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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 General Trends in Territories under the  
Administration of the United States of America<sup>1/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> This summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

5-08324

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Territories

Alaska

American Samoa

Guam

Hawaii

Virgin Islands

Summary of General Trends in Territories under the  
Administration of the United States of America

1. Section C of the explanatory preface of the revised Standard Form invites Members to provide a survey of the principles and practical measures showing general trends in the Territories concerned, such as (a) advancement in the economic, social and educational fields; (b) participation of the Territories in international and regional bodies; (c) uses of international technical assistance; and (d) action in respect of international agreements. In response to this request the United States of America has included in the information transmitted under Article 73 e details of this nature in respect of the Territories under its jurisdiction. These details are summarized below.

I. GENERAL

2. In Alaska, basic responsibility for economic, social and educational development is vested in the people acting through their elected representatives and officials. Although the Organic Act of the Territory limits the scope of legislative competence, Alaska is in large measure self-governing and the relations between the Federal and Territorial Governments differ but little from the usual Federal-State relationship in the United States.

3. Alaskans biennially elect legislators, many officials of the Territorial Executive branch and a Delegate to the United States Congress. Non-elective heads of Territorial Executive agencies are usually appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of either or both houses of the legislature, depending upon the nature of the office or on the wording of the appropriate authorizing acts of the legislature. The record vote in the elections held in October, 1952, was indicative of active interest in the affairs of the Territory on the part of its citizens.

4. The policies of the Government of American Samoa are directed toward the early development of responsible self-governing institutions out of their traditional social organization in order that, as their capacity to govern themselves increases, the people of American Samoa will assume greater measures of self-government until in due course they will have as complete control of their own affairs as is possible. Of great importance to the achievement of this goal is the development of a more nearly self-sufficient economy, and to this end a large share of the energies of the present administration has been directed. In the political field progress both in the legislative and the executive branches, has been made in granting larger measures of authority and responsibility to indigenous leaders.

5. The Fono, or Samoan legislature, completed in 1954 the second year of a two-year trial period to test the effectiveness of its new organization. It proved to be a most successful compromise between the Samoan and the American concepts of government. The lower house (House of Representatives) was elected by universal suffrage and secret ballot, while the upper house (Senate) was elected by the traditional councils of each county in accordance with Samoan custom, and it is expected that with minor revisions the present system will be maintained.

6. Through the Samoan Legislature, regular meetings of the Samoan local government officials with members of the executive departments, and through a co-ordinated system of field activities and news releases, the people of Samoa are consulted and participate in every phase of economic, social, and educational development. It is the policy of the administration to discuss the various phases of the Government's programmes with local leaders prior to their implementation. In many matters the decisions regarding these programmes are left in the hands of the Samoan people and it is anticipated that increased measures of local control will be granted in matters of a territorial nature. At the present, through the local government organization, local control is exercised almost completely in matters of a village, country, or district nature.

7. The major political advancement of the year was the decision to develop a Territorial Constitution. The suggestion for such a development was made by the Governor which resulted in the Legislature petitioning him, and through him the Secretary of the Interior, to establish a Constitutional Committee to draft such a document. This Committee was appointed and commenced work in June 1954. It is expected that the Constitution will be ready for submission to a Constitutional Convention some time within the next year. It is stated that the Constitution should have many advantages over other possible steps in the political field, inasmuch as it will be the result of a painstaking effort by the Samoans themselves to develop their own basic written law.

8. The primary responsibility for the economic, social and educational advancement of Guam is vested in the people as exercised through their elected legislature and the departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Guam Government. The Second Guam Legislature enacted fifty-one public laws which will affect the immediate and long-range economic, social and educational policies of the Territory. The compilation of all acts of the Guam Legislature, previous Guam Congresses, and all executive orders having the force and effect of law was completed. There are now new codes: penal code, civil code, probate code, civil procedures code.

9. The operation of the Government of Hawaii under the Organic Act and the application of federal legislation and activities to Hawaii place the Territory in a status very comparable to that of a state of the United States. While the United States Congress has the power to abolish laws passed by the Territorial legislature, such action has never been taken. The people of Hawaii thus exercise a high degree of self-government and assume the basic responsibility for the adoption of economic, social and educational programmes through their elected representatives in the legislature.

## II. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

10. The Twenty-first Territorial Legislature of Alaska enacted a number of important measures. It created an Agricultural Loan Board with authority to make farm development, chattel and short term crop loans. A revolving fund of \$200,000 was set up for this purpose.

11. With the actual start of production of a new \$52 million pulp mill during the fiscal year ending 30 June 1954 a new era began in the development of the Territory. The establishment of this new mill, with its allied industries of lumbering and sawmilling, now provides a steady, year-round payroll and continuous employment as against the hitherto seasonal and periodic employment in the fishing and canning industries. Consequently casual and migrant workers are now induced to "stay on" with the possible development of more settled communities and other economic, and social enterprises supplying community needs.<sup>1/</sup>

12. In advancing the agricultural economy of American Samoa the most important event of the past year was the reorganization of the extension service of the Department of Agriculture. This service was placed under the control of a Samoan Assistant Director of Agriculture and Samoan field agents were trained and placed in the districts and counties to work with the local leaders to develop more and better crops and to introduce new cash crops. Several thousand cocoa plants and selected coconut palms have been planted in connexion with this programme. Copra production increased greatly during the year.

13. As part of a programme of industrial development the Government leased its fish cannery facilities to a large United States tuna packing concern which employs Japanese fishing vessels to bring in fish which are then canned and packed locally by Samoan labour for shipment to the American market. This operation, which was commenced on a trial basis is still in the experimental stage.

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<sup>1/</sup> Governor's Report, 1954.

14. One of the impediments to greater economic progress has been the poor communications of the territory. There are no scheduled airlines operating to or from American Samoa although the territory possesses good landing facilities. Efforts have been made in the past year to assist a local group, in commencing the operation of an airline between this territory and other islands in the area. Also the Government supported the application of Pan American Airways to establish a regular stop in Samoa on its flight to Fiji from Hawaii.

15. Legislation of an economic nature passed by the Second Guam Legislature during the year included a law to enact a new business and trades licence system, and a law for the inception and continuation of certain capital improvements within the Territory.

16. In Hawaii, a high level of economic activity was maintained: Federal military expenditures in the territory, the islands' largest source of income, approximated \$261,079,000 during 1952 compared with \$220,725,000 in 1951; the official 1952 crop of raw sugar totalled 1,020,450 short tons, fourth largest in the industry's history, compared with 995,759 tons produced in 1951; pineapple production for the pack year ending 31 May 1953 totalled 29,476,494 cases, compared with 26,075,606 the previous year; 60,539 tourists visited the Territory in 1952, compared with 50,352 tourists in 1951. Emphasis was placed on the better use of public lands as an encouragement for one-family type farming and ranching. Discussions were held throughout the year on specific proposals relating to financing, irrigation, transportation and marketing to implement the programme. Homesteading is being encouraged and roads and water for these will be provided. There was a continuing increase in homes, schools, public buildings, highways, motor cars, and electric appliances; and in the services of public utilities, and hospitals. Hawaii enjoys a standard of living, on a per capita basis, equivalent to the average of the United States as a whole (\$1,721 compared to \$1,718 in 1952) and above the standards in thirty-one states of the United States.

17. In the Virgin Islands a tourist development board was established. It is actively engaged in building the islands as an all-year-round vacation area in the Caribbean.

### III. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

18. In Alaska, a Fair Employment Practices Act was approved which provides for the elimination of discrimination in employment because of race, colour, religion or national origin. A new general relief law was adopted and the citizenship requirement in the old age assistance law removed. The maximum weekly employment security benefits allowable (the highest in the United States) were increased and the number of dependents for whom Alaska residents are allowed to claim benefits was increased from three to five. A law was enacted which establishes community colleges as adjuncts to the University of Alaska. These will provide vocational and academic instruction equivalent to the first two years of a standard four-year college course.

19. In the field of social and community development in American Samoa there has been some advance during the year, particularly in the local government organization of village, county, and district councils. These councils, composed of the heads of individual families meet together to discuss with representatives of the territorial Government their problems and the problems of the entire territory. By this means as well as through the weekly newspaper and daily broadcasts in Samoan the people of these islands are kept informed, regarding developments in all fields of their government.

20. With regard to public health the following changes were made: (a) the department was reorganized to operate under three primary divisions: administration, hospital and field operations; (b) the title of the Hospital Administrator was changed to Administrative Officer with responsibilities increased to cover the entire administrative functions of the department; (c) the Office of Director of Nursing was declared vacant and the offices of Superintendent of Hospital Nursing and Superintendent of Public Health Nursing established. This change divided the nursing responsibility and provided a firmer control of operations; (d) the Medical Supply Division was transferred to the Department of Finance, and (e) a Leprosarium was established to facilitate care of Hansen's Disease patients.



21. Legislation passed by the second Guam Legislature, in the social field, included a law extending the protection of the workmen's compensation law to include civil defence workers engaged in official duties; a law providing for annual pay increases to Government of Guam employees upon their return from active duty in the Armed Forces, and a law providing governmental assistance to indigent or unfortunate persons residing within the Territory. In the educational field, legislation included a law increasing the student loan fund of the Department of Education by \$30,000. The main emphasis of Guam's educational development programme is on the repair and expansion of educational facilities and it is expected that there will soon be adequate school facilities under Guam's long-range construction programme.

22. The extension of federal social security provisions to the Virgin Islands has accelerated greatly the consolidation on an insular basis of social welfare functions. In 1952 an insular director of public assistance was appointed and the programme was administered on a uniform basis throughout the Islands. The development of plans for new schools to be constructed through the use of Federal funds was a major activity of the year. These included the new high school in St. Thomas, and a new high school, elementary school, and one-room rural school in St. Croix. A modern 116-bed hospital for St. Thomas, a 60-bed hospital and 12-bed public health facility in St. Croix and a 4-bed public health facility in St. John were completed and put in use.

#### IV. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

23. None of the Territories participates directly in the regional or functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council nor in organs of the specialized agencies. American Samoa and Hawaii participate in the Pacific Science Association and, together with Guam, collaborate with the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council. American Samoa and Guam are included within the scope of the South Pacific Commission. American Samoans participate as technical experts in the development of the Commission Work Programme through the South Pacific Conference.

24. No organized activities under the United Nations technical assistance programme are being carried in any of the Territories, though under this programme two Alaskans and two Virgin Islanders have received Fellowships and American Samoans have been granted scholarships.

25. International agreements to which the United States of America is a party are generally applicable to the Territories. Other appropriate agreements and conventions are transmitted to the Territorial Governments for legislative or other action.

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