on 13 March 1963 (A/5401/Add.9).

Constitution

5. The Constitution of the Seychelles is contained in the Seychelles Letters Patent, 1948 and 1955, and the Seychelles (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1960. The main provisions of the Constitution are set out below.

(a) Governor

6. The Governor is head of the administration of the Territory. In the exercise of his powers he is advised by and is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council, except in specified circumstances. His assent is required for laws passed by the Legislative Council.

(b) Executive Council

7. The Executive Council, under the chairmanship of the Governor, is composed of four official members (the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Administrative Secretary, and the Treasurer) and such other persons, at least one of whom must be a non-official, as the Governor may appoint. The present Executive Council consists, apart from the ex officio members, of four non-official members, of whom three are elected members of the Legislative Council and one is a nominated member. The non-official members are Seychellois.

8. The Executive Council is the principal executive organ in regard to all matters affecting the internal government of the Territory. In such matters the Governor acts on the advice of the Executive Council, but he may act against it in specified circumstances. Administration is the responsibility of the ex officio members of the Council who control the various departments such as the police, education, labour and welfare, public works, etc.

(c) Legislative Council

9. Under the Seychelles (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1960, the Legislative Council is composed of the Governor as President, four ex officio members, five elected members, and three nominated members, at least one of whom must not be a public officer. Of the three members nominated by the Governor to serve in the Legislative Council formed in 1960, two were civil servants, and one

a non-official. The 1960 legislation increased by one the number of elective members, which had been fixed at four between 1948 and 1960. The Legislative Council's life was recently increased from three to four years.

10. The Legislative Council is empowered to enact ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory. All ordinances require the assent of the Governor. Reserve power to declare a bill or motion in effect, if it fails to be passed in the Legislative Council, may be exercised by the Governor, who is required in that event to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Queen, through a Secretary of State, reserves the authority to disallow any law assented to by the Governor, and the Queen in Council retains general reserve powers to make laws for the Seychelles.

Electoral system

11. Five members of the Legislative Council are elected every four years by adult suffrage, subject to a small property and literacy qualification. In elections held in 1960, four of the members elected to the Legislative Council represented the Taxpayers and Producers' Association and one was an independent.

12. Elections for five members of the Legislative Council were held in 1963. For the first time in the history of the Territory, they were contested on party lines, with four candidates supported by the Taxpayers and Producers' Association, four supported by the United Party and one candidate supported by both sides.

Judiciary

13. There is a Supreme Court in the Territory, presided over by the Chief Justice, with full civil and criminal jurisdiction. In addition, there is a magistrates' court, which has civil and criminal jurisdiction in respect of less serious offences. Appeal in civil cases lies to the Supreme Court of Mauritius, and in criminal cases to the East African Court of Appeal. The legal system in the Territory is based on the Napoleonic Code, as amended from time to time by local ordinance.

Public Service

14. Officers in the Public Service are appointed by the Governor. At the end of 1962, there were thirteen pensionable officers in the overseas public service, of whom eight were Europeans, three Mauritians and two Asians; and 29 non-pensionable overseas officers, all of whom were Europeans. There were also 44 other local officers in the public service, and a total of approximately 1,734 local officers employed by the Administration.

Local government

15. There are two elected district councils in the Territory, viz., the Victoria District Council, and the Praslin District Council, the latter covering the island of Praslin and five other islands. These councils perform such functions as maintenance of roads and markets, and raise revenue from property on taxes and fees. There are local boards in North Mahé and South Mahé, La Digue and Silhouette. Members of these boards are appointed by the Governor and their powers are more restricted. A local government board is responsible for supervising the work of the Victoria and Praslin District Councils and acts as adviser to the local boards.

Political parties

16. The Taxpayers and Producers' Association was, until recently, the only political party in the Seychelles. In its election manifesto, issued in 1963, it is reported to have called for internal self-government, with defence and foreign affairs reserved to the United Kingdom, the abolition of the post of Governor, the reform of various government departments, the withdrawal of privileges for expatriate civil servants and the filling of civil service posts as far as possible by Seychellois.

17. The United Party was formed in April 1963. Its President is Mr. R. Jumeau. The manifesto of the Party has called for equal pay, no discrimination, development of education and the co-operative movement, and the promotion of higher living standards. The Party strongly opposed the Taxpayers Association manifesto.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

18. The economy of the Territory is agricultural. Most of the cultivated land is under coconuts, and the price of copra, the principal export, is the most important economic factor governing the life of the Territory. The Territory also produces cinnamon and vanilla, while the cultivation of tea and coffee was recently introduced. The average per capita income has been estimated at a little over £30 a year.

19. From 1959 to 1961, despite an increase in copra production from 4,570 to 4,885 metric tons, the value of exports fell from Rs.7.9 million^{2/} to Rs.6.6 million owing to a drop in the price of copra. Exports recovered to a value of Rs.7.3 million in 1962. Imports have risen progressively from Rs.9.2 million in 1959 to Rs.12.7 million in 1962. Food is the main import item, representing 43.4 per cent of total imports in 1962. Commonwealth countries, in particular India and the United Kingdom, are the principal trading sources, normally accounting for over 80 per cent of both imports and exports.

20. From 1948 to 1957, recurrent annual expenditure exceeded territorial revenue, and in 1958 the United Kingdom began subsidizing expenditure by grants-in-aid. From 1958 to 1961, expenditure rose from Rs.5.3 million to Rs.7 million and territorial revenue declined from Rs.5.7 million to Rs.5.4 million. During those years, the United Kingdom contribution increased proportionately from 14.32 per cent of the total ordinary expenditure in 1958 to 20 per cent in 1961.

21. Development plans in the Territory have provided, inter alia, for the development of educational and health facilities, agriculture, water supplies and for reafforestation, roads, electricity, and the promotion of tourism. The Territory has no natural resources other than agriculture and its potential as a vacation area. A site for the Territory's first aerodrome was surveyed in 1962. Development plan expenditure from 1947 to 1960 totalled Rs.15,330,100, of which Rs.13,443,015 was financed from grants by the United Kingdom under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, and Rs.1,887,085 from territorial funds.

^{2/} One Seychellois rupee is equivalent to ls.6d.; one million rupees to £70,000.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Labour

22. According to the census of 1960, only 14 per cent of the working population are engaged in agriculture and fishing, although these are practically the only sources of wealth of the Territory. The other main occupations are crafts, public works, domestic service, trade and commerce and public administration. The percentage of unemployed is 8 per cent and could rise to 14 per cent if some of the works undertaken by the Public Works Department were to come to an end. A number of fishermen and labourers are recruited each year on contract for the Mauritian islands of Chagos and Agalega, and a small percentage are engaged in the British Army or the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

23. In 1962, there were six registered trade unions in the Territory, the main ones being the Seychellois Christian Workers' Union, the Stevedores and Lighterage Workers' Union.

24. The Labour Department is headed by the Labour and Welfare Officer, who is directly responsible to the Administrative Secretary. Its functions include the ensuring of equitable labour conditions, the settlement of labour disputes and acting as an employment exchange for local as well as overseas inquiries.

Health

25. Public health is under the control of the Administrative Secretary who, as already stated above, is an ex officio member of the Executive Council. In 1962, the Public Health Service included a medical officer, eight health inspectors and ten public health nurses. There were five government hospitals, including one mental hospital, four clinics and one leprosy settlement. The total number of beds was 252. A dental clinic and a maternity unit were attached to the main hospital at Victoria. Hospitals and clinics were scattered over the main islands, while the outlying islands, with a population of some 1,500 persons, had only first-aid chests.

26. A few infant welfare clinics operate in rural areas. Equipment for these clinics, as well as gifts of milk powder, were provided by UNICEF. In 1961, the World Health Organization carried out a survey of the incidence of tuberculosis on the island of Mahé, after which the Medical Department of the Territory was to conduct a follow-up operation.

27. Although within the tropics, Seychelles has very few diseases usually associated with tropical climates. The death rate is 11.5 per 1,000, and the infant mortality rate is 40.4 per 1,000. Expenditure on medical services in 1962 amounted to approximately Rs.1,043,000 or 14.5 per cent of the Territory's budget.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

28. The majority of the schools in the Seychelles are owned and run by religious missions. However, the Government is responsible for the training of teachers and for their salaries and provides all educational materials and school meals for one child in three, as well as assists in the building of new primary schools with a 50 per cent grant.

29. All primary education is free. Secondary education is free only in the two "modern" schools owned by the Government. The educational system includes primary, post-primary (or "secondary modern"), secondary and post-secondary courses. The primary course is of four years' duration (Standards I to IV). In 1962, there were thirty primary schools, of which two were government schools, the remaining being mission or independent schools. The total number of children in these schools was 4,788, compared with 4,584 in 1961 and 4,504 in 1960.

30. The secondary modern course is of five years' duration, including two post-primary years (Standards V and VI) and three intermediate years (Forms I to III). The syllabuses include a number of practical subjects in addition to ordinary scholastic work. In 1962, there were five schools of this type, of which two belonged to the Government. The total number of children was 2,644 (70 per cent of whom attended the two government schools), compared with 2,231 in 1961 and 2,000 in 1960. In view of the increased demand for this type of education, the Government decided in 1960 to abandon its plans to build a secondary technical school offering

a six-year course and to build instead more secondary modern schools over which should be superimposed a selective technical high school. It was anticipated that 2,280 new places would be available by 1963.

31. There are two secondary grammar schools offering a five-year course (Forms I to VI) leading to the Cambridge School Certificate and the General Certificate of Education examinations. A total of 279 students were enrolled in these schools in 1962, as against 261 in 1961 and 231 in 1960.

32. There is a Teacher Training College which provides a two-year course for post-School Certificate students. Most of these students are trained for work in secondary modern schools. An alternative one-year course is provided for selected uncertificated teachers. The number of students on roll in 1961 and 1962 were 32 and 34, respectively. Vocational training and evening classes for adults are also provided in the schools.

33. At the end of 1962, there were twenty Seychellois taking courses of further study and training in the United Kingdom, financed by Colonial Development and Welfare grants. Subjects of study included medicine, pharmacy, surveying, electrical engineering, nursing, teaching and administration.

34. The Education Department is headed by a Director who is directly responsible to the Administrative Secretary in the Executive Council of the Territory. There is also an Education Advisory Council, which includes the heads of the secondary grammar schools, the major government departments and members of the community.

35. Expenditure on education was estimated at Rs.1,020,777 in 1962, or 14.2 per cent of the total budget of the Territory.

III. ST. HELENA AND DEPENDENCIES^{1/}

GENERAL

1. St. Helena lies in the South Atlantic Ocean, in latitude 16 degrees south and longitude 5 degrees 45 minutes west, about 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometres) from the south-west coast of Africa. It covers an area of 47 square miles (122 square kilometres). Ascension Island, a dependency of St. Helena, which lies about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena, has an area of 34 square miles (88 square kilometres). Tristan da Cunha, the main island of a group forming another dependency, lies about 1,500 miles south-south-west of St. Helena and about midway between South Africa and South America. The island of Tristan da Cunha has an area of 40 square miles (104 square kilometres). The total area of St. Helena and its dependencies is 161 square miles (419 square kilometres). Jamestown, with a population of about 1,600, is the only town and port.

2. The population of St. Helena is largely of mixed European, African and Asian origin. In December 1961, St. Helena had an estimated population of nearly 4,700. The population of Ascension Island at the end of 1961 was 336. It consisted of 65 overseas employees of Cable and Wireless Ltd., which maintains a relay station for transatlantic communications on the island, and 271 St. Helenians. The 264 inhabitants of Tristan da Cunha were evacuated to the United Kingdom in October 1961 when volcanic eruptions forced them to leave the island. In December 1962, the islanders were asked in a secret vote whether they wanted to return to the island or remain in Britain. Nearly all voted for repatriation. The last group of islanders left for the island in October 1963.

GOVERNMENT

Status

3. St. Helena was under the control of the East India Company from 1673 to 1834, when it was brought under the direct government of the British Crown by

^{1/} The following information transmitted by the Administering Power has been taken into account in the preparation of this paper: (a) Information transmitted under Article 73 e for the year ending 31 December 1962, received on 29 May 1963; and (b) Information on political and constitutional developments transmitted separately on 1 March 1963 (A/5401/Add.7).

an Act of Parliament of 1833. Ascension and Tristan da Cunha were made dependencies of St. Helena in 1922 and 1938 respectively.

Constitution

4. The present Constitution dates from 1956 and was amended in October 1962. Its main provisions are set out below.

(a) Governor

5. The Governor is head of the administration of the Territory.

(b) Executive Council

6. The Executive Council consists of three civil servants (Government Secretary, Colonial Treasurer, and Education Officer) and three non-official members, who are local residents. Under the chairmanship of the Governor, its functions are to advise the Governor in the exercise of his powers.

(c) Advisory Council

7. The Advisory Council comprised originally from seven to ten members, of whom five represented the five districts of the island and two represented the "Friendly Societies". In 1962, provision was made for its enlargement to sixteen members, i.e. two ex officio members (the Government Secretary and the Treasurer), two official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor, and eight elected members. The new Council's membership was completed on 30 September 1963.

8. Legislative powers are vested in the Governor, but the Governor submits the drafts of all laws for the consideration of the Advisory Council before enactment.

Electoral System

9. Universal adult suffrage was introduced into the Territory in 1963 for the first time. St. Helena was divided into eight electoral areas, each of which was to elect one member for the Advisory Council. The elections were held on 11 September 1963. Two candidates were elected unopposed, while in the six constituencies where elections took place the total number of candidates was seventeen.

Judiciary

10. The Supreme Court of St. Helena has full criminal and civil jurisdiction and deals with cases according to English procedure as far as local circumstances permit. The trial of a person is by a jury of eight. Appeal under certain circumstances lies to the Privy Council. In view of the small number of cases, the Governor acts as Chief Justice; when cases occur which are unsuitable to be heard by the Governor in his capacity as Chief Justice, a judge from outside the Territory is appointed Chief Justice as a temporary measure. There is also a magistrates' court, which may be presided over by the magistrate (who is the Government Secretary) or by any two justices of the peace. In addition, there is a Small Debts Court and a Juvenile Court.

Local government

11. Certain welfare and municipal services in Jamestown, the capital, such as control of markets and street lighting, are administered by a local board.

Political parties

12. There are no political parties in the Territory.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

13. The production of New Zealand hemp is the mainstay of the economy of St. Helena. This plant, known locally as flax, was introduced into the island in 1874. Most of the population who are not engaged in regular employment by the Government or in the hemp mills are engaged in agriculture.

14. The only industry is the production of fibre, tow, rope and twine. There were five mills operating in 1961. Production figures for 1962 were as follows:

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Value</u> (pounds)
Fibre	966	60,658
Tow	288	9,298
Rope and twine	50	5,308
		<hr/>
		75,264

These products were exported to the United Kingdom, South Africa, France, the Netherlands and Italy. Imports amounting to nearly £245,000 (manufactured consumer goods, timber, machinery, etc.) came mainly from the United Kingdom, South Africa and other Commonwealth countries.

15. The Territory relies on a substantial regular grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom Government in order to balance its budget. The grant-in-aid and grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds in 1962 were estimated at £152,500, while internal territorial revenue was estimated at £102,000.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Labour

16. The principal employers of labour are the flax mills and the Government. In 1962, the labour force was as follows:

Flax industrial workers	291
Agricultural labourers	155
Skilled and general labourers	250
Fishermen and boatmen	30
Building tradesmen and apprentices	50
Mechanics, engine and motor drivers	30

About 243 St. Helenians were employed on Ascension Island by Cable and Wireless Ltd. and by a United States company.

17. There is some unemployment on the island. The Government provides relief to the unemployed. At the end of 1962 there was a total of 177 men on the relief list.

18. Labour inspection is the responsibility of the Social Welfare Officer and the Factories Inspector. There is no legislation regulating hours of work and other general labour conditions.

Health

19. The Public Health Department is headed by a senior medical officer. In 1964, the staff of the Department included another medical officer, a part-time woman doctor, mental health officer, eighteen nurses, a mid-wife, a laboratory technician and a public health inspector. The hospital, situated in Jamestown, had sixty beds.

There were also six out-patient clinics in the rural areas and a mental hospital with twenty-two beds. There are no private practitioners in the Territory.

20. On Ascension Island, Cable and Wireless Ltd. have a medical officer and maintain a small hospital.

21. Health conditions in the Territory are reported to be good. The only endemic disease is ascariasis. In spite of the very limited supplies of foodstuffs (particularly meat, fruit, green vegetables and even fish) there are very few signs of malnutrition. Free issues of powdered milk and cod liver oil supplied by UNICEF have greatly helped in supplementing the people's diet. The death-rate in St. Helena is 11.9 per 1,000, and the infant mortality rate is 33.6 per 1,000.

22. Expenditure on health in 1962 was estimated at £22,121 (£20,109 in 1961) or approximately 10 per cent of the total budget of the Territory.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

23. The Education Department is headed by the Education Officer, who is an official member of the Executive Council. There is a Board of Education, comprising professional members as well as members of the Church and charity schools, which advises on government educational policy and administrative problems.

24. Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15. Transition from primary to secondary school is made at the age of 11 plus. Nearly all of the population is literate.

25. The total number of children in schools in 1962 was 1,250. There were eight primary schools with a total enrolment of 741 in 1961, and four secondary schools with a total enrolment of 466. Students are taught in the secondary schools between the ages of 11 and 15. Students at the age of 14 plus can sit for the St. Helena General Schools Examination, which was introduced in 1957. Further educational opportunities are restricted to classes in aloe work, lace work and woodwork, and to teacher training. Five scholarships are awarded each year for teacher training. The total number of teacher trainees in 1961 was nine, compared to eleven during the previous year. The duration of the training course is four years.

26. Educational expenditure was estimated at £21,365 in 1962 (£17,801 in 1961), or 88 per cent of the total budget of St. Helena.