



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

---

**VOLUME IV**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1)

**UNITED NATIONS**

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**UNITED NATIONS**

**New York, 1971**

## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters XVII to XXI. \* A listing of the chapters relating to volumes I, II and III appears in the contents of the present volume.

\* The present version of chapters XVII to XXI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in mimeographed form: A/8023/Add.7 (part I), dated 5 December 1970; A/8023/Add.7 (part III), dated 2 December 1970; A/8023/Add.7 (part IV), dated 17 December 1970; and A/8023/Add.8, dated 23 October 1970.

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## CHAPTER XVII

### ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, GRENADA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA, ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT

#### A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 737th meeting on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, by adopting the forty-seventh report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.623), decided, inter alia, to refer the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent to Sub-Committee III for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the Territories at its 780th meeting, on 3 December 1970.
3. In its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, as well as other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, concerning twenty-five Territories, including Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent; by paragraph 8 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution". The Special Committee also took into account provisions of General Assembly resolution 2593 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, concerning the question of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, by which the General Assembly decided "to transmit, for the close attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the records of the Fourth Committee covering the debate on this question, and in particular the draft resolution submitted by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, 1/" and requested the Special Committee "to consider the views expressed during the debate and in that draft resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session".
4. During its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat (see annex II to this chapter - A/8023/Add.7 (part II) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee as well as by the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. In addition, the Special Committee had before it the following written petitions concerning the Territories:

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1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, document A/7896, paras. 18, 19 and 24.



### Antigua

- (a) Three letters dated 8 and 19 January and 21 April 1970 from Mr. McChesney D.B. George (A/AC.109/PET.1127).
- (b) Letter dated 25 September 1970, from Mr. McChesney D.B. George (A/AC.109/PET.1127/Add.1).

### Dominica

Communication from Mr. Brian G.K. Alleyne, Solicitor for Carib Chief and Councillors (A/AC.109/PET.1145).

### St. Vincent

- (a) Letter dated 4 February 1970 from Mr. Frank Rojas, representative of the People's Political Party (PPP), and one letter dated 6 February 1970 from Mr. E.T. Joshua, Leader of the Opposition and President of the PPP (A/AC.109/PET.1128).
- (b) Letter dated 16 May 1970 from Mr. Frank Rojas, representative of the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers Union (A/AC.109/PET.1152).
- (c) Letter dated 1 September 1970 from Mr. Frank Rojas, representative of the People's Political Party (PPP) (A/AC.109/PET.1128/Add.1).

6. At its 780th meeting, on 3 December 1970, the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee III, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.780), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee concerning the Territories (see annex I to this chapter).

## B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

7. At its 780th meeting, on 3 December 1970, following statements by the representatives of Iran, Madagascar, Iraq, Italy, Bulgaria, Norway, Venezuela, Syria, the Ivory Coast, Poland, Ecuador, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.780), the Special Committee decided without objection to take note of the report of Sub-Committee III concerning the item. The Committee further decided, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion, to continue consideration of the item at its next session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2593 (XXIV), taking into account the various statements made by members of the Committee as well as the results of consultations being held concerning the Territories.

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ANNEX I\*

WORKING PAPERS PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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\* Previously issued under the symbols A/AC.109/L.654 and Add.2, 5 and 6.

1 ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent have been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territories are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territories are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) and 2593 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territories, in particular those adopted at its 617th meeting on 3 July 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination and independence.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territories.

"(4) The Special Committee regrets the refusal of the administering Power to co-operate with the Sub-Committee in its efforts to obtain information concerning developments in the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia.

"(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territories.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 3 (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXI, paragraphs 308 to 321; ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; ibid., Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (Part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVI, section II; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIII, para. 18.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIII, para. 18.

"(6) The Special Committee recalls its consensus with respect to the Territory of Anguilla, adopted at its 663rd meeting on 21 March 1969, in which it stressed inter alia the necessity of sending urgently a visiting group to the Territory and requested the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to provide all necessary facilities for this purpose; it regrets that the administering Power did not respond or accede to this urgent request.

"(7) The Special Committee takes note of the recent developments in St. Vincent and requests the administering Power to receive immediately a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory and allow the people of the Territory free expression of views on their future status before any decision concerning the new constitutional arrangements is made.

"(8) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the peoples of the Territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

"(9) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the peoples of the Territories exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(10) The Special Committee, considering that the information at its disposal does not enable it to assess the actual situation in the Territories or the degree of general awareness of the people concerning the exercise of their right of self-determination, once again urges the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territories and to extend to the mission full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. By resolution 2593 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the General Assembly, having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the Committee, recalled its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and decided "to transmit, for the close attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard

to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the records of the Fourth Committee covering the debate on this question and in particular the draft resolution submitted by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago", c/ and requested the Special Committee "to consider the views expressed during the debate and in that draft resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session".

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c/ A/C.4/L.958/Rev.1; see also Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, document A/7896, paras. 18, 19 and 24.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

### General

5. Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla form part of the Leeward Islands. They lie roughly midway in the arc of the West Indian Islands stretching from Jamaica to Trinidad, with the Caribbean Sea to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada form part of the Windward Islands. There are a number of smaller islands called the Grenadines which lie between St. Vincent and Grenada; some of these are administered as part of St. Vincent and some as part of Grenada.

6. The principal features of government common to all Territories are set out in this section. Additional information is given in the separate section on each Territory which follows.

### Negotiations for federation and associated status

7. Following the dissolution of the federation of The West Indies in 1962, the representatives of the Governments of Barbados, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada began discussions among themselves and with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the formation of a federation to be known as "The West Indies Federation". Late in 1962, Grenada opened discussions with Trinidad and Tobago on a possible association, but the remaining seven Territories decided to go ahead with plans for a federation. Negotiations continued until April 1965, when the Chief Minister of Antigua announced that Antigua would not join the proposed federation. In August 1965, the Premier of Barbados announced that Barbados would seek separate independence.

8. In 1965, the Government of the United Kingdom proposed a new constitutional status for six Territories, namely Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Under the proposals, which were subsequently published as a White Paper in December 1965, each Territory would become a State in association with the United Kingdom, with control of its internal affairs and with the right to amend its own constitution, including the power to end this association and to declare itself independent; the Government of the United Kingdom would retain powers relating to external affairs and defence of the Territories.

9. The proposals were considered by the legislatures in each of the Territories early in 1966 and draft constitutions were prepared. A series of constitutional conferences then took place in London between 28 February and 26 May 1966, at which agreement was reached on the new status of association with the United Kingdom and on the general outlines of new constitutions for each Territory. d/

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d/ For further details, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chap. XXIII, paras. 133-141.



During the latter half of 1966, the agreements reached at the London conferences were ratified by the local legislatures. On 2 February 1967, the legislation paving the way for the necessary orders-in-council to be issued was passed by the United Kingdom House of Commons.

10. At the beginning of 1967, the dates on which the new Constitutions and associated status would come into force were announced as follows: Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, 27 February 1967; Dominica and St. Lucia, 1 March 1967; Grenada, 3 March 1967. On 2 February 1967, it was announced that St. Vincent would become an associated Territory by 1 June 1967; however, the granting of associated status had been subsequently postponed in view of the political developments in the Territory until 27 October 1969.

11. On 15 December 1967, at the 1752nd meeting of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, the representatives of the United Kingdom stated that the status of an associated State incorporated as one of its major features what was called in the Charter "a full measure of self-government". It followed that the responsibilities of his Government under Chapter XI of the Charter were fully and finally discharged and information concerning the associated States would not be transmitted in future. e/

#### Regional economic developments

12. The East Caribbean Currency Authority was established in 1965 under the East Caribbean Currency Agreement made on 18 January 1965 between the Governments of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. On 6 October 1965, the Authority issued new currency notes which are in circulation in all the Territories concerned. f/

13. On 11 June 1968, the Governments of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, together with Montserrat, signed an agreement bringing the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM) into force; the agreement became effective on 1 July 1968.

14. The agreement establishing the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) became effective on 1 May 1968. The original signatories to the agreement were Antigua, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. On 1 July 1968, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent joined CARIFTA, followed by Jamaica and Montserrat on 1 August 1968.

15. The specific aims of CARIFTA as defined in the Agreement are economic: to promote the expansion and diversification of trade in the area of the Association; to ensure that trade between member Territories takes place in conditions of fair competition; to encourage the progressive development of the economies of the area; to foster the harmonious development of Caribbean trade and its liberalization by the removal of barriers; and to ensure that the benefits of free trade are equitably distributed among the member Territories.

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e/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Fourth Committee, 1752nd meeting.

f/ The new unit of currency is the East Caribbean dollar (\$EC): \$EC1.00 equals \$US.50.

16. On 18 October 1969, the Governments of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, the British Virgin Islands, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United Kingdom signed an agreement in Kingston, Jamaica, for the establishment of the Caribbean Development Bank. The Bank came formally into operation at an inaugural meeting on 31 January 1970 at Nassau, Bahamas. The permanent site of the Bank is at Bridgetown, Barbados.

17. The main objective of the Bank is to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of member countries in the Caribbean and to promote economic co-operation and integration among them, having special and urgent regard to the needs of the less developed members of the region.

18. The initial capital of the Bank is \$US50 million (\$EC100 million), with \$US30 million from the Caribbean Territories and \$US10 million each from the United Kingdom and Canada. Jamaica's capital subscription of \$US15 million is the largest single contribution.



B. ANTIGUA

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B. ANTIGUA a/

GENERAL

1. The Territory of Antigua lies in the northern group of the Leeward Islands chain; it is approximately 40 miles north of Guadeloupe. The Territory comprises the island of Antigua and its dependencies, Barbuda, which lies 25 miles to the north, and the uninhabited island of Redonda, which lies 25 miles to the south-west of the main island. The total area of the Territory is 170.5 square miles: Antigua has an area of 108 square miles, Barbuda 62 square miles and Redonda 0.5 square miles. The islands lie in the hurricane zone and are subject to severe droughts.

2. At the last census, taken in 1960, the population was 54,304, almost all of whom were of African or mixed descent; St. John's, the capital, then had a population of about 21,600. At the end of 1969, the population of the Territory was estimated at 62,000, compared with 61,664 in 1963 and 57,568 in 1961; Barbuda was estimated to have a population of 5,000, and Codrington, the only town in Barbuda, about 1,145.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Constitution

3. Under the Constitution, which came into force on 27 February 1967, the basic government structure is as follows:

(a) Governor

4. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. Except where otherwise provided, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

(b) Legislature

5. The Legislature consists of the Queen, a Senate and a House of Representatives. The Legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Antigua, subject to the assent of the Governor.

6. The Senate consists of ten members appointed by the Governor: seven on the advice of the Premier and three after consultation with the Premier. Whenever there is an opposition represented in the House of Representatives, it is given representation through one or more of the three latter members. The Senate elects a president from among those of its members who are not ministers or parliamentary

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a/ The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports.

secretaries. The Senate has power to delay money bills for up to one month and any other bills passed by the House of Representatives for up to two years.

7. The House of Representatives consists of a minimum of ten members elected under universal adult suffrage in single-member constituencies. The House elects a Speaker who, if he is not already a member of the House, becomes one by virtue of his office. If the Attorney-General is not an elected member of the House, he becomes one ex officio.

#### (c) Cabinet

8. The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Legislature. It consists of the Premier, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and other ministers. The Governor appoints as Premier the person who appears to him to be best able to command a majority in the House of Representatives. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier; at least one of the ministers must be a senator.

#### Judiciary

9. The law of the Territory is the Common Law of England and Statute Law. The Attorney-General is the principal law officer. The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court is a superior court of record. It consists of a Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice as president and two justices of appeal, and a High Court of Justice comprising the Chief Justice, appointed by the Queen, and six puisne judges. The Court of Summary Jurisdiction, presided over by a puisne judge, deals with civil cases involving sums of up to \$EC720. b/ Magistrate courts deal with summary and civil offences involving sums of not more than \$EC200 in contract and \$EC100 in tort.

#### Public service

10. The appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control of public officers is, with certain exceptions, vested in the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission.

#### Electoral system

11. The members of the House of Representatives are elected in single-member constituencies under universal adult suffrage. The Constitution provides that during the first five years the Governor, on the advice of the Premier, may declare that two or more existing constituencies shall be two-member constituencies until additional constituencies are created through the operation of the procedures laid down in the Constitution. Under these procedures, a Constituency Commission, appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier, is charged with reviewing the number and boundaries of the constituencies at intervals of not less than two and not more than five years.

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b/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC1.00) equals \$US.50. For an explanation of the currency, see annex I.A, above, para. 12.

12. In June 1970, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives which would increase the number of constituencies from ten to seventeen, in preparation for the general elections scheduled for November 1970.

13. A Commonwealth citizen who has attained the age of twenty-one years is qualified for membership of the Legislature if he was born and is domiciled in Antigua, or if he is domiciled in Antigua and has been resident there for at least five years. A person is qualified to be registered as a voter if he has attained the age of twenty-one years and is a Commonwealth citizen born in Antigua and resident there, or if he is a Commonwealth citizen who has resided in Antigua for a period of three years.

#### Political parties

14. Until 1967, there were two political parties in the Territory: the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) and the Antigua-Barbuda Democratic Movement (ABDM). In October 1967, the outgoing members of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU) formed a new organization, the Antigua Progressive Movement (APM), which subsequently merged with the ABDM into a new political party called the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM). In October 1969, another political party was formed, called the Antigua People's Party (APP).

15. The ALP, which is the ruling party, is headed by Premier V.C. Bird. The leader of the opposition PLM is Mr. George Walter. The APP is led by Mr. Rowan Henry, an Antiguan lawyer and hotel proprietor. The ALP is backed by its Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU), while the opposition PLM has the active support of the powerful Antigua Worker's Union (AWU). The APP is the only political group in Antigua without a trade union wing.

#### Elections

16. The last general elections were held in the Territory on 29 November and 15 December 1965. Twenty-five candidates stood for election, including five independents. The ALP retained all ten seats and thus became the only party represented in the Legislature; Mr. V.C. Bird, the leader of the ALP, became Premier.

17. Demonstrations and strikes which took place in the Territory in February and March 1968 and which led the Governor to declare a state of emergency in the Territory on 18 March 1968, ended on 20 March 1968 with an agreement between the two unions (ATLU) and the (AWU), and the Government. c/ The agreement was followed by an order of the Governor which changed four single-member electoral districts into two-member constituencies; consequently the number of seats in the House of Representatives was increased from ten to fourteen, and new by-elections were announced for 22 August 1968.

18. By-elections were held in St. Mary's, St. George, St. John's City (north) and St. John's City (south). All the four new seats were won by PLM candidates, thus creating for the first time an elected opposition in the House of Representatives.

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c/ For background information, see A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVI, annex I, section II B, paras. 25-34.

19. On 20 January 1970, at a public meeting in St. John's, the Premier stated that he would delay the general elections scheduled for November 1970 if he was not satisfied that "Antiguans had the opportunity to hear the various programmes projected by his Labour Party Government". On 29 January 1970, Mr. Walter, the Leader of the Opposition PLM, commenting on the above statement by the Premier, declared that "only a war could delay the elections".

#### Question of Barbuda

20. On 5 March 1968, Mr. McChesney George (the former elected representative for Barbuda who resigned from his post as Minister without Portfolio at the end of 1967), presented a petition to the Warden of Barbuda, Mr. Albert Lewis, for transmission to the Queen on behalf of the people of Barbuda. The petition alleged that Barbudians had been neglected socially and economically by the Government of Antigua, and asserted Barbuda's right to internal autonomy. In June 1968, the United Kingdom Government replied to the petition, stating that it would not entertain the secession move unless it came from the Government of Antigua. On 27 June 1968, the House of Representatives turned down a formal request, presented by Mr. George, to allow the island of Barbuda to secede from Antigua.

21. On 16 January 1969, Mr. George reiterated his appeal to the Antigua Government "to free the people of Barbuda". He stated inter alia: "There is no water, no electricity, no doctors, and while the Government is spending \$EC315 per capita in Antigua, Barbudians are living on \$EC115 per capita."

22. It was reported in January 1970, that Mr. George had transmitted another petition to the Queen signed by about 250 Barbudians. The petition requested, inter alia, that Barbuda, which 110 years ago was annexed to Antigua without the knowledge and consent of its residents, be allowed to govern itself.

#### Status of the Territory

23. During the campaigning for the 1965 general elections, the ALP called for "independence for Antigua along the lines of the Cook Islands".

24. In November 1969, the Territory's two leading newspapers called for Antigua to move to complete independence. The Workers Voice, organ of the ruling ALP, stated in an editorial: "Independence in association is only a step to complete independence... we look forward to the day when Premier Bird will lead the people of this country to full independence." The Antigua Star, in an editorial, declared that since 1967 Antiguans had been misled by the United Kingdom and Antigua Governments "into believing that we are a state and that we are independent. They have been playing with words and fooling Antiguans... Antiguans must resolve to move on to complete independence, that is to end the colonial status finally and become a sovereign country". The editorial also stated: "No country whose external affairs are looked after by another country is a sovereign country."

#### Military installations

25. There is a United States naval base, located at Coolidge, which employs 150 local staff. The United States Dows Hill Tracking Station, constructed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and officially opened on 19 April 1968, was closed down on 30 June 1970.



## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

26. The Territory has a predominantly agricultural economy, with sugar cane and cotton as the chief crops. However, the dependence on agriculture is lessening and some new industries, in particular, tourism, are increasing in importance.

27. In November 1969, the Government announced that it would construct a new pier at Rivers, Barbuda and cut a channel through a lagoon to reduce the time required to reach the city of Codrington by ship. A major development programme for the island of Barbuda was announced by the Government in January 1970; plans include construction of a jet airport, a 300-room hotel, an international golf course, marina, hospital, new homes and roads. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$EC160 to \$EC200 million, and is to be financed by a Canadian company, Bradshaw and Associates of Toronto. The Government of the Territory is expected to receive 20 per cent of the holdings of the project in exchange for the development lands. The development project has been strongly criticized by the opposition PLM on the grounds that "Barbudans were completely left out of the entire scheme" and that "after the programme Barbudans would be strangers in their own country".

28. Land may not be alienated or leased to aliens without the consent of the Government. Except in a few cases, alien occupation of land is confined to leases for not more than ninety-nine years. There is a small amount of Crown land which, when not used for public purposes, may be leased or sold.

### Water and power supply

29. There are no rivers and only a few springs in the Territory. The climate is drier than that of most of the region and the islands have often been subject to severe droughts. Several dams have been constructed in the Territory through \$EC2 million provided by the Government of the United Kingdom. The largest single project, the Potworks Reservoir, near St. John's, capable of holding 1,000 million gallons of water, was officially opened on 28 May 1970. Because the water from the dam was originally intended for irrigation purposes, no provision had been made for treatment of the water and its delivery to the public. It has since been proposed that a treatment plant be built and the treated water be piped to distribution centres over the island. In mid-1969, the Premier signed a contract with a United States firm for construction of a sea-water desalinization plant with a capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day. The project is financed by the Export-Import Bank of Washington, D.C.

30. At the beginning of 1967 a new \$EC5 million, 7.2 megawatt power plant at Friars Hill came into operation. After several failures, the plant broke down completely on 23 November 1968, leaving about 75 per cent of the Territory without electricity. It was reported in September 1969, that the Government planned to install a new 8.2 megawatt power plant at Crabbs Peninsula, at a cost of \$US3 million.

## Agriculture and livestock

31. The total area of the Territory is about 69,120 acres, of which more than 18,000 acres are under cultivation. The main crops are sugar and cotton. Severe droughts, especially in 1965 and 1966, affected both the sugar and cotton industries.

32. The general trend of cotton production is decreasing; the following table shows acreage and production in the years 1965/66 to 1967/68:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Acreage</u> | <u>Production<br/>Clean Lint<br/>(pounds)</u> |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 1965/66     | 1,600          | 215,133                                       |
| 1966/67     | 1,700          | 180,939                                       |
| 1967/68     | 1,400          | 116,438                                       |

According to reports, at least 80,000 pounds of the Territory's 1966/67 cotton crop and the whole of the 1967/68 crop were still unsold in the first half of 1969.

33. The cumulative effect of a prolonged drought since 1964 has had a depressing effect on the sugar industry, and production fell from 21,160 tons in 1964 to 1,112 tons in 1968:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Tons</u> |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1963        | 27,958      |
| 1964        | 21,160      |
| 1965        | 14,000      |
| 1966        | 7,716       |
| 1967        | 4,779       |
| 1968        | 1,112       |

It was estimated in January 1970, that in view of the heavy rainfall in 1969, the current season would yield a crop of 100,000 tons of cane, or 10,000 tons of sugar. However, it appears that the final crop will be at least 50 per cent short of the target.

34. The Territory imports about 90 per cent of the beef consumed locally. In 1969, 150 cattle were imported from St. Croix to build up a basis for a self-sufficient beef industry.

## Forestry and fisheries

35. There are very few forests in the Territory. A programme of reforestation has been under way since 1963 in order to protect hillside lands and help soil and water conservation.

36. Inshore fishing is confined mainly to the waters between Antigua and Barbuda, and deep-sea fishing to the areas west and south of the Territory. In Barbuda, fishing is the main industry.

#### Tourism

37. The number of tourists visiting the Territory increased from 13,000 in 1958 to 60,427 in 1965 and 135,213 in 1969. The majority came from the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean area. Tourism suffered certain setbacks in 1968 during an island-wide strike but investment in the industry continued at a fast pace towards the end of the year, marked in particular by the purchase of Marmora Bay Beach Hotel by Holiday Inns of Canada and the installation by some of the leading hotels of seven desalinization units each of 15,000-gallon capacity.

#### Industry

38. Industrial activities are largely confined to the secondary processing of local agricultural produce; some progress is being made towards the establishment of consumer and export industries using local and imported raw materials. Secondary industries include production of cotton-seed oil, clean cotton, sugar, rum, corn meal, bran and arrowroot. Other industries include pottery, production of cigarettes, mattresses, lingerie, metal and wooden furniture, paint, commercial and medicinal gases and the bottling of whiskey and carbonated drinks. It is estimated that about 1,000 to 1,200 workers are employed in light industries in the Territory.

39. It was expected that four new factories would begin operation in 1970: garment factory, a brewery, a plastic factory and a factory for the production of springs and silencers for cars. Projects in the discussion stage include a flour mill, a feed mill, a pork-processing plant and a poultry-processing plant.

40. The Territory's most important industrial project and the largest single employer of industrial labour (300 workers) is the oil refinery owned by Nafomas Oil of San Francisco and operated by the West Indies Oil Company. The refinery came into operation in May 1967 with a capital investment of about \$EC40 million. Its present production of 11,000 barrels of oil a day is expected to rise to 15,000 barrels. The refinery exports its products to Canada and the Caribbean area.

#### Transport and communications

41. The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of the 68 miles of main roads and 90 miles of secondary roads in the Territory. There is a narrow-gauge railway (about 49.7 miles), which is used mainly to carry sugar cane to the Antigua Sugar Factory and sugar and molasses from the factory to the wharf. There are over 6,000 motor vehicles registered in the Territory.

42. The main port of the Territory is St. John's Harbour; its reconstruction was completed on 31 October 1968, when a new \$EC12 million deep-water harbour was officially opened; the strike and labour disputes, however, held up operation of the harbour until July 1969. Among the shipping lines using the port are the

Harrison Line, Royal Netherlands Line, Compagnie Générale Trans-atlantique, Fratelli-Grimaldi Line, Saguenay Shipping, Limited, Booth Line, Atlantic Line and the West Indies Shipping Service.

43. Coolidge Airport, about six miles north-east of St. John's, was constructed by the United States Army Air Force as a military airfield in 1942 and is now operated by the Antigua Government. The airport has been extensively reconstructed in recent years. In 1969 and 1970, the main runway was extended from 7,500 feet to 9,000 feet at a cost of \$1.7 million (Canadian); to which the Government of Canada contributed \$1.2 million (Canadian). In 1969, the airport handled over 30,000 aircraft movements, compared with 19,000 in 1966. There is also a small airstrip at Codrington in Barbuda. Eight airlines currently use Coolidge Airport: British West Indian Airlines (BWIA), Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT), Antilles Airlines, Caribbean Atlantic Airways (Caribair), British Overseas Airways Corporation, Pan American World Airways, Air Canada and Air France.

44. A new island-wide automatic telephone system was installed in 1969 by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., at a cost of \$EC4 million. The company also operates international telegraph, telephone and telex services.

#### Trade

45. The main imports are food-stuffs, fuel, wood and timber and clothing. The main exports include sugar, molasses and cotton lint.

#### Public finance

46. The following table shows revenue and expenditure for the years 1965 to 1969:

|      | ( <u>Eastern Caribbean dollars</u> ) | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
|      | <u>Revenue</u>                       |                    |
| 1965 | 9,160,141                            | 9,116,500          |
| 1966 | 11,570,582                           | 10,311,533         |
| 1967 | 13,759,496                           | 12,632,803         |
| 1968 | 16,720,929                           | 16,669,633         |
| 1969 | 21,342,776                           | 21,103,737         |

47. The main sources of revenue are customs duties, government commercial undertakings, rates, taxes and other duties. The main forms of taxation are income tax, trade tariffs and excise duties.

48. The following major banks have offices in the Territory: Antigua Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bank of Nova Scotia, Barclays Bank D.C.O., Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Antigua-Barbuda Savings Bank and the Virgin Islands National Bank. The last-named bank, which officially started operations in February 1969, is a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company of Philadelphia (United States). According to a bill passed by the House of Representatives in December 1969, foreign banks have to pay a tax of \$EC4,000 to operate in the Territory. The tax for local banks is \$EC2,000.

## United Nations Technical Assistance

49. United Nations technical assistance to Antigua has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to approximately \$US166,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US45,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in vocational training (in hotel catering services), telecommunications and postal administration.

## United Kingdom aid

50. In 1969/70, over \$EC1,670,000 was disbursed to finance a development programme in the Territory. Approximately \$EC873,000 was spent on infrastructure - water supplies and roads; \$EC518,000 on social services, education and health; \$EC42,000 on the development of natural resources; \$EC170,000 on administration buildings; and \$EC67,000 on vehicles and equipment for the Royal Antigua Police Force.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

51. The labour force is estimated to comprise one third of the population. A major part of the Territory's labour force is employed in the sugar and cotton industries and in the growing tourist industry. In Barbuda, the greater part of the population is employed in the fishing industry.

52. There are four unions registered in the Territory: the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU); the Antigua Workers' Union (AWU); the Antigua United Port Seamen and General Workers' Union; and the Antigua Employers' Federation.

53. In November 1969, the House of Representatives gave unanimous approval to a bill to control the employment of "non-citizens" in the Territory. According to the bill, foreigners can be employed in the Territory only if they possess a valid work permit; persons found guilty of contravening the law are liable to a fine of up to \$EC300 or imprisonment up to three months. The Trade and Production Minister told the House, that work permits were designed to protect Antiguans from undue competition from foreigners. He also explained that it was the Government's policy to instruct all employers to provide the necessary training for Antiguans so that they could eventually take over jobs held by the foreigners.

54. In April 1970, nearly 2,000 government employees staged a mass walkout in support of striking customs officers; the walkout closed down the Treasury Department, radio station and public schools. On 11 May 1970, the staff at Cable and Wireless, Ltd. went on strike in support of a civil servants strike and all telephone, telex and cable facilities in the Territory were closed. The strike by civil servants ended on 21 May 1970, with the signing of an interim agreement between the Government, the Civil Service Association which represents the civil servants and the Public Service Commission.

### Cost of living

55. The cost of such items as food, entertainment, fuel, lighting, housing, household items and services has risen considerably since 1960. The Government controls the retail prices of certain items of food, meat and fish.

### Public health

56. There is one general hospital (the Holberton Hospital) with 180 beds; the Fiennes Institute for the aged and infirm, with 150 beds; the Mental Hospital, with 200 beds; and the Pearn's Leper Home, with 40 beds. There are six medical districts in the Territory, each with one district medical officer and sixteen dispensaries. There are also two dental officers.

## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

57. Education is compulsory and free between the ages of five and fourteen years. There are 37 government primary schools and 9 private primary schools, with a total enrolment of about 17,000 pupils. There are nine secondary schools: 3 government, 4 grant-aided and 2 private - with a total enrolment of about 3,000 students. There is also a Teachers' Training College with a capacity of fifty teachers and an industrial school for the blind in St. John's.



C. DOMINICA

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C. DOMINICA a/

GENERAL

1. Dominica is the largest and most northerly of the group of islands known as the Windward Islands; it is 29 miles long and 16 miles wide, with a total area of 289.8 square miles. It is located approximately 220 miles north-west of Barbados, and 950 miles north of Trinidad. The island is very mountainous with a maximum elevation of 4,747 feet in the north.

2. At the last census, taken in April 1960, the population was 59,916, almost all of whom were African or mixed descent. The estimated population in 1967 was 69,420, compared with 68,552 in 1966 and 66,900 in 1965. The main centres of population are Roseau, the capital (11,600) and Portsmouth (2,243). Both towns are located on the west coast.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Constitution

3. Under the Constitution which came into force on 1 March 1967, the basic government structure is as follows:

(a) Governor

4. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. Except where otherwise provided, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

(b) Legislature

5. The Legislature consists of the Queen and the House of Assembly. The Legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Dominica, subject to the assent of the Governor. The House of Assembly consists of eleven elected members, three nominated members and the Attorney-General (ex officio). Of the three nominated members, two are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier and one on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition; if there is no Leader of the Opposition, or if he does not wish to be consulted, the Governor, in his discretion, may consult any other person. Non-elected members may vote on any question except motions of no confidence and bills to amend the Constitution. The House elects a Speaker who, if he is not already a member of the House, becomes one by virtue of his office.

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a/ The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports.

## (c) Cabinet

6. The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Legislature. It consists of the Premier, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and not more than five other ministers. The Governor appoints as Premier a member of the House of Assembly who appears to him to be best able to command a majority in the House. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier.

## Judiciary

7. The law of the Territory is the Common Law of England and Statute Law. The Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser of the Government. The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court is a superior court of record and consists of a Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice as president and two justices of appeal and a High Court of Justice comprising the Chief Justice, appointed by the Queen, and six puisne judges. The Court of Summary Jurisdiction, presided over by a puisne judge, deals with civil cases involving sums of up to \$EC1,000. There are three magistrates courts which deal with summary and civil offences involving sums of not more than \$EC500.

## Local government

8. Local government in the Territory is administered by local authorities, acting in accordance with the duties and powers conferred on them by acts of the Legislature. The towns of Roseau and Portsmouth are each administered by a town council, consisting of five elected and three nominated members. The councils are empowered to make by-laws and regulations and have to submit their annual estimates of revenue and expenditure to the Governor for approval. There are also twenty-one village councils in the Territory.

## Public service

9. The appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control of public officers are, with certain exceptions, vested in the Public Service and Police Service Commissions the members of which are appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

## Electoral system

10. Elected members of the House of Assembly are elected in single-member constituencies under universal adult suffrage. There is a Boundaries Commission, which consists of the Speaker, as chairman, two members of the House appointed on the advice of the Premier and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition.

11. A British subject who has attained the age of twenty-one years is qualified for membership of the House if he is domiciled and resident in the Territory or if he has resided here for one year and is able to speak English. A person is qualified to be registered as a voter if he is a British subject who has attained the age of twenty-one and has satisfied the resident and other requirements prescribed by the Legislature.

## Political parties

12. Until 1968, there were two political parties in the Territory, the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) and the Dominica United People's Party (DUPP). In October 1968, a new political party was created, the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP).

## Elections

13. The last elections were held on 7 January 1966, when the DLP won ten of the eleven seats, three more than at the previous election. The DUPP won one seat, two less than at the previous election. The total roll was 24,147 and those voting numbered 19,400.

## Other developments

14. In June 1969, the new government headquarters building in Roseau was officially opened by the Governor. The building, constructed largely under the United Kingdom development programme, houses the Premier's office, the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Clerk of the House of Assembly and the Attorney-General's office.

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

## General

15. The economy of the Territory is based on primary production. In the years 1961 to 1965 the rate of economic growth averaged 4 per cent annually, mostly as a result of increased agricultural exports. An average growth of 5.5 per cent is estimated for the period 1965 to 1970.

16. In 1968, the construction and engineering sector began to make substantive contributions to the economy of the Territory. The building boom continued in 1969 and was expected to have an even greater impact on the economy in 1970. In 1970, 10.71 per cent of the total budget was to be spent on construction.

17. The Government of the Territory terminated its agreement with the Sunday Island Port Authority Ltd. b/ with effect from 16 August 1969, and announced its decision in the House of Assembly on 4 September 1969.

18. In October 1968, the Government of the Territory signed an agreement with the United States of America guaranteeing United States investments against "confiscation, expropriation and inability to convert foreign currency into United States dollars".

19. About one third of the total land area of 289.8 square miles is Crown land. Since 1962, Crown lands have been sold to residents without any conditions and restrictions. The freehold system remains the predominant form of land tenure.

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b/ For background information, see A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIII, annex I, section B 2, paras. 75 and 76.

Aliens must first obtain a licence from the Government, to which certain conditions are attached, before being able to purchase land in the Territory.

#### Mineral deposits

20. The only mineral so far found in the Territory is pumice, a light-weight concrete aggregate of volcanic origin used chiefly for building purposes; it is at present mined under licence by a group of United States investors. According to reports, the Dominica Mining Company has not succeeded in solving problems of marketing and transport and in 1968/69 there was a setback in mining operations.

#### Water and power supply

21. The rainfall is heavy, especially in the mountainous areas. There are numerous rivers and streams, but none is navigable. In 1968, three small water supply systems were constructed under a UNICEF assistance scheme. Two major water projects will be constructed under the Canadian assistance programme at a cost of about \$300,000 (Canadian).

22. The Dominica Central Water Authority consists of seven commissioners, one of whom is appointed by the Minister of Communications and Works. The Authority is empowered to acquire property, employ technical personnel and fix rates for the provision of an adequate water supply for the Territory.

23. The electricity service is owned and operated by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). Electric power is provided by two hydro-electric stations and one diesel plant. In 1968, two coastal villages were provided with electricity.

#### Agriculture and livestock

24. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the following:  
(a) organization and development of the Territory's agricultural resources and their conservation; (b) expansion of the main export and good crops; (c) organization and improvement of small-scale farming and livestock; and (d) improved methods of production and distribution of agricultural products. It maintains a training school and five district agricultural stations which function as the main official centres for the demonstration of improved agricultural practices and experimentation.

25. The main crops are bananas, coconuts, cocoa, limes, grapefruit, vanilla beans, mangoes, and avocado pears. The main agricultural products are raw and sweetened lime juice, lime oil, copra and rum.

26. About 74,000 acres are recorded as farm lands occupied by some 8,700 farms, of which 6,000 are less than five acres in size and 198 are 50 acres or over. In 1968, land use was estimated as follows: bananas, 20,000 acres; orchard crops, 20,170; woodland on farms, 25,330; pasture, 4,500; and food crops, 4,000 acres.

27. Bananas, which are the principal crop, are exported almost exclusively to the United Kingdom. Geest Industries, Ltd. are the sole purchasers and exporters; the company operates under a contract with the Dominica Banana Growers' Association.

In 1968, 54,719 tons of bananas were exported compared with 46,796 tons in 1967; the total value of banana exports as paid to the Dominica Banana Growers' Association was \$EC7.4 million c/ with an average price of 6¢ per pound compared with \$EC5.7 million in 1967 and an average price of 5.4¢. According to reports, the record level of banana production achieved in 1969 (3,819,977 stems valued at \$EC7,441,154), is expected to be maintained; estimates show that 1970 production could reach 56,000 tons.

28. In 1968 the cocoa propagation and citrus development schemes were replaced by the Plant Propagation Scheme. Under the new scheme, particular attention is being paid to the production of grapefruit plants.

29. The livestock population consists of about 6,000 head of cattle, 9,000 pigs, 3,600 sheep and 5,000 goats.

### Forestry and fisheries

30. Forest resources are considerable; however, timber production is small and confined to local use. According to a Canadian-sponsored survey carried out in 1962, there are over 470 million board feet of gommier, the dominant of three merchantable species. The area of Crown forest is estimated at approximately 110 square miles and the area under private ownership at about thirty square miles.

31. A government-controlled fisheries scheme provides funds for the organization and development of a local fishing industry.

### Tourism

32. The number of tourists increased from 6,168 in 1964 to 7,465 in 1967 and 9,977 in 1968. Although statistics are not available for 1969, reports indicate that demand for accommodation continued to exceed supply.

### Industry

33. Industrial activities include production of cigarettes, cigars, handicrafts, citrus juices, oils and fats, soap, copra and rum.

34. In 1968, the oils and fats factory expanded its production and began exporting refined oil and soap to Barbados and Trinidad. During the year, the factory processed approximately 800 tons of raw coconut oil, 505 tons of refined coconut oil, 569,000 pounds of laundry soap and 22,000 pounds of toilet soap. In 1969, the manufacturing sector failed to reach the expected level of production. Although oils and fats production continued to expand, lime juice and lime oil production declined; in March 1969, the manufacturers of Rose's Lime Juice announced the closure of one factory and two estates because of rising production costs.

35. In September 1969, the Premier and Finance Minister, Mr. E.O. Le Blanc, made public statistics concerning the contribution to the Territory's economy by

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c/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC100) equals \$US.50. See annex I.A above, para. 12.

Dom-Can Timbers, Ltd. and the Dominica Mining Co., Ltd. During its first year of operation, which ended in August 1969, Dom-Can Timbers paid royalties to the Government of the Territory exceeding \$EC40,000. Up to 31 August 1969, the company spent \$EC346,815 on wages (approximately \$EC216,805 for local labour). The number of local persons on the payroll was 114. The Dominica Mining Company came into operation in August 1965. The company paid \$EC75,561 in wages in 1967, \$EC58,386 in 1968 and \$EC42,863 during the first nine months of 1969. At the end of August 1969, twenty-seven persons were employed by the company (with no expatriates). The company paid \$EC9,204 in royalties in 1966/67, \$EC15,345 in 1967/68 and \$EC14,572 in 1968/69.

#### Transport and communications

36. There are 176 miles of bituminous roads, 196 miles of second class roads and about 77 miles of unimproved earth roads. There were 2,117 motor vehicles registered in 1968, compared with 2,078 in 1965. In 1969, expenditures on the maintenance and reconstruction of roads amounted to \$EC620,000, compared with \$EC560,000 in 1968.

37. Roseau is the principal port of the Territory; the banana boats of Geest Industries, Ltd. call regularly at Portsmouth. The following steamship services call at Dominica: the West Indies Shipping Service, Harrison Line, Saguenay Shipping, Ltd., Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd., Royal Netherlands Steamship Ltd., Geest Lines, Lamport and Holt Line, Ltd., Grimaldi Sicca Lines, Booth American Shipping Corporation and the Linea 'C' Line.

38. The Melville Hall Airport, which is situated in the north-east of the Territory approximately thirty-four miles from Roseau, has a 5,100-foot runway. Airmail and passenger services are provided by the Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) and Caribair, using Avro 748 planes. To date, \$EC238,039 has been spent under the United Kingdom assistance programme for the repair of the airport runways which had deteriorated seriously, owing to increased traffic and the landings of heavy aircraft.

39. In March 1969, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the approval of three more Colonial Development and Welfare grants to the Territory, totalling \$EC350,122, towards the construction and reconstruction of roads and bridges and for further improvements at Melville Hall Airport.

40. In 1968, Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. installed a fully automatic telephone system in the Territory which became operative in December 1968. The company also operates international telegraph, telephone and telex services.

#### Trade

41. The main imports are food-stuffs, gasoline and cement. The main exports include bananas, copra, lime juice, cocoa, bay and lime oil, coconuts and vanilla beans. The United Kingdom is the major trading partner of the Territory. The following table shows the total value of exports and imports in the years 1964 to 1970:

(thousand Eastern Caribbean dollars)

|                 | <u>Exports</u> | <u>Imports</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1964            | 7,730          | 15,097         |
| 1965            | 7,726          | 17,701         |
| 1966            | 7,464          | 17,764         |
| 1967            | 8,469          | 19,168         |
| 1968            | 9,437          | 21,100         |
| 1969 (estimate) | 9,793          | 23,190         |
| 1970 (estimate) | 10,300         | 25,530         |

Public finance

42. The following table shows revenue and expenditure in the years 1965 to 1969:

(Eastern Caribbean dollars)

|      | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1965 | 8,170,230      | 8,445,647          |
| 1966 | 8,762,164      | 8,574,732          |
| 1967 | 10,266,770     | 10,266,770         |
| 1968 | 10,590,965     | 10,914,830         |
| 1969 | ...            | 11,247,445         |

43. The original Colonial Development and Welfare allocation for 1968/69 amounted to \$EC1,346,000 (including \$EC410,000 for the construction of the new government offices); during the year the United Kingdom provided an additional allocation of \$EC345,000, making a total of \$EC1,691,000.

44. In 1968, the amount of grant-in-aid which was necessary to meet the deficit on the recurrent budget, was \$EC1,660,000. In 1969, this figure was reduced to \$EC1,510,000.

45. In his 1969 budget address, delivered in the House of Assembly on 29 January 1969, the Premier and Minister of Finance stated, inter alia: "It is our desire that the grant-in-aid of administration should be gradually reduced and both the United Kingdom Government and the Government of Dominica are working towards this end. We are looking forward to receiving instead more capital aid which should promote further economic development and which would in turn lead to budgetary independence".

46. The main heads of taxation are income tax, customs and excise duties (rum, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco). Export duty is payable on the principal agricultural products. Other forms of taxation include estate duty and stamp duty. There is provision for double income tax relief in respect of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

47. There are four major banks in the Territory: Barclays Bank D.C.O., the Royal Bank of Canada, the Government Saving Bank and the Dominica Co-operative Bank.

48. According to an agreement concluded in May 1969 between the Government of the Territory and the Dominica Co-operative Bank, the Bank agreed to make available at least \$EC250,000 for loans for the purchase, reconstruction or extension of dwelling houses and apartments or shops with accommodation attached. A limit of \$EC15,000 was placed on any one loan; however, in special circumstances larger amounts may be obtained.

49. On 31 December 1968, the value of currency notes in circulation in the Territory was estimated at \$EC3,357,000, compared with \$EC2,817,000 at the end of 1967.

#### United Nations technical assistance

50. United Nations technical assistance to Dominica has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to approximately \$US72,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning (land use in urban and rural development), agricultural development, water supplies, telecommunication services and postal administration. d/

51. UNICEF's total allocation to Dominica for 1968 and after, amounted to \$US21,098. Expenditure for 1968 was \$US11,909 which was used for supplies and equipment.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Labour

52. The estimated labour force is about 25,000. Agriculture is the principal occupation, but roads and building construction, secondary industries, tourism, transport and commerce absorb large numbers of the working population.

53. There are six trade unions registered in the Territory: the Dominica Trade Union, the Dominica Union of Teachers, the Dominica Civil Service Association, the Dominica Amalgamated Workers' Union, the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union, and the Dominica Association of Public Health Inspectors.

d/ DP/TA/P/L.1/Add.2, pp. 61-66.

e/ A/7607/Add.2, p. 16.



## Public health

54. There are six government hospitals with a total of 302 beds and twenty-seven dispensaries and health centres distributed throughout the Territory. The main hospital, the Princess Margaret, in Roseau, includes a forty-bed wing for patients suffering from chest conditions.

55. The birth-rate in 1966 was 39.9 per thousand and the death-rate 8.2 per thousand.

## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

56. Education is free between the ages of five and fifteen years and is compulsory wherever there are adequate school facilities; so far twenty-one areas have been declared compulsory attendance areas.

57. Primary education is provided in fifty-five government schools, three assisted denominational schools and twenty-six "temporary" schools, with a total enrolment of more than 20,000 pupils and an average attendance of about 17,000 pupils. There are four secondary schools with a total enrolment of about 1,450 pupils.

58. There is a central free library in Roseau, with branches in Portsmouth and Grand Bay. There is one commercial cinema in Roseau.

D. GRENADA

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## D. GRENADA<sup>a/</sup>

### GENERAL

1. Grenada is the most southerly of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean. It lies approximately 90 miles north of Trinidad and 68 miles south-south-west of St. Vincent. The island is about 21 miles long and 12 miles wide at its extremes and has an area of 120 square miles. Between Grenada and St. Vincent lie the islets known as the Grenadines, some of which are included in the Territory of St. Vincent and some in that of Grenada; the largest of the latter is Carriacou with an area of 13 square miles. The island is of volcanic origin. Approximately 10,000 acres of the Territory's area are under forest.

2. At the last census, taken in 1960, the population was 88,677. The estimated population at the beginning of 1969 was 102,000, compared with 98,773 in 1966 and 93,911 in 1964. The majority of the population is of African or mixed descent. St. George's, the capital of the Territory, has an estimated population of about 9,000. The other towns are Gouyave, Victoria, Grenville, Sauteurs and Hillsborough on Carriacou.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

3. Under the Constitution, which came into force on 3 March 1967, the basic government structure is as follows:

#### (a) Governor

4. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. Except where otherwise provided, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

#### (b) Legislature

5. The Legislature consists of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Grenada, subject to the assent of the Governor.

6. The Senate consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, five on the advice of the Premier, two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and two on the advice of the Premier after he has consulted those organizations or interests which he considers should be represented. The Senate elects a President from among those of its members who are not ministers or parliamentary secretaries. The Senate has power to delay money bills for up to one month and any other bills passed by the House of Representatives for up to two years.

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<sup>a/</sup> The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports.

7. The House of Representatives consists of ten members elected in single-member constituencies under universal adult suffrage. The House elects a Speaker who, if he is not already a member of the House, becomes one by virtue of his office.

#### (c) Cabinet

8. The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Legislature. It consists of the Premier, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and other ministers. The Governor appoints as Premier the person who appears to him to be best able to command a majority in the House of Representatives. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier from among the senators and members of the House of Representatives. There is provision for the appointment of parliamentary secretaries from either house.

#### Judiciary

9. The law of the Territory is the Common Law of England and Statute of Law. The Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser of the Government. The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court is a superior court of record. It consists of a Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice as president and two justices of appeal, and a High Court of Justice comprising the Chief Justice, appointed by the Queen, and six puisne judges. The Court of Summary Jurisdiction, presided over by a puisne judge, deals with civil cases involving sums from \$EC240.00. b/ Magistrate courts deal with summary and civil offences involving sums of not more than \$EC96.00.

#### Public service

10. The appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control of public officers is, with certain exceptions, vested in the Public Service Commission, the members of which are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier. There is provision for appeals to a Public Service Board of Appeal.

#### Electoral system

11. The members of the House of Representatives are elected in single-member constituencies under universal adult suffrage. There is a Boundaries Commission, which consists of the Speaker as chairman, two members of the House appointed on the advice of the Premier and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. The Commission is charged with reviewing the number and boundaries of constituencies at intervals of not less than two and not more than five years. There are ten electoral districts at present.

12. An individual is qualified to be registered as a voter if he is a British subject, has attained the age of 21 years and has satisfied the residence and other requirements prescribed by the Legislature. On 29 February 1968, the House of Representatives passed an amending bill to the Elections Act reducing the voting age from 21 to 18 years, effective from 1972.

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b/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC1.00) equals \$US.50. See annex I.A above, para. 12.

## Political parties

13. There are two political parties in the Territory, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and the Grenada National Party (GNP)

## Elections

14. The last general elections were held on 24 August 1967. As a result of the election, the GULP, led by Mr. Eric Gairy, won seven seats and the GNP, led by the former Premier, Mr. Herbert Blaize, won three. On 26 August 1967, Mr. Gairy was sworn in as Premier of Grenada to succeed Mr. Blaize. The next general elections are to be held in 1972. It was reported in September 1970 that the GNP was going to request that United Nations personnel supervise the elections. The spokesman for the GNP was reported as having said that "it is necessary that adequate steps be taken to prevent the elections being rigged".

## Local government

15. It was reported in October 1969 that all local government bodies had been dissolved pending reform of the system under which they operated. The St. George's Corporation (which had municipal status) and the district Boards of the several other parishes and the dependency of Carriacou were partly elected and partly nominated. The new system, when it became operative, was expected to provide for fully elected bodies and for the streamlining of legislation to produce a more uniform pattern of local government. An Interim Commissioner was to be appointed to carry out local government functions during the reform period.

## Recent developments

16. On 16 July 1969, Premier Gairy was reported to have reiterated his determination to lead Grenada to independence. He also said: "We do not know whether Grenada will go it alone or in association with another territory.... We would like to think, however, that whatever form independence may take, continuity of association with Britain would be a useful and valuable counterweight to the new and more aggressive forces we will have to face in a world growing smaller...".

17. Members of the opposition Grenada National Party and planters held two anti-government demonstrations, on 6 November and 12 December 1969, reportedly in protest over increased government control of the cocoa and nutmeg industries and compulsory acquisition of property.

18. A bill titled the Emergency Powers Act, 1970, was passed in the Territory's House of Representatives on 2 May 1970. The three members of the opposition party walked out of the meeting in protest before the bill was passed. The opposition party leader, Mr. Blaize, said that he feared the repercussions that headlines of the bill might bring; another member of his party said that he saw "nothing in the immediate future to cause panic in the minds of government".

19. In May 1970, the Premier announced that Grenada was doubling its police force, reportedly "to crush any attempts by revolutionary groups to stage demonstrations". He stated that his Government would not sit by and allow individuals or groups to agitate or incite to promulgate or promote any racial disharmony in Grenada.

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

20. The economy of the Territory is based on agriculture. There are also some secondary industries and tourism is of growing importance. The Grenada five-year development plan for 1967-1971 envisages an expenditure of about \$EC46 million, of which almost one-third would be spent on agriculture.

21. The Investment Guarantee Agreement, which was signed in 1968 between the Government of Grenada and the United States of America, is aimed at protecting the latter's investments in the Territory against economic and commercial risks.

22. All persons who are not British Commonwealth citizens and who wish to own land or take shares in locally registered companies are required by law to obtain a licence. The Government imposes certain restrictions to protect the agricultural potential of the Territory and to achieve balanced development.

### Water and power supply

23. The Territory has a number of mineral and other springs. All towns and many villages have a piped water supply. A water supply development plan was prepared by the Government of Grenada with assistance from the Pan American Health Organization. The long-term objective of the plan is to provide drinking water for approximately 95 per cent of Grenada's estimated population by 1990. The first project to be implemented under this plan was announced in December 1969. The project, which would be completed within two years, was to be mostly financed by Canada, through the Canadian International Agency which has a programme of assistance for water development in the Eastern Caribbean. Canada was providing \$EC1.43 million of the total estimated cost of \$EC1.90 million. The Government of Grenada would contribute the remainder and would be responsible for supervision of the work. It was also reported in 1969 that the United Kingdom was making a grant of \$EC24,000 towards the water supply development plan, essentially to expedite the excavation and drainage work of several water schemes.

24. Electric power is generated and distributed by Grenada Electricity Services, Ltd. The company's power station is located in St. George's.

### Agriculture

25. The economy of the Territory is based on agriculture. Over 9,300 persons are employed in agriculture, forestry and hunting. The total acreage of Grenada is 76,548 and the major crops are cocoa, nutmeg, limes, bananas, sugar and copra. A wide variety of tropical fruit is available and efforts are being made to increase production of pigeon pens, yams, pumpkins and green and yellow vegetables for local consumption. The total acreage of Carriacou is 8,467, and lime oil and cotton are the main exports, although production of the latter has decreased markedly in recent years.

26. The Territory's farmers are encouraged to produce new crops as well as revive others. At the end of 1969, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Grenada Farmers' Cooperative Council announced that they planned to import onion seeds for

distributing to local farmers. About 260,000 pounds of onions are imported annually. Early in 1970, the Government announced that it had imported 5,000 pineapple plants as the first step towards reviving interest in that crop. The plants were to be used to establish a nursery from which pineapple suckers would later be available to farmers for planting.

(a) Cocoa

27. Cocoa is cultivated on some 17,000 acres. The Grenada Cocoa Association is responsible for promoting the interests of the cocoa industry and also regulates and controls exports.

28. Cocoa production increased sharply in 1969, and regained its place as the Territory's major crop. Cocoa exports in 1969 were valued at \$EC4,496,320, an increase of more than \$EC500,000 over the value of cocoa exported in 1968. The following table shows the volume and value of cocoa exports for the years 1966 to 1969:

|      | <u>Hundredweight</u> | <u>Eastern Caribbean dollars</u> |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1966 | 46,262               | 2,249,797                        |
| 1967 | 48,339               | 3,028,505                        |
| 1968 | 57,391               | 3,670,019                        |
| 1969 | ...                  | 4,496,320                        |

(b) Bananas

29. In 1969, there was a shortfall in the production of bananas which had been the Territory's major crop since 1956; according to the Finance Minister, the shortfall was likely to continue in 1970. The following table shows the volume and value of banana exports for the years 1965 to 1968:

|      | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(Eastern Caribbean dollars) |
|------|-------------|---|
| 1965 | 21,055      | 2,417,108                                   |
| 1966 | 20,573      | 2,442,988                                   |
| 1967 | 26,195      | 3,115,872                                   |
| 1968 | ...         | 3,583,066                                   |

30. The Grenada Banana Co-operative Society is a statutory body of banana producers controlled by a Committee of Management of six elected and between two and four nominated members. The Committee deals primarily with the marketing of bananas through Geest Industries, Ltd. In addition, it promotes improvement of the industry by sponsoring and contributing financially to programmes to control banana diseases and encourage proper fertilizer practices.

(c) Nutmeg

31. Nutmeg is grown on some 6,500 acres and the entire nutmeg yield is exported. The following table shows the volume and value of nutmeg (and mace) exports from 1966 to 1969:

|      | <u>Nutmeg</u><br>(hundredweight) | <u>Mace</u> | <u>Nutmeg oil</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Value</u><br>(Eastern Caribbean<br>dollars) |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1965 | 17,339                           | 2,160       | 90                            | 4,058,337                                      |
| 1967 | 13,486                           | 2,530       | 720                           | 2,085,955                                      |
| 1968 | 32,425                           | 3,000       | ...                           | 3,112,000                                      |
| 1969 | 27,183                           | 3,791       | ...                           | 3,350,000                                      |

32. The Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association, which processes and markets all nutmeg and mace, is controlled by a board of nine members, of whom six are elected by the growers and three are nominated by the Government. In June 1970, an official of the Association confirmed reports that the Association had transferred sums totalling nearly \$EC1 million to Barbados on fixed deposits, and withdrawn another amount totalling \$EC100,000 from the Grenada Agricultural Bank, an institution established to provide loans to farmers. According to the same official, the transfer was made in order "to safeguard and protect the funds of the Association". This action was criticized strongly by the Finance Minister who accused the Nutmeg Association of being "unpatriotic" and not particularly concerned with the welfare of nutmeg producers in the Territory. He added that the transferred money would now be used by the people in the country where it was deposited, instead of being available to local farmers in Grenada.

(d) Other crops

33. Coconuts are grown on about 3,500 acres. There is a copra mill in St. George's. Recent figures on copra production are not available. Production in 1965 and 1966 was as follows:

|      | <u>Copra</u><br><u>milled</u><br>(tons) | <u>Refined</u><br><u>oil</u><br>(gallons) | <u>Laundry</u><br><u>soap</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Coconut</u><br><u>meal</u><br>(pounds) |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1965 | 452                                     | 59,246                                    | 204,900                                   | 196,600                                   |
| 1966 | 419                                     | 47,070                                    | 139,900                                   | 187,800                                   |

34. Cotton is grown on Carriacou where there is a Government ginnery. Production of lint has declined in recent years, although it totalled 774 hundredweight in 1967, compared with 500 hundredweight in 1966. The protection of interests in the cotton industry is the responsibility of the Carriacou Development Board.

35. Limes are grown on some 500 acres, evenly divided between the islands of Grenada and Carriacou.



36. Sugar cane is grown on about 1,500 acres and is converted either to dark sugar or to rum. The total production of dark sugar for the years 1966, 1967 and 1969 was as follows:

|      | <u>Dark sugar</u><br>(tons) | <u>Yield</u><br>(ton of cane per ton of sugar) |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1966 | 1,424                       | 10.7   |
| 1967 | 1,742                       | 10.75  |
| 1969 | 1,368                       | ...  |

The Cane Farmers Association aims at improving the industry through special emphasis on efficiency of production. In June 1969, the Premier announced that his Government was about to set up an inquiry into the workings of the sugar industry to ascertain why the quantity of sugar cane required to produce a ton of sugar was higher in Grenada than elsewhere.

#### Livestock

37. Although livestock production is an important part of the economy, meat and milk production are inadequate for local requirements. Estimated numbers of livestock are as follows: cattle 6,000; horses, 1,500; sheep and goats, 7,000; and pigs, 5,000. Poultry numbers 90,000 and meets much of the local demand.

#### Forestry

38. The Government owns approximately 75 per cent of the Territory's estimated 10,000 acres of rain forest; exploitation is confined to fifty acres annually. Since 1957, approximately 450 acres of government forest land have been reafforested with blue mahoe, teak and Honduras mahogany.

#### Fisheries

39. About 1,700 persons are employed in the fishing industry, of whom approximately 1,400 are fishermen. The estimated catch, which was 2.7 million pounds in 1967, reached 3 million pounds in 1968. The fishing industry is hampered by inadequate storage facilities and problems of distribution of supplies throughout the Territory. It was reported in March 1969 that the Government was negotiating with the Government of Canada for assistance in the establishment of two fishing depots equipped with ice-making facilities. A programme also was being initiated to teach fishermen how to preserve their catches while at sea. In December 1969, the Grenada Government announced that duty-free concessions would be accorded all material and equipment used in the setting up of an ice plant unit and cold storage facilities in the Territory. The units were expected to be set up early in 1970 as part of a project aimed at developing the fishing industry.

#### Industry

40. The Territory has few manufacturing industries which employ only 2,600 people of the total labour force. The Grenada Sugar Factory, Ltd., produces unrefined sugar for local consumption, but supplies are inadequate to meet the island's requirements. In addition, this factory, together with a number of estates, supplies

the local demand for uncured rum. There is a copra mill which produces soap and edible fats, a cigarette factory, a lime oil factory, a brewery and, on Carriacou, a government-owned cotton ginnery.

41. In February 1970, the Territory's Minister of Finance announced that a coffee processing plant was to commence operations later in the year. At the end of September 1969, a United States oil company, Western Transmission Co-operation, was granted a licence to search for oil on Grenada and in off-shore territorial waters, under the name Westrans Grenada, Limited.

#### Tourism

42. The Grenada Tourist Board is a statutory body appointed by the Government of Grenada, and comprises twelve members representing shipping, commerce, the airlines and the hotels. Its function is to promote the Territory's tourist industry and to make recommendations for its improvement. A Hotel Aid Ordinance allows duty-free importation of building materials, equipment and furnishings, and a Development Incentives Ordinance is directed towards encouraging capital investment in tourist industries.

43. The number of tourists increased markedly during 1969 when 29,627 tourists visited the Territory, an increase of almost 28 per cent over the previous year. The unprecedented flow of tourists to the island during the year was attributed to Carifta Expo 69, the first international exposition ever held in the Territory. However, even the number of cruise ship visitors increased sharply during the year. One hundred and four cruise ship calls were recorded in 1969, compared with seventy-seven the previous year.

44. Earnings from tourism rose from \$EC6 million in 1964 to \$EC10 million in 1968. In March 1969, it was announced that \$EC90,000 of Grenada's estimated expenditure for 1969 would be used to promote the island's tourist industry; according to government sources, the sum of \$EC40,000 provided for this purpose in 1968 had proved to be inadequate. Three new hotels were built in 1968/69, bringing the total number of hotels and guest houses in the Territory to eighteen. Approximately 300 rooms were planned to be added to existing accommodations in 1969/70.

#### Transport and communications

45. There are about 566 miles of roads in the Territory, of which 256 miles have an oiled surface and 210 miles are graded as third and fourth class roads. The Transport Board of the Public Works Department acts as an advisory committee on all matters concerning road transport and traffic in the Territory. A United Kingdom grant (British Development Division in the Caribbean) of \$EC24,000 was contributed to Grenada's road maintenance programme in 1969. In August of the same year, the Grenada House of Representatives approved the provision of \$EC200,000 for urgent repairs to roads and the construction of retaining walls damaged by rain storms.

46. The main port of the Territory is St. George's harbour. On Carriacou the ports of Grenville and Hillsborough are used mainly by small craft. Shipping lines using

the port of St. George's include the Harrison, Booth, Atlantic, Royal Netherlands, Saguenay, Geest and Grimaldi Siosa Lines and the West Indies Shipping Service. In January 1970, the Premier outlined plans for a government land programme to reclaim fifty acres along the western sea front of the port in St. George's to provide the island with a deep water harbour.

47. Pearls Airport is located at the north-eastern corner of the Territory and can accommodate Viscount type aircraft. An airstrip at Lauriston on Carriacou, built with the aid of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, was opened in March 1968. British West Indian Airways, Ltd., operates daily schedules from Pearls to other parts of the Caribbean. A feasibility study for the construction of an international airport in Grenada was undertaken by a team from the United Kingdom in 1969. The site proposed for the airport is Port Saline near St. George.

48. Local telephone services are operated by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. on behalf of the Government; the company also operates international telegraph, telephone and telex services.

49. In March 1969, the Finance Minister announced that Grenada had a trade deficit amounting to \$EC17.2 million, mainly due to increased food imports (over \$EC6 million). The principal imports are food-stuffs, consumer goods, iron and steel, timber, cement, textiles, fertilizers and motor vehicles. The principal exports are cocoa, nutmeg, bananas, mace and spices.

#### Public finance

50. Revenue and expenditure for the years 1966 to 1969 were as follows:

|                                   | <u>Value</u><br>(Eastern Caribbean dollars) |                    |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|
|                                   | <u>Revenue</u>                              | <u>Expenditure</u> | <u>Grant-in-Aid</u> |
| 1966 (provisional). . . . .       | 12,106,571                                  | 11,897,905         | 1,729,200           |
| 1967 (estimates). . . . .         | 13,935,771                                  | 13,935,771         | 1,600,100           |
| 1968 . . . . .                    | ...   | 16,142,909         | 853,557             |
| 1969 (budget, 25 April 1968). . . | ...   | 21,309,540         | 1,773,000           |

United Kingdom grants amounted to \$EC2,790,000 in 1969, including \$EC1,410,000 in budgetary aid, and \$EC1,380,000 in development aid.

51. In January 1970, the Finance Minister announced that the year's budget, amounting to \$EC26,735,388, had been balanced without a grant-in-aid. He explained that the Government had decided to bring Grenada's grant-in-aid status to an end and hoped that the United Kingdom would therefore give the Territory a larger proportion of its development aid.

52. Forms of direct taxation include income tax, estate duties and property tax. Other forms of taxation include import, export and excise duties and a motor vehicles tax.

53. There are eight banks operating in the Territory: the Bank of Nova Scotia, Barclays Bank D.C.O., Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal Bank of Canada, Government Savings Bank, Grenada Agricultural Bank, Grenada Co-operative Bank, Ltd. and Grenada National Bank and Trust Co., Ltd. The Grenada National Bank and Trust Co., Ltd., which opened in August 1969, is a private company controlled by the Government as one of the shareholders, with United States investors putting up most of the capital investment. In September 1969, the Premier announced that a new bank, to be known as the Commonwealth Bank, would start operations in Grenada shortly. It was reported in November that the Grenada Cabinet had approved an application of the Chase Manhattan Bank for a licence to establish a branch in Grenada.

54. The Grenada House of Representatives approved a Development Loan Act which authorizes the Finance Minister to borrow money from any or all of the commercial banks operating in the Territory for the execution of public works operations and tourist development projects in two areas of St. George's.

#### United Nations technical assistance

55. United Nations technical assistance to Grenada has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to approximately \$US103,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969 to 1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning (mainly future urban and rural development), water supplies, animal husbandry, agricultural economics and postal administration.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Labour

56. No recent figures on the labour force are available. At the 1960 census, the labour force numbered 25,170 persons with over 9,300 employed in agriculture, forestry and hunting. There are seventeen registered trade unions, including one employers' federation.

#### Public health

57. There are ten medical districts, with a medical officer in charge of each district. Located in St. George's are a general hospital with 240 beds, a mental and isolation hospital, a sanatorium and homes for handicapped children, the chronically sick and the aged. There is a forty-bed hospital at St. Andrew's and another hospital on Carriacou. St. George's, Gouyave and St. David's each has a main health centre. Twenty-eight district medical visiting stations carry on maternity and child welfare work.

### EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

58. The Board of Education is responsible for advising the Government on education policy. Primary education is free to all children between five and seventeen years of age. Attendance is compulsory between the ages of five and fifteen years, but is not enforced.



E. ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

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## E. ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA<sup>a/</sup>

### GENERAL

1. The islands of St. Kitts (also known as St. Christopher), Nevis and Anguilla are the most northerly of the islands in the Leeward group administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. St. Kitts and Nevis are separated by a three-mile-wide strait and Anguilla lies sixty miles to the north of St. Kitts. The Territory also includes the island of Sombrero, the administration of which was transferred from the British Virgin Islands to St. Kitts in 1956. The total area of the Territory is 155 square miles. The area of St. Kitts is 68 square miles, Nevis 50 square miles, Anguilla 35 square miles and Sombrero 2 square miles.

2. At the 1960 census, the total population of the Territory was 56,693, made up as follows: St. Kitts, 38,113; Nevis, 12,770; and Anguilla, 5,810. The estimated population in 1965 was 59,476, almost all of whom were of African or mixed descent.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

3. The Constitution, which came into force on 27 February 1967, provided for the following basic government structure:

#### (a) Governor

4. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. Except where otherwise provided, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

#### (b) Legislature

5. The legislature, which consists of a House of Assembly, may make law for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, subject to the assent of the Governor.

6. The House of Assembly consists of both elected and nominated members. Two nominated members are appointed on the advice of the Premier and one on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, or, if there is no Leader of the Opposition, by

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<sup>a/</sup> The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports.

the Governor in his discretion. If the Attorney-General is a nominated member, there are altogether four nominated members; if he is not a nominated member, he becomes an ex officio member of the House. Nominated members are entitled to vote except on motions of no confidence and on bills for the alteration of the Constitution. The House elects a Speaker, who, if he is not already a member, becomes one by virtue of his office.

### (c) Cabinet

7. The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the legislature. It consists of the Premier, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and other ministers. The Governor appoints as Premier that member of the House of Assembly who appears to him to be best able to command a majority in the House. The other ministers are appointed from among the members of the House on the advice of the Premier.

### Judiciary

8. The law of the Territory is the Common Law of England and such statute law as is applicable in the Territory. The Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser to the Government. The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court is a superior court of record. It consists of a Court of Appeal, comprising the Chief Justice as President and two justices of appeal, and a High Court of Justice comprising the Chief Justice, appointed by the Queen and six puisne judges. The Court of Summary Jurisdiction, presided over by a puisne judge, deals with civil cases involving sums up to \$EC1,000. b/ Magistrates courts deal with summary and civil offences involving sums of not more than \$EC500.

### Public service

9. The appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control of public officers is, with certain exceptions, vested in the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission. In March 1970, it was reported that the Government had approved the appointment of a commission, recommended by the United Kingdom Department of Overseas Development, to review the structure, salaries, and conditions of the Public Service and to make recommendations.

### Electoral system

10. The elected members of the House of Assembly are elected under universal adult suffrage in single-member constituencies, of which there are at least one in Anguilla, at least two in Nevis and at least seven in St. Kitts. There is a Boundaries Commission which consists of the Speaker as Chairman, two members of the House appointed on the advice of the Premier and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, or if there is no opposition, appointed by the Governor in his discretion. The Commission is charged with reviewing the boundaries at intervals of not more than five years.

11. A person is qualified for election or nomination to the House if he is a Commonwealth citizen, has attained the age of twenty-one years and was born and is

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b/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC1.00) equals \$US.50. See annex I.A above, para. 12.



domiciled in the Territory, or is domiciled and has been resident in the Territory for three years. A person is qualified to vote if he has attained the age of twenty-one years and has such qualifications regarding residence and domicile as may be prescribed by the legislature.

### Political parties

12. There are four political parties in the Territory: the Labour Party (LP), the People's Action Movement (PAM), the United National Movement (UNM) and the Anguilla Constructive Democratic Movement (ACDM). The ACDM was formed in April 1969. The three other parties were represented at the Constitutional Conference and signed the report.

### Elections

13. The last elections were held on 25 July 1966. The LP won seven seats, all in St. Kitts; the PAM won two seats, one in Nevis and one in Anguilla; and the UNM won one seat in Nevis.

### Recent developments

14. As reported previously, c/ Mr. Ronald Webster of Anguilla declared in January 1969 that Anguilla had become an independent republic and had severed all legal ties with the Crown. Subsequently, the United Kingdom and the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla agreed to the setting up of a commission to study the problem of Anguilla and to make recommendations leading to a satisfactory and durable solution.

15. The membership of the commission was announced in December 1969. It included Sir Hugh Wooding, former Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, and four other appointees. The Anguilla Council was not consulted on the appointments. The commission visited Anguilla for the first time on 3 February 1970, but reportedly stayed only a few hours to announce its operational plan. It planned to operate out of Trinidad and Tobago.

16. On 14 February 1970, the commission announced that it had invited memoranda from all people wishing to submit them. The announcement was made in the following statement:

"The Commission has invited memoranda from all persons wishing to submit them whether as a government body or as an organization of people or as individuals.

"Memoranda may be submitted not only by 'nationals' of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla whether at home or abroad, but also by any person or persons who may be interested in, or be affected by, the situation under inquiry.

"The memoranda should state as succinctly as possible, first, the differences (as seen by the authors) which led to the present situation in Anguilla and how these situations came about, and, secondly, the proposals

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c/ See A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIII, paras. 181-213.

(supported by reasons) which the authors would wish the Commission to consider as a means of dispelling any misunderstanding relating to the situation and for recommending a satisfactory and durable solution of the problem..."

These memoranda had to be submitted not later than 14 March 1970.

17. The commission arrived in Anguilla on 1 April 1970 and began hearings the same day. The first address to the commission was made by the legal adviser to the Anguilla Council, Mr. Jack Dear. Referring to the appointment of the Commission, Mr. Dear said the following:

"In the declaration of 30 March signed between Lord Caradon of the United Kingdom and members of the Anguilla Council, the members of the Anguilla Council elected in March of 1968 were recognized as the elected representatives of the people. Despite the fact, the Anguilla Council were not consulted on the setting up of this commission, they were not consulted on the composition of this commission... Failure to consult with the Anguilla Council... constitutes in my submission a breach of faith between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Council of Anguilla..."

He further declared:

"I want to make it very clear that my appearing here... on behalf of the Council of Anguilla is not to be taken as a recognition of the power of the Government or Governor of St. Kitts to appoint a commission of inquiry into the affairs of Anguilla. It is merely the recognition of the fact that Anguilla is in occupation and under the power and control of the United Kingdom Government by virtue of the fact that Her Majesty's forces are present in Anguilla and that Her Majesty would have the right in those circumstances to inquire into the affairs of Anguilla."

18. In his statement, Mr. Dear also pointed out that "the Government of St. Kitts... has not in fact exercised effective jurisdiction in Anguilla since 30 May 1967". He stated that the overwhelming majority of Anguillians desired to "enjoy good government, unintimidated and in freedom" and "do not want to live under the administration in St. Kitts under any terms whatsoever". He also stated that if the United Kingdom Government recommended a return to the St. Kitts administration, it would have to use "British force" to implement such a recommendation and it would have "to establish a police state for its perpetuation".

19. Mr. Dear, on behalf of the Anguilla Council, submitted recommendations to the Commission, which can be summarized as follows:

As the island has issued its own stamps, collected its own taxes and administered its affairs since 1967, Council members maintained that the United Kingdom Government should accept a de jure recognition of the island's government. They recommended that "the existing Council should be continued; a small executive Committee should work with Her Majesty's representative in Anguilla to constitute the executive arm of government... The Council should be vested with legislative power with Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom retaining a power of veto only on money bills".

The island would be divided into constituencies; elections would be held every five years on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

Provisions were asked, as in the case of Montserrat, for the use of the services of the civil service and judiciary of the associated States; however, the Council noted, "if St. Kitts or such other Government objected to such an arrangement, alternative arrangements could be negotiated with the British Virgin Islands or any other friendly Commonwealth Caribbean country, or with the United Kingdom".

The Council also recommended provision for a registry in Anguilla and removal from St. Kitts of all deeds relating to land in Anguilla.

It called for development aid from the United Kingdom, particularly for a water supply; an adequate electricity supply, improvements in airport facilities, the establishment of proper telephone and telegraph facilities and continuation of the road improvement programme.

20. On 5 April 1970, the members of the Anguilla Commission arrived on St. Kitts. The Premier, Mr. Robert Bradshaw, reportedly complained that the United Kingdom had not consulted his Government before Lord Caradon's visit to Anguilla at the end of March 1969. He was also reported to have said that lack of funds had been responsible for the delay in carrying out certain development programmes for the three islands.

21. According to reports, the commission subsequently visited Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica and Antigua.

22. On 16 April 1970, in answer to questions in the House of Commons, one of which concerned the eighty-four policemen still in Anguilla, the United Kingdom Prime Minister stated the following:

"The police are there because they are needed there. As regards further consultations with Commonwealth Caribbean Governments about Anguilla, I hope the honourable Member will agree that it is right now to await the outcome of the work of the commission which followed consultation and which we and the St. Kitts Government appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Wooding. I am sure it is wise to wait for that."

23. On 18 May, following its return to London, members of the commission held talks with Lord Shepherd, the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Lord Shepherd later stated in the House of Commons, in reference to the police force in Anguilla: "Their function is to assist Her Majesty's Commissioner in his task of maintaining law and order and they will remain there as long as their presence is required in this role." Lord Shepherd also reiterated that it was "no part of our policy that the Anguillans should live under an administration which they do not want".

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

24. In St. Kitts the most important crop is sugar. In Nevis, mixed farming is predominant and cotton is produced for export. In Anguilla, the majority of the inhabitants are proprietors and the main activities are the raising of livestock, salt production and fishing; it is reported that a considerable number of people

in Anguilla rely almost totally on remittances sent by relatives who work on other islands or in New York or London.

### Water and power supply

25. In April 1970, it was reported that six new wells for the supply of fresh water would be drilled on Anguilla.

26. There is one principal power station on St. Kitts owned by the Government. Electric power is available throughout the greater part of St. Kitts and extends to about half of Nevis; there is none on Anguilla. It was reported in July 1969, that Hawker and Siddeley Electric Export, Ltd. had received a £500,000 contract to design and build a new generating station on St. Kitts and to increase the capacity of the existing station in Nevis. A team of two Royal Engineers arrived on Anguilla on 1 June 1970 to undertake a survey for a future island-wide electricity scheme.

### Agriculture

27. Approximately 80 per cent of the arable land in St. Kitts is divided into thirty-five large sugar estates which employ most of the agricultural labour on the island. As employment on the estates is seasonal and there are few alternative jobs, there is considerable underemployment from August to January. Small farming in St. Kitts serves as a supplement to employment on the estates. Agriculture in Nevis is almost exclusively on a peasant small-holding basis and more than half the small farms in the Territory are on this island. There are, however, five large coconut estates and some privately-owned livestock farms. The main crops in Nevis are cotton, sugar cane, copra, vegetables and coconut, with sugar cane very much on the decline, mainly because of the increasing cost of transport to St. Kitts. Farming in Anguilla follows a similar pattern to that of Nevis, though livestock raising is more common.

28. In St. Kitts, the total area under sugar cane in 1968/69 was 12,564 acres, of which 12,107 acres were harvested; the average yield of cane per acre was 30 to 35 tons. In the same year, Nevis had 75 acres under sugar cane of which 70 acres were harvested; the average yield of cane per acre was 10 to 12 tons. The yield of sugar per acre from cane grown on estates is 3.5 tons per acre for St. Kitts and 1.2 tons per acre for Nevis.

29. Sugar, mainly from St. Kitts, represents about 80 per cent of exports from the Territory. The Nevis sugar cane crop is purchased by the Government and shipped to St. Kitts to be processed. Sugar production in 1969 totalled 35,390 tons, compared with 33,409 tons in 1968 and 43,622 tons in 1965.

30. Nevis had 165 acres under cotton in 1968/69; production of clean lint totalled 30,000 pounds. Recent figures for St. Kitts on the acreage under cotton and the production of clean lint are not available. In 1964/65, Nevis had 978 acres under cotton and St. Kitts 225 acres; production of clean lint totalled 92,501 pounds, including 54,168 pounds from Nevis.

### Industry

31. The principal industrial plant of the Territory is the sugar factory, owned by St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd., which has been in operation

since 1912. The factory has a capacity of 150 to 180 tons of sugar per day. There are two cotton ginneries, one on St. Kitts and one on Nevis. St. Kitts has a brewery, a cigarette factory (both in operation since 1962) and a small cornmeal factory. Nevis has a factory for the processing of the island's copra and groundnuts into edible oils and cattle feed. There is also a small plant which makes parts for electronic components and employs 40 to 100 Anguillans.

32. An industrial gas plant, St. Kitts Gases, Ltd., was opened officially in February 1970 at Basseterre. The design and construction of the plant was made under the supervision of the managers of the St. Kitts sugar factory. The completed building covers an area of 15,000 square feet and is valued at \$US100,000 in its present stage. Its equipment is geared for production of carbon dioxide gas which can be used in the manufacture of aerated drinks and of fire extinguishers. The capacity of the plant is sufficient to supply local demands with enough left over for export to neighbouring islands. The company is a member of the Island Gases Group which has a combined annual sales volume of \$US1.5 million.

### Tourism

33. Much importance is placed on the development of the tourist industry. The number of tourists visiting the Territory increased from 8,988 (including 6,205 cruise ship passengers) in 1967 to 9,797 (including 7,187 cruise ship passengers) in 1968.

34. Hotel accommodation and ancillary services are reported to be growing steadily. In January 1969, the first stage of Fairview Inn, with accommodation for sixty persons, was opened in Basseterre. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around \$US500,000. The Bank of America is reported to have an interest in this project.

35. A large-scale tourist and property development, covering eighty-five acres, has reportedly been started at Frigate Bay in St. Kitts. It is planned to construct nine hotels with a total accommodation of 1,000 rooms, a yacht marina and a golf course, with such public services as roads, water and electricity. There will be plots for sale as private home sites and also a condominium development. The total projected cost of the development is £29 million. Finance for the initial stage of the development - £15 million - is to be provided by the United Kingdom construction firm of Higgs and Hill. According to reports, the area would be declared a special development area and a special fifteen-year tax concession would be available to companies investing there before 1973.

36. It was reported in December 1969, that a government-sponsored bill legalizing certain types of betting and gambling had been passed, as part of a campaign to spur the tourist industry. A casino licence had already been granted to a developer who planned to build a 150-room hotel in 1970 at Frigate Bay. A government spokesman stated officially that no additional casino licences would be considered for that development until 750 hotel rooms had been built.

## Transport and communications

37. In 1968, there were sixty-two miles of road in St. Kitts, sixty-three in Nevis and thirty-five miles in Anguilla. In 1969, a few more miles of road were built on Anguilla by the Royal Engineers.
38. In St. Kitts, there is a narrow-gauge railway operated by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd., for the transportation of sugar cane to the factory and sugar to the wharf. The railway circles the island and has a total length of thirty-six miles.
39. There are two piers at Basseterre, St. Kitts, one pier each at Charlestown and Newcastle, Nevis and one pier at Blowing Point, Anguilla. In February 1970, a new road jetty which took three months to build (also by the Royal Engineers) and cost £60,000, was opened in Anguilla.
40. Steamship services are provided by the Saguenay Terminals West Indies Shipping Service and Harrison Lines, Booth Line, Lamport and Holt, Royal Netherlands Steamships, Athel Line, Atlantic Lines, Ltd., the Grimaldi Siosa Line, and Lauro Lines. A motor boat service is maintained between St. Kitts and Nevis.
41. Golden Rock airport, situated about 1.5 miles from Basseterre, St. Kitts, is the principal airport of the Territory and is equipped to handle intercontinental traffic (runway length, 5,200 feet). Plans have been announced to extend the airport to take jet aircraft. Barclays Bank D.C.O., the Bank of America and the Royal Bank of Canada agreed at the end of 1969 to make loans to the territorial Government to augment a grant of £1 million from the United Kingdom towards the cost of the alterations. Air services are provided by British West Indian Airways, Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM), Caribair and Leeward Islands Air Transport Service.
42. There is a government telephone system in St. Kitts which is partly automatic and has a capacity of 2,000 lines. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., operates international telegraph, telephone and telex services. There is no telephone service on Anguilla. In April 1969, the first direct telephone link between St. Kitts and the island of St. Maarten was brought into service. Previously all calls had to be sent through Barbados and Curaçao.
43. The Government Broadcasting Station has been in operation since 1961. In April 1969, Anguilla's radio station, built by the Royal Engineers, started operations.

## Public finance

44. The following table shows revenue and expenditure for the years 1963 to 1966 and for 1968:

(Eastern Caribbean dollars)

|      | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1963 | 6,181,141      | 6,361,492          |
| 1964 | 10,439,990     | 9,962,746          |
| 1965 | 6,820,617      | 6,530,756          |
| 1966 | 7,850,000      | 11,650,000         |
| 1968 | 9,287,334      | 11,606,515         |

The budget deficit for the year 1968 was \$EC2,319,181, of which \$EC1,250,000 was contributed by the United Kingdom Government. Anguilla budgetary figures showed a surplus of \$EC34,588 as at 31 December 1969. Revenue and expenditure totalled respectively \$EC558,938 and \$EC524,350 in 1969. For 1970/71, expenditure was estimated at \$EC703,108; the United Kingdom made a direct grant of \$EC209,952 in order to balance the budget at \$EC493,156. The main heads of expenditure were for educational and medical services.

45. Customs duties form the biggest income item in Anguilla. There are import and export duties, a trade tax, port and pier levies and a salt and income tax. Customs duties on non-British imported goods have been cut from 15 to 7.5 per cent. Other income sources for the island include lobster exports to Puerto Rico, the issue of stamps and remittances from relatives of Anguillans living and working abroad.

46. The banks in the Territory are Barclays Bank D.C.O., National Mid-Atlantic Bank, Ltd., the Nevis Co-operative Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, the St. Kitts Industrial Bank, the Government Savings Bank and the Bank of America, which has three branches in the Territory.

47. In December 1968, an agreement was signed by Premier Bradshaw and the United States Government guaranteeing United States investments in the Territory. The agreement lays down rules for the investments with the guarantee that United States investors would receive reasonable compensation in the event of their investment being required for public purposes.

#### United Kingdom aid

48. It was announced in May 1969 that the unexpended balance (about £500,000) of Commonwealth Development and Welfare funds already allocated to the Territory, together with similar sums representing succeeding allocations of development aid during the period ending 31 March 1972, would be made available towards the cost of a 7,600-foot jet airstrip on St. Kitts. In 1969/70, Colonial Development and Welfare grants amounting to £260,000 and £150,000 were allocated to St. Kitts and Nevis respectively.

49. Continuation of the development aid programme started in Anguilla in 1968 was expected to bring total expenditure in the period 1970/71 up to £150,000. Development projects in Anguilla include road improvement and construction of a new jetty and a prefabricated school, all by the Royal Engineers. At the end of 1969, orders had been placed for earth-moving vehicles, a new hospital generator and a prefabricated science laboratory for the secondary school.

#### United Nations assistance

50. United Nations technical assistance to the Territory has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to approximately \$US129,700. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning (low-cost housing programmes), animal husbandry, plant production and protection, agricultural development and agricultural marketing.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

51. In 1969, there were 3,081 workers employed on sugar estates and 816 workers employed in sugar factories in the Territory. Government departments employed 1,678 persons. There were also 305 waterfront workers.

52. As employment on the estates is seasonal and there are few alternative jobs, there is considerable underemployment from August to January. Many young people from the islands, in particular from Anguilla, were reported to have left for the United States Virgin Islands in recent years owing to the lack of work. There are an estimated 3,000 Anguillans working in the United States Virgin Islands, mainly in the building trades.

53. There are seven registered trade unions with a total membership of about 4,500. The largest is the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union which has over 4,000 members and negotiates with the Sugar Producers Association on behalf of workers in the sugar industry. After a six-week strike by workers at the St. Kitts Sugar Factory in 1969, a settlement was reached between the Sugar Producers Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, with the latter winning its demand for recognition as bargaining agent for the factory's apprentices. The strike had started over the dismissal of an apprentice at the factory.

54. In October 1969, the Anguilla Teachers and Civil Service Association was formed. Its main objectives were reported to be the advancement of education; the improvement of conditions of the service; freedom from outside interference; adequate remuneration; and protection of the rights and privileges of members of the association.

55. On 25 December 1969, the House of Assembly passed a resolution setting out basic wages for domestic servants. These range from \$EC12 without meals for a thirty-hour work week to \$EC19 without meals for a forty-two-hour work week.

### Public health

56. The Territory is divided into four boards of health, subject to the Central Board of Health. In 1968/69, there were nine government medical officers and four private practitioners.

57. In January 1968, the Joseph France General Hospital in Basseterre, St. Kitts, was opened; the hospital has a capacity of 164 beds and is equipped with research laboratories and modern operation facilities. In addition, there are two other general hospitals with a total capacity of 157 beds and two cottage hospitals with twenty-five beds. There are also three old persons' homes.

## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

58. Primary education is free and, since 1964, has been compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen. It was reported in June 1969, that the Territory's Minister of Education had announced that free secondary education would be introduced in comprehensive schools in St. Kitts and Nevis in September 1969.



59. Experimental projects in curriculum development in the English language for students in the twelve to fifteen age group of secondary and all-age schools are gradually being introduced to the Eastern Caribbean islands.

60. In St. Kitts, there are nineteen government primary schools, one government senior school and two aided denominational primary schools; there are also three government secondary schools and one private secondary school. In Nevis there are ten government primary schools, one government senior school and one government secondary school. In Anguilla there are five government primary schools and one government secondary school.

61. In September 1969, fourteen United States Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in the Territory as assistant teachers. Ten were assigned to St. Kitts and four to Nevis.

F. ST. LUCIA

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F. ST. LUCIA<sup>a/</sup>

GENERAL

1. St. Lucia lies about 20 miles north of St. Vincent and 25 miles south of Martinique. It is the second largest of the Windward Islands with a maximum length of 27 miles, a maximum width of 14 miles and an area of 238 square miles. It is of volcanic formation, fairly hilly, the highest peak being Morne Gimie (3,145 feet). The island lies in the hurricane zone.

2. In 1966, the population was estimated at 110,142, compared with 106,663 in 1965 and 101,959 in 1964, almost all of whom were of African or mixed descent.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Constitution

3. Under the Constitution, which came into force on 1 March 1967, the basic government structure is as follows:

(a) Governor

4. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. Except where otherwise provided, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

(b) Legislature

5. The Legislature consists of the Queen and the House of Assembly. The Legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of St. Lucia, subject to the assent of the Governor. There is also provision for a Senate, if the House should resolve in favour of it. The House of Assembly consists of ten members elected in single-member constituencies under universal adult suffrage, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and, until the provisions relating to a Senate are brought into operation, three nominated members, two of whom are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier and one after consultation with the Premier and such other persons as the Governor in his discretion may decide to consult. Nominated members are not entitled to vote on motions of no confidence or on constitutional questions. The House elects a Speaker who, if he is not already a member of the House, becomes one by virtue of his office.

(c) Cabinet

6. The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the legislature. It consists of the Premier, the Attorney-General (ex officio) and other ministers. The Governor

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a/ The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports.

appoints as Premier the person who appears to him to be best able to command a majority in the House of Assembly. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier from among the members of the House.

### Judiciary

7. The law of the Territory is the Common Law of England and statute law. The Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser of the Government. The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court is a superior court of record and consists of a Court of Appeal, comprising the Chief Justice as president and two justices of appeal, and a High Court of Justice comprising the Chief Justice, appointed by the Queen, and six puisne judges. The Court of Summary jurisdiction, presided over by a puisne judge, deals with civil cases involving sums up to \$EC1,000. b/ Magistrate courts deal with summary and civil offences involving sums of not more than \$EC500.

### Local government

8. Local government bodies are operated in all the main towns and villages, and include both elected and nominated members. Elections are held annually, and elected members serve three-year terms. The nominated members are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Minister for Housing, Community Development, Social Affairs and Labour.

### Public service

9. The appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control of public officers is, with certain exceptions, vested in the Public Service Commission, appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

### Electoral system

10. The House of Assembly appoints a standing committee, with the Speaker as chairman, to keep under review the number of constituencies and their boundaries.

11. According to the Constitution, a British subject who has reached the age of twenty-one and is proficient in English is qualified for election to the House if he was born in St. Lucia and is domiciled and resident there, or if he has been resident for three years. The same qualifications govern eligibility for nominated members in the House, except that the minimum age is thirty years.

12. On 5 June 1968, about 200 delegates at the annual meeting of the council of the ruling UWP unanimously passed a resolution, calling on the Government to lower the voting age in the Territory from twenty-one to eighteen years. On 16 January 1969, the House of Assembly passed a bill by which the voting age was lowered to eighteen years of age; two opposition members and one nominated member were absent during the debate. (The 1967 Constitution provided that such a decision could be taken by a simple majority vote.)

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b/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC1.00) equals \$US.50. See annex I.A above, para. 12.

## Political parties

13. Until 1968 there were two political parties in the Territory, the United Workers' Party (UWP) and the Labour Party (LP). At the beginning of 1969, shortly before general elections, a new party, the St. Lucia United Front (UF), was formed by some former members of the opposition Labour Party.

## Elections

14. During the elections held in June 1964 the LP, which had been in office for thirteen years, was defeated. The UWP won eight seats and the LP won two.

15. Elections were last held on 25 April 1969. The ruling UWP, led by Premier John Compton, named candidates for all ten seats. The LP nominated candidates for nine posts. The UF, headed by former Chief Minister, and one-time political leader of the LP, Mr. George Charles, nominated candidates for two seats. During the elections, the UWP won six of the ten constituencies, losing two they had held in the last House. The LP won three seats and the UF won one seat (Mr. Charles).

16. Following the elections, Mr. Compton was reappointed Premier of the Territory; except for one change in the posts of ministers and the appointment of a parliamentary secretary, the Cabinet remained substantially the same. The new House of Assembly was formally opened on 23 May 1969.

17. Shortly after the elections, Mr. Victor Edwards, the defeated LP candidate for one of the constituencies, filed charges with the local courts alleging that Premier Compton and Parliamentary Secretary Vincent Monroe had made false statements about his personal character during the election campaign. The case was dismissed, however, on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence that the words which formed the basis of the complaint had been used.

## Status of the Territory

18. According to reports, the Premier approached some other Caribbean Territories in May and June 1969 with a proposal "for independence within a federation framework". The Governor's speech on 23 May 1969 was interpreted as the first step towards seeking the new status for the Territory. In the speech, the Governor revealed that the Government of the Territory planned to call a conference of the so-called associated States to consider how they could proceed to full nationhood "through political co-operation". This was necessary, he said, because associated statehood created limitations on sovereignty and denied access to sources of capital which were sorely needed for development.

19. In September 1969, it was reported that the Premier, during his visit to Port-of-Spain (Trinidad), had discussed the prospects of St. Lucia being linked with Trinidad and Tobago in unitary statehood.

## Other developments

20. In October 1969, the opposition LP held three public demonstrations, at which it charged that the political system in the Territory was dictatorial and that there was unemployment. They called for the Government to resign and hold new elections within 90 days.

21. On 4 November 1969, the Government banned all demonstrations for a three-month period, effective from 5 November, to halt what Premier Compton called "an unlawful and dangerous challenge to lawfully constituted authority". In a television address, the Premier declared that the campaign of virulent attacks on the Government and authorities launched by the LP had encouraged criminal and hoodlum elements in the Territory, and he cited a number of instances in support of that statement.

22. On 14 November 1969 the Government introduced in the House of Assembly a bill seeking to regulate the hours during which public meetings may be held and providing for those meetings to be held only with the permission of the Chief of Police or an officer designated by him.

23. Following the ban on demonstrations and the introduction of the bill in the House, the representatives of the LP charged the Government with suppressing freedom and civil rights in the Territory. The Secretary of the LP was quoted as having declared: "St. Lucia is rapidly becoming a dictatorship and a police state, and the people are afraid of expressing their opinions for fear of being victimized". According to reports, the opposition leader in the House described the political atmosphere in the following way: "there is discontent everywhere and the present St. Lucia Government is to blame for the present situation".

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

24. The economy of the Territory is based on agriculture; the banana industry is the main sector of the economy and accounts for about 80 per cent of exports. Tourism and manufacturing industry, however, are slowly reducing the Territory's dependence on crops.

25. In a speech delivered in the House of Assembly on 23 May 1969, the Governor outlined the following priority projects for the Territory: completion of the state highway from Castries to Vieux Fort; construction of air terminal facilities at Beane Field and Vigie; harbour development at Castries and Vieux Fort; water for the Beane Field and southern area developments; education; health services; and agricultural development.

26. At the beginning of 1968 the per capita income in the Territory amounted to \$EC307.

## Land

27. The total land area is 152,320 acres of which 24,800 acres are Crown land, leaving about 127,200 acres in private ownership, 82,060 of which are occupied by farms. According to the decision taken by the Government at the beginning of 1969, all non-residents have to obtain a special licence to purchase land in the Territory; the decision also provides for a 5 per cent tax on the purchase price.

28. In November 1969, the Leader of the Opposition stated that the influx of alien property owners was largely responsible for the high cost of land now prevailing in the Territory. He also said that a private, non-political organization had carried out a survey in the Territory and had arrived at the conclusion that only about 35 per cent of St. Lucia's total land acreage was owned by the islanders.

## Water and power supply

29. The St. Lucia Water Authority was set up in 1965 as a central authority to rationalize the development and use of water resources throughout the Territory. In April 1969, the Government announced a new \$EC5 million project expected to meet the water needs of the city of Castries and northern St. Lucia for the next fifty years. The project is expected to provide Castries with an additional 1 million gallons of water daily. The new system should become fully operative by the end of 1971. The cost is being met by the Government of the Territory and by the Government of Canada which is providing equipment and materials valued at \$EC4 million.

30. In August 1969, the House of Assembly passed a measure authorizing the St. Lucia Water Authority to install water metres. The price of 1,000 gallons of water was fixed at \$ECO.70. In the past, charges for water had been based on the assessed rental value of the property to which the water was supplied. In November 1969, the Leader of the Opposition declared that the new system had resulted in extremely high water costs and brought serious hardship to the population.

31. St. Lucia Electricity Services, Ltd., is responsible for the generation and distribution of the electric power supply in Castries, Soufrière and Vieux Fort. The Castries power station has a capacity of 4,565 kw.

## Agriculture and livestock

32. Agriculture is the main industry and provides employment for the majority of the inhabitants. The main crops are bananas, cocoa, fruit, nutmeg, mace, sugar cane and coconuts.

33. To stimulate the production of vegetables, the Government provides various services to local farmers, including tractor service, limited irrigation facilities, a plant protection service and technical advice on various aspects of vegetable production. In October 1969, the Territory received a grant of \$EC87,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund to be used on the modernization of the agricultural station at Union. Another grant, amounting to \$EC47,000, was used to purchase new equipment for the Agricultural Department.

34. In recent years, bananas have replaced sugar cane as a major crop of the Territory. The following table shows exports of banana stems in the years 1965 to 1969 and their value:

|      | <u>Stems</u>            | <u>Value</u><br>(Eastern Caribbean dollars) |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 1965 | 6,336,452               | 9,239,991                                   |
| 1966 | 6,644,460               | 9,443,134                                   |
| 1967 | 5,869,530 <sup>a/</sup> | 8,453,404 <sup>a/</sup>                     |
| 1968 | 5,656,985               | 9,636,389                                   |
| 1969 | ...                     | 11,363,831                                  |

a/ The drop in 1967 exports was due to damage caused by hurricane "Beulah".

35. Total earnings by the banana growers, for exports in 1969, were \$EC11,363,831, the highest sum ever received in the industry for one year's operations.

36. In recent years there has been a decline in the production of cocoa. The Government is helping to improve the preparation of beans for export, and two fermentaries, operated on a co-operative basis, have been built at Barth and Richfond.

37. In 1969, 2,712 tons of copra, valued at \$EC1,112,437 and 5,609 drums of coconut oil, valued at \$EC682,913 were exported.

38. Citrus fruits, including limes, oranges and grapefruit, are grown commercially. During recent years there has been a decline in the production of limes, which has been balanced by an increase in oranges and grapefruit.

39. Estimated numbers of livestock in 1968 were as follows: cattle, 11,000; pigs, 18,000; sheep, 8,000; goats, 5,000; poultry, 50,000; horses, mules and donkeys, 2,500.

#### Forestry and fisheries

40. The rain forests, which cover an area of approximately 20,000 acres in the mountainous interior of the island, are under the control of the Agricultural Department. Timber is extracted from both Crown lands and private lands and some charcoal is exported to neighbouring islands, principally Barbados.

41. The fishing industry is the responsibility of the Agricultural Department. St. Lucia Fisheries, Ltd. was formed in 1967 to carry out deep-sea fishing and to freeze and pack shrimp and fish for export.

#### Tourism

42. The number of tourists increased from 16,437 in 1967 to 22,653 in 1968. The total number of tourists, visitors and cruise ship passengers increased from 33,058 in 1967 to 45,914 in 1968.



43. At the end of 1968, the Caribbean American Tourist Corporation (St. Lucia) Ltd. signed an agreement for the construction of a 500-room hotel to be completed by stages before the end of 1975. In 1969, the St. Lucia Hotels Association, with the assistance of the Government, opened a hotel school for about forty participants.

44. A master plan for the Vieux Fort area was submitted to the Government December 1969. The project would cost an estimated \$EC7.5 million to 8 million and include a modern international airport, hotels, beach resorts, improved housing facilities and industries.

#### Industry

45. Local industries include the production of rum, edible oil, cigarettes, mineral waters, soap, furniture, paper, a fertilizer plant and a plant for making coconut and banana chips.

#### Transport and communications

46. The building and maintenance of roads is the responsibility of the Public Works Department. There are about 418 miles of main and secondary roads in the Territory. The main road circles the island. There were 3,526 registered vehicles at the end of 1968.

47. In view of the deterioration of the existing road system, the Government decided in October 1969 to allocate \$EC66,000 for an emergency road improvement programme in 1970.

48. The main port of the Territory is at Castries. Regular steamship services to Canada, the United States and Europe are provided by the Federal Steamship Company, Saguenay, Italian, French, Harrison, Geest, Grimaldi Siosa, and Atlantic Lines, Ltd. Inter-island communication is provided by the West Indies Shipping Service and a number of small vessels.

49. The principal airfield of the Territory is located at Vigie about two miles north of Castries. In 1969, the main runway at Beane Field Airport was extended with the assistance of the Government of Canada; in mid-1969, the United Kingdom Government granted \$EC120,000 to the Territory for the purchase of fire-fighting equipment for use at the airport. Services are provided by the British West Indian Airways, Pan American Airways, Leeward Islands Air Transport, Caribair and the Dutch Antilles Airlines.

50. The new automatic telephone system of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., was officially opened at Castries in 1967. The company also operates international telecommunication services.

#### Trade

51. Bananas continue to be the major export commodity (about 80 per cent); other important export items are copra and coconut oil. Major items of import are cement, plastic goods, iron and steel products, hardware, motor vehicles, agricultural machinery, fertilizers, consumer goods and food-stuffs.

## Public finance

52. The following table shows revenue and expenditure for the years 1965 to 1968:

|                  | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |                    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
|                  | <u>Revenue</u>              | <u>Expenditure</u> |
| 1965             | 7,960,333                   | 8,293,893          |
| 1966             | 9,290,250                   | 9,383,010          |
| 1967             | 10,689,464                  | 10,154,681         |
| 1968 (estimates) | ...                         | 11,623,766         |

The above figures do not include Colonial Development and Welfare grants; the total allocation for the years 1965 to 1968 amounted to \$EC3,960,000.

53. The main sources of revenue are import and export duties, excise duties, income taxes, succession duties and land and house taxes.

54. There are seven major banks operating in the Territory: the Bank of Nova Scotia, Ltd., Barclays Bank D.C.O., the Royal Bank of Canada, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Government Savings Bank, St. Lucia Co-operative Bank, Ltd. and the Agricultural Credit Bank.

55. In 1968, the St. Lucia Mortgage Finance Company (SMFC) was established in the Territory by the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The company is managed by the East Caribbean Housing Limited, which is responsible for housing schemes in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The objective of the company is to encourage home ownership by providing long-term financing. By October 1969, the company had committed nearly \$EC2 million to over 150 borrowers.

56. In August 1969, the existing legislation which made possible the establishment of a commercial bank in the Territory with only a \$EC24 registration fee was repealed by the House of Assembly. The new Act passed by the House sets out qualifications which are required before a company can start banking operations in the Territory. Companies originating locally must have a minimum capital of \$EC500,000, of which \$EC300,000 must be subscribed. Foreign companies, besides meeting the capital requirements of local concerns, must have a principal office in St. Lucia. Included in the new legislation are requirements for submission of monthly statements on assets and liabilities, quarterly analysis of loans and advances and yearly return on earnings and expenses, as well as maintenance of cash reserves at a stipulated level. The Act also states that banks will not be allowed to incur deposit liabilities in the Territory exceeding twenty times the paid up capital and reserve fund. The annual licence fee paid by commercial banks has been fixed at \$EC4,000.

## United Nations technical assistance

57. United Nations technical assistance to St. Lucia has been provided since 1964, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to

approximately \$US125,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning (mainly future urban and rural development), agricultural development, plant protection, postal administration and water supplies. c/

58. UNICEF's total allocations to St. Lucia for 1968 and after, was \$US41,811. Expenditure for 1968 was \$US12,811 of which \$US10,984 was used for supplies and equipment and \$US1,827 for fellowships and training grants. d/

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

59. The Territory's labour force is expected to increase during the period 1965-1975 from 31,200 to 39,500, and unless job and migration opportunities expand, unemployment is likely to increase from 2,400 in 1967 to 4,500 in 1975.

60. There are five workers' organizations, with a membership of about 5,000, and one employers' organization registered in the Territory.

61. On 23 May 1969, the Governor announced that the Government was planning the introduction of a contributory pension scheme for all workers not covered by such a plan.

### Cost of living

62. The following table shows the cost of living index for 1968 and 1969 (April 1964 = 100):

|           | <u>1968</u> | <u>1969</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| January   | 111.8       | 115.4       |
| February  | 112.3       | 116.1       |
| March     | 113.6       | 116.1       |
| April     | 113.8       | 116.4       |
| May       | 115.0       | 115.8       |
| June      | 114.7       | 116.2       |
| July      | 115.4       | 116.5       |
| August    | 116.4       | 116.4       |
| September | 115.8       | 116.4       |
| October   | 115.1       | 118.3       |
| November  | 115.6       | 118.6       |
| December  | 115.6       | 124.2       |

c/ DP/TA/P/L.1/Add.2.

d/ A/7607/Add.2, p. 16.

## Public health

Medical and health services are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. There is one general hospital at Castries (Victoria Hospital, with about 220 beds) and one at Vieux Fort (St. Jude Hospital, with 100 beds). In 1969, a full ophthalmic unit was established in the hospital at Castries. In addition, there is a mental institution, a tuberculosis centre, an institution for the aged and infirm and a number of maternity and child welfare centres. There is also a research centre to test means of controlling schistosomiasis, the most serious parasitic disease of the area. In August 1969, the Ministry of Communications and Works announced a grant of \$EC90,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for the construction of three new health centres.

At the beginning of 1969, the United Kingdom announced a grant of \$EC94,000 towards the cost of control and eradication of the sandfly.

The birth-rate in 1967 was 44.8 per thousand (38.7 in 1966 and 40.09 in 1965). The death-rate for 1967 was not available; in 1966 it was 6.6 per thousand (6 in 1965).

## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

The Board of Education is responsible for advising the Government on educational policy, and for assisting in framing rules and regulations. Primary education is free and compulsory.

In 1967 there were sixty-three primary grant-in-aid schools and one government primary school in the Territory with a total enrolment of 24,000 children. In 1969, ten new primary schools were opened; three of the schools were built with the assistance provided by the Government of Canada and four under the Commonwealth Development and Welfare programme. A second government secondary school was opened in October 1969.

According to reports, the St. Lucia Teachers' Union is asking for the gradual take-over of the Territory's primary schools from denominational control.

Broadcasting stations covering the Territory include Radio Carib, W.I.B.S. from Grenada, Radio Guardian and Radio Trinidad from Trinidad, R.T.F. from Martinique and Radio Barbados. A television station was brought into operation in 1967.



G. ST. VINCENT

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## G. ST. VINCENT<sup>a/</sup>

### GENERAL

1. St. Vincent lies about 100 miles west of Barbados and about 21 miles to the south-west of St. Lucia. The Territory also includes part of the Grenadines chain of islands, known as the St. Vincent Grenadines, including Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique, and Union Island. The island of St. Vincent is about 18 miles long and 11 miles wide, and has an area of 133 square miles. Southward, towards Grenada, lie the islets of the Grenadines, some of which are included in the Territory of St. Vincent and some in that of Grenada. Including the Grenadines, the total area of the Territory is 150.3 square miles.

2. At the last census, taken in April 1960, the population was 79,984, almost all of whom were of African and mixed descent. The estimated population at the end of 1967 was 92,000 (with nearly 50 per cent under fifteen years of age), compared with 90,500 at the end of 1966 and 88,700 at the end of 1965. Kingstown, the capital, has a population of 29,688 including its suburbs. The other principal towns are Georgetown, Calliaqua, Layou, Barrouaillie and Chateaubelair.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

3. Following the 1966 London Constitutional Conference (see annex I.A, paras. 8-9), a general election for seats in the House of Assembly was held in the Territory on 22 August 1966. The People's Political Party (PPP), led by Mr. Ebenezer T. Joshua, was returned with five seats, a loss of one, and the Labour Party (LP), led by Mr. Robert M. Cato, won four seats, a gain of one. After the elections, a political crisis arose, when the opposition party (LP) lodged election petitions against two government members and the government party (PPP) lodged petitions against two opposition members.

4. Difficulties arising out of election petitions led to an invitation from the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition to meet him in London in January 1967 in an endeavour to reach general agreement on measures to resolve these difficulties in a way which would not delay the declaration of the new status for the Territory. The outcome of these discussions provided, inter alia, that St. Vincent would assume an associated status not later than 1 June 1967; that a general election on the basis of thirteen constituencies would be held not later than 31 December 1968, these constituencies to be delimited by an impartial commission appointed by the Secretary of State from outside St. Vincent; and that until this general election there would be no increase in the size of the legislature. It was also agreed that the new Constitution would contain dormant provisions to permit the establishment of a Senate and the lowering of the voting age to eighteen years by a simple majority of the votes of the elected members of the legislature.

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a/ The information on the Territory has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 9 October 1969 for the year ending 31 December 1968.

5. Before the above agreement could be implemented, a further political crisis arose in March 1967, when one of the elected ministers on the government side resigned and joined the opposition party, thus giving the latter the majority. In accordance with the advice of the Chief Minister, the Legislative Council was dissolved on 7 April 1967. An order-in-council was also made dissolving the Executive Council and conferring sole responsibility for the administration of the Territory on the Administrator until the formation of a new Government after the election. The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs also announced, that, in view of the circumstances, it would not be practicable to keep to the Statehood Day for St. Vincent as originally fixed; the Secretary explained that it remained the British objective that St. Vincent should become an associated State as soon as circumstances permitted.
6. A new general election was held on 19 May 1967. It resulted in victory for the LP (six seats, 14,498 votes) over the PPP (three seats, 12,466 votes), thus reversing the results of the 1966 elections. Mr. Cato, former Opposition Leader was sworn in as Chief Minister on 22 May 1967. Mr. Joshua, former Chief Minister, became Opposition Leader.
7. The new Government reaffirmed the original position that St. Vincent should assume an associated status but took the view that under the new Constitution the number of members to be elected to the House should remain at nine. It also represented to the United Kingdom Government in August 1967 that there was no longer any reason for a further general election to be held before 31 December 1968. The Opposition requested that the terms of the agreement of January 1967 (paragraph 4 above) should be implemented both by the United Kingdom Government and by the Government of the Territory.
8. At the beginning of April 1968, further talks were held in London between the representatives of the United Kingdom Government, the LP and the PPP. The talks ended, however, without reaching any substantive conclusions, beyond agreement to continue for the present on the basis of the existing Constitution and to consider the one proposed at the 1966 London conference as in abeyance; no agreement was reached, either on the timing of further elections or on the number of elective seats.
9. In October 1968, the Government of the Territory published constitutional proposals involving the retention of nine rather than thirteen elected seats in the legislature; the proposals were subsequently debated and adopted in the Legislative Council and formally transmitted to the United Kingdom Government in December 1968.
10. Between 10 and 15 May 1969, the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Shepherd, visited the Territory at the invitation of the Chief Minister for constitutional talks. At the end of the visit, Lord Shepherd announced on behalf of the United Kingdom Government that arrangements would be made to enable St. Vincent "to proceed to Statehood before the end of 1969"; he also declared that a constitutional conference would be arranged to finalize details of the new Constitution.



11. The Constitutional Conference was held in London from 23 to 27 June 1969. It was attended by a delegation from the St. Vincent Government led by the Chief Minister, Mr. Cato, and by a delegation from the opposition PPP led by Mr. Joshua; Lord Shepherd, the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, presided.

12. Both government and opposition parties from the Territory reaffirmed their views that St. Vincent should proceed to the new status at an early date; however, in the case of the PPP, this was subject to the qualification that the attainment of such a status should be preceded by a general election on the basis of thirteen constituencies. On the question of the timing of a general election in relation to the date on which St. Vincent should assume the new status, as on the question of the composition of the legislature, the divergencies of view between the two parties remained unchanged.

13. Under these circumstances, the United Kingdom Government put forward the following proposals as a basis for settlement:

- (i) The House of Assembly should contain thirteen elected members;
- (ii) There should be no general election prior to the declaration of the new status of the Territory; however, the first general election after the new status is achieved, should be held within the normal period of time applicable to the existing legislature, e.g., within five years from May 1967;
- (iii) Until the next general election, the number of elected members of the legislature should remain at nine;
- (iv) The next general election should be held on the basis of thirteen constituencies to be delimited by an impartial Boundary Commission which would be appointed by the United Kingdom Secretary of State after consultation with the Chief Minister.

14. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the Government of the Territory, accepted the above proposals as a basis for settlement. Mr. Joshua, the Leader of the Opposition, rejected the proposals; he insisted, inter alia, that a referendum should be held in the Territory prior to the move to the new status. The Chief Minister and Lord Shepherd, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, did not consider such arrangements necessary and justifiable on the ground that "the overwhelming majority of the people of St. Vincent desired early Statehood".

15. The Conference concluded that the West Indies Act, 1967, enables a day to be appointed by Order in Council on which the Territory would assume the new status and enables a constitution to be provided for the Territory. It also took note that "consultations had already been completed with the Government of St. Vincent and full agreement reached on various matters", including the agreement relating to external affairs and defence, and the entrustment of authority in the field of external relations. It was further agreed, the Opposition dissenting, that the date for St. Vincent to assume the new status would be 27 October 1969.

16. The report on the Constitutional Conference was considered and approved by the Legislative Council of St. Vincent on 24 July 1969 (in the absence of both members of the PPP). b/

### Constitution

17. The new Constitution is set out in the St. Vincent Constitution Order, 1969, which came into force on 27 October 1969. The Order revoked the St. Vincent (Constitution) Order in Council, 1959, the Amendment Orders No. 1, 2 and 3 of 1967 and the Amendment Order, 1968. c/

#### (a) Governor

18. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. He has executive authority in the Territory, which he exercises on behalf of the Queen. The Constitution provides that "in the exercise of his functions the Governor shall act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet except in cases where he is required by this Constitution or any other law to act in accordance with the advice of any person or authority other than the Cabinet or in his own deliberate judgement". The question whether the Governor has received or acted in accordance with such advice, cannot be inquired into in any court of law; the Governor may, inter alia, "constitute offices for St. Vincent, make appointments to any such office and terminate such appointment".

#### (b) Parliament

19. The Constitution provides that "there shall be a Parliament in and for St. Vincent which shall consist of Her Majesty and a House of Assembly". The power of the Parliament to make laws is exercised by bills passed by the House of Assembly and assented to by the Governor on behalf of the Queen.

#### (c) House of Assembly

20. The House of Assembly consists of thirteen elected members and three nominated members. d/ Of the nominated members of the House, two are appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier, and one by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected from among the members of the House who are not ministers or parliamentary secretaries. The Speaker can also be elected from among persons who are not members of the House, in that case the Speaker becomes a member of the House by virtue of his office. The Constitution also provides that "at any time when the office of Attorney-General is a public office, the Attorney-General shall be an ex officio member of the House".

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b/ For the full text of the resolution adopted by the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, see A/AC.109/341.

c/ For details on the previous Constitution, see A/7623/Add.7, chap. XXIII, annex I, paras. 320-325.

d/ In accordance with the results of the London Conference (see paras. 11-16 above), the Constitution provides that the present Parliament shall, unless sooner dissolved, "stand dissolved on 24 June 1972" (this date being five years from the date of the first meeting of the legislature after the last general election); until such date, the Territory will remain divided into nine constituencies with the existing boundaries.

21. A person is qualified to be elected as a member of the House if he is a Commonwealth citizen twenty-one years of age; has resided in the Territory for a period of twelve months immediately before the date of his nomination for election or is domiciled or ordinarily resident in the Territory at that date; is able to speak and read English "with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable him to take an active part in the proceedings of the House".

22. A person is qualified to be appointed as a nominated member of the House if he is a Commonwealth citizen twenty-one years of age.

23. The Constitution provides that each session of the Parliament shall be held at such place and at such time as the Governor appoints by proclamation. The Governor may at any time prorogue or dissolve Parliament; in the exercise of his powers to dissolve Parliament, the Governor shall act in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

(d) Executive

24. The general direction and control of the Government of the Territory rests with the Cabinet, consisting of the Premier and the other ministers; at any time when the office of Attorney-General is a public office, the Attorney-General is an ex officio member of the Cabinet in addition to the ministers. According to the Constitution, the functions of the Cabinet are "to advise the Governor in the government of St. Vincent"; the Constitution further provides that the Cabinet is collectively responsible to Parliament "for any advice given to the Governor by or under the general authority of the Cabinet" and "for all things done by or under the authority of any Minister in the execution of his office".

25. The Governor, acting in his judgement, appoints as Premier an elected member of the House of Assembly "who appears to him likely to command the support of the majority of the elected members of the House". The other ministers are appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier, from among the members of the House.

26. The Constitution provides that "the Premier shall keep the Governor fully informed concerning the general conduct of the government of St. Vincent and shall furnish the Governor with such information as he may request with respect to any particular matter relating to the government of St. Vincent".

27. The Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier, may appoint parliamentary secretaries from among the members of the House of Assembly to assist ministers in the performance of their duties.

28. The Governor appoints as Leader of the Opposition an elected member of the House of Assembly "who appears to him, acting in his own deliberate judgement, most likely to command the support of a majority of the elected members of the House who do not support the Government or, if there is no such person, the elected member of the House who appears to the Governor, acting in his own deliberate judgement, to command the support of the largest single group of such members who are prepared to support one leader".

## Judiciary

29. The High Court has jurisdiction "to determine whether any provision of this Constitution has been or is being contravened and to make a declaration accordingly".

30. The Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser to the Government of the Territory; his office is either a public office or the office of a minister.

31. The Territory continues to participate in the Regional Supreme Court of Judicature.

## Public Service Commission

32. With certain exceptions specified in the Constitution, power to appoint persons to hold or act in offices in the public service (including power to confirm appointments), power to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices, and power to remove such persons from office is vested in the Public Service Commission, subject to the authority of the Governor. The Commission consists of a chairman and not less than two and not more than four other members appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

## Fundamental rights

33. The Constitution provides that every person in the Territory "is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms", without regard to his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest.

34. In the chapter dealing with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, the Constitution provides that a person shall be regarded as belonging to St. Vincent if:

- (i) He is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies born in St. Vincent;
- (ii) He is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies born outside St. Vincent whose father was born in St. Vincent or who is domiciled in St. Vincent and whose father became a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by virtue of naturalization or registration in St. Vincent;
- (iii) He is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by virtue of naturalization or registration in St. Vincent;
- (iv) He is a citizen who is domiciled in St. Vincent and has been ordinarily resident in St. Vincent for not less than seven years; or
- (v) She is the wife or the widow of a person referred to in any of the preceding provisions, provided that in the case of a wife she is not living apart from her husband under a decree of a competent court or a deed of separation; or

- (vi) He is a person under the age of eighteen years who is the child, stepchild or child, adopted in a manner recognized by law, of any such person as is referred to in any of the foregoing provisions.

#### Electoral arrangements

35. According to the Constitution, for the purpose of the election of members of the House of Assembly, the Territory is divided into thirteen constituencies "having such boundaries as may be prescribed by order made by the Constituency Boundaries Commission". The Commission consists of a Chairman and not less than two nor more than four other members, all of them appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier. The Constitution also provides that all constituencies shall contain "as nearly equal numbers of inhabitants as appears to the Commission to be reasonably practicable"; however, the Commission may depart from this principle "to such extent as it considers expedient" in order to take account of the following factors: (a) the density of population and in particular the need to ensure adequate representation of sparsely populated rural areas; (b) the means of communication; (c) geographical features; and (d) the boundaries of the existing administrative areas. Each constituency returns one member to the House of Assembly.

36. Every Commonwealth citizen who has attained the prescribed age and who possesses the necessary qualifications relating to residence and domicile in the Territory, is entitled to be registered as a voter. The Constitution provides that "the prescribed age shall be the age of twenty-one years or such lower age, not being less than the age of eighteen years, as Parliament may prescribe".

37. The High Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine questions as to the validity of elections or nominations of members of the House of Assembly, as to whether any person elected as Speaker was not qualified to be so elected, or whether any elected or nominated member has vacated his seat.

#### Citizenship

38. The Constitution contains specific provisions for the establishment of a separate citizenship of St. Vincent; it is provided, however, that "these provisions may not be brought into force before the termination of the association, when they may be brought into force by a law of the Legislature of St. Vincent". Until that time, the Territory continues to share common citizenship with the United Kingdom and its Territories and, accordingly, citizenship continues to be governed by the British Nationality Acts of the United Kingdom.

#### Local administration

39. There are eleven local government authorities responsible for the collection and expenditure of money authorized by the Government for the benefit of their districts and for local administration; each receives an annual grant from the Government. The Kingstown Town Board has nine elected members and the District Council of Bequia, in the Grenadines, consists of four elected and three nominated members. Each of the other local authorities has four elected and two nominated members.

External affairs and defence

40. Under the associated status, the United Kingdom retains responsibility for the external affairs and defence of the Territory.

41. In carrying out the general responsibility for the external affairs of the Territory, the Government of the United Kingdom undertook "that they will seek the fullest consultation with the Government of St. Vincent and will at all times have special regard to the interests of the Government of St. Vincent and of the association between the two Governments". In particular, the Government of the United Kingdom delegated the following executive authority to the Government of the Territory:

(a) Authority to apply for full or associate membership of those United Nations specialized agencies or similar international organizations of which the United Kingdom is itself a member and for membership of which St. Vincent is eligible;

(b) Authority to arrange or permit visits by representatives of or persons in the employ of such organizations of which St. Vincent is a full or associate member;

(c) Authority to negotiate and conclude trade agreements with other countries, whether bilateral or multilateral, relating to the treatment of goods. e/

(d) Authority to arrange or permit visits of up to thirty days for trade or commercial purposes by representatives or residents of St. Vincent to any other country, and by representatives or residents of any other country to St. Vincent.

(e) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements of local concern with any independent member of the Commonwealth in the Caribbean area or any other associated State or any British colony in the Caribbean area or with such authorities in other neighbouring islands as the Government of St. Vincent may request and the United Kingdom Government approve;

(f) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements for financial and technical assistance or of a cultural or scientific nature with:

(i) Any independent member of the Commonwealth;

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e/ Agreements relating to establishment matters, i.e., agreements affecting the rights of persons and companies of the contracting parties, continue to be dealt with in commercial treaties negotiated by the United Kingdom Government. The United Kingdom Government declared, however, that they would be prepared, in appropriate circumstances, to delegate to the Government of the Territory ad hoc authority to conclude individual trade agreements in which establishment matters are included. Agreements affecting the Territory relating to civil aviation and shipping continue to be dealt with "in accordance with present practice whereby Her Majesty's Government engage in the fullest consultation with the Government of St. Vincent and invite their participation in such negotiations as are necessary".

(ii) The United States of America or such other countries as the Government of the Territory may request and the United Kingdom Government may approve; or

(iii) Any international organization of which the United Kingdom is a member;

(g) Authority to negotiate and conclude multilateral or bilateral agreements with other countries relating to emigration from St. Vincent to those countries and to emigrant labour schemes.

42. The United Kingdom Government also undertook to give sympathetic consideration to any request by the Government of the Territory for authority to take action on individual questions of external relations not covered by the above specific authority.

43. The delegation of executive authority referred to in paragraph 41 (c), (e), (f) and (g) above was made "subject to the understanding that the Government of St. Vincent will inform Her Majesty's Government in advance of any proposal for the exercise of the delegated executive authority and will keep Her Majesty's Government fully informed of the progress and conduct of any negotiations relating to these external affairs".

44. The Government of the United Kingdom further undertook:

(a) To endeavour to assist in the training of officials from the Territory who will be required to deal with matters connected with the conduct of external affairs and defence;

(b) To consider "the inclusion of a representative of the Government of St. Vincent or of the Governments of the Associated States, either as an adviser or observer or in a similar capacity, in any United Kingdom delegation whenever a subject materially affecting the interest of St. Vincent or of the Associated States is being discussed in an international body of which the United Kingdom is a member"; and

(c) To consider "the appointment of a person nominated by the Government of St. Vincent to advise a diplomatic mission in the exercise of consular function in respect of persons belonging to St. Vincent in a place abroad if such an appointment were at any time felt to be necessary".

#### Termination of the association

45. Under the Constitution, the Territory may terminate the association with the United Kingdom ninety days after legislation to that effect is introduced, with the approval of two thirds of the elected members of the legislature; in the case of termination of the association with the United Kingdom in favour of an association with some other Commonwealth country in the Caribbean, no other provision is required. For any other termination of the association, the further approval of two thirds of the electorate, voting in a referendum, is required.

## Position of the PPP

46. The People's Political Party (PPP), commenting on the new status of the Territory, called it imposed, undemocratic and unconstitutional. A bulletin issued by the party stated, inter alia: "Britain has betrayed its sacred trust to Vincentians by imposing Statehood on the people without giving them the opportunity, who should lead the country. A so-called Parliament of nine members of whom six are ministers, is a farce - undemocratic and unconstitutional".

## Future status of the Territory

47. On 17 April 1968, at the 597th meeting of the Special Committee, Mr. E.T. Joshua stated that the policy and programme of the PPP was "designed to take St. Vincent from rank colonial rule to full internal self-government, and ultimately to independence" (A/AC.109/PV.597).

48. During the constitutional conference held in London from 23 to 27 June 1969, the Chief Minister of the Territory, Mr. R.M. Cato, declared, inter alia: "The Government of St. Vincent recognizes that associated status is not in itself a complete answer to our problem or a panacea for all our ills.... We are aware of its weaknesses and limitations but we are confident that it lies within our power to remove those limitations, and my Government proposes to join in discussions with other Associated States at an early date with a view to removing the barriers to complete independence."

49. At the 130th meeting of Sub-Committee III of the Special Committee, held on 13 September 1969, the representative of the United Kingdom declared, inter alia: "St. Vincent would be free at any time to proceed unilaterally to independence or to any other status and therefore to sever association with the United Kingdom, without the United Kingdom's approval being required for that purpose. At the same meeting, the United Kingdom representative stated that St. Vincent could proceed to total independence if ever it should wish to do so (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.130).

50. In his speech at the first meeting of the House of Assembly, on 27 October 1969, the Governor declared, inter alia: "My Government is completely dedicated to the promotion of the complete economic and political integration of the Commonwealth Caribbean and will continue as a first step to strive for closer political association between St. Vincent and any or all of the other Associated States."

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

51. The economy of the Territory is overwhelmingly agricultural, based mainly on primary production for export. Secondary industries are based mainly on agricultural production. There is also a small fishing industry mainly for local needs. Efforts are being made to diversify the economy and increase the importance of tourism.



52. In 1967, the Territory's gross domestic product was estimated at \$EC29.3 million f/ or \$EC322 per caput.

53. In a public announcement made on 26 October 1969, the then Chief Minister of the Territory, Mr. Cato, declared, inter alia: "I must face the hard cold facts of life. The per capita income of our people is almost the lowest in the hemisphere. Our educational system has never been geared to meet our particular needs and culture; we have got almost as many children outside of school as we have in school because of lack of school places and the financial inability to build, equip and staff these schools. We are faced with heavy unemployment because for years we have depended on primitive agricultural methods of farming and have not been given the opportunity to make use of modern technology in the area of our economy on which we are most dependent."

#### Land

54. Crown lands occupy a total area of 27,000 acres. All land, other than Crown land, is freehold. Individual ownership is recognized, but aliens may purchase land only with the approval of the Government.

#### Mineral deposits

55. According to reports, oil exploration around the shores of St. Vincent and in particular through the coral formations in the Grenadines, is a subject of considerable attention. By 1 July 1969, four applications for exploration rights had been received by the Government.

#### Water and power supply

56. There are a number of small streams, none of which is navigable. It was reported that in mid-1969, Canada had agreed to provide \$425,000 (Canadian) to the Government of the Territory to finance expansion of the water supply to Kingstown, and to survey water resources on the southern half of the Territory and on four of the Grenadine islands.

57. The Commonwealth Development Corporation, with a local subsidiary known as the St. Vincent Electricity Services, is responsible for the supply and distribution of electric power. There are two hydro-electric power stations with a capacity of 1,100 kw and 930 kw respectively. Standby diesel plants with a capacity of 400 kw are located in Kingstown. There is also a 260 kw diesel plant at Bequia.

#### Agriculture and livestock

58. Much of the existing cultivated land is concentrated in smallholdings, often on steep hillsides, which are unsuitable for intensive farming. Agricultural production provides a relatively large volume of food-stuffs for local consumption; however, the Territory is far from self-sufficient.

59. Bananas, coconuts, arrowroot and mace are the most important crops, though production of arrowroot had had to be restricted in an effort to dispose of large stocks which have accumulated. Other export crops include sea island cotton, sweet potatoes, yams, peanuts, cocoa and cassava. Vegetables are grown for local consumption.

f/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC 1.00) equals \$US.50. See annex I.A above, para. 12.

60. Bananas have been cultivated as a commercial crop since about 1953, when the St. Vincent Banana Association was formed. The Association is a statutory producers' organization with a board comprising seven members elected by the growers and two ex officio members (the Superintendent of Agriculture and the Financial Secretary) appointed by the Government. The Association is solely responsible for export of bananas, including the purchase, grading, wrapping and the sale of the fruit to Geest Industries, Ltd., the sole buyer.

61. The area under production is currently estimated at about 12,000 acres, of which 80 per cent is cultivated by smallholders; almost the entire production is exported to the United Kingdom market. Since 1968, the acreage under cultivation has increased, with the Banana Replanting Incentive Scheme playing an important role; this scheme provides credits to banana growers for replanting old fields or for bringing new areas into production, and is financed by a four-year loan from the Ministry of Overseas Development.

62. During 1968, 2,500,000 banana stems, or 30,527 short tons, were exported, compared with 2,236,755 stems (30,017 short tons) in 1967, 2,502,095 stems (33,510 short tons) in 1966 and 2,365,302 stems (31,797 short tons) in 1965. These exports were valued at \$EC4,156,178 in 1968, compared with \$EC3,279,761 in 1967, \$EC3,465,451 in 1966 and \$EC3,148,364 in 1965. Banana exports in 1969 were valued at \$EC4,492,474.

63. Coconuts and copra are grown on some 6,000 acres, of which 5,000 acres are bearing trees. Estates produce by far the largest quantity of copra, amounting to over 90 per cent of total production. Marketing is usually handled by individual producers. The chief markets are Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

64. Exports of copra were 1,445 long tons in 1968, valued at \$EC517,811, compared with 2,424 long tons in 1967, valued at \$EC865,878, and 2,306 long tons in 1966, valued at \$EC826,316.

65. Exports of coconuts numbered 1,256,000 in 1968, valued at \$EC160,000, compared with 780,000, valued at \$EC66,000, in 1967.

66. Some 800 acres of arrowroot are currently under cultivation by smallholders and estates. The marketing of all arrowroot starch produced is handled by the St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association, which is a statutory body with a board comprising six members elected from among growers who produce a minimum of fifty barrels of starch a year, three from among farmers who produce less than this amount, and two ex officio members appointed by the Government.

67. Because of surplus production between 1962 and 1964, and slow sales, a large surplus of starch remains to be sold. Production has therefore declined rapidly since 1964; the following table shows the total production from 1964 to 1968:

|         | <u>Starch</u>     | <u>Value</u>                |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
|         | (200 lb. barrels) | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |
| 1964/65 | 33,856            | 925,650                     |
| 1965/66 | 23,160            | 643,500                     |
| 1966/67 | 17,345            | 482,500                     |
| 1967/68 | 14,135            | 385,552                     |

68. It was reported at the end of 1969, that the A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company of Decatur, Illinois, United States, had made a contract with the St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association to buy 3 million pounds of grade-one starch during 1970 and a further 3 million pounds in 1971.

69. Exports of nutmegs in 1968 were valued at \$EC136,000, compared with \$EC122,105 in 1967 and \$EC120,762 in 1966. Exports of mace were valued at \$EC42,000 in 1968, compared with \$EC39,363 in 1967 and \$EC42,713 in 1966.

70. Interest in sea island cotton continued to decline in 1967 and 1968, most growers having given up this crop completely. Only 100 acres were planted in 1967 and 1968, compared with 200 acres in 1966 and 600 acres in 1965.

71. In 1968, sweet potatoes valued at \$EC384,000 were exported, compared with \$EC294,000 in 1967. Exports of yams were valued at \$EC180,000 in 1968, 100 per cent more than in 1967.

72. Livestock is reared both for local consumption and for export. Dairy farming is also of some importance, although much milk is imported. There are three dairy farms, all operated by the Government, and one pasteurization plant. The livestock population is estimated to number 6,900 cattle; 6,100 goats; 5,000 sheep; 1,300 asses; 105 horses and mules; 5,100 pigs; and 55,000 poultry.

73. An artificial insemination service has been initiated at the Campden Park Experimental Station to improve the quality of cattle.

#### Forestry and fisheries

74. About 44,800 acres on St. Vincent is forest. Sales of timber are restricted so as to avoid excessive exploitation at the expense of soil and water conservation.

75. Extensive inshore fishing is carried on. In 1968, about 520,000 pounds of fish valued at \$EC145,600 were sold through established fish markets, representing about 50 per cent of the estimated catch, compared with 471,728 pounds valued at \$EC141,518 in 1967. A cold storage unit and ice plant installed at Kingstown for the Fisheries Division of the Agricultural Department at a cost of \$EC26,000 started operations in 1969.

#### Tourism

76. The number of tourists visiting the Territory increased from 17,693 in 1964 to 21,041 in 1965 and to 36,505 in 1968. In 1968, the tourist industry had an estimated value of \$EC2,600,000, compared with \$EC1,500,000 in 1967. During 1967 and 1968, two formerly uninhabited islands in the Grenadines were turned into tourist resorts, namely Palm Island (Prune Island) and Petit St. Vincent.

## Industry

77. Industry is based mainly on the Territory's agricultural produce. There is a modern, government-owned arrowroot factory and several privately owned mills for processing arrowroot and cassava; with the slump in the arrowroot market, many private mills have ceased operations. The Government operates two cotton ginneries and copra and cotton seed are processed in two private plants. Other small industries include a cigarette factory (all tobacco is imported) a rum distillery (based on molasses imported from St. Kitts), several plants producing aerated drinks, two tyre-recapping plants and some furniture factories. In general, the Government is encouraging the establishment of processing plants, particularly those suited to handle local agricultural produce.

## Transport and communications

78. There are about 163 miles of all-weather roads, 182 miles of rough motorable roads and 204 miles of tracks and byways. No road crosses the mountainous centre of the island. In 1968, a substantial amount of road building equipment was imported to carry out the island-wide road rehabilitation scheme.

79. The principal port is Kingstown. Regular cargo and passenger services are provided by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, Booth American Shipping Company, Fratelli Grimaldi Line, James Nourse Line, Harrison Line, Atlantic Line, West India Shipping Company, Lineac Line, Blue Ribbon Line, Saguenay Shipping, Ltd., Geest Industries (W.I.) Ltd., and other lines. Figures on ship movements and passenger traffic are given below:

|                      | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Steamships           | 262         | 321         | 307         |
| Inter-island vessels | 316         | 331         | 347         |
| Landed passengers    | 8,371       | 9,286       | 10,102      |
| Total cargo (tons)   | 60,964      | 50,700      | 42,188      |
| Tankers              | 34          | 23          | 23          |
| Total cargo (tons)   | 6,309       | 6,570       | 5,273       |
| Cruise ships         | 22          | 19          | 51          |

80. The airstrip at Arnos Vale, two miles south-east of Kingstown, is 4,800 feet in length. The Leeward Islands Air Transport AVRO-748s connect St. Vincent with Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia and Barbados. There is also a service between St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada maintained by the Leeward Islands Air Transport Twin Otters.

81. An automatic telephone system went into operation in February 1969. International telephone, telegraph and telex services are provided by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd.

## Trade

82. The following table shows the total value of exports and imports for the years 1965 to 1968:

|                        | <u>Exports</u>              | <u>Imports</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
|                        | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |                |
| 1965                   | 6,422,137                   | 14,808,502     |
| 1966                   | 5,827,073                   | 16,054,408     |
| 1967                   | 5,696,577                   | 15,808,406     |
| 1968 (January to June) | 2,898,067                   | 9,260,897      |

The principal exports are bananas, arrowroot, copra, nutmegs, sweet potatoes, cotton, and various root crops and spices. The principal imports include food-stuffs, cotton piecegoods, cement, timber, fertilizers and motor vehicles. Most of the Territory's trade is with the United Kingdom (about 60 per cent of exports and 30 per cent of imports), the United States of America and Canada.

83. Import duty is calculated on an ad valorem or specific basis, according to the nature of the article. Provision is made for the preferential tariff on goods of Commonwealth origin or content.

#### Public finance

84. The following table shows recurrent revenue and expenditure for the years 1967 and 1968:

|   | <u>Revenue</u>              |                  | <u>Expenditure</u> |                  |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|   | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |                  |                    |                  |
|   | <u>1967</u>                 | <u>1968</u>      | <u>1967</u>        | <u>1968</u>      |
| Local                                     | 5,255,021                   | 7,308,140        | 7,533,921          | 8,592,928        |
| Colonial Development<br>and Welfare funds | 108,346                     | 30,124           | 119,562            | 25,000           |
| Grant-in-aid                              | 1,931,889                   | 2,238,398        | -                  | -                |
| Overseas service aid                      | 35,241                      | -                | 37,981             | 38,784           |
| Total                                     | <u>7,330,497</u>            | <u>9,576,662</u> | <u>7,691,464</u>   | <u>8,656,712</u> |

85. Customs duties are the main source of revenue, followed by taxes. Customs duties totalled \$EC3,175,070 in 1968, compared with \$EC2,848,758 in 1967 and \$EC2,888,176 in 1966. Taxes amounted to \$EC1,706,634 in 1968, compared with \$EC1,484,166 in 1967 and \$EC1,216,670 in 1966. Among the items taxed in the Territory are entertainment, incomes, estates, stamps, land and houses. Licences required include licences for dealers, insurance companies, liquor sales, radio receivers, stills, motor vehicles and drivers. Provision is made for double taxation relief with regard to the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the United States and Switzerland.

86. There are three major commercial banks in the Territory: Barclays Bank D.C.O., the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Savings departments are also operated by the St. Vincent Agricultural Credit and Loan Bank, Ltd., the St. Vincent Co-operative Bank, Ltd., and the Government Savings Bank. On 3 February 1969, the Agricultural and Co-operative Bank of St. Vincent opened for service. Its object is to provide farmers and fishermen with capital loans to increase production of agricultural and fishing products; during the first six months of operations, the Bank approved loans totalling \$EC86,337.

#### External assistance

87. From April 1946 until the end of March 1968, the United Kingdom had committed a total of £2,925,847, mainly in the form of grants, from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for various schemes of social and economic development. The former included a school building programme, facilities for training civil servants, and (with the assistance of UNICEF) an environmental sanitation programme.

88. At the London Constitutional Conference held in June 1969 (see paras. 11-16 above) Lord Shepherd, the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, declared that the achievement of the new status of the Territory implied no discontinuation of the United Kingdom financial aid, both developmental and, so long as it was needed, budgetary. The level of aid would continue to be a matter for periodic discussions between the two Governments. In his address at the first meeting of the St. Vincent House of Assembly on 27 October 1969, Lord Shepherd declared, inter alia: "Although you have achieved this new relationship, we shall continue to help economically as we have done in the past. It is our aim that the aid which we have previously made available to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the form of development funds, technical assistance, training facilities, and the like, should continue."

89. United Nations technical assistance to the Territory has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to approximately \$US76,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning (improvement of land use, urban and rural development), handicrafts marketing, agricultural development, plant protection, water supply, hospital administration, telecommunications and postal administration.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Labour

90. The Minister for Trade and Production is responsible for the administration of the Department of Labour. The functions of the department include:  
(a) investigation of all representations made by employers or workers with a view to assisting in the adjustment of differences; (b) inspection of wages and conditions of work and enforcement of relevant labour legislation; (c) the study of wages, conditions of work and living conditions of workers with a view to

suggesting improvements; (d) advising employers and workers on the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance; (e) the collection, collation and publication of labour statistics; and (f) advising the Government on labour matters.

91. The total labour force is estimated at about 30,000; between 50 and 60 per cent of the working population is engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing. No up-to-date statistics are available for the Territory as a whole, but in Kingstown nearly half the urban labour force of about 4,000 is engaged in commerce, about a third in the service industries and less than 9 per cent in manufacturing. There is considerable seasonal unemployment in agriculture and in industries based on agricultural activities.

92. There are five trade unions in the Territory: the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union, the Civil Service Association, the St. Vincent Union of Teachers and the Secondary School Teachers' Association and the Commercial, Technical and Allied Workers' Union. There is also an association of employers, known as the St. Vincent Employers' Federation.

### Housing

93. The general housing standard in the Territory is low and the Government is faced with the task of both re-housing families living in slums and substandard properties and meeting the pressure for additional accommodation arising from an increasing population.

### Racial discrimination

94. The Constitution, provides, inter alia, that "no law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect" and that "no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority".

### Public health

95. Medical and health services are the responsibility of the Medical Department. Hospital facilities include the Kingstown General Hospital (270 beds), with an extension hospital for tuberculosis and other infectious diseases; a mental hospital with accommodation for 110 patients; the Lewis Punnett Home for the Aged Poor with 125 beds and a small leper asylum with 20 beds. Rural districts are served by three small hospitals of 16 to 20 beds at Georgetown, Bequia and Chateaubelair; there are, in addition 21 health centres and dispensaries. Maternal and child health clinics are held in Kingstown and in the rural clinics. The Government maintains a total of 538 hospital beds.

96. The birth-rate in 1966 was 42.0 per thousand (40.5 in 1965); the death-rate was 9.28 per thousand (8.9 in 1965), while the infant mortality-rate was 73.7 per thousand (73.4 in 1965). Up-to-date statistics are not available.

97. In 1968, recurrent expenditure on public health amounted to \$ECl,303,574 compared with \$ECl,159,130 in 1967 and \$ECl,153,028 in 1966.

## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

98. Primary education, which is free but not compulsory, is provided for children from five to fifteen years of age. The literacy rate is estimated to be 85 per cent. Following are the number of schools and pupils for the years 1965 to 1968:

|                                     | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Government primary schools          | 56          | 56          | 58          | 58          |
| Pupils                              | 25,541      | 26,262      | 26,992      | 27,199      |
| Government secondary schools        | 3           | 2           | 2           | 2           |
| Pupils                              | 624         | 671         | 724         | 800         |
| Private secondary schools           | 7           | 7           | 7           | 9           |
| Pupils                              | 1,876       | 2,182       | 1,742       | 1,937       |
| Government teacher-training schools | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Students                            | 299         | 150         | 257         | 239         |

99. Higher education is available at the various colleges or the University of the West Indies, to which St. Vincent is a contributing Territory. The St. Vincent's Teachers College, which began operation in October 1964, is affiliated to the University's Institute of Education and offers a basic course for locally certificated teachers. In 1968, the College expanded its programme to a two-year course.

100. Recurrent expenditure on education in 1968 amounted to \$EC1,647,048, compared with \$EC1,459,586 in 1967 and \$EC1,380,601 in 1966.

101. The Government Broadcasting Station is a substation of the Windward Islands Broadcasting Organization based at St. George's, Grenada. Television reception of Trinidad and Barbados programmes is possible in some localities. The Territory has four permanent cinemas. There is one weekly magazine, the Vincentian as well as two quarterly publications, with a combined circulation of about 5,000.





ANNEX II\*

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE III

Rapporteur: Mr. Farrokh Parsi (Iran)

ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, GRENADA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA,  
ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT

1. At its 737th meeting on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, inter alia, referred the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent to Sub-Committee III for its consideration.
2. The Sub-Committee took up the item at its 140th, 145th and 146th meetings on 29 April, 5 and 12 June 1970 (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.140, 145 and 146). Having considered the recommendations of the Working Group contained in its forty-seventh report (A/AC.109/L.623) approved by the Special Committee at its 737th meeting, in particular, those in paragraph 10 of the report, and after consultation with a number of members as well as the Chairman of the Special Committee, it appeared to the Sub-Committee that there was a wide measure of support for the view that this year consideration of the item should take place at plenary meetings of the Special Committee.
3. In the light of the foregoing, the Sub-Committee is of the view that this year the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent should be considered at plenary meetings of the Special Committee.

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.640.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, MONTserrat, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

#### A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 737th meeting on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, by adopting the forty-seventh report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.623), decided, inter alia, to refer the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands to Sub-Committee III for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the Territories at its 773rd and 775th meetings, on 21 and 29 October 1970.
3. In its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, as well as other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, concerning twenty-five Territories, including the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands; by paragraph 8 of that resolution the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution".
4. During its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to this chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee as well as by the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. The Special Committee also had before it a letter dated 15 May 1970 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Montserrat (A/AC.109/351).
6. At the 773rd meeting, on 21 October 1970, the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee III, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.773), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee concerning the Territories (see annex II to this chapter).
7. The Special Committee considered the report at its 773rd and 775th meetings, on 21 and 29 October 1970. Statements on the report were made by the representatives of Bulgaria, Ecuador, India, Iran, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America (A/AC.109/PV.775) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.109/PV.773 and 775).

8. At its 775th meeting the Special Committee decided:

(a) To delete the third sentence in sub-paragraph (9) of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Sub-Committee III, which read as follows: "In this connexion, the Committee recalls that a proposal was made for consideration of the possible establishment of a committee of experts to undertake a systematic study of economic, social and other development aspects concerning the smaller Territories."; and

(b) To add at the end of paragraph 4 of the report the following: "In connexion with sub-paragraph (9) of the conclusions and recommendations, some members recalled that a proposal was made for consideration of the possible establishment of a committee of experts to undertake a systematic study of economic, social and other development aspects concerning the smaller Territories".

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report as revised and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by certain members would be reflected in the record of the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraph 11 below.

10. On 5 November 1970, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

## B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

11. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 775th meeting on 29 October 1970, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below:

### (a) General conclusions and recommendations

(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, in particular those adopted at its session in 1969 and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territories.

(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territories to self-determination and independence.

(4) Fully aware of the special circumstances of geographical location, economic conditions and other specific factors pertaining to the Territories, the Special Committee reiterates its view that the question of size, limited population and restricted resources should in no way delay a speedy implementation of the Declaration with respect to these Territories.

(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Powers have failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territories.

(6) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Powers that they take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the peoples of the Territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

(7) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 7 of that resolution, according to which "the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status". It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the peoples of the Territories exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

(8) The Special Committee, considering that the information at its disposal does not enable it to assess in full the actual situation in the Territories or the degree of general awareness of the people concerning the exercise of their right to self-determination, urges once again the administering Powers to enable the United Nations to send visiting missions to the Territories, and to extend to them full co-operation and assistance.

(9) The Special Committee takes note of the number of projects which continue to be carried out in some of the Territories under the auspices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It maintains that such assistance in the economic and social development of all the Territories is useful and expresses the hope that it will be sought and increased.

(10) Mindful of the fact that the true feelings, aspirations and wishes of the peoples as well as the actual situation in the Territories can be ascertained only through direct contacts between the Special Committee and the people of these Territories, the Special Committee considers that it would be useful and desirable to invite in future various groups representing different shades of opinion in each Territory to participate in its meetings and to provide it with detailed first-hand information on current developments.

(11) The Special Committee expresses concern over the establishment in some of the Territories of separate economic and financial entities which are not subject to the control of government authority and requests the administering Power concerned to take measures which would safeguard the rights of the people of the Territories to dispose of their resources and to maintain control over their future development.

(b) Specific conclusions and recommendations

(12) The Special Committee notes with regret that no constitutional progress towards the full implementation of the Declaration has taken place in the Territories of Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the United States Virgin Islands, since the items were last examined by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly.

(13) The Special Committee takes note of the new Constitution introduced in the Bahamas in 1969 and expresses the hope that it will be followed by a speedy granting of independence to the Territory.

(14) The Special Committee again expresses its concern over the continuing racial inequalities prevailing in Bermuda and calls upon the administering Power to take effective measures to ensure that the people of the Territory are given equal opportunities without any distinction. It further urges the administering Power to take immediate steps for the full implementation of the Declaration with respect to the Territory.

(15) The Special Committee expresses its hope that the present process of consultations in the British Virgin Islands will bring about a substantive constitutional advancement, and will open the way towards a speedy implementation of the provisions of the Declaration.

(16) The Special Committee notes that in the Cayman Islands a committee consisting of all the elected members of the Legislative Assembly has been established to make recommendations for constitutional advancement. It recalls that the elected members of the Legislative Assembly had felt in 1967 that they had no clear mandate from the people at that time to recommend a move forward and it strongly urges that, in the forthcoming elections, the people of the Territory be given an opportunity to express their views regarding their future.

(17) The Special Committee welcomes the willingness of the Government of Montserrat to receive a visiting mission. It notes the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom that his delegation could not encourage the belief that, in general, proposals for visiting missions would be acceptable "although there was no question of categorically excluding the possibility of a visiting mission to any given Territory for all time". The Special Committee hopes that the United Kingdom's statement will be followed by more definite undertakings to admit a visiting mission to the Territory. The Special Committee expresses its hope that such a mission would, inter alia, also promote further United Nations assistance to the Territory.

(18) The Special Committee takes note of the new Constitution in the Turks and Caicos Islands and urges the administering Power to take further immediate measures for the realization of the objectives of the Declaration.

(19) The Special Committee expresses its concern over the unsatisfactory and even critical conditions of the alien population of the United States Virgin Islands and urges the administering Power to take further measures towards immediate solution of the most pressing problems in the fields of housing, welfare, economics and education. The Special Committee further appeals to the administering Power to take, without delay, the necessary measures towards full implementation of the objectives of the Declaration with respect to the Territory.

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ANNEX I

WORKING PAPERS PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. BAHAMAS\*

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.632 (Part I and Part II).

1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the Bahamas has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of the Bahamas in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Bahamas, in particular those adopted at its 613th meeting on 25 June 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

"(4) The Special Committee expresses its regret that, despite some advancement in the political field, the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to this Territory.

"(5) The Special Committee takes note of the new Constitution which came into effect in May 1969 and calls upon the administering Power to take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXIV, paras. 133-134; ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII para. 469; ibid., Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (Part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII, section II B; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVI, para. 9.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVI, para. 9.

"(6) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(7) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular, its decision contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which, 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(8) The Special Committee, considering that the information at its disposal does not enable it to assess the actual situation in the Territory or the degree of general awareness of the people concerning the exercise of their right to self-determination, urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including the Bahamas, the General Assembly inter alia approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. The Bahamas is an archipelago of about 700 islands, of which about thirty are inhabited, and over 2,000 rocks and cays, extending from the Florida coast of the United States of America for over 500 miles to the south-east. Andros is the largest island (about 2,300 square miles), but the most important is the relatively small and densely populated island of New Providence (with Nassau the capital city) and Grand Bahama (with Freeport the main city), the fourth largest in the chain. The total land area of the Territory is 5,386 square miles. The islands are generally long, narrow and low-lying; the highest point, on Cat Island, is 215 feet above sea level.

5. At the last census, taken in November 1963, the population was 130,220. The estimated population at 31 December 1969 was 187,000 compared with 145,896 at the end of 1967, 142,846 at the end of 1966 and 138,107 at the end of 1965. The population is very unevenly distributed. About two thirds of the people live on New Providence; in December 1967, the population of the island was estimated to be 100,000 (58,000 in Nassau), compared with 89,354 in December 1966, 85,967 at the end of 1965 and 80,907 at the 1963 census. Grand Bahama had about 22,408 inhabitants at the end of 1967, compared with 21,000 at the end of 1966 and 8,230 at the 1963 census. The population of Andros was estimated at about 8,000 at the end of 1967, compared with 7,461 at the 1963 census.

6. The population figures for the other principal islands at the 1963 census were as follows: Abaco, 6,490; Harbour Island, 997; Cat Island, 3,131; Long Island, 4,176; Mayaguana, 707; Eleuthera, 7,247; Exuma, 3,440; San Salvador, 968; Acklin's Island, 1,217; Crooked Island, 766; Inagua, 1,240; Bimini, 1,652; Spanish Wells, 849; and Ragged Island, 371. More than 80 per cent of the population is of African descent.

### B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

7. The present Constitution of the Bahamas is set out in the Bahama Islands (Constitution) Order, 1969, which came into force on 10 May 1969. <sup>d/</sup> The introduction of the new Constitution was preceded by a Constitutional Conference which was held in London between 19 and 27 September 1968. <sup>e/</sup>

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<sup>c/</sup> The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 20 June 1969 for the year ending 1968.

<sup>d/</sup> For details on the previous constitution see A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVI, annex I, paras. 8-18.

<sup>e/</sup> For detailed information see ibid., paras. 19-52.

(a) Title of the Territory

8. Under the new Constitution, the title of the Territory has been changed from "the Colony of the Bahama Islands" to "the Commonwealth of the Bahama Islands".

(b) Governor

9. The Governor is appointed by the Queen. He has such powers and duties in relation to the Territory "as are conferred or imposed on him by or under this Constitution or any other law and such other powers as Her Majesty may from time to time be pleased to assign to him". He performs all his functions according to such instructions, if any, as the Queen may give him. The Constitution provides that "the question whether or not the Governor has in any matter complied with any such instructions shall not be inquired into in any Court of law".

10. The Deputy Governor is appointed by the Governor in pursuance of instructions given by the Queen through a Secretary of State. The Governor, acting in his discretion, may authorize the Deputy Governor to exercise for him and on his behalf any or all of the functions of the office of Governor.

11. In exercise of his functions, the Governor is constitutionally required to "obtain and act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or of a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet".

12. This provision does not apply to the exercise by the Governor of responsibilities in matters concerning external affairs, defence, internal security or any function conferred upon him by the Constitution or any other law which is exercisable by him in his discretion.

13. The powers of the Governor to declare a state of public emergency are exercised by him after consultation with the Prime Minister; provided such a consultation, in the judgement of the Governor, is impracticable, that power can be exercised by him acting in his discretion.

14. Since 1965, the Governor of the Bahamas has also been Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

(c) Legislature

15. The legislature is bicameral and consists of a Senate and a House of Assembly. The legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory. The power of the legislature to make laws is exercised by bills passed by both chambers and assented to by the Queen or by the Governor on behalf of the Queen. The Governor may prorogue or dissolve the legislature at any time.

(i) Senate

16. The Senate consists of sixteen members of whom nine are appointed by the Governor acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, four on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and three after consultation with the Prime Minister and such other persons as the Governor, acting in his discretion, may decide to consult. The Senate elects a president and vice-president from among its members.

17. To qualify for membership in the Senate, a person must be a British subject of the age of thirty years or over; possess Bahamian status, and be resident in the Territory for a period of not less than five years immediately prior to his appointment.

18. The Senate can delay legislation, particularly taxation bills, for up to nine months instead of the fifteen months under the previous Constitution.

(ii) House of Assembly

19. The House of Assembly consists of thirty-eight members elected by universal adult suffrage. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected from among the members of the House who are not ministers or parliamentary secretaries.

20. A person is qualified to be elected as a member of the House if he is a British subject twenty-one years of age; possesses Bahamian status; and has been a resident of the Territory for at least five years and has resided there for at least six months before the date of his nomination for election.

(d) Cabinet

21. The Cabinet has the general direction and control of the Government of the Territory and is collectively responsible to the legislature. It consists of the Prime Minister and not less than eight other ministers. The Governor, acting in his discretion, appoints as Prime Minister the member of the House of Assembly who, in his judgement, is best able to command the confidence of a majority in the House. The other ministers are appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, from among the members of the Senate and of the House; at least one and not more than three ministers should be appointed from among the members of the Senate.

22. The Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may appoint parliamentary secretaries from among the members of the two chambers of the legislature to assist ministers in the performance of their functions.

(e) Security Council

23. The Constitution provides for a Security Council, consisting of the Governor (who is the chairman of the council), the Prime Minister, another minister, as may be designated by the Governor acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, and such other persons as may be appointed by the Governor acting after consultation with the Prime Minister.

24. The functions of the Council are "to consult together and exchange information on questions of policy relating to external affairs, defence, internal security and the police force". The Governor is required to consult the ministers, through the council, on matters which might involve the political, economic or financial interests of the Territory.

(f) External affairs

25. Following the Constitutional Conference, the United Kingdom Government delegated to Bahamas ministers authority for the conduct of external affairs as follows:

- (i) Authority to negotiate and conclude trade agreements with other countries, whether bilateral or multilateral, relating to the treatment of goods.
- (ii) Authority to arrange or permit visits of up to thirty days for trade or commercial purposes by representatives or residents of the Bahama Islands to any other country, and by representatives or residents of any other country to the Bahama Islands. Questions relating to the establishment of permanent or temporary representation of other countries in the Bahamas or of the Bahamas in other countries continue to be determined by the United Kingdom Government after consultation with the Government of the Bahama Islands.
- (iii) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements of purely local concern with any independent member of the Commonwealth or any Associated State or British dependent Territory or the United States of America or such other authorities as the Bahamas Government may request and the United Kingdom Government may approve.
- (iv) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements for technical assistance or of a cultural or scientific nature with any independent member of the Commonwealth or the United States or such other authorities as the Bahamas Government may request and the United Kingdom Government may approve.
- (v) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements with other countries, whether bilateral or multilateral, relating to migration to and from those countries and to migrant labour schemes.
- (vi) In addition, the United Kingdom Government expressed its readiness to give sympathetic consideration to any request by the Bahamas Government for authority to take action on individual questions of external relations not covered by the above provisions.

26. The authority referred to in paragraph 25 above does not extend to the negotiation and conclusion of trade agreements relating to establishment matters, i.e., those affecting the rights of persons and companies of the contracting parties, or agreements relating to civil aviation and shipping. These would continue to be dealt with through consultations between the United Kingdom Government and the Bahamas Government.

27. In view of the general responsibility of the United Kingdom Government for the external affairs of the Territory, the Bahamas Government would inform the United Kingdom Government in advance of any proposal for the exercise of the authority to conduct negotiations as indicated in paragraph 25 (i), (iii), (iv) and (v) above and to keep the United Kingdom Government informed of the progress



of any such negotiations. The United Kingdom Government would inform the Bahamas Government if it appeared that the actions or proposal of that Government conflicted, or might conflict, with the international commitments, responsibilities or policies of the United Kingdom Government. In that event, the Bahamas Government would have to abide by the decision of the United Kingdom Government.

28. At the Constitutional Conference, the United Kingdom representatives confirmed that their Government would be willing to assist in the training of officials from the Bahama Islands in external affairs. It would also consider the attachment of an official of the Bahamas Government to a mission exercising consular functions for persons who possessed Bahamian status, if such an appointment were at any time felt to be necessary. It would further consider the inclusion of a representative of the Bahamas Government, either as an adviser or as an observer or in some similar capacity, in any United Kingdom delegation attending international discussions on civil aviation, shipping or finance in which the interests of the Bahamas were materially involved.

### Judiciary

29. The Attorney-General for the Bahama Islands is appointed by the Governor, acting on recommendation of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. He has the following powers:

(a) To institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any person before any civil court established for the Bahama Islands in respect of any offence alleged to have been committed by that person;

(b) To take over and continue any criminal proceedings that have been instituted or undertaken by any other person or authority; and

(c) To discontinue, at any stage before judgement is delivered, any criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by himself or any other person or authority.

In the exercise of these powers, the Attorney-General is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

30. The Supreme Court for the Bahama Islands has "such powers and jurisdiction as may be provided by any law" being in force in the Territory. The judges of the court are the Chief Justice and such number of puisne judges as the legislature may by law prescribe. The Chief Justice is appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Prime Minister; the puisne judges are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Justice.

31. The Court of Appeal for the Bahama Islands has "such powers and jurisdiction as may be provided by any law" being in force in the Territory. The judges of the court are the President and such number of justices of appeal (not less than two) as the legislature may by law prescribe; they are appointed by the Governor acting after consultation with the Prime Minister. The court also has jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from the courts of the Turks and Caicos Islands "as may be prescribed by or under any law being in force in the Turks and Caicos Islands" (see also A/AC.109/L.619 Annex I.F below, paragraphs 15 to 17).

### Judicial and Legal Service Commission

32. Power to make appointments to the offices of Solicitor-General, Chief Magistrate, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar General, Crown Counsel and Legal Draftsman, and other public offices designated by the Governor, and to remove and to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices, lies with the Governor, acting on the recommendation of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. The commission consists of the Chief Justice as chairman, the Attorney-General, the chairman of the Public Service Commission and a person appointed by the Governor, acting after consultation with the Chief Justice from among persons who hold or have held or are qualified to hold high judicial office. The Constitution provides that a person shall be disqualified for appointment as a member of the commission if he is a member of either chamber of the legislature or a public officer.

### Public Service Commission

33. According to the Constitution, power to make appointments to public offices and to remove or exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices, is vested in the Governor, acting on recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The Commission consists of a chairman and not less than two and not more than four other members. They are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Prime Minister, for a period of not less than three and not more than six years; a person cannot be appointed as a member of the Commission if he is a member of either chamber of the legislature or a public officer. The Commission must consult with the Prime Minister before recommending to the Governor the appointment of a person to be a permanent secretary or the head of a department.

### Public Service Board of Appeal

34. The Public Service Board of Appeal is charged with hearing appeals in disciplinary cases from officers, subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. The chairman of the board is appointed by the Governor, acting in his discretion "from among persons who hold or have held high judicial office or are qualified to hold high judicial office". There are two other members; one is appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister and the other is appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice "of the appropriate representative body". Members of the legislature are disqualified from membership on the Board.

### Police Service Commission

35. Power to make appointments to the offices of Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police and to remove and to exercise disciplinary control over any person holding or acting in either of those offices is vested in the Governor, acting after consultation with the Police Service Commission. The Commission consists of a chairman and two other members appointed by the Governor acting after consultation with the Prime Minister. A person is disqualified for appointment as a member of the Commission if he is a member of either chamber of the legislature or a public officer.

### Auditor

36. The Auditor is appointed by the Governor, acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The accounts of the courts and all departments and offices of the Government of the Territory are audited and reported on annually by the Auditor.

### Bahamian status

37. The Constitution provides that a person possesses Bahamian status if:

(a) He is a British subject and was born in the Bahama Islands; or

(b) He is a British subject and was born outside the Bahama Islands of a father or mother who was born in the Bahama Islands; or

(c) He is a person who possesses Bahamian status under the provisions of any law being in force in the Bahama Islands; or

(d) He has obtained the status of a British subject by reason of the grant by the Governor of a certificate of naturalization under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, or the British Nationality Act, 1948; or

(e) She is the wife of a person to whom any of the foregoing provisions applies not living apart from such person under a decree of a court or a deed of separation; or

(f) Such person is the child, stepchild or lawfully adopted child under the age of eighteen years of a person to whom any of the foregoing provisions applies.

### Fundamental rights

38. The Constitution provides that every person in the Territory "is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual", without regard to his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest.

### Electoral arrangements

39. According to the Constitution, the Territory is divided into thirty-eight electoral areas, referred to as constituencies, of which "not less than sixteen nor more than twenty shall be in the Island of New Providence and not less than eighteen nor more than twenty-two shall be in the remainder of the Bahama Islands". Each constituency returns one member to the House of Assembly; the candidate who secures the highest vote in each constituency is declared elected. The votes cast for unsuccessful candidates in any constituency cannot be transferred to other candidates or to other constituencies.

40. A Constituencies Commission is charged with reviewing the boundaries of the constituencies at least once every five years. The Constitution provides that in

carrying out its review, the Commission "shall be guided by the general consideration that the number of voters entitled to vote for the purposes of electing every member of the House of Assembly shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be the same"; the Commission should also take account "of special considerations such as the needs of sparsely populated areas, the practicability of elected members maintaining contact with electors in such areas, size, physical features, natural boundaries, local government areas, geographical isolation and inadequacy of communications".

41. Any recommended changes in the boundaries of any constituencies must be submitted to the House of Assembly for its approval and to the Governor.

#### Future status of the Territory

42. On 20 June 1969, at the 125th meeting of Sub-Committee III of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the representative of the United Kingdom declared that "the new Constitution represented virtually the last stage before full self-government or independence" (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.125).

43. At the end of February 1970, the Prime Minister, Mr. Lynden O. Pindling, declared in a press interview that "the Bahamas will become independent within three years". On the question of the defence of the Territory, the Prime Minister said: "I have no doubt that when one comes down to defence matters proper we'll have to enter some kind of agreement either with the United States or with the United Kingdom, or both, or Canada as well".

#### Political parties

44. There are two main political parties in the Territory. The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), the present ruling party, is led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Lynden O. Pindling. The PLP draws most of its support from people of African descent, who form about 80 per cent of the Territory's population. The opposition United Bahamian Party (UBP) draws its main support from the minority of European descent, and is generally described as representing the Territory's commercial and industrial interests.

45. Formation of the new Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) was announced in October 1969. Mr. G.A. Simms, named as leader of the SDP, said that the party would be made up of black and white Bahamians. It was reported in January 1970 that the other two parties - the Labour Party (LP) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) (which was formed in 1965 by a group of former PLP members) - had opened merger talks "to create an absolutely new political party which would have to be created on the broadest possible base". The new party should form "a stronger and more viable opposition to the Government".

#### Elections

46. On 28 February 1968, the Prime Minister announced that he had advised the Governor to dissolve the House of Assembly on 1 March 1968, and hold general elections on 10 April 1968. This announcement followed the death of one of the

governing party's supporters in the House of Assembly on 18 February 1968, which left the Government with a majority of only one over the Opposition in the House.

47. The elections were contested by the PLP and the UBP; the NDP announced on 1 March 1968 that it would not contest the elections so as to give the electorate an unhampered opportunity to give a clear mandate to the Government, if it so wished. At the elections, the PLP won twenty-nine seats, the UBP won seven seats; the LP won one seat; and the remaining seat went to an independent. The total number of votes cast for PLP candidates was 31,850, and for UBP 12,966. Following the elections, Mr. Pindling, the leader of the PLP, formed a new Government.

48. In the middle of 1969, the House of Assembly passed a new Elections and Voting Act lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 years.

#### Hawksbill Creek Agreement

49. Freeport, on Grand Bahama Island, has attracted considerable foreign investment. In 1955, the Bahamas Government and a company known as the Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited (GBPA), entered into an agreement which was embodied in the Hawksbill Creek, Grand Bahama (Deep Water Harbour and Industrial Area) Act of 1955. This agreement awarded the Port Authority 50,000 acres of Government land, later expanded to almost 150,000 acres. The Authority undertook to dredge and construct a deep-water harbour, to promote and encourage the establishment of commercial and industrial undertakings and to provide such industrial and commercial facilities and social amenities as required; in addition, the Authority undertook to provide medical and educational facilities. The entire undertaking has been financed from private sources.

50. The Government, for its part, embodied the following concessions within the Act:

- (i) Until the year 2054, the Port Authority and its licencees will not be required to pay import duties (except on goods for personal consumption).
- (ii) Until the year 1990, no real property taxes, and no real property levies (whether capital or periodic) of any kind will be levied against any land, building or structure within the Freeport area; the Authority and its licencees will be free from personal property taxes, capital levies, capital gains taxes and capital appreciation taxes.
- (iii) The Authority and its licencees will pay no taxes of any kind against their earnings in the Freeport area; the employees of the Authority and its lessees or licencees (provided that they are ordinarily resident in the Freeport area) will pay no income tax on their salaries or bonuses.
- (iv) The Authority and its licencees will pay no excise duties (except on consumable goods imported into the Freeport area), no export duties or levies and no stamp duties on bank remittances.
- (v) The Authority has the right to issue licences to individuals and firms for the operation of businesses within the Freeport area; the licencees pay a percentage of their gross receipts to the Port Authority.

51. In November 1969, the Prime Minister was reported as saying that the Government "does not intend to permit any enclave claiming super or quasi-governmental powers to assume authority superior to that of the Government".

52. In February 1970, the House of Assembly passed an act, introduced by the Government, which nullified certain provisions of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement and set up a Commission of Inquiry "to examine all other aspects of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement". The main purpose of the act was to empower the Government of the Territory (and not the Port Authority) to decide "who can enter the Bahama Islands, when a person can enter, for how long to stay and for what purpose to enter, and that no one can enter without the permission or consent of the Government".

53. Speaking about the new legislation, the Prime Minister declared that since March 1969, when the Government began to apply the Territory's immigration laws to the Freeport area, some licencees of the Port Authority had demanded that the Port Authority reclaim the quasi-government rights originally held by it and had tried to force the Port Authority and the Government into arbitration on this issue. He said that the new legislation had been introduced "in order to put an end to this unfortunate state of affairs".

54. The Prime Minister was reported to have stated that under the Hawksbill Creek Act of 1955 the then Government of the Bahamas had given away vast powers to a private company known as the Grand Bahama Port Authority and that the act and its amendments, adopted in 1960 and 1965, had been troubling his Government since it came into power. The Prime Minister also stated that the new Act was "the first legislative step to regain the most important of the sovereign powers, that is the power of control over immigration".

#### Operation of casinos

55. In July 1969, the Lotteries and Gambling Act came into effect. It makes lotteries generally illegal except for charitable and other purposes approved by the Government. It also provides for a Gaming Board to control casinos and prohibits those who live, work or were born in the Territory from gambling.

56. In August 1969, a Casino Tax Act was adopted by the Legislature, setting new rates for casino taxation. The press reported that the new rates would increase by \$B4 million f/ annually the \$B13 million which casinos now pay to the Government in taxes.

57. At a press conference in November 1969, Prime Minister Pindling declared that the Government had no plans to permit the establishment of additional gambling casinos in the Territory other than the three now in operation. He said that the Government wished to ensure that undesirable elements did not enter the Bahamas.

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f/ One Bahamian dollar (\$B) is equivalent to \$US1.00. See also paragraph 96 below.

## Military installations

58. The largest military installation in the Bahamas is the Atlantic Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre (AUTEK) at Andros Island, established under the provisions of an agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, signed on 11 October 1963. The agreement qualifies the installation, which was formally opened on 14 April 1966, as a Centre for "underwater research, testing and evaluation of anti-submarine weapons, sonar tracking and communications". There is also an oceanographic research station, staffed by United States Navy personnel, at Governor's Harbour on Eleuthera Island; United States tracking stations are located at Gold Rock Creek and at High Rock on Grand Bahama, and at Governor's Harbour.

59. In February 1970, the United States Government closed the United States naval facility at San Salvador Island and returned it to the Government of the Territory. It was announced that the United States Government would continue to operate the Loran Coast Guard Station at San Salvador.

## C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

60. According to reports of the administering Power, the Territory has enjoyed a period of constant economic growth for the last several years. The main impetus for this development has come through the Government's programme for promoting tourism and associated service industries.

61. Major landmarks of economic development in the Territory in 1968 were the completion of the Nassau Harbour development scheme, the establishment of a sugar industry on the island of Abaco, the extension of the Nassau International Airport runway to 11,000 feet to accommodate jumbo jet liners, and the completion of plans and signing of contracts for the construction of a modern postal building.

62. Owing to the absence of income tax, the nominal excise duties and the liberal company taxation laws, considerable foreign investment has been attracted to the Territory. United States, Canadian and British companies are reported to have invested more than \$US2,000 million in the last eighteen years in land, hotels and other tourist attractions. The most spectacular tourist and industrial development has taken place at Freeport, a tract of Crown land made over by the Government to a private company in 1955 (see also paragraph 49 to 54 above and 64 to 66 below).

63. In March 1970, The Industries Encouragement Act, similar in part to the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, was passed in the House of Assembly. Under the Act, all earnings or dividends of plants in commercial operation before 31 December 1975 will be exempted from taxes of any kind, including real property taxes, licence fees and stamps, until 1990. Plants starting operations after 1 January 1976 will receive the same exemption for fifteen years. Real property, according to the legislation, includes the plant and all buildings and additions thereto on the parcel of land. All machinery and raw materials imported into the Bahamas or taken out of bond and all construction equipment and materials necessary in the construction and equipping of a plant are exempt from customs duties, emergency tax or tax thereon.

### Freeport

64. For the year ending 31 October 1968, the Grand Bahamas Port Authority reported a net income of \$B15.8 million (see para. 96 below), an increase of more than \$B4 million over 1967. In 1968, private capital investment in Freeport was estimated at \$B150 million.

65. In December 1968, stockholders of Benguet Consolidated, Incorporated, a Philippine-based company, approved the acquisition of 92.5 per cent of the shares of Grand Bahama Port Authority. The transaction involved an exchange of stock totalling 9,990,075 shares of Benguet in exchange for 2,010,000 shares of the Port Authority. It was reported that at current market value amount involved was about \$US149.8 million.



66. During the first eleven months of 1969, approximately 458,599 tourists visited Freeport, compared with 278,681 for the first eleven months in 1968 and 308,737 during the entire year. According to reports, Freeport is expected to have 4,278 hotel rooms by mid-1970, compared with 35 rooms in 1963, 1,841 rooms in 1965 and 2,516 rooms in 1967.

### Tourism

67. Tourism continued to be the Territory's most important industry. In 1968 and 1969, tourist activities accounted for about 80 per cent of the gross national product. Legislation exists to encourage the establishment of hotels and other industries by permitting the duty-free importation of essential items. There is now modern accommodation for about 20,000 people in the Territory. The principal tourist areas are concentrated around Nassau on New Providence and at Freeport on Grand Bahama.

68. It is estimated that a total of 1,332,396 tourists visited the Territory in 1969 (compared with 1,072,213 in 1968 and 915,273 in 1967). Expenditures by tourists in 1968 amounted to \$B186,000,000, compared with \$B124,866,390 in 1967. About 30 per cent of the tourist spending goes into the public treasury in the form of customs duties and departure tax. It is one of the main sources of the Territory's revenue for the development of social services and public works. According to statistics published by the Ministry of Tourism, an average visitor in 1968 stayed 5.4 days and spent about \$B180. About 87 per cent of all visitors came from the United States. Expenditure on tourism in 1968 was \$B6,160,230, compared with \$B5,499,405 in 1967 and \$B4,992,491 in 1966.

### Mineral resources

69. There are no mines operating in the Territory, but the calcereous deposits near Cat Cay have been surveyed with a view to commercial exploitation. As yet no oil has been found, but concessions have been granted to explore for oil in land and off-shore areas. All applications for licences and leases for oil explorations are dealt with by the Ministry of Development.

70. In April 1969, it was reported that Golden Eagle Caribbean, Ltd., a subsidiary of the Ultramar Company, Ltd. of London, had been granted a government oil exploration licence covering 2,552 square miles of land and sea in the vicinity of Eleuthera. In October 1969, it was announced that the Government had signed a long-term contract with Ocean Industries, Inc. (U.S.A.), which granted the company the right to mine, process and sell Bahamian aragonite, a natural form of limestone dredged from the ocean floor.

### Land, water and power supply

71. It is reported that about one third of all the land of the main islands has now been alienated to private developers. Land speculation has driven land prices to a very high level.

72. The Territory's great problem is lack of water. There are no streams or fresh-water lakes and the water supply has to be obtained either from shallow wells or from rain-water collected in catchments and cisterns. Several sea-water

evaporators have been installed. The water supply in New Providence throughout 1968 produced water on the average of four million gallons a day, in addition to production from private wells and rain-water catchments. There is a heavy investment in machinery to improve methods of water extraction from surface wells. The capacity was expected to be increased by a further 500,000 gallons a day during 1969 and was expected to reach eight million a day by 1975.

73. New Providence and Paradise Islands are served by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, a public body set up in 1965; the corporation is subject to the direction of the Ministry of Works on matters of policy. Thirty-four other electricity undertakings are licensed to operate in the Territory.

74. In 1968, the total number of units generated by the various power stations operated by the corporation amounted to 226,752,000 kw, compared with 174,905,340 kw in 1967 and 154,928,655 kw in 1966.

### Agriculture and livestock

75. Agriculture is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In 1968, arable land under cultivation was estimated at 50,000 acres. There are also about 3,200 acres of improved pasture. More than 3,000 acres on Andros and about 19,000 acres of pine land on Abaco have been used by the "off-shore" companies for growing sugar cane, pineapples and vegetable crops which are exported to the United States and Canadian markets. Apart from sugar-cane and pineapples, the principal crops of the Territory include fresh vegetables, tomatoes, bananas, citrus fruits, avocados, mangoes, eggplant, squash and sisal.

76. Farming enterprises are of two types, small holdings and large, highly specialized mechanized holdings. The small holdings are cultivated as family farms and supply the bulk of the local produce consumed by the home market.

77. In 1968, the total agricultural production (including fisheries) was valued at \$B13 million, of which about \$B2 million worth was exported. During the same year, over 66 per cent of the Territory's food-stuffs were imported, mainly from the United States.

78. Livestock is owned mainly by small farmers. The Government encourages the establishment of beef and dairy herds. The Territory is largely self-supporting in poultry products and partly in milk and fresh meat. Estimated numbers of livestock in 1967 were as follows: sheep, 22,900; goats, 14,100; pigs, 10,700; cattle, 3,460; horses, 3,600; and poultry, 650,000.

### Forestry

79. There are about 800,000 acres of forests in the Territory, most of which are the property of the Crown. Reafforestation work is so far limited to small experimental plots on two of the eastern islands. The three areas having exploitable timber are the islands of Grand Bahama, Great Abaco and Andros. Lumber production in 1968, which totalled 168,000 broad feet valued at approximately B\$3 million, was shipped to the United States.

## Fisheries

80. The fishing industry continued to be an important source of food and income for many Bahamians. It is estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 men are gainfully employed in the industry and that there are about 100 auxiliary powered craft in use. It is the policy of Government to reserve all aspects of the fishing industry - catching, processing and export - to the local citizens. There are no overseas fishing companies established in the Territory. In May 1969, a Fisheries Act was adopted which made it illegal for foreigners to fish within the twelve-mile limit. The Government bought four police patrol boats and two helicopters for use in enforcing this law. Most of the fisheries are concentrated around the north-western group of islands - New Providence, Abaco, Grand Bahama, Andros and the Berry Islands. Nassau is the main market for fish.

## Industry

81. In 1968, construction started at Freeport on a \$B60 million oil refinery, the first in the Bahamas. The refinery is being constructed by the Bahamas Oil Refining Company, jointly owned by the New England Petroleum Corporation (65 per cent) and Standard Oil Company of California (35 per cent). The plant is expected to be in operation in 1970 and will have an annual capacity of 10 million tons (200,000 barrels daily), making it one of the largest in the world. It is expected that it will attract a number of satellite petrochemical and other industries.

82. There are many other industries at Freeport, among them the Bahama Cement Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, with an annual production capacity of five million barrels of cement, and the Syntex Corporation, a large manufacturer of pharmaceuticals. Other industries include two concrete plants, a paint factory, a distillery, a plant for the production of reconstituted milk and a factory for the manufacture of rubber products. Altogether, some 50,000 acres are being developed at Freeport under a special agreement as an industrial, commercial and residential area.

83. There is also a new sugar factory at Snake Cay on Great Abaco Island, which was constructed by the Bahamas Agricultural Industries, Ltd. (subsidiary of Owens-Illinois, Incorporated); several canneries for processing tomatoes, pineapples and pigeon peas; and three factories in Nassau for processing crawfish. Straw work is produced as a cottage industry (baskets, hats, handbags, etc.) and visitors spend more than \$B1 million a year on these souvenir items.

84. Salt is extracted by solar radiation on Inagua and Long Island and exported in bulk form to the United States. In 1967, exports of salt were valued at \$B1,241,755, compared with \$B1,900,693 in 1966.

85. Prime Minister Pindling stated in November 1969 that some eighty industries were operating in the Territory. He listed among the possible new industries a brewery, a fish and shrimp processing plant, a paint manufacturing company and assembly plants for automotive parts and household goods.

## Building construction

86. All building plans must be approved by the Ministry of Works and the Town Planning Department. The value of building permits for the eleven months from

1 January to 30 November 1969 was \$B79,124,799, compared with \$B56,168,068 in 1968 and \$B47,302,716 in 1967. There were 2,052 applications for the first eleven months of 1969, an increase of 12.3 per cent over 1968.

87. In mid-1969, the Government announced that until further notice, it would not approve any more applications from non-Bahamians to engage in the business of renting and selling houses and apartments in Freeport.

#### Transport and communications

88. There are 204 miles of motorable roads on New Providence and about 350 miles on the other islands. At the end of 1968 there were about 42,000 registered motor vehicles, compared with 36,194 in 1967 and 28,602 in 1966.

89. The main seaports are Freeport (Grand Bahama), Matthew Town (Inagua) and Nassau (New Providence). Under the Nassau Harbour development scheme the harbour's main channel and turning basin were deepened in 1968 to accommodate all but four of the world's largest cruise ships; two breakwaters were built and an artificial island, called Arawak Cay, is destined to become a resort island with facilities for a modern freight terminal. On 25 February 1969, a new 1,227-foot long pier was officially opened by the Minister of Transport.

90. There are direct steamship connexions between the Territory and the United Kingdom (mainly cargo vessels), the United States, the West Indies and South America. The principal lines that call at Nassau and Freeport, in addition to cruise ship lines, are the Saguenay Shipping, Ltd., the Royal Mail Line, the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and the Royal Netherlands Line; the Harrison Line calls at Nassau.

91. The Territory has fifty-six airports and landing strips. The principal airport is situated at Nassau, New Providence (runway 11,000 feet), from which international air services are operated. The airport carries all facilities and is in operation twenty-four hours a day. The other principal airports are at Freeport, Grand Bahama (runway, 8,300 feet) and at West End, Grand Bahama (runway 8,000 feet). United States Air Force airfields are located at Grand Bahama (runway 7,200 feet), Mayaguana (runway, 7,700 feet), San Salvador (runway, 4,500 feet) and Eleuthera (runway, 6,000 feet). In mid-1969 a new airport with a 5,000-foot runway was opened in South Andros. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister announced that this was the start of a \$B16 million government plan to provide utilities and improved communications throughout the islands.

92. Commercial airlines in international services to the Territory include Air Canada, Bahamas Airways, Ltd., British Overseas Airways Corporation, Eastern Airlines, Pan American Airways, Qantas Empire Airways, Ltd. and Northeast Airlines. Internal air services are provided by Bahamas Airways, Ltd., which has daily flights between Nassau and most of the Out Islands. The Island Flying Service has a daily schedule service between Nassau and North Eleuthera, and, with Colony Airlines, provides charter services within the Bahamas and to Florida (United States). In 1968, about 818,900 passengers used the air services to and from the Territory.

93. The Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation operates all types of commercial telecommunications services, telegraph, telex, long distance and overseas and local telephone for the Territory, except private telephone systems serving the Freeport

area of Grand Bahama; certain areas of Andros and Spanish Wells, Eleuthera. A scheme for further development of the Territory's telecommunications system has been initiated and is expected to cost \$US20 million.

### Trade

94. The following table shows the total value of exports and imports in the years 1965 to 1968:

|            | (Bahamian dollars) |             |             |             |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|            | <u>1965</u>        | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
| Exports    | 15,975,967         | 22,780,583  | 32,270,861  | 52,500,000  |
| Imports    | 89,834,815         | 141,639,156 | 165,568,351 | 185,000,000 |
| Re-exports | 5,126,054          | 6,114,649   | 14,487,242  | ...         |

95. Principal exports are cement, pulp wood, crawfish, sponge, rum, salt, sugar, pineapples and vegetables. Principal imports include hardware, motor cars and trucks, iron and steel, machinery, electric goods, fuel oil, lumber, clothing, furniture, food-stuffs, consumer goods and medicines. Most of the Territory's trade is with the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

### Public finance

96. The official currency in the Territory is the Bahamian dollar, which replaced the pound sterling in 1966. Owing to the proximity of the Territory to the North American continent and its dependence on tourism, United States currency circulates freely and is accepted at the standard rate. On 2 February 1970, the Bahamian dollar, then worth \$US0.98, was revalued to the equivalent of 0.888671 grams of fine gold. As a result, the Bahamian dollar was put on a par with the United States dollar at \$2.40 to the pound sterling.

97. On 11 September 1968, the House of Assembly passed a bill setting up the Bahamas Monetary Authority; the bill received assent on 23 October 1968. The Authority is responsible for gathering economic information for economic planning and monetary control and provides liaison on financial matters between the Government and the public.

98. Customs duties are the main source of revenue, followed by licences and internal revenue. Customs duties totalled \$B36,039,664 in 1967, compared with \$B28,788,841 in 1966, \$B23,260,724 in 1965 and £6,875,588 in 1964. The preferential tariff for goods of Commonwealth origin is 10 per cent on most items; some basic food-stuffs from Commonwealth sources are admitted free of duty.

99. On 7 August 1969, the Government announced a major realignment of customs duties. Notable increases were on beer (up 200 per cent), spirits (up 25 per cent), cigarettes (up 40 per cent), automobiles (up 5 per cent), and gasoline (up 2-1/2 cents per gallon); it was reported that retail prices rose by similar proportions almost immediately. The duty increases were offset to some extent by reductions in duty on essential foods, clothing and medicine, but, according to reports, there was no general lowering of prices on these commodities.

100. Apart from a tax on real property of 12.5 per cent of assessed rental value, there is no direct taxation in the Territory. However, there is a general ad valorem duty of 20 per cent plus an emergency tax of 7-1/2 per cent ad valorem. Supplies for British armed forces and certain industrial and educational goods are exempt from duty.

101. The following table shows revenue and expenditure for the years 1966 to 1970:

|                 | <u>Revenue</u>     | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                 | (Bahamian dollars) |                    |
| 1966            | 52,264,463         | 44,749,690         |
| 1967            | 57,249,859         | 53,374,994         |
| 1968            | 61,609,463         | 66,230,345         |
| 1969 (estimate) | 78,705,619         | 78,261,330         |
| 1970 (estimate) | 97,552,171         | 97,030,221         |

102. A number of major banks operate in the Territory and some have branches at Freeport and on the Out Islands. The major banks include Bank of London and Montreal (BOLAM), Barclays Bank D.C.O., Butlers Bank Limited, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, E.D. Sassoon Banking Company Limited, First National City Bank of New York, Roy West Banking Corporation, the Bank of Nassau Limited, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, World Banking Corporation Limited, the Wellington Bank of Canada, Commonwealth Industrial Bank, International Bank of Washington, the Mercantile Bank of the Bahamas and the People's Penny Savings Bank. There is also a Post Office Savings Bank in Nassau (New Providence) with branches on the major Out Islands.

103. in January 1970, the Federal Reserve Board (United States) approved applications by the following eight banks to establish branches in Nassau: the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, the American Security and Trust Company, the First National Bank of Memphis, the First National Bank of St. Paul, the Liberty National Bank and Trust Company, the Bank of the Southwest, the Seattle First National Bank and the Valley National Bank of Arizona.

#### United Nations technical assistance

104. United Nations technical assistance to the Bahamas has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, assistance rendered to the Territory amounted to approximately the equivalent of \$US36,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of \$US50,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in town planning, concrete prefabrication and self-help housing and water supplies (DT/TA/P/L.1/Add.2, pages 15-18).

## D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

105. According to the report of the administering Power, at the end of 1968 the Territory was close to a state of full employment. In 1967, the total labour force was estimated at 65,000, an increase of 13,000 since the 1963 census was taken. More than a quarter of the labour force was engaged in the provision of personal services, including the hotel and catering industries; about 15 per cent worked in the construction industry; and a similar number were employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Of growing importance as a source of employment are firms supplying banking, investment and commercial services.

106. From figures released at the beginning of 1969 as a result of a manpower survey undertaken on behalf of the Government, it appears that by 1973 expatriates will account for 30 per cent of the labour force - nearly double the 1969 figure.

107. The Industrial Relations Charter, 1967, issued by the Ministry of Labour, sets out the reciprocal obligations and responsibilities of employers and trade unions in the settlement of labour disputes, and in having recourse to machinery for negotiations and conciliation.

108. No minimum wages order has yet been made; according to reports, 90 per cent of the population earns less than \$B100 a week, and 50 per cent of the population earns between \$B30 and \$B60 a week.

109. In 1968, there were fourteen trade unions and seven employers' associations registered in the Territory. In February 1969, a 120-member branch broke away from the Bahamas Transport, Agricultural, Distributive Allied Workers' Union, and formed Abako Agricultural and Allied Workers' Union. In March 1969, a new Petroleum and Utility Workers' Union was organized in Freeport.

110. There is no government social security scheme. The Government operates an old-age pension scheme and a geriatric hospital for the old and infirm; there is also a government Probation and Child Welfare Service.

### Cost of living

111. Prices of food tend to be high, especially as local food production is limited and much of the basic food-stuffs have to be imported. The high cost of living is also reflected in rents and hotel tariffs. In general, according to the report of the administering Power, the cost of living in the Territory is considerably higher than that in the United States or the United Kingdom.

112. The following table shows the retail price index for the period between 1 January 1966 to 31 December 1969:

Index

(1 January 1966 = 100)

| <u>Group</u>                                | <u>Weight</u> | <u>31 December</u><br><u>1966</u> | <u>31 December</u><br><u>1967</u> | <u>31 December</u><br><u>1968</u> | <u>31 December</u><br><u>1969</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Food  | 320           | 115.7                             | 120.8                             | ...                               | 132.8                             |
| Clothing and<br>footwear                    | 60            | 102.8                             | 103.4                             | 111.9                             | 110.9                             |
| Housing                                     | 180           | 101.2                             | 101.2                             | 111.7                             | 132.2                             |
| Fuel, electricity<br>and household<br>goods | 90            | 98.6                              | 102.6                             | 110.4                             | 111.6                             |
| Transport                                   | 100           | 100                               | 99.8                              | ...                               | ...                               |
| Other goods and<br>services                 | 250           | 107.2                             | 114.4                             | 133.5                             | 139.2                             |
| All items                                   | 1,000         | 106.9                             | 110.9                             | 116.7                             | 129.0                             |

113. In presenting the 1969 budget in the House of Assembly, the Minister of Finance warned that a rising cost of living and spiralling wages could pose a threat to the entire Bahamian economy. He pledged the Government's determination to tackle the problem in close consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, the trade unions and representatives of employers.

Racial discrimination

114. The Constitution provides, inter alia, that "no law shall make any provision which is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect" and that "no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority". The Constitution also states that "no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner in respect of access to any of the following places to which general public have access, namely, shops, hotels, restaurants, eating-houses, licensed premises, places of entertainment or places of resort".

115. In July 1969, Prime Minister Pindling, commenting on conditions in Freeport, charged that housing discrimination against black Bahamians was being practised by Freeport landlords and estate agencies. He said, "it appears that it was intended to plan the Bahamians right out of Freeport ... House and apartment owners give instructions to estate agents not to sell or rent to 'darkened' Bahamians, rents in Freeport are kept artificially high to out-price the ordinary Bahamian".

Public health

116. Medical and health services are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, of which the Chief Medical Officer is the executive officer. It is reported that the health of the population is generally good and no tropical diseases are active. The main diseases are chest ailments, diseases of early infancy and social diseases, the outcome of poor housing and sanitation in certain areas. The principal causes of death are gastro-enteritis, pneumonia, cancer, anaemia, tetanus and cirrhosis of the liver.



117. Immunization against smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and poliomyelitis is given at government clinics, and is a requirement for primary school entry.

118. There are four main government hospitals, with more than 800 beds; the Princess Margaret Hospital on New Providence Island, with approximately 500 beds, caters for general medical, surgical and paediatric cases, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology, pathology and chest diseases, including tuberculosis. The Ministry of Health also maintains forty-nine centres and clinics on the Out Islands. Altogether, there are 73 government doctors and dentists, 430 nurses and 50 technical staff members. Private hospitals provide 200 beds; there are about 80 private doctors and dentists, and about 70 nursing and technical staff in private practice. From February 1969, free medical attention has been available to all public service officers and employees, "provided government medical services are used throughout".

119. Live births in 1967 numbered 4,262, or 29.2 per thousand of the estimated population, compared with 4,627 births or 32.4 per thousand in 1966. There were 1,212 deaths or 8.3 per thousand in 1967, compared with 996 or 7.0 per thousand in 1966. The infant mortality-rate was 54.2 per thousand in 1967 compared with 36.0 in 1966; the number of still births was 156 in 1967 and 54 in 1966.

120. Total recurrent expenditure on health services was \$B7,407,310 in 1968 compared with \$B6,307,287 in 1967 and \$B4,947,451 in 1966.

#### E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

121. The Ministry of Education is responsible for the direction and control of all government-financed primary, secondary and further education. Education is free and compulsory between 5 and 14 years of age in government schools. Literacy is estimated to be 80 or 90 per cent.

122. The number of schools, children enrolled and teachers for the school years ending August 1966 and August 1967 were as follows:

|                            | <u>Schools</u>    |                   | <u>Children</u> |             | <u>Teachers</u> |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                            | <u>1966</u>       | <u>1967</u>       | <u>1966</u>     | <u>1967</u> | <u>1966</u>     | <u>1967</u> |
| <u>Primary schools</u>     |                   |                   |                 |             |                 |             |
| Government                 | 154 <sup>a/</sup> | 160 <sup>a/</sup> | 21,173          | 22,834      | 454             | 505         |
| Private and denominational | 63                | 68                | 9,821           | 10,175      | 268             | 321         |
| <u>Secondary schools</u>   |                   |                   |                 |             |                 |             |
| Government                 | 129 <sup>b/</sup> | 136 <sup>b/</sup> | 8,336           | 9,743       | 170             | 221         |
| Private and denominational |                   |                   |                 |             |                 |             |
| Aided                      | 14                | 15                | 2,194           | 2,927       | 111             | 144         |
| Unaided                    | 10                | 8                 | 1,323           | 778         | 54              | 44          |

a/ Including all-age rural schools.

b/ Secondary sections of all-age schools were reclassified as separate schools in 1966.

123. During 1968, the average school attendance in New Providence was 14,000 in the primary schools and 10,000 in the secondary schools. Several thousand students attended evening classes. The total attendance on all the other islands was 19,000.

124. The Technical College and Technical Centre provides full-time as well as part-time and evening courses in technical and commercial subjects, crafts and the hotel trade. The Bahamas Teachers College provides full-time teacher-training courses.

125. There are also some special schools, such as the Deaf Centre, which is run by the Ministry of Education in association with the Bahamas Branch of the British Red Cross; the School for the Blind, which is subsidized by the Ministry of Welfare and the Salvation Army; and the School for Retarded Children, which receives grants-in-aid.

126. There are no institutions of higher learning, but the Bahamas have a special relationship with the University of the West Indies to which Bahamian students are admitted. A number of Bahamians enter universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Government provides scholarships to the University of the West Indies and other institutions abroad.

127. In 1968, expenditure on education was \$B10,687,550, compared with \$B7,316,887 in 1967 and \$B4,879,735 in 1966.



B. BERMUDA\*

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.630.

1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of Bermuda has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory, in particular those adopted at its 603rd and 613th meetings on 17 May and 25 June 1968, and those approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

"(4) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territory.

"(5) The Special Committee notes with regret that no significant constitutional progress towards the implementation of the Declaration has taken place in the Territory since the item was last examined by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly in 1968.

"(6) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXIV, paras. 133-134; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII para. 469; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1,033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII, section II A; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXV, para. 11.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXV, para. 11.

"(7) The Special Committee expresses its concern over the racial inequalities and discrimination prevailing in the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to take effective measures, in addition to the legislative measures which have been introduced, to ensure that the people of the Territory are given equal opportunities without any distinction.

"(8) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(9) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution according to which, 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(10) The Special Committee, considering that the information at its disposal does not enable it to assess the actual situation in the Territory or the degree of general awareness of the people concerning the exercise of their right to self-determination, urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including Bermuda, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. The Bermudas or Somers Islands are a group of small islands in the western Atlantic Ocean, about 570 miles east of the North Carolina coast of the United States of America. They consist of about 150 islands and islets. The ten principal islands are connected by bridges or causeways and are about 22 miles long with an average width ranging from one half to one mile. Until 1940 the islands had a total area (including a small lake and a few ponds aggregating about half a square mile) of 19.34 square miles. The United States authorities, by uniting and enlarging some of the islands with material dredged from the surrounding area, increased that area by 1.25 square miles to a total of 20.59 square miles, of which 2.97 square miles are at present leased to the Government of the United States of America for naval and military bases. The islands are generally hilly with a maximum elevation of 259.4 feet above sea level. The largest island, known as the main island, which is about 14 miles long and two miles wide, lies approximately in the centre of the group and contains about 9,000 acres of land.

5. Hamilton, the capital since 1815, which has an estimated population of about 3,000, is situated on the main island. The town of St. George on St. George's Island, the former capital, has an estimated population of 2,000. At the last census, taken in 1960, the population was 42,640, compared with 37,403 in 1950. At December 1968, the estimated total resident civilian population was 50,677, compared with 49,748 at June 1967. The density of the population based on an area of 18.29 square miles was 2,753 per square mile at mid-year 1968. About two-thirds of the population is of African or mixed descent and the remainder is of European origin.

### B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

6. The Constitution, which came into force on 8 June 1968, is set out in the Bermuda Constitution Order, 1968.

#### (a) Governor

7. Executive authority is exercised by the Governor, who is appointed by the Queen. Generally, he is required to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Constitution reserves certain powers concerned with

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<sup>c/</sup> The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 14 July 1969 for the year ending 31 December 1968.

external affairs, defence (including armed forces), internal security and control of the police to be exercised by the Governor in his discretion, provided that "he keeps the Executive Council informed of any matters which may involve the economic or financial interests of Bermuda or the enactment of laws by the Legislature".

(b) Legislature

8. The legislature consists of a Legislative Council and a House of Assembly. The legislature may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Bermuda, subject to the assent of the Governor.

9. The Legislative Council consists of eleven members of whom four are appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Government Leader; two by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition; and five by the Governor, acting in his discretion. The Council elects a president and a vice-president from among its members.

10. The House of Assembly consists of forty elected members. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected from among the members of the House. Other key figures in the House are the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition, both appointed by the Governor.

(c) Executive Council

11. The Executive Council has responsibility for the day-to-day affairs of the Territory and is collectively responsible to the legislature. The Council consists of the Government Leader and not less than six other members; the maximum number of members of the Council is twelve, including parliamentary secretaries. The Governor, acting in his discretion, appoints as the Government Leader the member of the House of Assembly who appears to him to be best able to command the confidence of a majority in the House. The other members of the Council are appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Government Leader. Not more than two members are appointed from among the members of the Legislative Council; the others are appointed from among the members of the House of Assembly. The Council is presided over by the Governor.

12. In addition to the Government Leader, the present Executive Council consists of members for labour and immigration; finance; education; tourism and trade; works and agriculture; health and welfare; marine and air services; planning; transport and organization. A member without portfolio is particularly concerned with youth activities. Parliamentary secretaries have been appointed for finance, education and aviation. The Secretary to the Executive Council is head of the civil service. Each member is responsible for the general administration and direction of the departments of government assigned to him.

13. A Public Service Commission advises the Governor on appointments, promotions and discipline in the civil service. In 1968, the service comprised 1,148 officers; of the 170 expatriates, 145 were serving under contract. Of the 70 senior posts, 23 were filled by expatriates.



## Electoral arrangements

14. Members of the House of Assembly are elected under a system of universal adult franchise. A person is qualified to be registered as an elector: (a) if he is a British subject aged twenty-one years or over; and (b) if he either possesses Bermudian status or has been ordinarily resident in the Territory throughout the three-year period immediately preceding the election. For the purpose of elections, the parish of Pembroke is divided into four constituencies and each of the other eight parishes of the Territory is divided into two constituencies. Each constituency returns two members to the House of Assembly.

## Judiciary

15. The system of law in force in the Territory is the common law, the doctrines of equity and Acts of Parliament of general application. The Attorney General is the principal legal adviser to the Government and is responsible for criminal proceedings under the law. The Supreme Court is a superior court of record; the court enjoys unlimited jurisdiction in all divisions of the law. It consists of a Chief Justice and judges whose number is prescribed by the legislature. The Court of Appeal consists of a president and two justices of appeal. The Court of Summary Jurisdiction has jurisdiction over all petty offences, as well as over some less serious criminal offences, and has limited civil jurisdiction. Two magistrates preside over courts of summary jurisdiction, held in Hamilton, St. George and Somerset.

## Local government

16. The city of Hamilton and the town of St. George are each governed by a corporation, consisting of an elected mayor, aldermen and councillors. The main sources of revenue are charges for water and dock facilities and municipal taxes. Elsewhere in the Territory, the main unit of local government is the parish (of which there are nine). The parish vestries, which are elected annually, raise revenue by means of levies on land and personal property and have authority to manage local affairs.

17. On 20 January 1970, the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) announced its decision to boycott the parish vestry elections. It stated that "these elections, based on a limited franchise of property qualifications, are undemocratic and unconstitutional". In the House of Assembly, its members charged that "everyone in the parish paid taxes in one form or another, but only property owners were allowed to vote".

## Political parties

18. There are three political parties in the Territory: the Progressive Labour Party (PLP), the first political party in the Territory, formed in May 1963; the United Bermuda Party (UBP), formed in August 1964; and the Bermuda Democratic Party (BDP), formed in March 1967. In August 1969, the UBP formed its youth branch, Young Bermuda United (YBU).

19. On 10 May 1968, Mr. R. Brown, an organizer for the PLP, stated before Sub-Committee III of the Special Committee, that if his party won the election, it would try to obtain, in consultation with the United Kingdom Government, a better constitution in preparation for self-determination and independence. He also stated that it was difficult to say whether the island was ready for independence, particularly in such areas as defence, but that its leaders wanted to have complete freedom to achieve progress for the Territory (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.105).

#### General elections

20. General elections, held on 22 May 1968, were organized under the new Constitution; 91.4 per cent of the 20,918 registered voters went to the polls. The UBP candidates received 21,346 votes and won thirty seats. The PLP candidates received 12,951 votes and won ten seats. The BDP candidates received 2,517 votes and the independents 883 votes; neither the BDP nor any of the nine independent candidates won seats. The UBP, having obtained a majority of votes, Sir Henry Tucker, Parliamentary Leader of the party, was invited by the Governor to accept office as Leader of the Government. The head of the PLP, Mrs. Lois M. Browne-Evans, was appointed Leader of the Opposition in the new House of Assembly. In January 1970, the Government Leader stated that the next election would take place "in early 1973 or earlier".

#### Other developments

21. On 24 January 1969, the commission appointed by the Governor to inquire into the events of April 1968, submitted its report. d/ In a statement, issued in March 1969, the Government of Bermuda expressed support for a number of the commission's conclusions and declared, inter alia: "The Government wishes to make it absolutely clear, both inside and outside Bermuda that it will not tolerate attempts by any groups or individuals to foment racial discord; and that vigorous action will be taken under the proposed race relations legislation and other relevant legislation against those who seek to disrupt our society in this way." The Government also endorsed the view of the commission that "in true integration and confidence among the races lies the key to the future in Bermuda".

22. In October 1969, the Youth Wing of the opposition PLP sent a petition to the Governor, calling among other things for the immediate convening of a constitutional conference to ensure, inter alia: (a) lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18; and (b) immediate internal self-government for the Territory and a date for independence.

#### Military installations

23. In 1941, 1.08 square miles of the Territory were leased for naval and air bases to the Government of the United States; the bases are known as the Kindley Air Force Base and the King's Point Naval Base. The United States

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d/ For details see A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXV, paras. 27 to 31; and A/7200/Add.10, annex I, paras. 35 to 41.

bases occupy a total area of 2.97 square miles. By an agreement dated 24 February 1948, between the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, Kindley Air Force Field was opened to civil aircraft. In 1968, the United States Air Force released 20.42 acres of Kindley Field for extension of the civil air terminal.

24. On 19 June 1969, the United States Consul General in Bermuda, Mr. Charles N. Manning, made the following statement concerning the transfer of the operations at Kindley Air Force Base from the United States Air Force to the United States Navy:

"Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Bermuda are working with the United States officials to develop plans for the transfer of the operation of Kindley Field and associated facilities in Bermuda from the U.S. Air Force to the U.S. Navy. Transfer will be accomplished in the next twelve months. Officials of the U.S. Department of Defense have concluded that Bermuda is growing increasingly important to operations of the U.S. Navy, particularly for antisubmarine patrol operations, and decreasingly important to the Air Force. They cite the fact that longer range aircraft now in use by the Air Force have made stationing on Bermuda and refueling operations from it less necessary for routing operations over the Atlantic Ocean.

"This realignment of operational responsibilities at Kindley in no way reduces the significance which the United States Government attaches to our continuing military presence in Bermuda. The importance of both Kindley and the Naval Station will continue for the unforeseeable future. The civil air operations at Kindley will not be affected by the transfer to the Navy."

Vice Admiral Robert L. Townsend, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, stated on 7 December 1969 that there were no plans to close down the United States Naval Station in Southampton after the navy has taken over Kindley Air Force Base in 1970. He said that the navy would run both stations.

## C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

25. As reported by the administering Power, the economy of Bermuda has continued to be largely dependent on the tourist industry and on the provision of services to the United States military bases. Other economic activities include repairs to shipping and light industries in the Freeport area; among the companies operating in the area are the mineral water concerns of Canada Dry and Pepsi-Cola, and the pharmaceutical company, Merck, Sharp and Dohme. These companies are exempted from customs duties on raw materials, on all machinery and equipment imported into Freeport and on all goods exported to places outside Bermuda; their earnings in the area are also exempt from taxation.

26. The annual 1969 report of the Bank of Bermuda stated inter alia, that during the year "business from abroad has continued to flow to Bermuda, and the number and type of overseas companies have greatly increased"; the report stressed that there are "many advantages in operating from Bermuda particularly for shipping and insurance companies, as well as investment, trading and finance companies".

27. The Industrial Development Council, set up by the Government in 1968 to help diversify the Territory's economy, has the following main tasks: (a) to determine the types of industry and manufacture available to, and suitable for, Bermuda; (b) to co-ordinate information on potential industries and disseminate it to Bermuda business; (c) to recommend methods of encouraging, soliciting and advertising for investment by overseas industrial concerns; and (d) to frame regulations to protect the Territory's main industry, tourism, from interference by the new industries.

28. According to the Industrial Development Act, 1968, the Governor is empowered to grant concessions to undertakings carrying out schemes for the economic development of any part of the Territory which have been approved by both houses of the legislature. The concessions which may be granted are deferral of customs duties, the relaxation of some immigration restrictions and the granting of certain privileges relating to the leasing of land.

### Public works

29. The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all public works, public buildings, highways and Crown lands. In 1968, expenditure on current works, primarily new government buildings, road improvements and the maintenance of existing buildings and roads, including administrative costs, amounted to £1,607,086. e/

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e/ Until February 1970 the currency unit of Bermuda was the Bermuda pound, which was equivalent to one pound sterling or \$US2.40. See also paragraph 66 below.

## Tourism

30. Responsibility for the promotion of tourism rests with the Department of Tourism and Trade Development which has its head office in Bermuda and branch offices in London (England), New York and Chicago (United States) and Toronto (Canada).

31. The economy of the Territory continued to depend primarily on the tourist industry, which provides about 90 per cent of Bermuda's over-all revenue and about 40 per cent of its dollar earnings. In 1968, the tourist industry had an estimated value to Bermuda of £26,117,953, compared with £18,421,631 in 1967, £14,477,000 in 1966 and £13,750,000 in 1965. The gradual expansion of tourist facilities is reflected in the increased number of hotel beds which rose from 5,140 in 1965 to 6,175 in 1968. It is estimated that at present the hotel industry employs about 15 per cent of the Territory's labour force.

32. The following table shows the number of tourists and cruise passengers in the years 1965 to 1968:

|      | <u>Tourists</u> | <u>Cruise passengers</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1965 | 187,265         | 50,517                   | 237,782      |
| 1966 | 210,598         | 46,174                   | 256,772      |
| 1967 | 237,163         | 44,004                   | 281,167      |
| 1968 | 267,442         | 63,937                   | 331,379      |

33. In 1968, the pattern of tourist origins changed slightly as a result of increased traffic from the United States and Canada and a reduction in the number of visitors from the United Kingdom. Of the total number of visitors arriving in the Territory, about 83 per cent came from the United States, nearly 11 per cent from Canada, under 4 per cent from the United Kingdom and the remainder from other countries.

## Land

34. The continued increase in the population, intensified housing construction and the growing tourist industry have further encroached on the land available for agriculture. In 1968, a total of about 795 acres remained for agricultural purposes, compared with 920 acres in 1967, 930 in 1966 and 945 in 1965.

## Water

35. There are neither rivers nor lakes in the Territory. The Territory is dependent for its fresh water supply primarily on rainfall, which averages 58 inches annually; it is usually distributed fairly evenly throughout each year, and is generally adequate for local agriculture and normal domestic and other purposes. The Government and several large concerns operate sea-water distillation plants. The salt content of samples taken from Pembroke Marsh East during 1968/69 remained too high to consider developing it as a source of potable water. More encouraging results were obtained from preliminary pumping tests from two trial pits dug at the civil air terminal and the feasibility of developing the land at the Terminal as a reservoir is being pursued.

## Power supply

36. Electric power for public use is provided by the Bermuda Electric Light Company, Limited. Electric power for all purposes is provided by diesel driven generators. The total installed capacity, estimated at 51,640 kw in 1967, is expected to be increased to 66,340 kw in 1970. There are no gas-works in the Territory and the only available gas, used mainly for cooking, is produced and distributed locally from ingredients imported in bulk from abroad.

## Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries

37. Agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries who is advised by a board consisting of eleven members appointed annually.

38. Tenant farming accounts for about 80 per cent of the land under cultivation, principally in small holdings of less than ten acres each. These are leased to farmers who normally pay their rent after the crops have been harvested.

39. Most of the land available for agriculture is planted with vegetables and fruit. The principal crops are bananas, potatoes and citrus fruit. Nevertheless, four-fifths of all food consumed in the Territory in 1968 had to be imported from overseas.

40. Easter lilies are cultivated for export. In 1968, 241,600 bulbs were planted and 1,953 boxes of flowers valued at £9,608 were exported to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Owing to high labour costs and the shortage of suitable land, it is not expected that Easter lily cultivation will be expanded beyond the present four to five acres.

41. The steadily diminishing area of agricultural land has resulted in a corresponding reduction of pasture land. The recorded production of animal products in 1967 and 1968 was as follows:

| <u>Commodity</u>       | <u>1967</u>     |                          | <u>1968</u>     |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
|                        | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
| Beef and<br>veal (lbs) | 175,740         | 13,180                   | 232,600         | 15,157                   |
| Pork (lbs)             | 160,320         | 16,032                   | 209,400         | 20,940                   |
| Poultry (lbs)          | 60,000          | 6,000                    | 66,000          | 6,600                    |
| Milk (gals)            | 857,598         | 299,689                  | 724,580         | 301,078                  |
| Eggs (doz.)            | 1,175,000       | 337,812                  | 1,186,750       | 370,860                  |

42. The reforestation scheme started in 1949 as a result of losing 80 per cent of the native cedar trees through a severe infestation, continued in 1968, but on a much reduced scale.

43. The Territory has a small fishing industry. Of the 535 registered fishermen, only about 100 are engaged in full-time fishing. Approximately 1,450,000 pounds of fish and 140,000 pounds of spiny lobsters are landed annually, at a value of about £300,000. Research is being conducted at the government aquarium into the development potential of deep sea fishing.

44. To help professional fishermen lower their operating costs, the Government continues to pay them grants equivalent to the customs duties payable on certain essential fisheries equipment; the fishermen are required to submit regular statistical information on their daily landings and operating expenses. A government freezing and cold storage plant, established in 1963, is available to commercial fishermen on a rental basis.

### Industry

45. The main industries are ship repairing, small boat building and cedar woodwork for carpentry. Others include the production of furniture, cedar-wood ornaments and souvenirs, the distillation of various perfumes, flavouring extracts, pharmaceuticals, mineral water extracts, etc.

46. There is also a government quarry, which produced 26,602 tons of stone in 1968. The end product is primarily asphalt premix (21,520 tons), crushed aggregate for road foundations and concrete for building construction.

### Transport and communications

47. The Government's transport policies and the business of the Public Service Vehicles Licensing Board are carried out through the Director of the Transport Control Department.

48. Public passenger transportation is operated by the Public Transportation Board, a government body, which operates a fleet of ninety-seven buses. Passengers numbered 3,986,156 in 1968, compared with 3,458,572 in 1967.

49. The Territory has 132 miles of public roads, most of which are surfaced, including 3.55 miles of roads reserved for cyclists and pedestrians. The number of mechanized vehicles licensed in 1967 and 1968 was as follows:

|                                     | <u>1967</u>   | <u>1968</u>   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Private passenger cars              | 8,636         | 9,255         |
| Public service vehicles (passenger) | 610           | 612           |
| Motor lorries or trucks             | 1,442         | 1,525         |
| Miscellaneous                       | 881           | 541           |
| Motor cycles and bicycles           | <u>17,517</u> | <u>17,707</u> |
| Total                               | 29,086        | 29,640        |

50. An administrative board, the Ports Authority, co-ordinates the development of all ports and regulates their operations. There are three main ports: Hamilton, St. George and Freeport. The principal port is Hamilton, a land-locked harbour at the centre of the main island; the total length of berths in Hamilton is 1,650 feet and there are off-shore anchorages for large vessels. St. George's port has a total length of berths of 1,036 feet. On the north of St. George's Island there is an oil dock operated by Esso Standard Oil S.A. Freeport, on Ireland Island, has two deep-water basins and the main wharf is 800 feet in length. The Shell Company of Bermuda, Ltd. operates for commercial use the former Royal Navy fuelling depot.

51. Passenger and cargo services are maintained, with varying frequency and regularity, with all parts of the world by the following shipping lines: Alcoa, American Union Transport, Bermuda Shipping Company, Booth-Import, Cunard, Furness-Withy, Independent Gulf Line, Isbrandtsen, Manz, Pacific Steam Navigation, Royal Mail, Royal Netherlands Steamship Company and Saguenay Shipping Lines. A total of 5,364,371 gross tons of shipping (775 vessels) were entered and cleared in the Territory during 1968.

52. The only airfield is at the United States Air Force Base, Kindley Field, which was originally constructed in 1943 solely for military purposes. In 1948, this base was opened to civil aircraft under an agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. The base is leased to the United States Government for ninety-nine years; both military and civil aircraft use the same runways and technical facilities. The airfield and its technical services are administered by the United States Air Force (see also paragraphs 23-24 above).

53. General expansion and development of the airport continued throughout 1968 and 1969 to provide facilities for "jumbo" jets and the handling of passengers at the rate of 700 per hour. Air cargo facilities at the air terminal have been expanded considerably, to 12,000 square feet of handling space. Among the commercial airlines providing service to the Territory are Air Canada, British Overseas Airways Corporation, Eastern Airlines, Pan American Airways and Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. The following table shows the number of aircraft arrivals and passengers handled during the years 1965-1968:

|                                 | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Scheduled aircraft arrivals     | 3,242       | 3,385       | 4,110       | 5,112       |
| Non-scheduled aircraft arrivals | 360         | 464         | 380         | 640         |
| Passengers handled              | 578,533     | 631,649     | 721,782     | 828,929     |

54. Overseas communication channels are provided by Cable and Wireless, Ltd. which also operates telegraph offices for the acceptance of cables in Hamilton, St. George and Kindley Field. The overseas telephone service is operated by the Bermuda Telephone Company, Limited. Cable and Wireless, Ltd. also provides international telex services. The co-axial cable from Bermuda to New Jersey (United States) is jointly owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd. and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.



## Trade

55. The value of trade during the years 1965 to 1968 was as follows (in pounds sterling):

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total imports a/</u> | <u>Recorded re-exports</u> | <u>Local exports</u> | <u>Total exports</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1965        | 20,942,177              | 18,505,657                 | 945,723              | 19,451,379           |
| 1966        | 23,665,281              | 18,464,277                 | 723,680              | 19,187,957           |
| 1967        | 24,697,462              | 21,142,744                 | 558,878              | 21,701,622           |
| 1968        | 30,449,458              | 26,737,131                 | 784,284              | 27,521,415           |

a/ Excluding imports into Ireland Island, Freeport which amounted to £15,424,724, £14,584,197, £16,686,237 and £22,308,931 respectively in the years 1965 to 1968.

56. Although the visible balance of trade continued to be adverse, there was substantial and fully compensating revenue in 1967 and 1968 from invisible items, including the tourist business; repairs to shipping; accommodation, goods and services supplied to the United States bases in the Territory; considerable investments of United Kingdom capital in Bermudian enterprises at generally low rates of interest; and the continued establishment in Bermuda of large numbers of international companies which involved payment of a government fee of £200 each per annum, as well as substantial legal, banking and accountant fees and other local expenditure. The operation of Freeport also earned revenue for the Territory from rents, services, etc., so that the over-all balance of trade was favourable.

57. Principal exports are concentrated essences, beauty preparations, pharmaceutical items and flowers. Principal imports include food-stuffs, consumer goods, electrical supplies, hardware, timber, clothing, furniture, motor vehicles, gasoline and diesel oil. Principal re-exports include pharmaceutical items, bunkers, liquor, aircraft, supplies, machinery, house effects, motor vehicles and parts and consumer goods. The following table shows principal re-exports during the years 1967 and 1968:

| <u>Commodity</u>              | <u>1967</u>     |                          | <u>1968</u>     |                          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
|                               | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
| Concentrated essences (pkgs.) | 7,209           | 335,964                  | 8,006           | 450,855                  |
| Flowers, cut (crates)         | 2,071           | 8,098                    | 1,953           | 9,608                    |
| Pharmaceuticals (pkgs.)       | -               | 35,255                   | 90              | 32,609                   |
| Beauty preparations (pkgs.)   | 10              | 55,018                   | 9               | 58,806                   |

58. Most of the Territory's exports go to the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. The bulk of the imports originate in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Caribbean area. The following table shows the total value of exports by countries of destination in the years 1967 and 1968:

| <u>Country</u>      | <u>1967</u><br>(pounds) | <u>1968</u>    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| United Kingdom      | 129,380                 | 268,265        |
| United States       | 102,061                 | 134,214        |
| Canada              | 30,178                  | 36,653         |
| Caribbean area      | 21,320                  | 19,333         |
| All other countries | <u>276,029</u>          | <u>325,819</u> |
| Total               | 558,878                 | 784,284        |

#### Public finance

59. The following table shows revenue and expenditure for the years 1965 to 1969:

|                 | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                 | (pounds)       |                    |
| 1965            | 6,659,883      | 6,872,519          |
| 1966            | 7,643,518      | 7,250,439          |
| 1967            | 8,071,866      | 8,647,615          |
| 1968            | 10,691,565     | 9,944,788          |
| 1969 (estimate) | 11,512,999     | 11,660,313         |

60. Customs receipts are the main source of revenue: they totalled £5,777,537 in 1968 (or 54 per cent of the total revenue), compared with £4,884,018 (60.5 per cent) in 1967; £4,639,150 (60.7 per cent) in 1966; and £4,168,072 (62.6 per cent) in 1965. The following table shows other main heads of revenue in 1967 and 1968:

|                                 | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                 | (pounds)    |             |
| Stamp duties                    | 495,311     | 627,508     |
| Motor car and drivers' licences | 390,941     | 425,139     |
| Omnibus services                | 318,440     | 342,914     |
| Land tax                        | 304,826     | 652,915     |
| Company tax                     | 265,200     | 307,350     |

61. There is no income tax or estate duty in the Territory. There is a land tax which is at present 2/- per pound per annum, based on the annual rental value of any land, building or part of a building occupied or capable of beneficial occupation as a separate unit. Units with an annual rental value of under £900 are either wholly or partly exempt from the tax. The companies operating from Bermuda are exempted from income taxes and taxes on corporate profits. At the beginning of 1970 there were 1,558 registered foreign companies in the Territory (compared with 1,067 in 1969, 867 in 1968, 758 in 1967 and 708 in 1965), the majority of which are from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

62. There are four banks operating in the Territory: the Bank of Bermuda, Limited, with its head office in Hamilton and branches in Hamilton, St. George's and Somerset; and the bank of N.T. Butterfield and Son, Limited, with its head office in Hamilton and a branch in St. George's. In February 1969, two new banks were given the Royal Assent to begin their operations in Bermuda: the Kirkland Company, Ltd. opened the Bermuda National Bank, Ltd. and the Provident Trust Company, Ltd. opened the Provident People's Bank.

63. Two hundred and sixty thousand shares of the Bermuda National Bank, Ltd. went to the Bank of Nova Scotia, the same amount to the Kirkland Co., Ltd., and 130,000 shares to the Bermudian public; the bank's capital funds in cash were £1,105,000. The shares of the Bermuda Provident Bank were distributed as follows: the Provident Trust Co., Ltd., 90,000 shares; Barclays Bank D.C.O., 90,000 shares; and the Bermudian public, 120,000 shares. The initial capital of the bank was £300,000.

64. In September 1969, the Bank of Bermuda reported that its capital had been increased from £1 million to £1.5 million and general reserves brought up to £2.5 million; deposits had risen by £20 million and net profits showed an advance of £10,000 to £525,000 in 1969. Total resources of the Bank reached £106 million. The total dividend payments for the year were 4/- per share.

65. In February 1969, the Bermuda Monetary Authority was created by an act passed by the Legislature. One of the principal functions of the Authority is to centralize Bermuda's government and private financial reserves.

66. In 1968, a committee appointed to consider adoption of decimal currency recommended that new coins and notes based on a Bermudian dollar worth 100 pennies or 8/4d., should replace the existing currency. The new decimal system was introduced on 6 February 1970.

#### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

##### Labour

67. Labour matters are under the supervision of the Labour Relations Officer and the Chief Immigration Officer. The main functions of the Labour Relations Officer are: (a) assistance in the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes; (b) promotion of good industrial relations and encouragement of responsible trade union practices; (c) supervision of employment practices, with particular reference to legislation governing contracts of employment and protection of wages; (d) factory inspection and enforcement of safety and health standards; (e) supervision of employment of children and young persons and administration of apprenticeship schemes; and (f) supervision of the Government Employment Service.

68. The Government Employment Office provides an employment and advisory service to employers and workers. The manager of the office is assisted by an advisory committee on all matters concerning employment. A Youth Employment Service was opened in July 1968. There are also a few private fee-charging employment agencies.

69. At the end of 1968, steps were taken to reconstitute the Labour Advisory Council and in April 1969, new members were appointed for a period of one year. The Council is at present composed of eight representatives of employers and the same number of workers' representatives, including four officials of the Bermuda Industrial Union. The council's chairman is the member for immigration and labour in the Executive Council.

70. The total number of employed at the 1960 census was 19,498, comprising 12,737 men and 6,761 women (45.73 per cent of the population). Four hundred and sixty-three people (182 men and 281 women) declared themselves unemployed. At the end of 1968, the estimated total number of employed was 21,680, excluding United States citizens employed at the United States military bases.

71. The principal occupations at the 1960 census were as follows:

|                              | <u>Men</u> | <u>Women</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Domestic, private and hotels | 306        | 1,856        | 2,162        |
| Office clerks, etc.          | 389        | 1,450        | 1,839        |
| Shop assistants              | 668        | 798          | 1,466        |
| Labourers                    | 1,358      | 7            | 1,365        |
| Masons                       | 992        | 9            | 1,001        |
| Wood-workers                 | 745        | 2            | 747          |
| Waiters and waitresses       | 193        | 358          | 551          |
| Taxi drivers and chauffeurs  | 470        | 31           | 501          |
| Teachers                     | 112        | 374          | 486          |
| Truck drivers                | 424        | 2            | 426          |

72. The total number of non-Bermudians authorized to accept employment in 1968 was 1,814 (2,236 in 1967), of whom hotels and guest houses accounted for the employment of 876 (872 in 1967); of these 1,191 (1,074 in 1967) were British, 174 (545 in 1967) were United States citizens, 56 (138 in 1967) were Portuguese nationals and the remaining 393 (479 in 1967) were nearly all European. In the case of Portuguese labour from the Azores, the employer is required to place the employee under a form of contract to which the Portuguese Government has given its consent. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1965 applies to such workers in the same manner as to the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory. (The Act embodies

the principle of employers' minimum liabilities and requires employers in certain industries to insure with authorized insurers against the possibility of being required to pay compensation under the act.)

73. Mr. E.T. Richards, the Member of the Executive Council for Immigration and Labour, told the Legislative Council in July 1969, that there were 5,800 expatriates of all races employed in the Territory and that 412 persons, of all races, were granted Bermudian status during the five-year period ending 31 May 1969.

74. In its report on the 1968 civil disorders, the Special Commission appointed by the Governor to inquire into the disturbances stated, inter alia:

"There is no problem of unemployment in Bermuda. There is overemployment. But what needs to be tackled is the prevailing dependence upon recruitment from abroad of a wide variety of skills. For highly technical or specialist jobs such dependence is, and perhaps will always be, inevitable. But, as it seems to us, far too many people are brought in to do work which ought to be done by Bermudians. To remedy this is mainly a matter of planning and training. First and foremost, planning."

75. The Bermuda Dockworkers Union merged in June 1968 with the Bermuda Industrial Union, reversing a decision made in 1960 when the longshoremen broke away from the BIU. Consequently there were six employees' unions registered in the Territory in 1968 and 1969: the Bermuda Industrial Union (membership 2,179); the Amalgamated Bermuda Union of Teachers (444); the Bermuda Civil Service Association (446); the Bermuda Federation of Variety Artists (285); the Electricity Supply Trade Union (146); and the Union of Government Industrial Employees (254). There are two employers' organizations, the Bermuda Employers' Council (membership 119) and the Hotel Employers of Bermuda (24).

76. In January 1968, the dockworkers called a strike over a claim for a wage increase to offset the effects of devaluation of the pound. Work was resumed following agreement to refer the issue to arbitration; the award favoured the employers. Workers employed by the Public Transportation Board staged a three-day stoppage on 4 January 1968; 130 men were involved in the dispute over a claim for increased wages. The strike ended with a wage increase of 1 per cent. On 10 August 1968, at the peak of the tourist season, 310 employees of the Bermuda Aviation Services walked out because of the failure by the BIU and the company to reach agreement on a collective agreement. A settlement was reached on 15 August 1968. A dispute at the Bermuda Bakery over an appointment from outside the firm to a managerial post, caused a two-week strike by sixty-six workers on 9 September 1968. A compromise settlement was reached. Over 400 teachers took part in a strike on 23 September 1968, when it was alleged that the Government had broken the existing contract by increasing the salary scales of certain grades. The parties agreed to arbitration. In January 1969 about 100 garbage collectors struck for twenty-three days. The Union's demands during negotiations over the new contract included £30 a week basic pay, while the Government offered £28. The Union agreed to go back to work and the matter was put to mediation. In May 1969, the Government agreed to the basic pay rise to £30 as of the end of September 1969.

7. Details by industry and the number of man-days lost in 1968 were as follows:

| <u>Industry</u>                       | <u>No. of known<br/>work stoppages</u> | <u>No. affected</u> | <u>Man-days lost</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Department of Education<br>(Teachers) | 1                                      | 406                 | 2,842                |
| Bermuda aviation<br>services          | 1                                      | 310                 | 2,168                |
| Dock workers                          | 1                                      | 160                 | 1,440                |
| Bermuda bakery                        | 1                                      | 66                  | 906                  |
| Public transportation                 | 1                                      | 130                 | 390                  |
| <u>Social services</u>                |  |                     |                      |

8. In June 1968, the functions of the Social Welfare Board were transferred to the Health and Welfare Department and the Education Department.

9. The Contributory Pensions Act, 1967, came into effect on 5 August 1968. In addition to contributory old-age pensions and widows' allowances, payable after the scheme has been in operation five years, the Act provides a non-contributory pension of £2 per week, payable from the outset of the scheme, to persons reaching the age of sixty-five who would not otherwise be eligible for a pension or allowance. At the end of 1968, more than 26,000 gainfully occupied persons were insured under the scheme and 2,876 persons were receiving a non-contributory pension.

#### Cost of living

10. A retail price index was established in January 1961 and is computed quarterly. Taking January 1961 as 100, the index for 1965 to 1969 rose from 103.0 (1965) to 116.9 (1968) to 131.0 (November 1969). The following table shows the retail price index for January 1968 and 1969 (taking January 1961 as 100):

| <u>Item</u>            | <u>January 1969</u> | <u>January 1968</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| All items              | 125.6               | 116.9               |
| Food                   | 131.4               | 120.0               |
| Rent                   | 106.5               | 101.2               |
| Clothing               | 132.8               | 118.5               |
| Tobacco and liquor     | 140.5               | 138.3               |
| Fuel and power         | 106.2               | 101.0               |
| Household and personal | 147.1               | 139.3               |

81. The Bank of Bermuda reported in November 1969 that inflation and soaring rents constituted a serious problem in the Territory and had been major factors in raising the cost of living.

### Housing

82. There is a serious shortage of middle-income and low-income housing which, according to reports, has been further aggravated because of the purchase by foreigners of about 100 houses annually. Low-cost housing schemes are under study.

### Racial discrimination

83. On 30 May 1969, the new Race Relations Act was approved in the second reading by the House of Assembly. On 27 June 1969, the Act passed second reading in the Legislative Council. The purpose of the Act is "to prohibit discrimination on racial grounds and to penalize incitement to racial hatred and related acts". The Act provides a maximum penalty of £1,000 and two years in prison for any person who incites others to racial hatred with an ensuing breach of peace. The law also provides that no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner in respect of access to any public place. There is also a section entitled "Civil Remedies" which includes the provision that civil proceedings may be brought by a person aggrieved by any act alleged to be unlawful by virtue of any of the clauses in the section dealing with unlawful discrimination. It provides that a person shall be guilty of an offence if "with intent to excite or promote ill-will or hostility against any section of the public in these islands distinguished by colour, race or ethnic or national origins: (a) publishes or distributes written matter which is threatening, abusive or insulting; or (b) uses in any public place or at any public meeting words which are threatening, abusive or insulting". A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or to a fine not exceeding £200, or both. Another clause provides for six months' imprisonment and/or fine not exceeding £200 for a person found guilty of any act calculated to excite or promote ill-will or hostility against any section of the public distinguished by colour, race or ethnic or national origins.

84. The Act was approved over the objections of the opposition PLP which called it an act of discrimination in itself:- discrimination against the black people. The sections, they said, which are most likely to be violated by black people are made criminal offences with heavy penalties, while those most likely to be violated by white people are lenient and full of loopholes.

85. In March 1969, a new organization - the League for Equality and Advancement of Decency for Bermudians (LEAD) - was formed. The main objective of the organization is to abolish "all forms of social and economic injustice based on race or colour" and to secure for every citizen "equal opportunity to develop his fullest potential". LEAD's programmes include four major areas of activities: education and youth incentives, family-home management, health and welfare and job development and employment.

86. On 31 December 1969, a demonstration against racial discrimination was organized by the Opposition at Hamilton's city hall. The speakers explained that the demonstration was being staged to rally Bermudians against racial injustice perpetuated by the Government.

### Public health

87. The Hospital Board is responsible for the management of the general hospital. The Department of Health and Welfare is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer. The Department of Health and Welfare is a combination of the former Medical and Health Department and the Social Welfare Board. On the health side, it provides clinics held outside the hospitals for school children, women and babies and dental clinics for school children. It also runs the school medical services, supervises foster homes, nursery schools and day nurseries and is responsible for the medical care of penal institutions and the police. Its activities also include special clinics for social diseases and general responsibility for communicable diseases.

88. There are four hospitals in the Territory. King Edward VII Memorial Hospital with 230 beds, a general hospital, and Prospect Hospital, a geriatric unit, are run by a board of trustees. St. Brendan's Hospital for mental disorders, with 240 beds, and Lefroy House, for geriatric cases, are run by the Department of Health and Welfare. All of the hospitals are supported by fees charged to patients, voluntary contributions and government grants.

89. Immunization programmes exist for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, and measles. Vaccination against smallpox is compulsory.

90. The number and rate of births and deaths per thousand of population and infant mortality per thousand live births for the years 1965 and 1968 were as follows:

|                  | <u>1965</u>   |             | <u>1966</u>   |             | <u>1967</u>   |             | <u>1968</u>   |             |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                  | <u>Number</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
| Live births      | 1,115         | 23.05       | 1,006         | 20.49       | 980           | 19.70       | 984           | 19.40       |
| Deaths           | 358           | 7.40        | 346           | 7.08        | 330           | 6.63        | 405           | 7.99        |
| Infant mortality | 33            | 29.60       | 30            | 29.82       | 27            | 27.55       | 23            | 23.37       |

91. Total government expenditure for health in 1968 amounted to £1,179,286, compared with £1,145,537 in 1967.



## E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

92. The Department of Education is responsible for the administration of the schools under the member of the Executive Council for Education, who is assisted by an Advisory Board.
93. The Schools Act, 1954, Amendment Act, 1965, established the right of all children of compulsory school age (5 to 14 in 1965, 5 to 15 in 1967 and 5 to 16 in 1969) to receive free primary and secondary education at public schools.
94. From the administrative point of view, schools are classified as "aided" and "maintained". Management of the former is vested in local committees or governing bodies, to whom the Government makes annual grants under certain conditions. The maintained schools are directly administered by the Department of Education. In 1968, there were seven aided and thirty-five maintained schools (including a school for physically handicapped children, a unit for the maladjusted and three nursery schools). The only two denominational schools are private and receive no government aid. There is no university or other institution of higher education in the Territory.
95. In 1968, the average enrolment in "aided" and "maintained" schools was 11,075, compared with 11,018 in 1967 and 10,470 in 1966; the average attendance was 10,233, compared with 10,438 in 1967 and 9,795 in 1966. These numbers include pupils who are receiving secondary education.
96. The total government expenditure on education in 1968 was £2,238,437, compared with £1,313,496 in 1967.

C. BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS\*

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.635.

1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the British Virgin Islands has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of the British Virgin Islands in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and resolutions: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the British Virgin Islands, in particular those adopted at its 564th and 565th meetings on 27 September and 6 October 1967, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session, as well as those approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence while emphasizing once again that the administering Power should enable the people to express their wishes concerning the future status of the Territory in full freedom and without any restrictions.

"(4) The Special Committee notes with regret that no constitutional progress has taken place in the Territory since the item was last examined by the Special Committee in September and October 1967 and by the General Assembly.

"(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8, part I (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXV, paras. 308 to 312, 322 to 326, 332 and 333; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, part III, document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033 B, A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXX, para. 10.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXX, para. 10.

the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territory.

"(6) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(7) The Special Committee takes note of the statement made in November 1968 by the Chief Minister of the Territory, according to which the Government of the British Virgin Islands is opposed to any idea of association with other Commonwealth Caribbean Territories.

"(8) The Special Committee expresses its concern over the large flow of immigrants into the Territory and requests the administering Power to take effective measures in order to control such immigrations in accordance with the expressed wishes of the people of the Territory.

"(9) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory, without any conditions and reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

"(10) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII), of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution according to which 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(11) The Special Committee urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including the British Virgin Islands, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. The British Virgin Islands comprise about forty islands and islets, of which thirteen are inhabited. The total area of the Territory is approximately 59 square miles (153 square kilometres). The largest islands are Tortola (21 square miles or 54 square kilometres), Anegada (15 square miles or 39 square kilometres), Virgin Gorda (8.25 square miles or 21 square kilometres), and Jost Van Dyke (3.25 square miles or 8 square kilometres). Road Town, on the south-east part of Tortola, is the capital city (population approximately 2,000, compared with 891 at the 1960 census).

5. The estimated population of the Territory at the end of 1969 was about 11,000 (compared with 8,814 in 1966 and 7,340 at the 1960 census), mainly of African descent. The 1969 estimates show that about 9,320 persons lived on Tortola, 1,100 on Virgin Gorda, 300 on Anegada and 250 on Jost Van Dyke.

### B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

6. Under the new Constitution, which came into force on 18 April 1967, the basic government structure is as follows:

#### (a) Administrator

7. The Administrator, appointed by the Crown, continues to exercise his powers in consultation with the Executive Council over which he presides. His special responsibilities include defence and internal security, external affairs, terms and conditions of service of public officers, the administration of the courts and finance.

#### (b) Legislative Council

8. The Council consists of a Speaker, chosen from outside the Council; two ex officio members (the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary); one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister; and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts. The Speaker has a casting vote only. Apart from the Speaker, all members have an original vote; however, only the votes of elected members determine whether a motion of no confidence in the Government is carried or defeated.

c/ The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 10 June 1969, for the year ending 31 December 1968.

(e) Executive Council

9. The Council consists of three ministers, one of whom is Chief Minister, and two ex officio members, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary. The Administrator appoints as Chief Minister the elected member of the Legislative Council who, in his judgement, is best able to command the support of a majority of the elected members of the Legislative Council; the other two ministers are appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Council is presided over by the Administrator.

Public service

10. The Constitution provides that the Public Service Commission should consist of three members; two members are appointed by the Administrator acting in his discretion, and one after consultation with the Civil Service Association. The Administrator, acting after consultation with the Chief Minister, appoints one of the three members as chairman of the Commission.

11. A review of salaries and conditions of service of civil service officers and the police force was completed in October 1968, and revised emoluments were made payable from 1 January 1969.

Political parties and elections

12. There are three political parties in the Territory: the ruling United Party (UP), the Democratic Party (DP) and the People's Own Party (POP). The aims of the parties, with minor variations, are identical. The general welfare of the people is their main consideration, with promise of better jobs and higher wages; improvement of social services, agriculture, fisheries and water supplies; the provision of better roads, communications and transportation; and improved supplies of electricity. Each party stresses the need for economic and social development and encouragement of foreign economic investment.

13. The Chief Minister of the Territory is Mr. H. Lavity Stoutt, Leader of the UP. He was appointed following elections held on 14 April 1967, in which the UP won four seats, the DP two, and the POP one. The next elections are due to be held not later than March 1971.

Status of the Territory

14. In November 1968, the Chief Minister was asked during an interview "whether the British Virgin Islands would get together with other Commonwealth Caribbean Territories in some sort of union". According to reports, he replied "definitely not".

15. On 11 June 1969, the Chief Minister declared in St. John's that the Government of the Territory would seek a constitutional conference with the United Kingdom Government in 1971 to work out a new ministerial system. He also stated that the new constitutional arrangement would not be in association with the United Kingdom because this has not proved satisfactory to some of the

associated States. He added that his Government preferred to retain the present constitutional system "until we can work out something more advanced".

16. In his speech from the throne at the beginning of 1969/70 session of the Legislative Council on 20 November 1969, the Administrator referred to the matter of constitutional advancement in the following terms:

"When a delegation from the previous Legislative Council visited London for the Constitutional Conference in 1966 it was agreed that further discussions should take place within four years. It is therefore expected that talks on the Constitution, which the British Government welcome, will be held in 1970. Honourable Members will doubtless wish to consult their constituencies on this matter and consider what proposals should be made to the British Government. They may rest assured that in all British dependencies Britain continues to adhere to the cardinal principle that the wishes of the people concerned must be the main guide to action.

It has been made very clear on many occasions that Britain stands ready to give independence to Territories that want it and can sustain it. For others Britain is willing to work out arrangements appropriate to each Territory. Honourable Members and others in this Territory will wish to keep this in mind when they are considering possible changes in the present Constitution."

#### Non-Belongers and Immigration Ordinance

17. In April 1968, a motion was introduced in the Legislative Council, which received the support of all members of the legislature, asking, inter alia, that the Government recognize that:

(a) Visitors and persons of independent means who are prohibited immigrants, should be allowed to enter the Territory with a minimum of restriction for reasonable periods, on condition that they do not engage in employment directly or indirectly.

(b) Persons desiring to settle or reside permanently and engage in employment and business should be limited in number.

(c) The system of work permits should be strengthened and extended and should apply to all persons irrespective of national origin who have not resided in the Territory for a stated period.

(d) An immediate study should be undertaken of the laws of other Territories in connexion with the early drafting and presentation of new control measures.

18. During his Commonwealth Day address on Tortola on 24 May 1968, the Administrator is reported to have referred to the immigration control regulations now in force in the United Kingdom, and to have said: "Just as this policy is right for Britain and other Commonwealth countries, so surely it is right for the British Virgin Islands in order that we can admit strangers who wish to come and live here at a rate at which they can be properly assimilated into British Virgin Islands society".

19. The Government of the Territory agreed to the request of the legislature referred to above, and a committee composed of eight members was appointed "to advise what drafting should take place". New legislation was prepared and introduced in the legislature and eventually passed by a unanimous vote. According to a statement issued in June 1969 by the Government Information Service of the Territory, the following is a summary of the new legislative provisions:

(a) The new law stipulates who may, or may not, enter into gainful employment in the British Virgin Islands. Previously, the issue of work permits was not governed by legislation.

(b) Under the law passed in 1945, a British subject who had been continuously resident in the Territory for seven years, was considered to "belong" to the British Virgin Islands, as were certain other categories of persons. The new Immigration Law mainly repeats these provisions.

(c) The new law states that a person shall be deemed to belong to the British Virgin Islands if that person:

- (i) Is a British subject born in the British Virgin Islands;
- (ii) Is a British subject born outside the British Virgin Islands of a father or mother who was born in the British Virgin Islands;
- (iii) Has been granted a certificate of naturalization by the Administrator;
- (iv) Holds a valid certificate stating that he or she is a person of good character; is not less than twenty-one years of age; has been resident in the British Virgin Islands for at least seven years before the date of the application and has stated an intention of making the British Virgin Islands his or her permanent home;
- (v) Is the child of a person who has been granted the certificate referred to in (iv) above, provided that the certificate has not been withdrawn because the person has shown himself to be disloyal, has associated with the enemy in time of war, or has within five years of the granting of the certificate been imprisoned in any country for a criminal offence, for one year or more;
- (vi) Is the wife of an approved person;
- (vii) Is a British subject and the widow of a person who before his death belonged to the British Virgin Islands, and who was not living apart from her husband under a decree of a court or deed of separation.

The law provides that exceptions from the Ordinance may be granted in writing by the Administrator.



20. According to the statement of the Government Information Service referred to in paragraph 19 above: "The term 'belonging' has been used in our legislation for very many years and is not new. It is certainly also not new in many other West Indian Islands. It was chosen because it is a word that has long been in use".

### Other developments

21. In November 1969, the Government introduced the Public Order Bill which, among other things, would authorize the Chief of Police to prohibit public demonstrations for periods as long as three months. In November 1969, a British team which included two naval personnel surveyed beaches in the Territory. The object of the survey was to update maps and charts of the area.

## C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

22. As reported by the administering Power, the economy of the Territory has grown at the rate of 31 per cent per annum over the period 1966 to 1968; the rate of 31 per cent is reported to be the highest in the Caribbean area. Leading sectors of the economy are construction and engineering (65 per cent per annum); distribution (60.5 per cent); finance and insurance (34.5 per cent); transportation (42.5 per cent); and hotels (33.5 per cent). The gross national product in 1967 amounted to about \$US5.6 million (see paragraph 54 below). In November 1969, the Chief Minister was quoted as having said that the Territory had "chosen the path of tourism and international finance as the leading sectors of its economy".

23. The six-year development plan for 1966-1971 envisages a total expenditure of almost \$US18 million, of which \$US5.6 million would be in the public sectors. Of the latter, nearly half has been allocated to communications, including the extension and improvement of the airport at Beef Island and improvement of the Territory's road system and port facilities.

24. It is estimated that from 1960 to 1970, around \$US45 million of foreign capital was invested in the Territory, mainly in the construction of hotels (\$US10 million); infrastructure (\$US15 million); tourist development (\$US10 million); and house building (\$US10 million).

### Anegada and Wickham's Cay agreements

25. In 1967, the Government of the Territory entered into agreements with the Development Corporation of Anegada Ltd., and Wickham's Cay Co., Ltd., both headed by Mr. Kenneth Bates.

26. The Anegada agreement provides for the development of about four fifths of Anegada Island. The island, which lies eighteen miles to the north-east of Tortola, is eleven miles long and three miles wide; it is flat, with a maximum elevation of thirty feet, and is surrounded by excellent sand beaches. The

total population (local and developers) of the island numbers fewer than 300 persons. Under the agreement, the corporation received a 199-year lease over approximately 8,796 acres of the island, in return for which the corporation undertook an obligation to build a road network, an air strip, a deep-water jetty and various other facilities, and to pay the Government a percentage of the gross receipts. The agreement calls for the investment of at least \$US1.5 million in the first five years, and not less than \$US3 million over ten years. During the term of the 199-year lease, complete exemption has been granted from all taxes on incomes, profits, capital and death duties to persons, firms and corporations resident or conducting business within the leased area. During 1969, the corporation completed a 2,000-foot airstrip and a deep-water harbour pier; about thirty miles of roads were being constructed and the first houses were completed. A quarry plant and a new cold storage and ice-making plant were also under construction. In May 1969, the Bank of Anegada was established; it is described as "an investment bank devoted to the expansion of the island", not in competition with the commercial banks that operate in the Territory.

27. The agreement with the Wickham's Cay Co., Ltd., provides for the reclamation and development for commercial and residential purposes, of an area between Wickham's Cay and Road Town. Under the agreement, the Government would issue to the company a Crown grant for about sixty acres of reclaimed land to be developed according to an agreed schedule. Among the concessions granted to the company were the exemption from customs duty of materials used for works specified in the agreement, and exemptions granted for ten years by the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance, 1966. By the middle of 1969, the first stage of the project was nearly finished; the reclaimed area had been levelled and the road through it had been built and put to regular use. The second stage was to include the construction of houses, shops, hotels and marinas, at a cost of about \$US1.5 million.

28. As work on the projects proceeded, misgivings about the agreements were expressed by the public and in the Government. It was felt that the Territory was not getting its rightful due, and that the companies had received too liberal concessions. This feeling was heightened by the alleged inadequate consultations which had taken place over the original agreements. A further cause of discontent was the flooding of Road Town in May 1969 as a result of a combination of exceptionally heavy rains and inadequate drainage facilities in the reclaimed area.

29. As a result of the mounting discontent in the Territory, the Legislative Council, in July 1969, passed two motions calling for a commission of inquiry to look into the terms of the agreements, with special reference to the political, economic and social consequences of their implementation, and to make recommendations as to the future development of Anegada and Wickham's Cay. The commission, appointed by the Administrator in September 1969, published its report in December 1969.

30. With respect to the Anegada agreement, the commission recommended, inter alia, that the leased area should be reduced from the original 8,796 acres to 6,000 acres, leaving about 3,696 acres outside the leased area for use by Anegadians. The commission also recommended that the period of the lease be reduced from 199 to ninety years, and that exemptions from income and profits taxes be limited to thirty-five years instead of 199 years.

31. In the case of Wickham's Cay, the commission recommended that the tax concessions granted to all business ventures on the Cay, except those for retailing, be abolished. The commission believed that fears that the Cay would be dominated by foreign-owned businesses were justified, and, in this respect, offered two suggestions: that the company might agree to sell at least one third of the Cay to British Virgin Islanders, and that an arrangement might be made for the Government to purchase (at a price to cover the relevant cost) ten acres from the company which could then be resold to the islanders. Because the costs of drainage have increased owing to unforeseen problems, the commission recommended that these extra costs be shared by the Government and the company. It also felt that there should be a sharing of the cost involved in raising the low-lying areas of Road Town that were flooded.

32. In the conclusion to its report, the commission stressed, inter alia, that "no Government should surrender its control over the land and destiny of its citizens to quite such an extent that these agreements do"; the commission went on to say: "The Government, with the support of the whole Legislative Council, is anxious that the two projects should continue and is ready to sit down and discuss its proposals for amending the agreements. Our hope is that the findings in this report will assist in producing solutions to the problems which have arisen which will be in the long-term interests not only of the people of the British Virgin Islands but also of the companies which have embarked upon these imaginative and exciting projects".

33. In February 1970, the Administrator of the Territory and the Chief Minister held a series of discussions with representatives of the United Kingdom Government in London. The talks were concerned principally with development matters and, in particular, with the situation arising from the recommendations of the commissions of inquiry. In a statement to the press, the delegation stated that the steps the Government of the Territory intended to take on the matter of the agreements, had to remain confidential. In June 1970, a British Virgin Islands delegation led by the Chief Minister, and including the Leader of the Opposition, went to London for talks with representatives of the developers. The talks had to be adjourned owing to the need for further investigations into the characteristics, and therefore the value, of the reclaimed land on Wickham's Cay.

#### Land

34. Crown lands are estimated to cover approximately 15,000 acres and are normally leased for a period not exceeding ninety-nine years. Rental is based either on tender or on 5 per cent of the unimproved value of the land which is reviewed at intervals of ten years. British subjects may acquire land without restriction, but aliens are required to obtain a licence under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act. Applications under the Act have been granted, usually on condition that the applicant undertake appropriate development within a certain period.

35. In July 1969, a resolution to regulate the leasing of Crown lands was approved by the legislature. The resolution states, inter alia, that "the granting of Crown lands which are the property of the people of the Virgin Islands should be regulated by public law and that the public law should provide that no grants of land or leases for periods in excess of fifteen years should be made without the prior approval of the Legislative Council by affirmative resolution".

36. According to reports, the price of land has been increasing steadily owing to economic expansion and, in some cases, speculation. In 1965, an acre of land on the

coast near Road Town could be bought for about \$US4,000; the same acre now sells for \$US20,000. Elsewhere in Tortola, an acre of undeveloped land costs between \$US2,500 and \$US10,000, and the price of an acre in a developed estate ranges from \$US5,000 to \$US15,000.

### Water

37. There are no rivers in the Territory. The only piped water supply is in the capital; however, the water is untreated. The remainder of the population of Tortola and the other islands depend on open shallow wells and/or individual roof catchments and storage. There is no main sewerage system in the Territory.

### Power supply

38. According to the administering Power, the electric power extension scheme made considerable progress in 1968. In May 1969, electricity was extended to Cane Garden Bay in the north-western part of Tortola. Under the terms of the rescheduled stage III of the scheme, electricity is to be supplied throughout the island, including the newly reclaimed area of Wickham's Cay and also Beef Island. Under stage IV of the scheme, the electricity supply for Virgin Gorda will be given priority; an investigation was being carried out to determine the electricity requirements for that island.

### Agriculture and fisheries

39. The Department of Agriculture and Livestock falls within the portfolio of the Minister of Natural Resources and Public Health. Departmental expenditure amounted to \$US82,387 in 1968, compared with \$US61,089 in 1967 and \$US78,622 in 1966. Crops produced locally include sugar cane, limes, coconuts, bananas, vegetables and food crops.

40. The value of the main exports for 1968 was as follows:

(United States dollars)

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Limes                       | 354    |
| Bananas                     | 1,345  |
| Coconuts                    | 2,978  |
| Other agricultural products | 4,316  |
| Livestock                   | 44,985 |
| Fish                        | 87,829 |

Almost all the fish were exported to the United States Virgin Islands.

41. It is reported that the credit facilities offered to the farming and fishing community by the Agricultural Department continue to be an important part of the Government's contribution to agriculture.

### Industries

42. Industry is limited, consisting of about fifteen plants making concrete blocks, one mineral water factory, a government-owned stone-crushing plant,

and three rum distilleries. There is also a paint factory, a soft-drink bottling plant and a furniture factory. In general, the Territory is in urgent need of light industry; however, this is primarily dependent on the provision of a sufficient amount of low-cost electric power.

43. In 1968, the building construction industry was considerably expanded; ten licences were issued under the Hotels Aid Ordinance, and more than 200 plans for the construction of buildings were approved by the Building Authority.

#### Transport and communications

44. There are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. In 1969, about 1,500 vehicles were registered, compared with 795 in 1967 and 627 in 1966.

45. On 12 April 1969, the newly reconstructed Beef Island Airfield was officially declared open. The estimated cost of reconstruction was over \$US500,000, of which \$US325,317 was provided by Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and \$US144,000 by the proceeds of a United Kingdom Government loan; the balance will be met from the proceeds of local loan funds. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200 over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building and for further extension of the runway to 5,000 feet. Anegada airfield was officially opened on 19 July 1969. The runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommodating aircraft of 12,500 pounds weight. Construction was carried out by the Development Corporation of Anegada in accordance with an agreement with the Territory's Government for the development of the island (see paragraph 26 above). There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

46. Regular daily air services are operated by Leeward Islands Air Transport, Prinair, All-Island Air and Antilles Airboats. The Territory is also served by several smaller charter airlines which fly to most of the islands in the area.

47. A new waterfront jetty in Road Town was constructed by the British Virgin Islands Construction Company, a subsidiary of Robert Gray, Limited, with headquarters in Bermuda. At the end of 1969, plans were announced to start construction of a new deep-water harbour near Pasea Estate in Tortola, to provide deep-water docking for ocean-going ships. In 1969, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic Lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). There is also a hydrofoil service to Puerto Rico and St. Thomas (United States Virgin Islands). Direct Brooker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola.

48. Cable and Wireless, Ltd. continues to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 900 telephones in use throughout the Territory, and there is also a telex service.

## Tourism

49. In 1968, 22,793 tourists, mainly from the United States, visited the Territory, compared with 17,751 in 1967 and 14,013 in 1966. A total of 15,972 tourists entered the Territory from January to June 1969. Preliminary estimates for tourist receipts in 1968 were \$US3.3 million, compared with \$US2.5 million in 1967. The promotion of tourism was accepted by the Government as having high priority. The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, headed by the Chief Minister, was constituted in July 1969.

## Trade

50. The bulk of the export trade is in fish and livestock and, to a lesser extent, fruit and vegetables. Principal imports include food-stuffs, consumer goods, machinery, technical appliances, cement, motor cars and timber. Following is a summary of the imports, exports and re-exports of the Territory for the years 1966 to 1968:

|                  | <u>1966</u>             | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                  | (United States dollars) |             |             |
| Total imports    | 3,143,000               | 3,890,025   | 6,598,669   |
| Total exports    | 100,914                 | 87,835      | 144,854     |
| Total re-exports | 56,975                  | 12,072      | 8,732       |

The total value of imports, for the period January to June 1969, amounted to \$US3,428,949; exports amounted to \$US32,882, which represents a decline over previous years. The unfavourable balance in visible trade has been partly offset by remittances from abroad, grants-in-aid, by inflows on capital account and by the establishment of new local industries. Major trade partners exporting to the Territory are the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom. Nearly 80 per cent of the Territory's exports goes to the United States, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. The general rate of customs duty is 12-1/2 per cent on c.i.f. value, and the Commonwealth preferential tariff rate is 10 per cent on most commodities.

## Public finance

51. Total public revenue in 1968 amounted to \$US2,558,461, of which \$US820,945 were grants from the United Kingdom (including grants-in-aid). Corresponding figures for 1967 were \$US2,013,780 and \$US824,217 and for 1966, \$US1,588,331 and \$US613,932. Expenditures from 1966 to 1968 were as follows:

|                       | <u>1966</u>             | <u>1967</u>      | <u>1968</u>      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                       | (United States dollars) |                  |                  |
| Recurrent expenditure | 1,306,259               | 1,418,429        | 1,726,274        |
| Capital expenditure   | 389,130                 | 657,130          | 1,450,191        |
| Total                 | <u>1,695,389</u>        | <u>2,075,559</u> | <u>3,176,465</u> |

Budget estimates for 1969 amounted to \$US5,433,128, of which \$US2,526,128 were for recurrent and \$US2,907,000 for capital expenditure. The United Kingdom

grants-in-aid to the Territory amounted to \$US266,400 in 1968, compared with \$US344,555 in 1967 and \$US337,229 in 1966. The total amount of United Kingdom aid to the Territory in the financial year 1968/69 was \$US1,150,000; approximately one quarter of this figure represented budgetary assistance.

52. The tax system of the Territory was reviewed during 1968 by a special committee set up for this purpose. The report of the committee was submitted to the Government in July 1968, and a number of its recommendations were implemented in 1969. Company tax is levied at 12 per cent on the chargeable income of a company, with provision for the withholding of tax from dividends paid to shareholders. Income tax is levied at 15 per cent on all income over \$US7,000 received during the tax year. An employment tax of 3 per cent on the gross emoluments of all employees is deducted by the employer on payment of wages or salaries. Amended land and house taxes are still under consideration and the consequent legislation is expected to be introduced shortly. There are no taxes on wealth and capital, capital gains, death duties or sales. The Territory has double taxation relief agreements with the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Agreements also exist for the granting of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief.

53. There are four commercial banks operating in the Territory: the Virgin Islands National Bank, Barclays Bank D.C.O., the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Chase Manhattan Bank. At the beginning of 1970, the Provident Trust Company (Tortola) Ltd., was established in the Territory as a subsidiary of the Provident Trust Company, Ltd., of Hamilton, Bermuda (which will own 60 per cent of its shares, 40 per cent being offered to British Virgin Islanders).

54. The Territory is in a unique currency position, the sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the British Virgin Islands belong to the sterling area. There are no exchange control restrictions, and dollars may be freely transferred in or out of the Territory. Special regulations, however, govern the conversion of sterling to dollars.

#### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

##### Labour

55. The people of the Territory are largely self-employed as farmers, fishermen, seamen and businessmen. Growing numbers of young persons are being attracted to wage-earning employment and especially to building construction and tourist enterprises. About 10 per cent of the Territory's labour force is employed in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands.

##### Cost of living

56. The cost of living is considered to be relatively high owing, in particular, to the fact that little produce is grown locally, and that most food-stuffs and consumer goods are imported.



## Public health

57. Responsibility for the expenditure of public funds and for all other matters involving health and sanitation lies with the Medical and Health Department whose activities are under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Natural Resources and Public Health. The total expenditure on medical and health services in 1968 was \$US173,960, as against \$US151,430 in 1967 and \$US137,135 in 1966.

58. The population of the Territory is served by seven health centres and Peebles Hospital in the capital. The hospital provides between thirty and forty beds for medical, surgical and maternity cases.

### E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

59. Education is administered under the provisions of the Education Ordinance Laws. The control of education is assigned to the portfolio of the Chief Minister. The Chief Education Officer is responsible for the implementation of the educational policy of the Government. In 1968, expenditure on education was \$US473,477, as against \$US360,915 in 1967 and \$US314,907 in 1966.

60. Education is free and compulsory up to the age of fifteen years. The Government maintains two primary schools and one secondary school. Twelve private primary and six private post-primary schools receive grants from the Government. There are also two primary assisted community schools, two primary unaided (private) schools, and one post-primary assisted community school. In 1968, a total of 2,716 pupils attended the Territory's schools with a teacher strength of 131. In 1967, there were 2,546 pupils and 101 teachers.

61. According to reports, ten primary schools are inadequately housed in churches or church halls; overcrowding is severe in both primary and secondary schools. On 12 May 1969, the Parliamentary Secretary to the United Kingdom Ministry of Overseas Development said in the House of Commons, in reply to a question, that "the present primary schools in the Territory are insufficiently housed". In March 1970, the former chief secretary to the Chief Minister described high school standards in the Territory as "miserable". In January 1970, a team of education experts who had studied educational conditions in the Territory, presented its report to the Chief Minister. The experts pointed out, inter alia, that there was an acute shortage of qualified staff, accommodation and textbooks. They recommended, among other measures, that the teacher-student ratio be lowered to one to twenty, that new educational courses be organized and that new accommodation be provided for students. According to the information provided by the administering Power, a programme to provide additional and replacement school buildings is being actively pursued by the Government of the Territory with development aid funds provided by the Government of the United Kingdom.

62. There is a commercial radio station (ZBVI), located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. In March 1968, the station was purchased by Bermudian and Hong Kong interests. The station operates at



780 kilocycles and 10,000 watts and effectively covers both the British and the United States Virgin Islands, most of the Eastern Caribbean and Puerto Rico. In January 1969, the Government of the Territory granted a licence to Dukane West Indies Television, Ltd., to install and operate a television broadcasting station on the island of Tortola with effect from 1 January 1969. The licence remains valid until 31 December 1995, with option of renewal for a further twenty-five years. One channel is to be used as a commercial station and another is to be operated by Dukane on behalf of the Government for educational and cultural programmes. The Island Sun, published weekly, is the only local newspaper.

D. CAYMAN ISLANDS\*

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.618.

1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the Cayman Islands has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of the Cayman Islands in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Cayman Islands, in particular those adopted at its 613th meeting on 25 June 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

"(4) The Special Committee notes with regret that no constitutional progress has taken place in the Territory since the item was last examined by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly.

"(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territory.

"(6) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXIV, paras. 133-134; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (Part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII, section II B; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVIII, para. 9.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVIII, para. 9.

"(7) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

"(8) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(9) The Special Committee urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including the Cayman Islands, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY c/

### A. GENERAL

4. The Cayman Islands consist of three islands - Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman (the latter two also being known as Lesser Caymans). Grand Cayman is located about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and 150 miles south of Cuba; Cayman Brac lies eighty-nine miles east-north-east of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman lies five miles west of Cayman Brac. The total area of the Territory is about 100 square miles (259 square kilometres).

5. Grand Cayman is 21 miles long and varies from 4 to 8 miles in width. It has a total land area of about 76 square miles. The chief settlements are George Town (the capital), West Bay, Boddentown, East End and Northside; all these settlements are on the sea coast. Cayman Brac is 12 miles long and 1.25 miles wide. It has a total land area of about 14 square miles. The chief settlements are Stake Bay, Creek, Spot Bay and West End. Little Cayman is 9 miles long and about 1.5 miles wide. It has a total land area of about 10 square miles. The chief settlement is South Town.

6. In 1960 the total population of the Territory was 7,622 according to the census (excluding 1,187 persons, mostly seamen, absent during the census held that

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c/ The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 17 July 1969 for the year ending 31 December 1968.

year). Most of the population lives in Grand Cayman (6,345 at the 1960 census). Between 1962 and 1967, the population increased from 8,064 to 9,194. About 20 per cent of the population is of African origin, 20 per cent of European origin and 60 per cent of mixed descent. The population of George Town, the capital, is approximately 2,400.

## B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Constitution

7. The existing Constitution, which came into effect on 5 November 1965, provides for an Administrator as chief executive who is advised and assisted by the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly.

#### (a) Administrator

8. The Administrator is appointed by the Queen and is the head of the administration. He is constitutionally required to act on the advice of the Executive Council, except as otherwise provided. He is empowered to make laws with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly.

#### (b) Executive Council

9. The Council is the main executive authority in the Territory. It consists of two elected members chosen by the Legislative Assembly from among its elected members, two official members, and one nominated member appointed by the Administrator. The Council is presided over by the Administrator.

#### (c) Legislative Assembly

10. The Assembly may legislate on all aspects of the Territory's affairs, subject to the assent of the Administrator. Legislation may be disallowed by the Queen. The Assembly consists of twelve elected members, two or three official members, and two or three nominated members appointed by the Administrator.

11. In 1969, a new procedure was introduced in the Executive Council: all Council members sit together in the Assembly to form the Government Bench and each member of the Council assumes responsibility for a particular portfolio and presents all legislation to the Assembly that comes within his responsibility.

### Judiciary

12. The Judiciary consists of the Grand Court of the Islands, the quarterly Petty Court and the Petty Sessions Court. Decisions of the Grand Court are subject to appeal to the Court of Appeal of Jamaica, and thence to the Judicial Committee of the United Kingdom Privy Council. In June 1967, the Court of Appeal of Jamaica sat for the first time in history in the Cayman Islands to hear appeals; the Court announced its intention to hold regular annual sessions in the Territory.

13. On 22 September 1969, the new Legal Practitioners Law came into operation. The law, broadly based on Bermuda and other Commonwealth legislation, establishes a Caymanian legal profession and provides that all lawyers (barristers, solicitors and law agents) have equal status and are designated as attorneys-at-law. They are admitted by the judge of the Grand Court. Barristers or solicitors of England, Scotland or Northern Ireland or those with equivalent qualifications from a Commonwealth country are qualified for admission. The judge, however, is not empowered to admit a lawyer who does not "belong to the Cayman Islands" without the approval of the Administrator in Executive Council. The law also provides for a procedure for the disciplining of attorneys by the judge and for their suspension or striking off. The law was sponsored by the Cayman Islands Law Society. It is expected that about twenty attorneys will be admitted under the new law.

#### Political parties

14. There are two political parties in the Territory, the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) and the Cayman National Democratic Party (CNDP).

#### Elections

15. Persons qualified to vote must be British subjects, over twenty-one years of age who have either resided in the Territory for at least twelve months before the date of registration or who are domiciled in the Territory and are residing there on that date. Elections are held every three years; in 1959, general elections were held, for the first time, on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

16. At general elections held on 16 November 1965, the CDP won four seats, the CNDP one seat, and the independents seven seats. Elections were last held in the Territory on 7 November 1968. They were not contested on a party basis. According to the information provided by the administering Power, "the main issues as put forth by all candidates in that election were rather the social, economic and general development of the Territory; the candidates did not stress any move towards internal self-government in their election campaigning" (A/AC.109/PV.717, pp. 49-50). There were twenty-three candidates for twelve seats. In one of the six constituencies, George Town, voting had to be stopped prematurely following complaints that the names of some people entitled to be registered were not on the registers. A revised register was drawn up and a new vote was held on 24 January 1969.

#### Constitutional advancement

17. In the first half of 1967, a committee composed of all members of the Legislative Assembly considered the question of possible constitutional advancement. However, after members had held consultations with their constituents, the committee decided not to change the existing constitutional arrangements except to replace the post of Stipendiary Magistrate with that of Attorney General. The report adopted in June 1967 by the Assembly, stated inter alia: "Although it is the feeling of a majority of the elected members that it is time to move forward constitutionally..., it is also the feeling of the Committee that no clear mandate from the people has been given to it to recommend a move forward. The recommendation is that the status quo, constitutionally, should remain. It is recommended, however, that the post of Attorney General, which is strictly not a

constitutional issue, should be implemented in 1968". Two members of the Legislative Assembly presented a minority report in which they did not agree with the majority report. The new Attorney General, an Australian, took up his appointment in the middle of 1966.

18. At a meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 12 August 1969, a motion was passed calling for the setting up of a select committee consisting of all the elected members of the Assembly to study the existing Constitution with a view to making recommendations for some form of constitutional advancement.

#### Other developments

19. On 21 September 1967 a select committee was appointed by the Legislative Assembly to consider and submit recommendations concerning immigration procedures. This matter was taken under study because of the influx of expatriates to the Territory in recent years and the concern voiced by the local people as to the eventual control of the Territory by expatriates. In the report of the select committee, adopted on 29 May 1968, it was recommended that legislation be enacted to tighten the immigration laws of the Territory.

20. At the beginning of 1968, a law had been passed which empowered the Government to deport British subjects who had resided in the Territory for a period up to seven years. Previously, the Government could not deport British subjects who had resided in the islands for two years or more. According to the information provided by the administering Power, the law was disallowed because it was contrary to the provisions of article VII of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and because it contained a provision that it should be retroactive.

### C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### General

21. The economy of the Territory relies mainly on the rapidly expanding tourist industry and the benefits derived from the activities of foreign companies who use the Territory as a tax-free base; the tourist industry has recently become the most important element in the economic sector. The economy also depends to a great extent on remittances from Caymanians employed on United States ships. Up to 1,600 seamen are so employed and their annual earnings are estimated at £500,000 (see paragraph 36 below). In 1968, the traditional turtle fishing in Nicaraguan waters was terminated, which resulted in a major decrease in turtle exports. In 1967 and 1968, production of thatch rope, which used to be the Territory's main industry, continued to decrease following a shift of labour to preferred trades, mainly those associated with the tourist industry. Estimates of per capita income in the Territory range from £200 to £400 annually which is one of the highest in the Caribbean. There are no statistics giving a breakdown of income by sections of the population.

#### Land

22. Until 1960, there was no proper system of land registration. In that year, a law came into effect requiring the registration of all land transactions. Land owners were encouraged to register their titles; unchallenged registration for

five years established a valid title. On 17 April 1969, the Land Development (Interim Control) Law, 1969, came into effect; the objective of the law is to produce "ordered and sensible development of the Islands and not to allow indiscriminate building and development which may be against the public interests."

#### Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

3. The Department of Agriculture was established in 1966 and further expanded in 1967. In general, there is relatively limited agricultural activity in the Territory, largely because good quality soil is found only in scattered pockets, interspersed by large areas of rock and swamps. Most land used for agriculture is excessively rocky, suitable for mechanized tillage only after expensive processing by heavy ripping and crushing equipment. Skilled agricultural labour is limited, the supply being inadequate owing to opportunities in preferred trades.

4. Agricultural production is organized as a three-phased activity based on beef cattle, field products and tree crops - coconuts, mangoes, citrus, avocados and breadfruit. According to the report by the administering Power, agricultural production increased in 1968, mainly in respect of beef, poultry and tropical fruit; an increase in ground provisions also was noted. Extension of improved pasturage was a notable feature of land use, and an expanded trade in agricultural chemicals was recorded.

5. In mid-1969, thirty Holstein and Brown Swiss cows were imported to the Territory to begin the first dairy farm. In addition, a market gardening project has been started to provide locally grown vegetables on a commercial scale and at competitive prices which should reduce the large volume of imports into the Territory.

6. The principal forest products are mahogany and thatch palm: the latter provides material for thatch rope manufacture.

7. In 1968, a commercial enterprise financed partly by United States funds and partly by United Kingdom funds began work on the development of green turtle farming in protected waters. On 17 April 1969, the Turtle Protection Law, 1969, came into effect which provides for the re-establishment of the turtle industry in the Territory. In 1968, the value of exports of turtles, turtle skin, turtle shell and turtle meat amounted to approximately £4,211 compared with £20,000 in 1967 and £16,823 in 1966.

#### Power and water supply

3. The Territory has two public utilities providing electricity. Caribbean Utilities Co. Ltd., which purchased the assets of the former Cayman Island Public Service Ltd., supplies electricity to George Town and West Bay on Grand Cayman; in 1968 service was extended to Boddentown and it is planned eventually to extend the service to the other eastern districts of North Side and East End. Cayman Brac Power and Light Company, Ltd. provides electricity for the island of Cayman Brac.

4. There is still no public water supply in the Territory and present water sources are mainly wells and roof catchments.



## Tourism

30. Tourist promotion is handled by the Cayman Islands Tourist Board, a government appointed and financed institution. The board's initial budget of £2,500 was subsequently increased to £38,500 in 1968 and was expected to be raised by 50 per cent in 1969. In 1968 there were fifteen hotels or residential clubs in the Territory, in addition to a number of guest houses and private cottages. An estimated 8,573 tourists visited the Territory in 1968, compared with 6,189 in 1967 and 5,234 in 1966. (The total number of tourists and visitors in 1968 was 14,460, compared with 4,834 persons in 1964 during the first nine months of 1969, a total of 14,058 persons arrived in the Territory). It is reported that 90 per cent of the tourist business comes from the United States. In 1968 a full-time tourist office was opened in Miami, Florida.

## Other industries

31. In George Town there are two concrete block manufacturing plants and a tile factory. There is also a seafood processing plant and a clothing factory. The manufacture of thatch rope continued to decline.

## Transport and communications

32. There are ninety-six miles of road open to motor vehicles in Grand Cayman and twenty-five miles in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by a jeep-track and foot-paths. In 1967 and 1968, there were approximately 2,000 privately owned motor cars and other vehicles in the Territory, compared with 1,200 in 1966. The George Town airport was reconstructed in 1968 and is now capable of taking jet aircraft. There is also a small airport in Cayman Brac and a private air strip on Little Cayman. The Territory is served by two overseas airlines, British West Indian Airways (BWIA) and Lineas Aereas Costarricenses, S.A. (LACSA); in mid-1969, Bahamian Airways, Limited was granted a licence to operate a service between the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. Internally, the islands are served by Cayman Brac Airways, Ltd., a subsidiary of LACSA. The airline is 51 per cent owned by the Government of the Territory and 49 per cent by LACSA, which provides all crews, servicing and the airline's two aircraft.

33. George Town is the principal port and the port of registry. Forty-four vessels totalling 19,300 gross tons are registered there. There is an urgent need for a deep-water pier; at present vessels anchor in deep water in the sea and there are two small natural wharves to which the locally owned ships come to unload their cargo. According to the statement made by the Administrator on 16 December 1969, a new harbour, capable of catering for larger ocean-going vessels will be constructed during 1970 and 1971. The Territory is served by the M.V. Kirk Trader and the M.V. Kirk Chief plying regularly between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, and the M.V. Kirk Pride plying regularly between the Cayman Islands and Florida. The M.V. Island Prince III plies between Florida, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. Smaller vessels make frequent trips from Honduras bringing fruits, vegetables and lumber.

34. An automatic telephone system with 1,000 lines is in operation in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac with a dialling circuit to Little Cayman. International telephone service is available to most countries. The telephone and telegraph system is owned and operated by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited. By 1970

the Territory should have direct access to the Cable and Wireless station in Jamaica and to the global space communications network.

### Public finance

The following table shows revenue and expenditure since 1964:

| <u>Fiscal year</u> | <u>Revenue</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Expenditure</u><br>(pounds) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1964               | 299,856                    | 296,606                        |
| 1965               | 342,849                    | 319,176                        |
| 1966               | 390,090                    | 363,403                        |
| 1967               | 522,577                    | 507,146                        |
| 1968               | 696,134                    | 597,664                        |

Revenue is derived mainly from import duties and the sale of postage stamps which, in 1968, represented about 85 per cent of the annual revenue (65 per cent from import duties and 20 per cent from the sale of stamps), compared with 65 per cent in 1967 and 70 per cent in 1966. The Territory, in relation to its size, is a significant net dollar earner. In 1964 the net total of Canadian and United States dollars earned was \$US837,535, in 1966 it was \$US1,931,017 and in 1967 it was \$US1,919,672. On 8 September 1969, with the introduction of Jamaican national currency, the Jamaican dollar replaced the Jamaican pound as currency. d/

There are no income, capital gains, property, sales, corporate, estate, gift or inheritance taxes in the Territory. Early in 1969, the Executive Council authorized the establishment of a committee to "study and recommend to Government new measures of taxation which will produce a reasonable sum to meet the coming demand". The Council also decided that "the Committee /should/ be a Standing Committee to consider other measures of taxation from time to time". The committee recommended, inter alia, that fees should be levied for the issue of work permits to persons or any class of persons applying therefor, that the registration fee for motor vehicles be increased.

In 1960, the Legislative Assembly passed the Companies Law, which came into effect on 1 December 1961. The law provides, inter alia, for the registration in the Territory of companies whose business is carried on outside the Territory and allows complete flexibility in their operations. In 1967 the Trust Law was enacted, incorporating all modern features of common-law trusts. The Cayman Islands thus offer business advantages not found in other Territories. George Town, Grand Cayman, is rapidly becoming an important international centre for financial transactions. There were about 900 international companies and foreign firms registered in Grand Cayman at the beginning of 1969 and about 400 trusts. It is reported that their business is growing between 50 and 100 per cent annually.

On 20 February 1969, the Administrator stated in the Legislative Assembly, inter alia: "We are gaining an increasing reputation as a stable and attractive haven for overseas investors and there are signs that registration of banks, companies and trusts in the coming year will increase. These activities, apart from providing a regular increasing revenue to the Government, also provide a

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Two Jamaican dollars are equal in value to one pound sterling or \$US2.40.

number of important side benefits for our island and it is in our interest to provide the right atmosphere for their continued growth and increase".

40. The first bank in the Territory was established nineteen years ago and the first trust company five years ago. At present, the following major trust companies are operating in Grand Cayman - Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd., Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd., Cayman National Trust Company, Ltd. (part owned by Barclays), and Royal Bank of Canada Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd. Other trust companies operate through representatives. Barclays, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce are actively engaged in banking business; the licence of the Union Savings and Loan Association (Cayman) to carry on banking business was suspended by the Administrator on 15 September 1969. In mid-1969, two more banks were granted licences from the Government to carry on an unrestricted general banking business - the Sterling Bank and Trust Co., Ltd., and the First Cayman Bank and Trust Company, Ltd.

41. The important financial development in 1969 has been the movement to the Territory of mutual funds subscribed from overseas. Two large British funds, the Atlantic Exempt Fund (managed by Municipal and General Securities (Cayman) Ltd., a subsidiary of Municipal and General Securities, Ltd., with the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd., acting as trustee) and the Target Offshore Fund (managed by Target Trust Managers (Cayman) Ltd., a subsidiary of Target Trust Managers, Ltd.) have started operations.

42. The Atlantic Exempt Fund has been granted exempt status under the Trust Law, implying guaranteed exemption from all Cayman tax legislation over the next fifty years; the fund is thus free from all taxes except such withholding taxes as are imposed in the countries where investments are made. The fund is designed for capital growth and no income is distributed. The portfolio is international, with about 50 per cent invested in North America and up to 20 per cent in Australia. According to reports, a great number of inquiries for new funds have been received, mainly from the United States, and it is expected that the Territory will soon become a major centre for international off-shore funds.

#### Development aid

##### (a) United Kingdom aid

43. According to the information provided by the administering Power, United Kingdom Government aid to the Territory in 1965 comprised £16,000 mainly in the form of technical assistance. In 1966 the figure of £247,000 of which £256,000 was in the form of development grants and the balance in technical assistance; in 1967 the figure was £317,000 and in 1968 it was £104,000. The total amount of United Kingdom aid to the Territory in the last decade has exceeded £100,000 (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.121, page 4).

##### (b) United Nations technical assistance

44. United Nations technical assistance to the Cayman Islands has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, the cost of assistance approved for the Territory amounted to

approximately \$US58,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of approximately \$US25,000 annually for the period 1969-1972 (the amount of \$US30,000 was approved for 1970). The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning of urban and rural development, low-cost housing, vocational training of maritime personnel, agricultural development and the improvement of livestock production and animal health. The programme also includes fellowships in agriculture and hospital administration (DP/TA/P/L.1/Add.2, pages 61-66).

### Trade

45. The principal import items are food-stuffs, textiles and fuel oil. The principal exports are turtles and turtle products, rope and shark skins. Approximately two thirds of the trade of the Territory is with the United States; the other principal trading partner is Jamaica. The value of imports and exports for the years 1966 to 1968 was as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Imports</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Exports</u><br>(pounds) |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1966        | 1,490,914                  | 23,717                     |
| 1967        | 1,711,408                  | 23,791                     |
| 1968        | 2,675,706                  | 8,123                      |

### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Labour

46. The Government does not maintain a department specifically concerned with labour and employment conditions. The Trade Union Law, 1942, provides for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trade unions. The Registrar of Trade Unions is appointed by the Administrator. The Global Seamen's Union is the only union registered in the Territory. The union was established in 1959, and almost all Caymanians serving on United States ships are members. Total membership is about 6,100, of whom about one third are Cayman Islanders.

#### Cost of living

47. The high cost of living reflects the fact that the bulk of the Territory's food-stuffs is imported and that there are high customs duties on most import items. In January 1959, the index of retail prices in George Town, Grand Cayman, was 137, taking the Jamaica figure as 100. Taking the Grand Cayman figure for 1959 as 100, the corresponding figure for 1966 was 123. A limited range of various standard commodities was used for comparison. No further detailed statistics and general cost-of-living index are available.

48. On 16 December 1969, an official paper concerning the cost-of-living in the Territory was issued by the Administrator, in which it was stated inter alia: 'Government recognizes that there has been domestic inflation in the Cayman Islands caused by the very rapid increase in demand for construction, housing,

services, labour and all commodities over the last three or four years. This has led to shortages, as supply failed to increase as rapidly as demand and wages and prices have risen rapidly as a result".

### Public health

49. The medical services in the Territory are under the control of the Director of Medical Services. Total expenditure on medical and public health during 1965-1967, including the cost of staff, was as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Percentage of</u><br><u>total expenditure</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1965        | 41,947                    | 14.2   |
| 1966        | 36,987                    | 12.3   |
| 1967        | 42,595                    | 8.4  |

50. There is a thirty-five-bed hospital in Grand Cayman which is equipped for routine and emergency medical care. There are three doctors in the Territory, two in government service on the staff of the hospital and one in private general practice. The government medical establishment calls for four doctors but at present two posts are vacant, those of a surgeon for the hospital and a doctor for Cayman Brac. Dental services are provided by one government dental officer and one dentist in private practice; there is no optician in the Territory. Medical practitioners are required to be registered in Jamaica under the provisions of the Jamaican law. Under the Medical (Amendment) Law, 1969, doctors for the United States, Canada and elsewhere may practice in the Territory for a limited period.

51. The average death-rate in the Territory is about 5.7 per thousand. The highest death-rate (18.5 per thousand live births) is found in infants of one year old and under.

52. One of the major problems of the Territory has been mosquitoes, especially during the summer months. To date, twenty-seven species of mosquitoes have been found in the islands. In January 1966, the Government, aided by the United Kingdom Ministry of Overseas Development, established a Mosquito Research and Control Unit in Grand Cayman to study the problem. The activities of the unit include research into biological and insecticidal aspects and into hydrological and earth-moving problems connected with physical control; measures best suited to local conditions; and the application of abatement measures. In 1968, the unit had twenty-four employees (including three volunteer graduates). The unit's activities are financed from local recurrent revenue and Commonwealth Development and Welfare funds, as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Revenue</u><br>(pounds) | <u>C.D. and W.</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Total</u><br>(pounds) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1967        | 18,069                     | 23,910                         | 41,979                   |
| 1968        | 36,889                     | 40,000                         | 76,889                   |
| 1969        | 53,402                     | 41,000                         | 94,402                   |

## E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

53. The educational system of the Territory is under the control of the Education Council, of which the Administrator is chairman. The Council, which replaces the old Board of Education, is responsible for the formulation of educational policy and for the making of regulations for the management of government schools. Recurrent expenditure on education during the period 1966-1968 was as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Percentage of total</u><br><u>recurrent expenditure</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1966        | 56,437                    | 18.8   |
| 1967        | 62,988                    | 21.6   |
| 1968        | 89,868                    | 14.0   |

54. Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of five and fifteen years. In 1968, there were nine government primary schools, two modern secondary schools and one secondary grammar school. In addition there were five church-sponsored primary schools of which two had secondary departments. The Territory is not yet able to supply all the teachers required and some are recruited from Jamaica, the United Kingdom and Canada.

55. Higher education is pursued in institutions abroad. The Territory contributes financially to the University of the West Indies.



E. MONTSERRAT\*

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1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of Montserrat has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of Montserrat in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning Montserrat, in particular those adopted at its 613th meeting on 25 June 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence, while emphasizing once again that the administering Power should enable the people to express their wishes concerning the future status of the Territory in full freedom and without any restrictions.

"(4) The Special Committee notes with regret that no constitutional progress has taken place in the Territory since the item was last examined by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly.

"(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territory.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXV, paras. 308 to 312, 322 to 326 and 333; ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; ibid., Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (Part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIX, para. 9.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIX, para. 9.

"(6) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the public of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(7) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the Territory, without any conditions and reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

"(8) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right to self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(9) The Special Committee urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including Montserrat, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. Montserrat lies twenty-seven miles south-west of Antigua and some forty miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It has a maximum length of eleven miles and a maximum width of seven miles. It has an area of 39 1/2 square miles (102.3 square kilometres). The Territory lies in the hurricane zone.

5. According to the census held on 7 April 1960, the population of the Territory was 12,167. The estimated population at the end of 1968 was 14,689 (almost all of whom were African or mixed descent), compared with 14,468 at the end of 1967 and 14,324 at the end of 1966. The population of Plymouth, the capital, is approximately 3,500.

### B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

6. The existing Constitution, which was introduced in 1960, provides for an Administrator as chief executive. He is appointed by the Crown and is advised by the Executive and Legislative Councils.

#### (a) Administrator

7. The Administrator has the status of the Queen's representative. He is constitutionally required to act on the advice of the Executive Council, except as otherwise provided.

#### (b) Executive Council

8. The Council is responsible for the general control and direction of the Government. It consists of four elected members, namely the Chief Minister, two other ministers and a member without portfolio, and two ex officio members, namely the Principal Law Officer and the Financial Secretary. The Council is presided over by the Administrator. The Administrator appoints as Chief Minister the member of the Legislative Council who, in his judgement, is most likely to command a majority. The other unofficial members are appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister.

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<sup>c/</sup> The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 22 September 1969, for the year beginning 31 December 1968.

(c) Legislative Council

9. The Council consists of two ex officio members, namely the Principal Law Officer and the Financial Secretary, one nominated member and seven elected members. It is presided over by the Administrator.

Judiciary

10. The judiciary consists of the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and two magistrates courts. The Supreme Court is a superior court of record and consists of a Court of Appeal and a High Court of Justice.

Political parties

11. There are two political parties in the Territory, the Montserrat Labour Party (MLP) and the Montserrat Workers' Progressive Party (MWPP). The declared objectives of the MLP are to foster economic and industrial development and to improve education and housing, agriculture and medical services. The objectives of the MWPP are to improve labour conditions and welfare services and to promote agricultural and industrial development.

Elections

12. Elections to the Legislative Council are held at intervals of not more than five years and are based on universal adult suffrage in single-member constituencies. Elections were last held on 31 March 1966, when the MLP was returned to office. The MLP won four seats, the MWPP two seats and an independent took one seat. The Chief Minister of the Territory is Mr. William R.H. Bramble, leader of the MLP.

Electoral districts

13. In the second half of June 1969, a special commissioner, Mr. Adrian Date, began work to determine and define new voting boundaries in preparation for the 1971 elections. (During the 1966 elections, there were complaints that some residents had voted in two districts, and a re-run was called.) On 10 July 1969, the Commissioner presented his report, to the Acting Administrator. In September 1969, the Legislative Council considered and unanimously accepted the recommendations contained in the report and requested the Administrator to prepare the corresponding regulations under the provisions of the Montserrat Electoral Provisions Order, 1966.

Status of the Territory

14. As previously reported, the representative of the United Kingdom stated in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly that his Government was prepared to convene a conference to consider constitutional changes in the Territory, whenever the local political parties indicated that they were ready. d/ On 3 June 1968, the representative of the United Kingdom stated in Sub-Committee III of the Special Committee that the Chief Minister had informed the United Kingdom Government that he

d/ A/C.4/SR.1751; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII, para. 213.

did not at the moment wish to accept that offer, since he and his Government were for the time being more concerned with the economic development of the Territory (A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.110).

15. According to some press reports, the Chief Minister was supposed to discuss the Territory's political status with the United Kingdom Minister of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Shepherd, during his visit to St. Vincent's statehood celebrations at the end of October 1969. However, on 24 October 1969, the Chief Minister denied those reports and stated: "I am not at all aware of any discussions which will take place in St. Vincent with respect to constitutional advancement in Montserrat. I will, however, seek an opportunity to discuss with Lord Shepherd certain aspects of economic development in Montserrat."

16. At a news conference held in St. John's, Antigua, on 6 January 1970, the Chief Minister of Montserrat qualified as "unfounded rumour" reports that Montserrat was seeking independence. He declared, inter alia: "Montserrat will remain a colony of Britain until we become economically viable enough to consider independence." Asked by reporters about the kind of status the Territory would seek when it became more prosperous, the Chief Minister replied: "We have not given this any thought yet, but when the time comes we will choose one that works wells."

17. The Chief Minister was further asked whether there was a possibility that Montserrat would unite with Antigua to form an independent State; he replied: "I prefer not to answer this question. We are a colony of Britain."

18. When asked to comment on Antigua's proposal to set up its own university, the Chief Minister said: "It is an admirable move by the Antigua Government and the Government of Montserrat will support any move the Antigua Government makes which enhances regional togetherness."

#### State of emergency

19. On 14 April 1969, a state of emergency was declared in the Territory following clashes with the police. According to reports, the conflict started after about twenty people protested against brutality exercised by a policeman against a civilian. A spokesman for the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced that the state of emergency had been declared to enable the Administrator to impose a curfew in order to prevent the spread of disorders. According to reports, officials of that Office stated that the trouble was not political in the sense of being directed against the United Kingdom authority, but it was serious because of the attacks on the police.

20. During the disturbances, it was reported that tear gas was used and that local defence volunteers were called out to help the Territory's sixty-three man police force quell the demonstrations. It was also reported that the frigate Minerva (2,900 tons), which is stationed in the West Indies, received orders to sail to Montserrat; the plan was for the ship to lie off the island and to put a force ashore if requested.

21. On 14 April 1969, the policeman involved in the original incident was convicted in the Magistrate's Court for unlawfully beating a civilian with a whip and was sentenced to twenty-one days imprisonment and payment of a fine of \$EC300. e/

e/ One Eastern Caribbean dollar (\$EC) equals \$US.50.

(An appeal was later upheld by the Appeal Court and the policeman was ordered to pay a fine instead of imprisonment.) On 16 April 1969, about one third of the police force, mostly constables and junior officers, went on strike in protest against the court decision. The strike was followed by a number of resignations from the force. The state of emergency was lifted on 17 April 1969. Following the events, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to inquire into the disturbances.

#### Other developments

22. Lord Shepherd, the United Kingdom Minister of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited the Territory from 16 to 19 March 1969. On 5 May 1969, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Whitlock, said in the House of Commons that, during the visit, the question of improving harbour facilities by the construction of a deep-water wharf had been discussed.

23. According to reports, at a public meeting held in Plymouth on 15 December 1969, the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Austin Bramble, demanded that the United Kingdom recall the Financial Secretary of the Territory, Mr. John Taylor. Mr. A. Bramble charged that Mr. Taylor had violated proper procedures by submitting budget estimates for 1970 directly to London without consulting the legislature. He also said that Mr. Taylor had cut the budget for 1970 below that of 1969, and that his actions were promoting "ignorance, backwardness, sickness and hardship" in the Territory. The Opposition leader, Mr. George Edwards, was reported to have described Mr. Taylor's actions as improper and to have added that the Chief Minister (who also holds the finance portfolio) must also share responsibility for the Financial Secretary's actions.

### C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### General

24. According to the information provided by the administering Power, the economy of the Territory continued its growth in a satisfactory manner during 1967 and 1968. The development of real estate and tourism were most noticeable while there was a general increase in other sectors. Construction and engineering operations, and the hotel and service industries overtook the agriculture and livestock industries as the biggest domestic earners.

25. At the end of April 1969, the Chief Minister Mr. Bramble, stated, inter alia: "The march of the Commonwealth Caribbean towards the goal of a single economic community could only be achieved if a fair balance of trade existed in the CARIFTA area."

26. The improvement in the total gross domestic product over the past five years and its basic components are shown in the following table:

(thousand Eastern Caribbean dollars)

| <u>Sector</u>                | <u>1964</u>  | <u>1965</u>  | <u>1966</u>  | <u>1967</u>  | <u>1968</u>  |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Export agriculture           | 190          | 196          | 271          | 53           | 211          |
| Other agriculture            | 900)         |              |              |              |              |
| Livestock and fish           | 310)         | 1,210        | 1,193        | 1,241        | 1,291        |
| Construction and engineering | 900          | 1,242        | 1,335        | 1,291        | 1,608        |
| Hotels                       | 180          | 268          | 357          | 379          | 459          |
| Services                     |              | 110          | 114          | 118          | 123          |
| Manufacturing                | 85           | 88           | 100          | 101          | 109          |
| Distribution                 | 625          | 756          | 908          | 1,083        | 1,186        |
| Transport                    | 40           | 56           | 91           | 87           | 94           |
| Rent of dwellings            | 270          | 291          | 345          | 404          | 469          |
| Sub-total                    | <u>3,500</u> | <u>4,217</u> | <u>4,714</u> | <u>4,757</u> | <u>5,550</u> |
| Government                   | <u>1,000</u> | <u>1,395</u> | <u>1,661</u> | <u>1,828</u> | <u>1,950</u> |
| TOTAL                        | 4,500        | 5,612        | 6,375        | 6,585        | 7,500        |

27. In 1968 and 1969, the per capita gross domestic product was estimated at \$EC514.

#### Natural resources

28. No minerals have yet been discovered in commercial quantities. Mineral explorations are concentrated on sulphur deposits.

#### Power and water supply

29. The Territory's electricity service was inaugurated in 1955 and was expanded until it reached its peak capacity of 220 kilowatts in 1964. Demand, however, exceeded supply, and in 1967 a new generating station was commissioned, and an eleven kilowatt transmission system was built to provide coverage to the entire Territory. By the end of 1968, 1,809 consumers were utilizing the service compared with 1,492 at the end of 1967.

30. In June 1969, the Chief Minister of the Territory and the Commonwealth Development Corporation completed arrangements for the Corporation to take over the management of and responsibility for the Montserrat Electricity Services. According to reports, it is expected that the Corporation will be in a position to obtain finance for future development of the Territory's electricity services.

31. In October 1969, the British Insulated Cables Company completed the laying of underground power and telephone cables for the Montserrat Company, Ltd.; the project was started in 1968.

32. At the end of 1969, the Government of Canada earmarked \$EC3.6 million for the improvement of the Territory's water supply. The five-year project will

provide the island with a new storage and distribution system; it will be undertaken by a Canadian contractor and supervised by a Canadian consultant.

### Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

33. The Department of Agriculture is responsible, among other things, for animal production, land use, forestry, fisheries and marketing.

34. The Territory, being a volcanic island with varying topography, and having relatively favourable climatic conditions, is well suited for agricultural production. There are currently about 6,000 acres in agricultural use of which 2,270 acres are under field crops. According to estimates, a further 11,500 acres could be brought into use, 9,000 immediately and the rest after some rehabilitation. It is estimated that there are about 1,000 people employed full time on land.

35. The Territory's main crop - sea island cotton - continued to show a decline in quantity and variations in yield, as indicated by the following statistics:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Area planted<br/>(acres)</u> | <u>Quantity of<br/>clean lint<br/>(pounds)</u> | <u>Clean lint yield<br/>per acre<br/>(pounds)</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 1964/65     | 912                             | 140,760  | 154   |
| 1965/66     | 1,180                           | 186,343  | 170   |
| 1966/67     | 1,250                           | 57,867 <sup>a/</sup>                           | 46 <sup>a/</sup>                                  |
| 1967/68     | 690                             | 105,838  | 153   |

a/ The very low yield in 1966/67 was due to hurricane "Inez" and very wet harvesting conditions.

Planting of the new crop was completed during September 1969. Reports indicate that a much smaller acreage has been planted than in 1968.

36. At the beginning of September 1969, a leading representative of Montserrat's West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association was reported to have declared that large-scale backing from Barbados and Antigua was necessary for the survival of the sea-island cotton industry.

37. Sugar-cane cultivation continued its declining trend. Growers are paid in terms of cane juice extracted; the juice is processed into thick syrup. The following table shows the amount and value of syrup production since 1961:



| <u>Year</u> | <u>Syrup</u><br>( <u>gallons</u> ) | <u>Value</u><br>( <u>Eastern Caribbean</u><br><u>dollars</u> ) |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1961        | 17,720                             | 24,884   |
| 1962        | 12,120                             | 8,606  |
| 1963        | 5,040                              | 4,132  |
| 1964        | 8,496                              | 5,997  |
| 1965        | 8,920                              | 7,825  |
| 1966        | 6,873                              | 5,513  |
| 1967        | 4,800                              | 4,448  |

According to reports, further planting of sugar-cane is expected to be limited to providing enough sugar for local consumption and to supply the local rum distillery.

38. Some parts of the island are well suited for banana production. In many areas however, banana cultivation has proved uneconomic because of the cost of establishing windbreaks. The entire banana crop is exported to Dominica.

39. It is estimated that there are about 600 acres under sweet potatoes on the island. The bulk of the crop is exported to Antigua.

40. The Territory is traditionally well known for its vegetables, mainly tomatoes and onions. Other vegetables which are grown on the island are cabbage, egg-plant, peppers, peas, lettuce, watercress, cucumber, okra and carrots. Mangoes grow well in most parts. The Territory also produces high quality limes.

41. The following table shows the export figures of selected items for which statistics are available:

|                      | <u>1964</u> | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Carrots (pounds)     | 31,690      | 4,269       | ...         | ...         | 295         |
| Tomatoes (pounds)    | 137,690     | 230,000     | 60,000      | 40,000      | 24,766      |
| Eschalots (pounds)   | 2,118       | 3,819       | 969         | ...         | 400         |
| Mangoes (units)      | ...         | 45,159      | 16,360      | 25,064      | 23,876      |
| Hot peppers (pounds) | ...         | 17,493      | 17,273      | 43,721      | 42,949      |

42. Estimated numbers of livestock at the end of 1968 were as follows: cattle 6,000; sheep 4,000; goats 3,000; pigs 2,000; and poultry 5,000. Efforts are continuing to increase poultry production as part of an import substitution programme. In June 1969, a Livestock Co-operative Society was formed to improve the local herds and the manufacture of animal feeds.

43. The total area of forests is approximately 5,000 acres. A small amount of cedar lumber is exported to neighbouring islands.

44. In 1968, the monthly average catch of fish recorded by the Fisheries Assistant was 13,390 pounds, compared with 11,083 pounds in 1967.

### Industries

45. Industries, which are limited to the processing of local products, include cotton ginning, processing of sugar-cane, distillation of rum, lime juice and lime oil processing, soap manufacturing, canning and handicrafts. There are also two small furniture factories. In July 1969, Montserrat Metal Industries, Limited was formed, one of its main aims being the manufacture of aluminium window and door frames. Allied Services, Limited, a modern tyre recapping factory in Plymouth, which was registered in February 1968, ceased production in November 1969 owing to financial difficulties.

### Transport and communications

46. There are about 150 miles of roads open for traffic, of which some eighty miles are suitable for motor vehicles. The number of licensed vehicles rose from 459 in 1964 to 816 in 1968.

47. The Blackburne Airport is now able to accommodate Avro 748 aircraft. The new terminal building, financed under the Canadian External Aid Programme, was completed in summer 1969 and officially opened on 20 August 1969 by the Canadian High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean.

48. Leeward Islands Air Transport Service maintains daily scheduled services between Montserrat and Antigua. Air Antilles also operates a regular service between Guadeloupe and Montserrat. In 1968, there were 1,775 aircraft landings. There were 12,406 arrivals and 12,137 departures.

49. Shipping services to Plymouth are provided by the West Indies Shipping Line, the Harrison Line, Atlantic Lines and the Blue Ribbon Line. In 1968, 465 steamers (including motor vessels) of 342,238 gross registered tonnage and sailing craft entered and cleared the port of Plymouth, landing a total of 4,643 passengers and 21,845 tons of cargo, and embarking 4,898 passengers and loading 695 tons of cargo.

50. In June 1969, permission was granted to the Ponce Cement Company of Puerto Rico for the construction of a pier in Plymouth to handle the discharge of cement in bulk from barges. The new jetty is expected to cut the unloading time of cement in half.

51. At the end of 1968, there were 430 subscribers to the telephone system, compared with 393 at the end of 1967.

### Tourism

52. In 1968, the number of visitors to the Territory was 7,125 compared with 6,181 in 1967, 7,314 in 1966 and 7,412 in 1965.

53. In 1969, the Statistical Officer expressed criticism about the projections on tourism made by Mr. Harry Zinder and Associates of America in a recent publication entitled The Future of Tourism in the Eastern Caribbean. The publication forecast that in 1977 a total of 40,000 tourists would visit Montserrat, staying an average of five days and spending \$14 million. The Statistical Officer said: "They are unduly optimistic both in the forecast of the number of tourists and in their estimated gross expenditure and its subsequent effect on the economy."

### Trade

54. The Territory's exports consist exclusively of agricultural products except for limited sales of handicrafts. The Government Marketing Depot continues to operate as an export marketing service for surplus fruits and vegetables; operations are irregular and their scale relatively limited. In 1968, 43,721 pounds of hot peppers valued at \$EC13,116 were exported to the United Kingdom and 23,064 mangoes valued at \$EC3,250 were air-freighted to Bermuda.

### Public finance

55. Revenue and expenditure for the years 1966-1968 were as follows:

#### A. Revenue

|  | <u>1966</u>                 | <u>1967</u>      | <u>1968</u>      |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |                  |                  |
| <u>Recurrent revenue</u>                                   |                             |                  |                  |
| Total local revenue <sup>a/</sup>                          | 1,719,852                   | 2,045,402        | 2,719,903        |
| United Kingdom grants-in-aid                               | 689,896                     | 632,200          | 609,600          |
| Other grants including Colonial<br>Development and Welfare | 111,280                     | 218,558          | 125,848          |
| Total recurrent revenue                                    | <u>2,521,028</u>            | <u>2,896,160</u> | <u>3,455,351</u> |
| <u>Capital revenue</u>                                     |                             |                  |                  |
| Surplus fund   | -                           | -                | 92,562           |
| United Kingdom grants-in-aid                               | 130,104                     | 63,000           | -                |
| Other grants including Colonial<br>Development and Welfare | 606,126                     | 391,708          | 197,144          |
| Electricity loan   | 744,225                     | 196,702          | 115,073          |
| Sale of land   | 22,177                      | 15,161           | 25,312           |
| Miscellaneous  | -                           | -                | 2,016            |
| Total capital revenue                                      | <u>1,502,632</u>            | <u>666,571</u>   | <u>432,107</u>   |
| Total revenue  | 4,023,660                   | 3,562,731        | 3,887,488        |

<sup>a/</sup> Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communications and Works, Ministry of Trade and Production, Ministry of Social Services, Legal and Judicial.

B. Expenditure

|   | <u>1966</u>                 | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | (Eastern Caribbean dollars) |             |             |
| <u>Recurrent expenditure</u>                                    |                             |             |             |
| Total local expenditure   | 2,486,217                   | 2,777,724   | 3,539,602   |
| Other expenditure including Colonial<br>Development and Welfare | 165,113                     | 180,934     | 14,225      |
| Total recurrent expenditure                                     | 2,651,330                   | 2,958,658   | 3,553,827   |
| Total capital expenditure                                       | 1,616,211                   | 1,110,820   | 526,747     |
| Total expenditure   | 4,267,541                   | 4,069,478   | 4,080,574   |

56. In 1969, the Territory's recurrent budget was subsidized by the United Kingdom to the extent of \$EC839,000 out of a total of \$EC4,133,000 and the capital budget by \$EC905,000 out of \$EC1,540,000.

57. There are three banks in the Territory all of them situated in Plymouth: Barclays Bank, D.C.O., the Royal Bank of Canada and the Government Savings Bank. Following discussions with the Chief Minister in October 1969, the Vice-President of the Chase Manhattan Bank announced that the Bank was planning to submit formal application for a licence to operate in the Territory.

58. The Territory operates a Commonwealth preference system of taxation. The preferential rate averages 15 per cent as against the ordinary rate of 20 per cent. Certain consumption taxes have been levied as a result of CARIFTA involvement.

59. The maximum payable income tax for individuals and corporations is 20 per cent; property tax is at the level of 3/4 to 1 per cent of market (site) value. There are no capital gains taxes, no estate duties and no succession taxes.

United Nations technical assistance

60. United Nations technical assistance to Montserrat has been provided since 1965, first through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and subsequently under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). By the end of 1968, assistance rendered to the Territory amounted to approximately the equivalent of \$US114,000. The Governing Council of UNDP has approved as a target for assistance to the Territory the equivalent of approximately \$US35,000 annually for the period 1969-1972. The Territory's programme for the same period includes the services of experts in physical planning for the development and conservation of the Island's land resources; low-cost housing; handicrafts and handicraft marketing; agricultural marketing; hospital and public health services; and the improvement of postal administration. f/

f/ DP/TA/P/L.1/Add.2, pages 226-232.

61. Since 1967, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has allocated \$US16,027 to Montserrat. Expenditure for 1968 was \$US6,605 of which \$US3,805 was used for supplies and equipment and \$US2,800 for fellowships and training grants. g/

#### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

##### Labour

62. The Labour Department is the administrative organization primarily responsible for governmental activities relating to labour and employment conditions. The labour force is relatively small and largely untrained.

63. The following tables show the employment statistics by the main categories of occupation as of 31 December 1968:

##### Government undertakings

|                         | <u>Men</u> | <u>Women</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Public Works Department | 205        | -            | 205          |
| Agricultural Department | 40         | 19           | 59           |
| Medical and health      | 43         | 44           | 87           |
| Electricity             | 17         | -            | 17           |
| TOTAL                   | 305        | 63           | 368          |

##### Private undertakings

|                               |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Seamen and waterfront workers | 70    | -     | 70    |
| Agriculture                   | 1,247 | 1,851 | 3,098 |
| Construction                  | 527   | 1     | 528   |
| Retail distribution           | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Minor industries              | 802   | 386   | 1,188 |
| TOTAL                         | 2,646 | 2,238 | 4,884 |

64. According to the report of the administering Power, there were two labour disputes in 1967, one in the cotton industry, and the other in the tractor services administered by the Agricultural Department. As a result of these disputes, 249 man-days were lost. No strikes or lock-outs were reported to the Labour Department in 1968. Minor differences between employers and employees were either settled by direct negotiations or with the conciliation services provided by the Department.

65. The three employee trade unions registered under the Trade Union Act had a total membership of 279 at the end of 1968.

66. During 1968, twenty-six persons were granted entry as permanent immigrants into Canada and three persons received employment vouchers for work in the United Kingdom.

#### Cost of living

67. As reported by the administering Power, it is estimated that prices are rising at approximately 4 per cent per year; devaluation caused a greater increase in 1968. Detailed statistics are not available.

#### Public health

68. The responsibility for public health services lies with the Medical and Public Health Department. Total recurrent expenditure on medical and health services was \$EC388,598 in 1968 (10.7 per cent of the total recurrent expenditure and 4.5 per cent of the total expenditure of the Territory) as against \$EC320,414 in 1967 and \$EC267,235 in 1966.

69. In 1968, there was one general hospital with about seventy beds, three health centres and seven dispensaries which provided facilities for the examination and treatment of patients suffering from general and minor surgical conditions, as well as for ante-natal care and infant welfare clinics; there was also an infirmary with a capacity for forty persons. The total medical and health staff in the Territory (government and private) numbered 118, of whom five were physicians (three government-registered and two private) and two were dentists (one government-registered and one private).

70. The Old People's Welfare Association, the local branches of the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance Brigade continue to provide medical and nursing care to the old and infirm.

71. Live births in 1968 numbered 322, or 21.92 per thousand of the estimated population, compared with 363, or 25.09 per thousand in 1967. There were 115 deaths, or 7.83 per thousand, in 1968, compared with 148, or 10.22 per thousand, in 1967. The infant mortality rate was 43.48 per thousand in 1968, compared with 71.63 per thousand in 1967 and 51.82 per thousand in 1966.

#### E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

72. Educational policy is directed by the Education Division of the Ministry of Social Services. Education is free for all children up to the age of fifteen and compulsory for all up to the age of thirteen. In 1968, recurrent expenditure on primary education amounted to \$EC246,112 while that on secondary education was \$EC73,885, compared with \$EC236,116 and \$EC96,300 in 1967, and \$EC232,388 and \$EC81,344 in 1966. Capital expenditure in 1968 amounted to \$EC12,000, compared with \$EC163,551 in 1967, and \$EC75,464 in 1966. The total 1968 recurrent expenditure on education was 10 per cent of the recurrent expenditure of the Territory, compared with 10.6 per cent in 1967, and 11.83 per cent in 1966.

73. In 1968, the Government maintained thirteen primary schools and one secondary school. The secondary school was improved in 1969 by the construction of four new classrooms and three new laboratories. There was one aided primary school, two unaided and one private primary school in the Territory. The new primary school at Lees, which was begun in September 1967, was completed in 1968; the school was intended originally to accommodate 150 children, but at the end of 1968, 200 children were enrolled.

74. In 1968, a total of 2,969 pupils attended primary schools, with a teacher strength of 109, compared with 2,908 pupils and 103 teachers in 1967. Two hundred sixty-three students attended secondary school (compared with 268 in 1967), with a teacher strength of eighteen (compared with sixteen in 1967).

75. Radio Montserrat is a government-owned station for broadcasting information, educational and entertainment programmes. Radio Antilles is a commercial station which was opened in February 1966. Television transmissions can be received from Antigua (Leeward Islands Television Service) via a translator station to the north-east of Plymouth.

76. The Montserrat Mirror, a weekly English language newspaper, had a circulation of about 450 at the end of 1968, compared with 550 at the end of 1967.

F. TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS\*

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\* Previously issued under symbol A/AC.109/L.619.



1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolutions 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the Turks and Caicos Islands, in particular those adopted at its 613th meeting on 25 June 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

"(4) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the Territory.

"(5) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right of self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(6) The Special Committee reiterates its request to the administering Power that it take immediate measures to transfer all powers to the people of the

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXIV, paras. 133-134; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVIII, section II B; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVII, para. 9.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXVII, para. 9.

Territory, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete freedom and independence.

"(7) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(8) The Special Committee urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session on the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. The Turks and Caicos Islands are geographically part of the Bahama Islands. They are situated about ninety miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica. They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel about twenty-two miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The entire group extends for a distance of seventy-five miles from east to west and fifty miles from north to south. The land area of the islands is estimated to be 166 square miles (430 square kilometres). The islands lie in the hurricane zone.

5. The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called locally Blue Hills) and West Caicos.

6. At the last census, taken on 7 April 1960, the total population was 5,668, of whom 3,468 lived in the salt-producing centres of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and 2,200 in the Caicos settlements. Almost half of the population (2,557) were children. A total of 5,315 persons were of African descent, 216 were of mixed descent, 77 were of European descent and 60 were not classified. The estimated population at the end of 1964 was 6,628.

### B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

7. On 18 June 1969, the new Constitution was introduced in the Territory; it is contained in the Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order, 1969, which revoked the Order in Council of 1965 and its relevant amendments. The main feature of the new Constitution is the establishment of a State Council with a majority of elected members, to replace the former Executive Council and Legislative Assembly. The new Constitution maintains the political and juridical links between the Territory and the Bahama Islands; the Governor of the Bahamas is also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, d/ and appeals from the courts of the Territory lie to the Court of Appeal for the Bahama Islands.

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c/ The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 4 November 1968 and 4 September 1969 for the years ending 31 December 1967 and 1968.

d/ According to the Order, the term "Governor" means "the person for the time being holding the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahama Islands".

(a) Governor

8. The Governor has such functions in relation to the Territory "as may be conferred upon him by or under the Order or any other law for the time being in force in the Islands and such other functions in relation to the Islands as Her Majesty may assign to him". He performs all his functions according to such instructions, if any, as the Queen may give him. The Order provides that "the question whether or not the Governor has in any matter complied with any such instructions shall not be enquired into in any court of law". The Governor may, when he is present in the Territory, perform any of the functions conferred on the Administrator.

(b) Administrator

9. The Administrator is appointed by the Governor in pursuance of instructions given to him by the Queen through the Secretary of State. The Administrator has such functions "as may be conferred upon him by or under the Order or any other law and such other functions as Her Majesty or the Governor may assign to him". He performs all his functions according to such instructions, if any, as may be given to him by the Queen or by the Governor. The Order provides that "the question whether or not the Administrator has in any matter complied with any such instructions shall not be enquired into in any court of law".

10. The Administrator, with the advice and consent of the State Council, "may make laws for the peace, order and good government in the Territory". He is required "to consult with the Council in the formulation of policy and the exercise of functions" conferred upon him by the Order or any other law being in force in the Territory. He may act against the advice given to him by the Council if "in his judgement, it is expedient to do so in the interests of public faith or the welfare of the Islands"; in such case, he is required first to obtain the approval of a Secretary of State or the Governor.

11. The Administrator is not obliged to consult with the Council with respect to:

- "(i) Any function conferred upon him by any provision of this Order which is expressed to be exercisable in his discretion or in pursuance of instructions given to him by Her Majesty through a Secretary of State or by the Governor;
- (ii) Any function conferred upon him by any other law in terms authorizing him to exercise that function without consulting the Council;
- (iii) Any question of policy or any function that in his opinion relates to defence, external affairs, internal security, the police or the specified public service matters;
- (iv) Any case in which, in his judgement the question for decision is too routine in nature to require the Council's advice or is one to which any previous determination of policy applies; or
- (v) Any case in which, in his judgement, the urgency of the matter requires him to act before the Council can be consulted."

In any case falling within sub-paragraph (v), the Administrator is required, as soon as practicable, to communicate to the Council the measures he has adopted and the reasons therefor.

(c) State Council

12. The function of the State Council is "to advise the Administrator in the government of the Islands". The Council consists of (i) the Treasurer (ex officio), (ii) one official member appointed by the Administrator from among persons holding public office who possess legal qualifications; (iii) one official member appointed by the Administrator from among persons holding public office, (iv) not less than two nor more than three nominated members appointed by the Administrator from among British subjects of the age of twenty-one years or more, and nine elected members. The Speaker of the State Council is appointed by the Administrator "after consultation with the State Council", from among the nominated members of the Council.

13. The Order provides that "the State Council shall not be summoned except by the authority of the Administrator, acting in his discretion". The public meetings of the State Council are summoned by the Administrator by notice published in the official gazette. These meetings are presided over by the Speaker. The meetings of the Council for the purpose of consultation with the Administrator are held in private. These private meetings are presided over by the Administrator, or, if he is present in the Territory, by the Governor. The quorum of the State Council consists of five members of whom not less than three are elected members. The Council may make rules for its own procedure, subject to the approval of the Administrator. The Administrator may establish one or more Committees of the State Council, having to deal with the conduct of government business (except that relating to defence, external affairs, internal security, the police and the specified public service matters).

14. The seat of Government is at Grand Turk. A district commissioner, stationed at Cockburn Harbour, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Caicos Islands. In 1969, there were about 200 government employees and officials in the Territory.

Judiciary

15. The law in force in the Territory consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied acts of the United Kingdom Parliament and the Bahamas Legislature and ordinances passed by the local authorities.

16. The administration of justice is in the hands of the Magistrate. The Magistrate also exercises extended jurisdiction as an acting judge of the Supreme Court of the islands. In serious criminal cases the preliminary inquiry is either taken by one of the justices of the peace, of whom there are thirty, or a judge may be sent from the Bahamas to hold the necessary hearings. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

17. Appeals from the courts of the Territory lie to the Court of Appeal for the Bahama Islands. The Court has jurisdiction "to hear and determine such appeals from the courts of the Islands as may be prescribed by or under any law for the time being in force in the Islands". For the purposes of hearing and determining such appeals, the Court may sit either in the Territory or in the Bahama Islands "as the President of the Court may from time to time direct".

#### Political parties

18. There are no political parties in the Territory.

#### Electoral system

19. A general election of elected members of the State Council is held "not less than four years and nine months and not more than five years after the Council was last constituted or reconstituted". The last elections were held on 2 September 1967.

20. For the purpose of the election of the elected members of the State Council, the Territory is divided into electoral districts. At present there are nine elected members, but the Constitution provides for additional members as necessary.

21. A person is considered qualified to be elected as a member of the State Council if he is "a person who belongs to the Islands"; is at least twenty-one years of age; and if he has lived in the Territory for the twelve months immediately preceding the date of his nomination for election, or is domiciled in the Territory and is resident there at that date. The term "a person who belongs to the Islands" means a British subject who: (a) was born in the Territory; (b) was born outside the Territory of a father and mother who were born in the islands; or (c) has been granted a certificate of naturalization by the Administrator under the British Nationality Act, 1968 and is the wife of a person to whom any of the foregoing paragraphs apply.

#### Military bases

22. There are two United States military establishments on Grand Turk - the United States Air Force Guided Missile Base and the United States Naval Facility. There is also a United States Coast Guard Station on South Caicos. According to the reports of the administering Power for 1967 and 1968, there were between 200 and 300 United States servicemen and civilians stationed in Grand Turk; in October 1969, the Administrator of the Territory stated that these establishments employed about 300 to 400 United States personnel. In 1965/66 a total of eighty-two islanders were employed at the bases, sixty-eight at the United States Air Force Guided Missile Base and fourteen at the United States Naval Facility; in 1969, there were sixty-six islanders employed at the bases.

23. The Territory derives no revenue from the United States military establishments, which is a source of complaint in the Territory. The Administrator stated during a press conference held in October 1969 that it was felt "that the Americans should make some gesture in payment for the site - one of the prime ones on Grand Turk". The Administrator also stated that the authorities of the Territory had been "engaged for some months now in negotiations with the United States at a governmental level" on this question.

## Other developments

24. According to reports, there were some complaints and charges in the Territory that the new Constitution had been introduced without proper consultation with the representatives of the people of the Territory and that there was no opportunity for making amendments. The Administrator replied to these complaints in an interview in October 1969 in the following way:

"There was full agreement on all aspects of the Constitution. It was never necessary to hold a full-scale conference in London. We had a small delegation that met Lord Shepherd, Minister of State, when he was out here, but there was no need for a full-scale meeting with Foreign Office officials because there was such accord throughout in our discussions."

## C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### General

25. The economic situation of the Territory continues to be difficult. The islands are barren and the agricultural potential is very small. The production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water, the traditional and basic industry of the Territory, is in a depressed state and continues to decline. It is generally considered that the best prospects for future development lie in the expansion of the tourist industry.

### Land

26. A Lands Department was established in 1967 to begin the task of recording the ownership of land. It is expected that adjudication will be completed late in 1970. A Planning and Development Authority was also appointed to control and supervise all building and future planning in the Territory.

27. Five to 10 per cent of the land on Grand Turk and South Caicos is Crown land; the percentage is 75 per cent on the other islands. The price of land has been increasing rapidly, especially in the last few years. According to reports, in 1967, an acre of land with perfect beaches was priced at £50, e/ at the end of 1969, the Government was selling good beach lands at the price of £1,000 per half acre. In 1969, completely undeveloped land on undeveloped islands was priced at £150 to £250 per acre.

### Agriculture and livestock

28. There is practically no agriculture on the salt islands. Corn, beans and other crops are grown in the Caicos Islands in sufficient quantities to satisfy local needs. The main problems are the saline conditions, the uncertain rainfall and the hurricane damage risk.

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e/ Figures used throughout this report are in pounds sterling. The currency in circulation consists of Jamaican notes and British silver. United States dollars are freely accepted. On 8 September 1969, with the introduction of Jamaican decimal currency, the Jamaican dollar replaced the Jamaican pound. Two Jamaican dollars equal one pound sterling or \$US2.40.

29. Sisal production continued to decline and by 1969 was no longer of economic importance. The following table shows exports of sisal in the year 1965 to 1967:

|      | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
|------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1965 | 29          | 3,389                    |
| 1966 | 18          | 1,900                    |
| 1967 | 20          | 2,399                    |

30. Livestock is owned mainly by families and small owners. It is estimated that there are about 1,000 cows and 600 donkeys on Grand Turk; there are also some horses and goats in the Territory. In 1969, the Council approved laws (against the opposition of some Grand Turk inhabitants) which require people in Grand Turk and South Caicos to reduce and control their livestock in order to prevent further deterioration of soil conditions from overgrazing. The decision of the Council caused some opposition and protests in the Territory.

### Fisheries

31. Fisheries are of substantial economic importance and the spiny lobster (crawfish) has become the chief export of the Territory. The following table shows the exports of crawfish in the years 1966 to 1968:

|      | <u>Pounds</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1966 | 95,875        | 29,968                   |
| 1967 | 122,165       | 38,228                   |
| 1968 | 174,860       | 58,115                   |

32. The second largest fish export is dried conch which is sold to Haiti. In addition, conch shells are exported to the United States. Following are the most recent export figures for these two items:

|      | <u>Dried conch</u> |                          | <u>Conch shells</u> |                          |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|      | <u>Number</u>      | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Number</u>       | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
| 1966 | 624,650            | 2,152                    | 192,779             | 1,200                    |
| 1967 | 485,100            | 2,713                    | ...                 | ...                      |
| 1968 | ...                | ...                      | 187,000             | 630                      |

### Power and water supply

33. Most of the water in the existing wells is unfit for human consumption. The people on the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water supply on public tanks, where rain water is sold at about 1/2d per gallon. There are thirty-four of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,324,000 gallons. It is believed that the hotel developers will need to install their own small desalination plants.



34. Only Grand Turk and South Caicos have a public electric power service. The public utility on Grand Turk has a capacity of 250 kw. and serves about 180 customers. In 1968, a licence was issued to the Caicos Company, Ltd. (formerly Caicos Holdings, Ltd.) to construct a privately owned electric power plant on South Caicos.

#### Mining

35. The oil exploration licence which was granted to the Bahamas California Oil Company in 1955, reissued in 1965 and renewed in 1967, expired in 1969.

#### Industry

36. Salt operations on Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour were closed down in December 1964; it was decided that the operation at Salt Cay should continue, as no alternative livelihood could be found for the inhabitants. In 1966 a government subsidy of £9,765 (compared with £8,017 in 1965) was required to keep the industry operating; the revised subsidy in 1967 was £12,450.

37. Forty-five persons were employed at Salt Cay in 1968, compared with forty-three in 1967 and an average of fifty-five in the preceding two years. Production was 2,901 tons in 1965, 5,550 tons in 1966, 4,193 tons in 1967 and 2,200 in 1968.

38. The following table shows the volume of salt shipments in the years 1966 to 1968:

|      | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Value</u><br>(pounds) |
|------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1966 | 5,580       | 9,732                    |
| 1967 | 3,770       | 6,251                    |
| 1968 | 2,504       | 3,796                    |

39. According to reports, capital for tourist development has recently begun to enter the Territory and work has started in several locations on the building of new hotels, modernization of the existing ones and improvement of airport facilities. The island of Providenciales has attracted a private development company, Provident, Ltd., which has laid out a network of roads, built an airstrip and terminal building and completed a small hotel. Subdivisions for private houses are being sold and a large resort-style hotel is envisaged.

40. The Administrator of the Territory stated in October 1969 that he had had difficulties in obtaining the approval of the United Kingdom Government for concessions he wished to offer developers in order to encourage them to come to the Territory. At the request of the Government of the Territory, a United Kingdom development team visited the islands at the beginning of 1970 to examine and report on the possibilities of the future growth of tourist development.

## Transport and communications

41. According to the report of the administering Power, the condition of the roads has continued to deteriorate, especially in South Caicos and Grand Turk where there has been a considerable increase in the number of vehicles.
42. In 1968, airstrips were constructed on Salt Cay and Providenciales, and temporary airstrips on North and Middle Caicos, the South Caicos airstrip was lengthened to 6,000 feet and paved so that it could be used by Avro 748 turbo-jets. The new terminal building was officially opened in June 1969; it houses the offices of Caicos Airways, Ltd., Bahamas Airways, Ltd., customs and immigration services and the offices of the airport administration. On Grand Truk a new airport terminal building and parking apron have been built. Bahamas Airways, Ltd., which provides the most important communication link with neighbouring areas, continued its service from Nassau to South Caicos and Grand Turk. A private company, Caicos Airways, Ltd., provides an internal air service for all the inhabited islands.
43. There are three ports in the Territory: Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. At Grand Turk there is a pier, the property of the United States Government, with a water depth of fifteen feet.
44. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., operates a radio telephone service to Kingston, Jamaica, with connexions to North America. The cable privileges of the company were renewed for a further twenty years in 1962; the company's wireless licence was renewed at the same time. The government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless, Ltd., provides a service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. The Government also operates a telephone service on Grand Turk. At the beginning of 1970, the company completed a survey of the whole telecommunications network in the Territory.

## Trade

45. Imports and exports for the years 1965 to 1968 were valued as follows:

|      | <u>Imports</u><br>(pounds) | <u>Exports</u><br>(pounds) |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1965 | 360,922                    | 44,444                     |
| 1966 | 422,795                    | 44,953                     |
| 1967 | 356,943                    | 50,692                     |
| 1968 | 442,793                    | 63,133                     |

The principal imports are food, beverages, tobacco, manufactured articles and raw materials. The main exports are crawfish, shells, salt and sisal.

## Public finance

46. The principal sources of revenue are customs duties and the sale of stamps, which in 1969 amounted to £84,000 and £40,000 respectively (corresponding figures for 1968 were £85,139 and £15,101, for 1967 were £69,508 and £54,238 and for 1966 were £50,300 and £21,125). The United States military bases do not pay an annual lease and supplies for the bases are entered duty free. There are no land, property or income taxes in the Territory.

47. There is a Government Savings Bank and a commercial bank (Barclays Bank D.C.O.) in the Territory.

#### United Kingdom aid

48. Grants-in-aid from the United Kingdom, first approved at the end of 1955, were continued until the end of 1958, when responsibility for the grants was assumed by the West Indies Federal Government. The United Kingdom resumed responsibility for the grants in 1962. The following table shows the grants-in-aid since 1966:

|      | (pounds) |
|------|----------|
| 1966 | 186,397  |
| 1967 | 127,148  |
| 1968 | 224,000  |
| 1969 | 253,000  |
| 1970 | 298,000  |

### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Labour

49. The Government does not maintain a department specifically concerned with labour conditions. There is one registered trade union in the Territory - the St. George's Trade Union at Cockburn Harbour.

50. The present sources of employment are provided by the restricted salt production in Salt Cay, the two United States bases on Grand Turk, the crawfish and conch industry on South Caicos and also by the various shipping companies. Owing to limited job opportunities and the low level of wages, an increasing number of the population migrate to the Bahamas for employment. The initial stages of tourist development have provided some new employment for local labour. As this development intensifies, it is hoped that it will stop the continuing migration to the Bahamas and encourage skilled labour to return to the Territory.

51. There are no schemes for social security in the islands, but relief is paid to persons over the age of sixty years in the case of females and sixty-five in the case of males, if they are destitute.

#### Cost of living

52. Prices of basic food-stuffs and of other foods are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage of suitable housing on Grand Turk, and the increased demand brought about by the families of personnel serving at the United States Air Force Base, rents are relatively very high.

#### Public health

53. Medical services in the Territory are under the administration of the Government Medical Officer stationed on Grand Turk. Government recurrent

expenditure on medical and public health, including cost of staff, totalled £40,536 in 1968 or 10.39 per cent of total recurrent expenditure, compared with £29,845, or 9.6 per cent, in 1967 and £23,766, or 8.8 per cent, in 1966. In 1969, approved estimated medical expenditure totalled £37,388.

54. There is a 20-bed hospital in Grand Turk and dispensaries in the settlements. One Government registered physician and one dentist serve the Territory.

55. The average death-rate in the Territory is approximately 8.66 per thousand. The highest percentage of deaths is still amongst infants under the age of one year; in 1967 the infant mortality-rate per thousand live births was 65.7.

#### E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

56. The educational system in the Territory is administered by the Board of Education which is appointed by the Administrator. Recurrent expenditure on education in 1968 totalled £48,865 or 12.5 per cent of total government expenditure, compared with £41,651, or 13.5 per cent, in 1967 and £29,421, or 10.9 per cent, in 1966.

57. Education is free throughout the Territory and compulsory for children between the ages of 7 and 16 on Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos. In 1968, the total number of children of school age in the Territory was 1,770, compared with 1,748 in 1967.

58. Thirteen primary public schools and three primary independent schools serve the six inhabited islands. Grand Turk school provides primary and secondary education; there is also one secondary independent school.

59. In 1968, there were 82 teachers in the primary schools, which were attended by 1,527 pupils, compared with 72 teachers and 1,548 pupils in 1967. The corresponding figures for secondary schools were 8 teachers and 173 students in 1968, compared with 7 teachers and 135 students in 1967.

60. At the beginning of January 1970 the first weekly newspaper, The Conch News appeared in the Territory. The Government Printing Office prints the Official Gazette each week (circulation 250). Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. distributes a limited number of copies of a daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

61. There is a public library with 6,000 volumes and a reading room at Grand Turk.



G. UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS\*

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1. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the United States Virgin Islands has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twenty-first to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions concerning the Territory are contained in resolution 2069 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

2. After considering the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands in 1969, the Special Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: b/

"(1) The Special Committee recalls and reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the United States Virgin Islands, in particular those adopted at its 613th meeting on 25 June 1968, and approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

"(2) The Special Committee reaffirms that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples applies fully to the Territory.

"(3) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

"(4) The Special Committee notes with regret that despite certain advancement in the political field, no significant constitutional progress has taken place in the Territory since the item was last examined by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly in 1968.

"(5) The Special Committee expresses its regret that the administering Power has failed further to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to this Territory.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXI, paras. 308 to 321 and 333; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XXII, para. 469; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXVII, section II; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIV, para. 9.

b/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIV, para. 9.

"(6) The Special Committee invites the administering Power to encourage open, free and public discussion on the various alternatives open to the people of the Territory in their achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to ensure that the people of the Territory shall exercise their right to self-determination in full knowledge of these alternatives.

"(7) The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, in particular its decision, contained in paragraph 6 of that resolution, according to which, 'the United Nations should render all help to the peoples of these Territories in their efforts freely to decide their future status'. It therefore reiterates its belief that a United Nations presence during the procedures for the exercise of the right of self-determination will be essential for the purpose of ensuring that the people of the Territory exercise their right of self-determination in full freedom and without any restrictions, in full knowledge of the various alternatives open to them.

"(8) The Special Committee urges once again the administering Power to enable the United Nations to send a visiting mission to the Territory and to extend to it full co-operation and assistance."

3. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which concerned twenty-five Territories, including the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly, inter alia, approved the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to these Territories and requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### A. GENERAL

4. The United States Virgin Islands, which lie about forty miles east of Puerto Rico, comprise about fifty islands and small islets, the most important of which are St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. The total land area of the three main islands is 132 square miles (341.9 square kilometres). St. Croix covers 84 square miles and is 28 miles long and up to 6 miles wide. St. Thomas covers 28 square miles and is 13 miles long and up to 4 miles wide. St. John covers 20 square miles and is 9 miles long and up to 4 miles wide.

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<sup>c/</sup> The information presented in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United States of America under Article 73 e of the Charter on 1 April 1970 for the year ending 30 June 1969.



5. The following table shows the increase in population between 1950 and 1969:

|                  | <u>Total</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u>    | <u>St. Croix</u> | <u>St. Jchn</u> |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1950 (US census) | 26,665       | 13,813               | 12,103           | 749             |
| 1960 (US census) | 32,099       | 16,201               | 14,973           | 925             |
| 1965             | 49,742       | 26,375               | 22,020           | 1,347           |
| 1967             | 56,699       | 30,616 <sup>a/</sup> | 26,083           |                 |
| 1968             | 62,802       | 33,556 <sup>a/</sup> | 29,246           |                 |
| 1969 (estimate)  | 65,000       | ...                  | ...              | ...             |

a/ Including St. John.

The population of Charlotte Amalie, the capital, was 12,880 in 1960.

## B. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Constitution

6. The basic law of the Territory is contained in the Revised Organic Act of 1954, by which the United States Congress authorized the establishment of executive, legislative and judicial branches of local government. The law has since been modified by several enactments of Congress, the most recent, the Virgin Islands Elective Governor Act, having been signed into law on 23 August 1968 (see paras. 9-20 below).

#### (a) Governor

7. At present, the Governor is appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. The Governor holds executive power in the Territory. Through the United States Department of Interior, he is responsible for the execution of federal and local laws, the administration of all activities of the executive branch and the appointment of department heads and other employees. He reports annually to the Legislature on the state of the Territory and recommends new legislation to carry out the programmes of local government.

8. There is also a Government Secretary who is appointed by the President of the United States and serves as acting Governor in the absence of the Governor. He also has administrative responsibilities for banking and insurance laws and the licensing and assessment of real property.

#### (b) Virgin Islands Elective Governor Act

9. The Act which amended the Revised Organic Act of 1954 was passed by the United States Senate on 24 July 1968 and by the House of Representatives on 26 July 1968. It was signed by the President of the United States on 23 August 1968.

10. The Act provides that the executive power of the Virgin Islands shall be vested in an executive officer whose official title shall be the "Governor of the Virgin

Islands". The Governor, together with the Lieutenant Governor, shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the people who are qualified to vote for the members of the Legislature of the Territory. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be chosen jointly, by a single vote applicable to both officers. The first election shall be held on 3 November 1970. Thereafter, beginning with the year 1974, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be elected every four years at the general election. No person who has been elected Governor for two full successive terms shall be again eligible to hold that office until one full term has intervened.

11. The candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor must be an eligible voter and must have been a citizen of the United States as well as a bona fide resident of the Virgin Islands for five consecutive years immediately preceding the election; he must also be, at the time of taking office, at least thirty years of age.

12. The Act provides that the Governor shall have general supervision and control of all the departments, bureaux, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands. He shall appoint, and may remove, all officers and employees of the executive branch of the Government, except as otherwise provided in an act of Congress, or under the laws of the Virgin Islands, and shall commission all officers that he may be authorized to appoint. He shall be responsible for the execution of the laws of the Territory and the laws of the United States applicable in the Virgin Islands. He may veto any legislation as provided in the Act. He shall have the power to issue executive orders and regulations in accordance with the applicable law. He may recommend bills to the Legislature and express his views on any matter before that body.

13. Whenever it becomes necessary, in case of disaster, invasion, insurrection, or rebellion or imminent danger thereof, or to prevent or suppress lawless violence, the Governor may summon the posse comitatus, or call out the militia, or request assistance of the senior military or naval commander of the Armed Forces of the United States in the Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico. The Governor may, in case of rebellion or invasion or imminent danger thereof, when the public safety requires it, proclaim the islands to be under martial law; the Act provides that the members of the Legislature shall meet forthwith on their own initiative and may, by a two-thirds vote, revoke such a proclamation.

14. The Governor shall make an annual report to the United States Secretary of the Interior on the transactions of the territorial Government for transmission to the United States Congress and such other reports as may be required by the Congress or under applicable federal law.

15. The recall procedures provide that the Governor may be removed from office by a referendum election, if the number of votes cast in favour of his recall is at least two-thirds of the number of votes cast for him at the last preceding general election, and if these are a majority of all those voting in the referendum election.

16. The Lieutenant Governor shall have such executive powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Governor or prescribed by the Act or under the laws of the Virgin Islands.

17. The Act further provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint a Government Comptroller for the Virgin Islands who shall be under the general supervision of the United States Secretary of the Interior. The Comptroller shall not be a member of any executive department in the Government of the Territory. His salary and expenses shall be paid by the United States from internal revenue collections appropriated for the Territory. The Comptroller shall be authorized to communicate directly with any person or with any department officer or person having official relations with his office. All departments, agencies, and establishments shall provide him with whatever information he may require regarding the powers, duties, activities, organizations, financial transactions and methods of business of their respective offices. The functions of the Comptroller shall be so directed as to: (a) improve the efficiency and economy of government programmes; and (b) ensure that federal revenues are properly accounted for and audited. The Comptroller may not interfere with the administration of the executive branch of the Government of the Territory.

18. The following is a summary of some other important changes in the Revised Organic Act of 1954, which follow from the Elective Governor Act:

(a) The Act eliminates the authority of the President of the United States to veto territorial legislation referred to him by the Governor of the Territory, after such legislation has been passed by the Legislature over the Governor's veto. The Act also provides for the reconsideration of legislation returned to the Legislature by the Governor with his objections thereto.

(b) The approval of the Secretary of the Interior is no longer required for the establishment of any new department, agency, or other instrumentality in the executive branch by the Governor or the Legislature.

(c) Members of the school boards and members of the boards of elections which have been duly organized by the Government of the Territory shall be popularly elected.

(d) The salaries and travel allowances of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, officers and other employees of the Government shall be paid by the local authorities.

(e) The Constitution of the United States and all its amendments shall have the same force and effect in the Virgin Islands as in the United States, to the extent that this is not inconsistent with the status of the Territory as an unincorporated Territory of the United States.

(f) The Act extends to the Territory that portion of the general military laws which authorizes the President of the United States to call upon federal or local forces in cases of insurrection or other similar emergency.

(g) The Act provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall have general administrative supervision of all matters affecting the Territory which are not the responsibility of other federal departments or agencies.

(h) The Act removes the debt restrictions on the issuance of revenue bonds and notes and the interest rate limitation on such obligations.

19. Those provisions of the Act necessary to authorize the holding of an election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor on 3 November 1970, became effective on 1 January 1970. All other provisions, unless otherwise provided, will become effective on 4 January 1971.

20. The President of the United States, on the occasion of the signing of the bill stated, inter alia, "This is the second time in the history of the United States that a territory has been empowered to elect its own Governor. The only precedent is the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which first elected its Governor twenty years ago. This legislation... represents an important stage in the political development of the Virgin Islands. We do not know today - and would not predict - what the ultimate status of the Virgin Islands may be. We do know, however, that the orderly progress of political development will continue."

### (c) Legislature

21. The legislative power in the Territory is vested in a unicameral, popularly elected Legislature, with jurisdiction over "all rightful subjects of legislation" not inconsistent with the laws of the United States that are applicable to the Territory. The Legislature consists of fifteen senators elected for two-year terms by universal adult suffrage: five senators represent the district of St. Croix, five represent St. Thomas, one represents St. John, and four are elected at large by the voters of all the islands. Each bill passed must be signed by the Governor before it becomes law. A two-thirds vote of the Legislature is necessary to override the Governor's veto; in this event the Governor must approve it or submit it to the President of the United States for final action.

22. To be eligible for membership in the Legislature, a person must be a citizen of the United States, aged twenty-five or over and a resident of the Territory for at least three years. To be eligible to register as a voter a person must be a citizen of the United States aged twenty-one or over. The Legislature is empowered to prescribe other qualifications provided that no property, language or income qualifications may be imposed and that no discrimination is made on the grounds of race, colour, sex or religious belief.

### Judiciary

23. The Judge of the District Court of the Territory and the United States District Attorney are appointed by the President of the United States. The District Court exercises jurisdiction over felony violations of the local criminal code, as well as jurisdiction over crime arising under federal law. The municipal court judges are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. The Municipal Court exercises jurisdiction over misdemeanour violations and traffic offences under the local law. There are two divisions of the Municipal Court: the division of St. Thomas and St. John, and the division of St. Croix.

24. The District Court exercises appellate jurisdiction over the Municipal Court in civil and criminal cases. The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia, and the United States Supreme Court exercise appellate jurisdiction over the District Court of the Territory.

## Political parties

25. The Democratic Party and Republican Party of the United States have branches in the Territory. The result of the general election held on 5 November 1968 showed that a political organization, the Independent Citizens Movement, had become a recognized political party; this recognition is based on the fact that at least one of its candidates polled more than 5 per cent of the total number of votes cast. Consequently, there are now three political parties in the Territory: the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands (DPVI), the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands (RPVI), and the Independent Citizens Movement (ICM).

## Elections

26. The election for the Legislature, on 5 November 1968, was held at the same time as general elections were being held in the United States. There were 16,840 voters eligible to vote, of which 12,622, or 75 per cent, voted. The fifteen senators who were elected were all Democrats. The Democratic Party also won twenty out of twenty-three seats on the Board of Elections and all nine seats on the Board of Education.

27. For the first time, the voters also elected "a representative of the Virgin Islands to Washington, D.C.", Mr. Ronald de Lugo. He is paid by the Government of the Virgin Islands, which also pays for maintaining his office and staff. His function is to "work to bring about an understanding of Virgin Islands affairs in Washington".

28. In 1968 and 1969, a series of panel discussions were organized in the Territory on the possibility of lowering the voting age to eighteen years. As a result, the Legislature petitioned the United States Congress for the right to hold a referendum on this matter, and a bill to this effect was introduced in Congress.

## Other developments

29. In 1969, two bills were introduced in the United States Congress to grant the Virgin Islands a form of representation in Congress by which the Territory would elect one representative who would sit in the House of Representatives without the right to vote. A similar bill, which had been introduced during the Eighty-ninth Congress, had been passed by the House but rejected by the Senate. A spokesman for the Department of the Interior was reported as saying that approval of the measure would be "a logical step in the democratic development of the Territory"; he also stated that "any discussion of statehood status for the Virgin Islands at this point would be premature". According to reports, the Governor of the Territory, at a conference held in May 1970, urged the President of the United States to support the idea of a "non-voting delegate bill". The Governor stated later that he had obtained the pledge of the President's support.

30. The Governor of the Territory since 1961, Mr. Ralph M. Palewonsky, resigned his post on 12 February 1969. On 7 March 1969, the President of the United States appointed Mr. Peter A. Bove (formerly the United States Comptroller in the Territory) as Governor, subject to confirmation by the United States Senate.

However, on 21 April 1969, Mr. Bove asked the President to withdraw his nomination owing to his ill health. Mr. Melvin H. Evans was then nominated by the President to become the new Governor. He took the oath of office on 1 July 1969, succeeding Acting Governor Cyril E. King, who had held the post since the resignation of Governor Paiewonsky.

### Virgin Islands Port Authority

31. On 12 February 1969, the Virgin Islands Port Authority was established under the authority of Act No. 2357 of the Legislature. The Act combines the functions of the former Marine Division and the Virgin Islands Airport and Industrial Resources Agency into one body and provides that the purpose of the Authority "shall be to establish, acquire, construct, develop and improve, own, operate and manage any and all types of air terminals, marine terminals and industrial, commercial, residential and recreational developments, and to make available the benefits thereof in the widest economic manner, thereby promoting the general welfare and increasing commerce and prosperity". The Authority is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, on which the Governor is a statutory member with one vote.

32. On 11 May 1970, the Federal Government filed suit to liquidate the Authority and transfer its assets to the Government of the Territory. According to the suit, the Legislature, by transferring the supervision of the harbours and airports to the Authority, had overstepped the provisions of the Revised Organic Act and infringed deeply on the powers of the Governor. According to the action, "the Governing Board of the Virgin Islands Port Authority was unlawfully appointed by the administration and the Legislature". It further stated that the transfer of the Governor's powers to the Authority had been made by the outgoing Governor and Legislature "in such a manner as to preserve their own political power to the exclusion of the incoming Governor". The effect would "unlawfully permit the alienation of the harbour facilities and the airports of the Virgin Islands to private interests, to the impoverishment of the people". The action also charged that the Authority had received fees in excess of \$1 million d/ a year, since it began operating, but that no accounting had been made to any public officer.

33. The court was asked in the action to declare the laws establishing the Authority null and void, to issue a permanent injunction against its operation and to order the defendants "to restore all property, increments thereto, facilities and all funds derived from the activities of the Virgin Islands Port Authority to the Government of the Virgin Islands".

### Military activities

34. The United States Naval Base, located on 197 acres on St. Thomas, was deactivated during 1951 to 1953 and leased to the Virgin Islands Corporation (owned by the Government of the Territory) for economic development purposes. At the beginning of 1967, the Government of the United States, which had retained the right to reoccupy the facility, declared the base in excess of its needs, and on 28 February 1967, 196.3 acres of land, together with all improvements, were

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d/ The local currency is the United States dollar.

transferred to the Government of the Territory. The land and improvements were appraised by the General Services Administration at \$3,934,000; acquisition was accomplished through an initial payment of 10 per cent, with the balance to be paid over a period of ten years, at an interest rate of 4-3/4 per cent.

35. The 33-acre site used by the United States Navy for the purpose of training underwater demolition teams was deactivated in 1966. On 1 September 1966, the site was made available to the Government of the Territory under a thirty-day revocable permit from the Navy. The most important structures on the property consist of a three-storey administration building, a warehouse and three piers. According to the information provided by the administering Power, negotiations leading to a permanent transfer of the facility to the Government of the Territory are currently under way; it is anticipated that the transfer will be effected under conditions similar to those governing the transfer of the former naval base.

36. The male population of the United States Virgin Islands is subject to the Military Selective Service Act of 1967. During 1968/69, the total draft registration in the two local boards reached 10,481, compared with 9,309 in 1967/68. The Territory's induction quota for 1968/69 was 135, compared with 231 in 1967/68. One hundred and twenty-seven inductions were actually made, compared with 220 inductions in 1967/68. Public meetings and demonstrations against drafting of Virgin Islanders were held in the Territory in May 1969 and in May 1970. The Governor of the Territory stated on 12 May 1970 that twenty-two Virgin Islanders had died in the Viet-Nam conflict and that this was the highest per capita rate anywhere in the nation, except possibly for Guam. In April 1970, the Legislature adopted a resolution asking the Selective Service Board to exempt from military service draft age Virgin Islands teachers, nurses, policemen and firemen.

### C. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### General

37. According to the report of the administering Power, efforts continued towards the creation of a broader industrial and agricultural base within the Territory's economy; in general, the Territory has enjoyed a period of constant economic growth for the last eight years. In 1968/69, per capita income was estimated in excess of \$2,700, the highest in the Caribbean, compared with \$2,500 in 1967/68, about \$2,100 in the years 1965 to 1967, \$1,761 in 1963/64 and \$1,543 in 1962/63. There are no official statistics giving a breakdown of income by sectors of economy or sections of population.

38. The contract with Lawrence Halprin and Associates, providing for a comprehensive study and development of the Territory's total resources, was suspended in 1969 by Acting Governor, Cyril E. King, on the ground that it was "illegal" and duplicated other studies already in progress in the Territory (see also A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIV, para. 39).

39. The Charter of the Virgin Islands Corporation expired on 30 June 1969 and the responsibilities of the Corporation were transferred to the territorial Government (see also A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXIV, para. 40 and A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, paras. 55 and 56).

40. On 28 August 1969, the Small Business Development Agency Bill was approved by the Legislature. The Agency would be empowered to draw upon a fund, initially of \$500,000, to assist in the establishment and/or improvement of small business. The legislation was designed to encourage increased participation by Virgin Islanders in the economic and commercial development of the Territory.

### Tourism

41. Tourism continued to be the Territory's most important industry and the main source of income. A total of 1,122,311 tourists visited the Territory in 1968/69, compared with 923,000 in 1967/68 (718,000 in 1966/67, 640,000 in 1965/66, 631,000 in 1964/65 and 448,165 in 1963/64).

42. The following table shows the total cruise ship traffic in the years 1964, to 1969:

|         | <u>Number of Ships</u> | <u>Passengers</u> |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1964/65 | 238                    | 109,341           |
| 1965/66 | 255                    | 117,659           |
| 1966/67 | 296                    | 133,357           |
| 1967/68 | 342                    | 166,117           |
| 1968/69 | 491                    | 213,541           |

43. In 1968/69, a total of 908,776 persons arrived by air, compared with 648,137 in 1967/68 and 516,295 in 1966/67.

44. The following table shows the total expenditure by tourists in the years from 1964 to 1969:

|         | <u>(United States dollars)</u> |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1964/65 | 54,014,852                     |
| 1965/66 | 59,456,245                     |
| 1966/67 | 75,035,860                     |
| 1967/68 | 100,894,303                    |
| 1968/69 | 112,268,245                    |

### Mineral resources

45. The Territory provides stone, sand, and gravel as building materials but there are no minerals of commercial significance.

### Water and power supplies

46. One of the main problems faced in the Territory has been the provision of adequate supplies of water and power. Since 1965, the responsibility for water and power supplies has rested with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority owned by the Government.



47. On St. Thomas, the demand for fresh water in 1968/69 averaged 1,444,000 gallons per day. The combined production of the three desalination plants totalled 68 per cent of this amount; the remainder was brought by barge from the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station at Puerto Rico. The desalination plant on St. Croix began production in October 1968. The plant output during 1968/69 was 60,302,000 gallons. A total of 22,351,000 gallons was delivered to Christiansted by barge from Puerto Rico. In 1968/69, a total of 17,673,000 gallons of water was delivered by barge from St. Thomas to St. John.

48. Dams are now being built in the Territory to serve as an important source of water during dry weather and also to raise the water table in the islands; the programme is administered by the Department of Agriculture. St. Croix now has about 200 earth dams, with a total capacity of 359 million gallons; St. Thomas has forty-two dams with a capacity of 43 million gallons; and St. John has nine dams with a capacity of 24 million gallons of water.

49. The Authority generates and distributes electricity on St. Thomas and St. Croix and, via submarine cables, serves St. John, Water Island, and Hassel Island. In 1968/69, total power production on St. Thomas was 124 million kwh, compared with 97.5 kwh in 1967/68. The corresponding figures for St. Croix were 84 million kwh and 65 kwh.

#### Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

50. Because of the steep sloping mountainsides and rugged landscape, very little land on St. Thomas and St. John is tillable and agricultural resources are limited; however, both islands produce a number of cattle for dairy and beef purposes. St. Croix is well suited for agriculture.

51. According to the administering Power, a comprehensive agricultural plan is being developed which includes research into feasible food crops and middle-range programmes for agricultural development of the Territory. Good progress was reported in the implementation of current programmes. In addition a number of new programmes have been introduced, aimed at furthering up-to-date practices in farming, soil and water conservation, and the breeding and raising of livestock.

52. During the year under review, the Department of Agriculture concentrated most of its efforts on the grain sorghum programme, initiated in 1967/68 as part of a search for a practical crop for St. Croix, and as a means of reducing the cost of producing beef and milk on the island. In view of the increasing cost to cover milling losses, sugar has been phased out as a major commercial crop.

53. The farm land exemption bill was approved by the Legislature on 29 March 1968. The bill provides for a tax exemption of 75 per cent on farm land, including structures and improvements thereon, used actively and solely for agricultural and horticultural purposes.

54. There is no large commercial fishing industry in the Territory, but the Virgin Island waters are rapidly becoming recognized as a prime fishing area, particularly for game fishing.

## Industry

55. According to the report of the administering Power, efforts continued towards the creation of a broader industrial base within the Territory's economy. Although St. Croix is the centre of industrial development, the Government is also trying to stimulate industrial development on St. Thomas.

56. The 1968 production of the Harvey Aluminum Corporation, which is situated on St. Croix, was reported to be 800 tons of aluminium daily, valued at \$23 million annually, and was expected to rise to nearly \$60 million when the enlarged plant came fully into operation. In 1968, the plant employed between 375 and 450 persons. In January 1970, 82 per cent of the Corporation shares were bought from the Harvey family by the American Marietta Corporation of Baltimore, Maryland, which specializes in aerospace contracts and the building materials industry.

57. The Hess Oil Corporation, whose plant is also situated on St. Croix, has a capacity of 50,000 barrels of refined petroleum products daily. According to an agreement concluded in 1967 between the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Corporation and the Virgin Islands Government, the company has an import quota of 15,000 barrels of oil a day; under that agreement the Virgin Islands treasury receives substantial royalties (about \$2.7 million a year), to be used for air and water pollution control, the development of recreational areas and general conservation.

58. Local manufacturers of goods that contain not more than 50 per cent of foreign raw materials are allowed duty-free entry of their products into the United States, under the United States Tariff Act. The watch assembly industry is the chief industry to have taken advantage of this provision.

59. The watch assembly industry was established in the Territory in 1959. In 1968/69, there were fifteen watch companies operating in the islands, four on St. Thomas, and eleven on St. Croix. Four of these companies enjoyed the privilege of tax exemption. In 1968/69, the fifteen companies employed 987 persons (800 in 1967/68) and had a combined annual payroll of \$3,526,530 (\$2,662,059 in 1967/68). During the calendar year 1968, imports of watch movements and parts from various countries were valued as follows: Japan, \$5,032,237; Federal Republic of Germany, \$2,226,822; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, \$833,198; Hong Kong, \$517,454; France, \$353,088; Switzerland, \$136,384; Italy, \$5,004; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, \$5,639; and Spain, \$332. In 1968/69, a total of 3,445,610 movements and parts valued at approximately \$23,128,053 were exported to the United States, compared with 3,222,571 movements and parts, valued at \$19,353,426 in 1967/68.

60. The production, distillation and sale of rum, one of the major industries of the Territory, is promoted through the Virgin Islands Rum Council, supported jointly by the rum distillers and the territorial Government. In 1968/69, the Territory shipped 1,651,847 proof gallons of rum to the United States, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year. During the same period, however, excise tax returns fell from \$12,998,365 to \$11,633,873, a loss of \$1,364,492. In 1964, Puerto Rico controlled 65 per cent and the Virgin Islands 25 per cent of the rum market. In 1969, Puerto Rico had increased its share of the market to 75 per cent,

while the Virgin Islands' share had dropped to 18 per cent. Production of rum and denatured alcohol from 1964 to 1969 was as follows:

|      | <u>Rum</u><br>(proof gallons) <sup>b/</sup> | <u>Denatured alcohol</u> <sup>a/</sup><br>(wine gallons) <sup>c/</sup> |
|------|---|--|
| 1964 | 989,674                                     | 4,379  |
| 1965 | 1,205,989                                   | 3,018  |
| 1966 | 1,160,167                                   | 5,895  |
| 1967 | 1,611,598                                   | 4,900  |
| 1968 | 1,538,925                                   | 3,622  |
| 1969 | 2,015,573                                   | 632  |

a/ Produced by the Virgin Islands Rum Industries, Ltd.

b/ One proof gallon is the alcoholic equivalent of a United States gallon at 60°F., containing 50 per cent of ethyl alcohol by volume.

c/ One wine gallon equals a United States gallon of liquid measure equivalent to a volume of 231 cubic inches.

#### Building construction

61. A total of 1,992 building permits for construction valued at \$65,091,755 were issued during 1968/69, compared with 1,501 permits for construction valued at \$48,068,900 during 1967/68.

#### Transport and communications

62. In 1969, there were 298 miles of roads in the Territory, compared with 288 miles in 1962. In 1968/69, a total of 5.5 miles of roads and streets was reconstructed and paved on St. Thomas (6.5 miles in 1967/68), and 7.4 miles on St. Croix (13.5 miles in 1967/68). Unusually heavy rains in February, March and May 1969 caused extensive damage to roads on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, estimated at \$300,000.

63. The main airports in the Territory are the Harry S. Truman Airport on St. Thomas and the Alexander Hamilton Airport on St. Croix. Recommendations have been made for a new jetport on the east end of St. Thomas, as the Truman Airport is considered to be inadequate. A number of reports and studies on the feasibility of such a new airport have been compiled and presented to the Legislature and the public; the estimated cost of the airport would be about \$28,500,000, including acquisition of land. According to reports, the Virgin Islands Port Authority has acquired more than 100 acres in the lagoon area of St. Thomas for the new airport.

64. In 1968/69, Trans-Caribbean Airlines started direct air service from New York to St. Thomas and Eastern Airlines inaugurated direct service between St. Thomas and Miami, Florida. Altogether, six scheduled airlines, four scheduled air taxis, nine non-scheduled air taxis and charters, and three cargo airlines operated in the Territory in 1969.

65. There are two harbours on St. Croix. A deep-water harbour at Frederiksted on the east end of the island accommodates ocean liners and cruise ship traffic to the island; the harbour at Christiansted accommodates medium-size commercial crafts and pleasure yachts. St. Thomas is one of the ranking ports of call for cruise ships.

66. All three main islands have a dial telephone system. Marine cables to Puerto Rico and to the United States mainland have been installed. International radio telegraph service is also available.

### Trade

67. The Territory's trade continued to expand. The value of exports in the calendar year 1968 totalled \$123.4 million, compared with \$74.5 million in 1967, and \$56.2 million in 1966. Imports also continued to rise. The total value of imported goods in 1968 was \$260 million (\$152.4 million from the United States) compared with \$172.1 million in 1967 (\$103 million from the United States) and \$137.7 million in 1966.

### Public finance

68. There are three principal sources of revenue for the Territory. The largest source, which is growing every year, is from local income taxes. Another major contributor to the treasury is the federal excise tax collected in the United States on imports of Virgin Islands products and returned to the territorial Government as matching funds. In order to receive these funds, the Territory must raise sufficient revenue through local taxes to match the amount in excise taxes to be rebated. In addition, the Federal Government assists the Territory by appropriations and grants-in-aid for a number of activities related to employment services, public assistance, health services wildlife and libraries; there are over sixty such aid programmes and appropriations.

69. The following table shows the trend in revenue and expenditure since 1963/64:

| <u>Fiscal year</u> | (United States dollars)      |                     |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
|                    | <u>Revenue</u> <sup>a/</sup> | <u>Expenditures</u> |
| 1963/64            | 29,305,906                   | 30,182,901          |
| 1964/65            | 39,976,942                   | 34,903,324          |
| 1965/66            | 45,988,338                   | 40,614,684          |
| 1966/67            | 65,959,681                   | 61,197,859          |
| 1967/68            | 78,747,766                   | 80,856,031          |
| 1968/69            | 96,511,513                   | 96,331,559          |

<sup>a/</sup> Including contributions from the United States in matching funds, grants and loans.

70. Tax exemptions and subsidy benefits are used to encourage industrial development. Incentives for private investment in hotels, guest houses, industrial

concerns and housing projects include tax exemptions of up to sixteen years and a return of 75 per cent of income taxes in the form of a subsidy.

71. There are six banks in the Territory: the Virgin Islands National Bank, the Chase Manhattan Bank, the New St. Croix Savings Bank, the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Bank of America. United States banking legislation applies in the Territory.

#### D. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

##### Labour

72. The employment requirements of the Territory's economy continue to exceed the local labour supply, and it is still necessary to supplement the labour force from neighbouring islands and other areas. The following table shows the total labour force, employment and unemployment in the Territory in the years 1965 to 1968:

|                                   | <u>1965/66</u> | <u>1966/67</u> | <u>1967/68</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total labour force . . . . .      | 23,374         | 26,048         | 27,107         |
| Total employment . . . . .        | 23,216         | 25,911         | 26,897         |
| Insured unemployment . . . . .    | 81             | 79             | 140            |
| Insured unemployment rate . . . . | 0.43           | 0.37           | 0.63           |

In 1968/69, total employment on the three main islands rose to 32,720.

73. During the five-year period in which the Virgin Islands Unemployment Insurance Law has been in effect, 4,792 claimants filed and collected \$606,315 under the local programmes. In 1968/69, total payments amounted to \$156,456, a decrease of \$45,438 from 1967/68.

74. In 1968, the number of temporary alien workers in the Territory was estimated between 13,000 to 14,500. At the end of January 1969, in a letter to the Virgin Islands Legislature, the Representative of the Territory in Washington, D.C. stated that "the alien population is more than 25 per cent of the entire islands' population and represents 45 per cent of the labour force"; he called the alien section of the population an "essential part of the economy".

75. The report of the administering Power for 1968/69 states that "while no precise facts and figures are available, the number of non-citizens is estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000, which would be about 20 to 28 per cent of the total population"; it is estimated that they constitute about 49 per cent of the total labour force. The report also states that "this influx poses difficult problems in all areas of community concern, including housing, welfare, public safety, economics, and education".

76. In order to be able to continue to work, an alien has to make a trip every six months to an island under the flag of his own citizenship, register and return, and accept reprocessing under a United States re-entry rule. The majority of

non-resident employees are in the low-income, unskilled classifications, many in construction; a number of them are employed as truck drivers, domestic servants, in hotels, shops and laundries etc.

77. There are two labour unions in the Territory, the St. Croix Labour Union, with a membership of about 500, and the Virgin Islands' Labor Union, with a membership of about 1,500; the Alien Interest Movement and the United Alien Association represent alien workers. Virgin Islands teachers are affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers.

78. During 1968/69, 311 charges of unfair labour practices were filed and settled. Work stoppages during the year were reported by the administering Power to be infrequent and of short duration. In July 1969, legal proceedings were instituted by the United States Department of Labor against twenty-three firms for violating the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The companies were accused of violating the minimum wage and overtime compensation provisions of the Act. In addition, three firms were charged with violating the Child Labor Act.

#### Cost of living

79. The high cost of living in the Territory has been a matter of concern to the local administration. Most consumer goods are imported from the United States and prices in the Territory reflect the high freight costs and lack of warehouse space. The first survey of food prices, based on seventy-nine items, was taken at the beginning of 1968, using the same procedure as that applied by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the first quarter of 1968, comparison of the United States and United States Virgin Islands food costs showed that prices in the Territory were substantially higher than those in the United States:

|                              | <u>Cost of food basket</u><br>(United States dollars) | <u>Per cent of</u><br><u>United States average</u> |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| United States Virgin Islands | 49.27   | 125  |
| New York City                | 40.72   | 103  |
| Washington, D.C.             | 39.17   | 99   |
| United States average        | 39.50   | 100  |

#### Housing

80. According to the report of the administering Power for 1968/69, despite significant progress since 1962, "housing is still a top priority problem with many residents living in substandard dwellings because of the lack of new housing at reasonable rents or sale prices".

#### Public health

81. Hospitals and clinics operate under the authority of the Department of Health. There are two general hospitals in the Territory: the Charles Hardwood Memorial Hospital on St. Croix and the Knud Hansen Memorial Hospital on St. Thomas;

the Ingeborg Nesbit Clinic is also located on St. Croix. It is reported that the two major medical centres planned for the Territory must await provisions for financing because of their cost; therefore no date has been set for their completion.

82. In 1968/69, two immunization teams working on St. Croix and St. Thomas, maintained immunization of 98 per cent of the school children against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis and smallpox. Special campaigns were conducted against tetanus on St. Croix and St. Thomas.

83. Expenditure on public health in 1968/69 was \$13,526,604, or 14.04 per cent of the total budgetary expenditure (compared with \$11,426,853, or 14.13 per cent, in 1967/68 and \$8,350,704, or 13.65 per cent in 1966/67).

84. In 1968/69, the Department of Social Welfare opened three new day-care centres. Expenditure on social welfare in 1968/69 was \$3,837,402, or 3.98 per cent of the total budgetary expenditure (compared with \$3,126,324 or 3.87 per cent, in 1967/68 and \$2,614,084, or 4.27 per cent, in 1966/67).

85. A record number of 2,350 live births was registered in 1968, an increase of 78 over 1967 (and 394 over 1966). The birth-rate was 37.4 per thousand population in 1968, compared with 41.7 in 1967 and 38.5 in 1966. The infant mortality rate rose from 28.6 per thousand live births in 1967 to 33.2 per thousand live births in 1968. There were 471 deaths in 1968, an increase of 98 over 1967. The death-rate was 7.5 per thousand population in 1968, compared with 6.6 in 1967. Diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 36.3 per cent of all deaths, with a rate of 272.3 per 100,000 population.

#### E. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

86. The Board of Education consists of nine members elected for two-year terms at the general election (four members from St. Croix, four from St. Thomas and one from St. John).

87. There are government, private and church schools, providing primary, junior and secondary education. Higher education and degree courses are provided at the College of the Virgin Islands on St. Thomas. Secondary schools are adequately staffed except in some areas of vocational and technical education, but in elementary schools, it is still necessary to employ teachers without degrees to fill many vacancies.

88. The following table shows the total enrolment in public and non-public (private and parochial) schools over the last five years:

|  | <u>1964/65</u> | <u>1965/66</u> | <u>1966/67</u> | <u>1967/68</u> | <u>1968/69</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Public schools</u>                                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Kindergarten   | 690            | 813            | 810            | 921            | 1,068          |
| Grades I-IV and ungraded                             | 5,536          | 5,993          | 6,361          | 6,757          | 8,221          |
| Grades VII-XII                                       | 3,173          | 3,448          | 3,423          | 3,819          | 4,365          |
| Total  | 9,399          | 10,254         | 10,594         | 11,497         | 13,654         |
| <u>Non-public schools</u><br>(private and parochial) |                |                |                |                |                |
|  | 3,860          | 3,993          | 4,546          | 5,065          | 5,407          |
| Grand total  | 13,259         | 14,247         | 15,140         | 16,562         | 19,061         |

89. In 1968/69, the College of the Virgin Islands, established in 1963, reached an enrolment of 332 full-time students (272 in 1967/68) and nearly 1,000 part-time students (1,145 in 1967/68). It started its expansion to a four-year baccalaureate programme; in addition, it continues to offer seven two-year programmes. Of the full-time students, nearly 80 per cent are residents of the Territory, about 10 per cent come from other Caribbean Territories and the rest are from the United States, Africa and Europe.

90. At the beginning of January 1969, the Department of Education had announced that alien children on St. Croix would be admitted to public schools, and a total of 293 children applied for enrolment. It is expected that by 1970/71 all alien children of school age will be enrolled.

91. Expenditure on education in 1968/69 was \$12,718,085, or 13.2 per cent of total budgetary expenditure (compared with \$9,608,697, or 11.88 per cent, in 1967/68 and \$9,984,649 or 16.31 per cent, in 1966/67).

92. The Territory has two television stations and three radio stations. There are five newspapers, three of which are dailies. The Virgin Islands Institute of the Arts began operating officially on 1 March 1969. There is one public library on St. Thomas, one on St. John and two public libraries and a book mobile service on St. Croix.





ANNEX II\*

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE III

Rapporteur: Mr. Farrokh PARSI (Iran)

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

1. The Sub-Committee considered the Territories of the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 141st to 152nd meetings between 4 May and 25 September 1970 (see A/AC.109/SC.4/SR.141 to 152).
2. The Sub-Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to this chapter).
3. In accordance with the established procedure, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as administering Powers, participated in the work of the Sub-Committee at the invitation of the Chairman.

B. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

4. Having considered the situation in the Territories, and having heard statements by the administering Powers, the Sub-Committee considered and adopted its conclusions and recommendations on the Territories as they appear below, a/ subject to the reservations expressed by the representatives of Bulgaria, Italy and Norway. b/
5. The Sub-Committee considered the present report at its 153rd and 154th meetings on 30 September and 14 October 1970, and adopted it at its 154th meeting on 14 October 1970.

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.676.

a/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee III for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body with the modification referred to in foot-note b/ below. The text of the conclusions and recommendations, as adopted, is reproduced in paragraph 11 of the present chapter.

b/ At its 775th meeting, on 29 October 1970, the Special Committee decided to add the following at the end of paragraph 4 above:

"In connexion with sub-paragraph (9) of the conclusions and recommendations, some members recalled that a proposal was made for consideration of the possible establishment of a committee of experts to undertake a systematic study of economic, social and other development aspects concerning the smaller Territories" (see also paragraph 8 of the present chapter).

## CHAPTER XIX

### FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

#### A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 737th meeting, on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, by approving the forty-seventh report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.623), decided, inter alia, to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and consider it at its plenary meetings.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 775th meeting, on 29 October 1970.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, particularly the consensus adopted by the Assembly at its 1835th plenary meeting, on 16 December 1969. 1/ In this consensus, the General Assembly, inter alia, urged "the parties, bearing particularly in mind resolution 2065 (XX) and the consensuses of 20 December 1966 and 19 December 1967, 2/ to continue their efforts to reach, as soon as possible, a definite solution of the dispute as envisaged in the notes referred to, 3/ and to keep the Special Committee and the General Assembly duly informed during the coming year about the developments of the negotiations on this colonial situation, the elimination of which is of interest to the United Nations within the context of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960".
4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to this chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee as well as by the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the Territory.

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- 1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/7630), "Other decisions", item 23, p. 75.
  - 2/ Ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, document A/6628, paras. 12 and 13; Ibid., Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/6716), "Other decisions", item 23, p. 57.
  - 3/ Communications dated 21 November 1969 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, documents A/7785 and A/7786).

5. In addition, the Special Committee had before it the following written petitions:

(a) Letter dated 23 December 1969 from Mr. Hugo Javier Reynoso, General Secretary, Instituto Argentino de Derecho y Política Internacional (A/AC.109/PET.1132);

(b) Letter dated 30 March 1970 from Mr. Raúl Gregorio Espinola (A/AC.109/PET.1133);

(c) Letter dated 4 May 1970 from Mr. Ernesto Berreta of Argentina (A/AC.109/PET.1146).

#### B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6. At its 775th meeting, on 29 October 1970, following a statement by its Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.775), the Special Committee decided, first, to transmit to the General Assembly the working paper referred to in paragraph 4 above, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Fourth Committee; and, secondly, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion, to give consideration to this item at its next session.



ANNEX\*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

|   | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.169/L.660 and Add.1.

A. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Territory of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) has been considered by the Special Committee since 1964 and by the General Assembly since 1965. The Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations, statements of consensus and decisions concerning the Territory are set out in its reports to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twentieth to twenty-fourth sessions. a/ The General Assembly's decisions are contained in resolution 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, and in the statements of consensus approved on 20 December 1966, 19 December 1967, and 16 December 1969. b/

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XXIII, para. 59; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/6300/Rev.1, chapter XII, para. 469 (d); *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III), document A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XXIII, para. 1033 E; A/7200/Add.10, chapter XXX, para. 7; A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXXI, para. 6.

b/ *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, document A/6628, paras. 12-13; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/6716), "Other decisions", item 23, p. 57; *ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/7630, "Other decisions", item 23, p. 75.

## B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>c/</sup>

### 1. GENERAL

2. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas), situated in the South Atlantic, lie some 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn. The numerous islands of which they are composed cover 4,618 square miles (11,961 square kilometres). They comprise the Falkland Islands Dependencies, consisting of South Georgia, the South Sandwich group and a number of smaller islands; and the British Antarctic Territory, which was constituted a separate colony in 1962 and which consists of those Territories south of latitude 60° S which were formerly part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, namely, the South Orkney Islands, the South Shetland Islands and the Atlantic Peninsula, together with that sector of the Antarctic continent lying between longitudes 20° W and 80° W.
3. The population of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), excluding the Dependencies, was estimated at 2,098 at 31 December 1969. With few exceptions, all were of European descent and most were of British origin. The population of the Dependencies fluctuates with the whaling season.

### 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Constitution

4. The present Constitution was introduced in 1949 and provides for a Governor, aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Constitution was amended in 1951 to give for the first time a majority to the non-official members in the Legislative Council, and was amended again in 1955 and 1964. The Executive Council now also has a majority of non-officials.
5. The Governor, the Queen's representative, is the head of the administration of the Territory. In the exercise of his powers he is advised by the Executive Council. Generally, he acts in accordance with the advice he receives from the Executive Council and may only act against this advice in certain specific circumstances.
6. The Executive Council is composed of two unofficial members appointed by the Governor, two elected members of the Legislative Council and two ex officio members. The two elected members of the Legislative Council are chosen by ballot of the elected and independent members of the Legislative Council.

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<sup>c/</sup> The information presented in this working paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter, on 12 June 1970, for the year ending 31 December 1969.



7. The Legislative Council, presided over by the Governor, is composed of eight members, namely, the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer (both ex officio members), two nominated independent members and four elected members. The four elected members are chosen by universal adult suffrage.

### Judiciary

8. The judiciary consists of a Supreme Court and a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the former presided over by the Governor or Colonial Secretary and the latter by a bench of magistrates composed of two or more justices of the peace. On 1 July 1965, a Court of Appeal was set up for the Territory, sitting in the United Kingdom. The laws of the Territory are mainly based on English laws and precedents.

### Local government

9. There is a Town Council in Stanley, consisting of six elected members and three members nominated by the Governor. Of the six elected members, three retire every two years and elections are held biennially for half the elected membership. The activities of the Council are financed mainly from rates and from grants from the central Government. Its responsibility consists of the normal range of local government services.

### Political parties

10. The only political party in the Territory, the Falkland Islands Progressive National Party, was formed in August 1964.

### Political developments

11. A statement reiterating the position of the United Kingdom Government on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) was made by Mr. Michael Stewart, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in the House of Commons on 11 December 1968. The statement contained inter alia the following passage: "In their talks with the Argentine Government, H.M. Government have been trying to reach an understanding with Argentina with the object of securing a satisfactory relationship between the islands and the nearest continental mainland. Since that time, the talks have continued and the two Governments have reached a measure of understanding although this is not yet complete. There is a basic divergence over H.M. Government's insistence that no transfer of sovereignty could be made against the wishes of the Falkland Islanders."

12. Recalling Mr. Stewart's statement, Mr. Costa Mendez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, in a statement made on 12 December 1968, declared that his Government's position in the negotiations with the United Kingdom was based on the following fundamental principles:

"(1) The United Kingdom Government must recognize as a definite solution Argentine sovereignty over the Islands and return them to the Republic;

"(2) Such recognition must not be made subject to the agreement of the present inhabitants of the Islands;

"(3) The Republic will take into account and protect the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands by means of safeguards and guarantees to be agreed upon. The Argentine Government, in keeping with the principles traditionally underlying its policy in this matter, will welcome these inhabitants with open arms. It is prepared to protect their interests satisfactorily and is confident that the ending of their present isolation will constitute a genuine advantage for them and their descendants;

"(4) The conclusion of the comprehensive treaty will naturally result in the development of free communications between the Islands and the rest of the Argentine National Territory and in forging of definite links between them;

"(5) The negotiations and resulting agreements must be consistent with the principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX)".

13. Mr. Mendez also said:

"In accordance with these principles, the Argentine Government initiated and continued the negotiations with the United Kingdom. After more than two years of talks, both countries have reached an understanding on substantive issues. Argentine sovereignty over the islands is an essential topic in the dispute. After refusing for a century even to discuss the matter, the United Kingdom has finally accepted to discuss it. This new willingness to hear our reasons is in itself sufficient reason for continuing the negotiations and for believing that they will lead to their logical conclusion - recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, which recognition, moreover, the United Kingdom has not categorically refused to proclaim.

"Major differences still exist, of course. The United Kingdom insists on making recognition of Argentine sovereignty subject to the wishes of the inhabitants, a condition which the Republic cannot possibly accept.

"This demand of the United Kingdom goes further than the terms of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), which states that Argentine and the United Kingdom are negotiating about the questions of the Malvinas. The resolution provides that, in finding a peaceful solution to the dispute, the interests of the population must be borne in mind. It certainly does not make recognition of sovereignty subject to the wishes of the inhabitants.

"Hence, there are sufficient reasons and motivations for proceeding with negotiations with the United Kingdom.

"There are also grounds and arguments for advancing our claim in the United Nations. In short, there are reasons for considering that the ways chosen for seeking a peaceful solution have not been exhausted."

14. On 25 September 1969, at the 1765th plenary meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Argentina made the following statement on the question:

"We repeat what we have said so many times, to the effect that if we frame our controversy strictly within the terms of resolution 2065 (XX), and if the United Kingdom is willing to consider this question without preconceived ideas, making a wide evaluation of the material circumstances surrounding the islands, it will be easy to reach a definite settlement which, at the same time, may satisfy and guarantee the interests of the inhabitants. This Assembly is fully aware that my country has continued the negotiations with the United Kingdom which were started pursuant to resolution 2065 (XX) on the question of the Malvinas Islands, and we hope that, during the present session, we shall be able to report to the Assembly on the course of those negotiations."

15. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General and dated 26 September 1969 (A/7691), the representative of the United Kingdom, referring to the statement of the representative of Argentina, said:

"... the United Kingdom and the Argentine Governments have been engaged in talks on this subject in accordance with resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly, and hope to report further on them in the course of the present session of the Assembly.

"I am, however, obliged to state that the United Kingdom Government does not accept the statement of the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic in so far as it disputes the sovereignty of the United Kingdom Government over the Falkland Islands. The United Kingdom Government has no doubt as to its sovereignty over the Territory of the Falkland Islands, and I wish formally to reserve the rights of the United Kingdom Government on this question."

16. On 21 November 1969, the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed letters to the Secretary-General, d/ informing him that their Governments had continued negotiations with the common objective of settling as soon as possible the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) in a definite and amicable manner, taking duly into account the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands, in accordance with resolution 2065 (XX) and the consensuses adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1966 and 19 December 1967. They further stated that, although divergence remained between the two Governments regarding circumstances that should exist for a definite solution of the dispute, it had been agreed that, within the general framework of these negotiations, special talks with a view to reaching agreement on practical measures for the implementation and promotion of free communication and movement in both directions between the mainland and the islands, would take place early in 1970 at a mutually convenient time. Both Governments would continue their efforts towards a definite solution of the dispute and would report again to the Secretary-General in due course.

17. The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was asked in the House of Commons, on 24 November 1969, if he recognized that the best way of improving communications was the establishment of an airfield in the islands. He replied, "... the airfield feasibility study is now under study". He was then asked if future discussions with the Government of Argentina would be concerned mainly with communications. His reply was as follows: "... that is

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d/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, documents A/7785 and A/7786.

not exactly the position. For some time we have been continuing discussions with the Argentine on the whole issue, including what I call the central issue, but now, within the framework of those negotiations, there will be these special talks which will be concerned solely with the promotions of communications and movements".

18. On 23 February 1970, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replying to a question, said: "We are in continuing touch with the Argentine Government and the Governor of the Falkland Islands. The talks on communications are still in the preparatory stages, and the time and place of a special meeting on this question have not been fixed".

19. It was reported, at the end of the same month, that the United Kingdom Ambassador to Argentina left Buenos Aires for what was described as a private visit to the Territory, to prepare the way for the talks.

20. Another statement was made on the question by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 11 May 1970. Speaking in the House of Commons, he said: "... exchanges have continued between the representatives of my Department and the Argentine Government. The Falkland Islands Government have been kept fully informed throughout. It has been possible in these exchanges to identify some ways in which free communications and movement in both directions might be promoted, and both sides believe that these deserve detailed study. I expect the talks to proceed on a continuing basis. Meetings will be held from time to time with appropriate participation from the Falkland Islands".

21. From 14 to 23 July 1970, talks were held in London between the delegations of Argentina and the United Kingdom. The following press communiqué was issued on 24 July 1970:

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, and in pursuance of the letters addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 21 November 1969, special talks on communications between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands took place in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London from 14 to 23 July between Argentine and British governmental delegations (the latter including participants from the Islands). The talks were confidential and ad referendum to Governments, and followed exchanges on this subject begun early in the year.

"Several proposals and ideas for the promotion of free communications were considered. The two delegations discussed problems relating to the movement of persons in both directions, to the establishment of sea and air communications, to postal and telecommunication services, to the development of trade and to the promotion of cultural exchanges.

"Both sides agreed in principle that there appeared to be considerable scope for the promotion of free communications and that every effort should be made to try to reach agreement on practical measures to that end.

"The talks were conducted throughout in an amicable and co-operative manner. Both sides agreed that they should continue through the customary diplomatic channels, that there should be further meetings, similar to the one just concluded in London, at mutually agreeable times, that the next meeting should take place in Buenos Aires, and that thereafter a meeting should be held in Port Stanley."

### 3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### General

22. The economy of the Territory depends almost entirely on the wool industry. Practically all revenue is derived indirectly from sheep farming. A major pilot scheme for the extraction and processing of seaweed in the islands was announced in December 1968 by the Director of Alginate Industries, Ltd. (a company registered in the United Kingdom), who said that his company had already applied to the Governor of the Territory for a concession to exploit the seaweed. It had surveyed the seaweed beds and estimated that it could harvest seaweed worth £12 million a year which, after processing in the United Kingdom, would then be worth £100 million. More than 90 per cent of this production would be for export. The company would build a fully automated drying and milling plant at Port Stanley and have a fleet of picking vessels. It was estimated that a pilot plant could be in operation in five years' time. It was pointed out that the huge beds of seaweed surrounding the islands were suitable for mechanical harvesting in contrast to the European supplies which were mostly gathered manually. The present world annual production of alginates was estimated at 15,000 tons, worth about £10 million.

23. Confirmation of this project was given by United Kingdom officials. In February 1970, it was stated in the House of Commons, that the United Kingdom was advising the territorial Government in its negotiations over royalties with Alginate Industries, Ltd. The territorial Government had offered to provide free water and electricity on repayment once it had been decided to start the project.

24. It was also stated in the House of Commons, in December 1969, that the Governor of the Territory had received a number of inquiries about, and some applications for, oil exploration licences in sea areas near the Territory; the applications were under consideration.

25. Another item which was being considered by the Government of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) was the report on the feasibility study for an airfield in the Territory which United Kingdom experts had undertaken at the request of the Governor.

#### Sheep farming

26. As at the end of 1968 there were twenty-nine holdings, the size of which varied from 850 to 400,000 acres. The total area of wool production was 2.9 million acres. The Falkland Islands Company, registered in the United Kingdom, owns six of the twenty-nine farms with a total acreage of 1.3 million acres, or 46 per cent of the total area under sheep. It controls regular shipping to the islands and runs the biggest general store in Port Stanley. The company has

about 800 shareholders in the United Kingdom and seventy or eighty in the Territory. Since 1964, wool prices have been falling and the company has been moving to other fields of investment. Another company, Lovegrove Waldron, owns a farm of 173,000 acres.

### International trade

27. The Territory's exports of wool during 1967 amounted in value to £783,000, compared with £998,000 in 1966. Exports of hides and skins were valued at £17,784. Re-imports amounted to £22,233. External trade figures over the years 1964 to 1968 were as follows:

(thousand pounds)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total exports</u> | <u>Wool exports</u> | <u>Imports</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1964        | 1,187                | 1,151               | 545            |
| 1965        | 990                  | 968                 | 514            |
| 1966        | 1,038                | 998                 | 697            |
| 1967        | 802                  | 783                 | 711            |
| 1968        | 842                  | 811                 | 599            |

The United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries absorb almost all of the Territory's exports and provide most of its imports (79.4 per cent in 1968).

### Public finance and taxation

28. In 1968/69, total revenue was £479,567 (including £18,936 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds), compared with £618,894 (including £49,200 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds) in 1967/68. Expenditure totalled £537,140 in 1968/69, compared with £563,555 the preceding year. Revenue is derived mainly from company taxes, income tax, customs duties, electricity, sale of postage stamps, and investment income. The main items of expenditure are education, posts and telecommunications, public health, and public works (recurrent and other).

29. Direct taxation is in the form of income tax, individuals paying a graduated tax ranging from 1s. in every pound of the first £100 of taxable income to 5s. 9d. in every pound exceeding £6,000. Companies pay a flat rate of 5s. 9d. in the pound. A profits tax, levied at either 1s. 6d. or 2s. in the pound for incorporated and unincorporated bodies, was introduced in the 1963 tax year and is payable in addition to income tax. Import duties are payable only on liquor, tobacco and matches. Since 1962, export duties have been removed from wool, tallow, hides and skins. Arrangements for the avoidance of double taxation were concluded with the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America.

30. There are no commercial banks but funds can be remitted abroad through the Treasury, or through agencies of two United Kingdom commercial banks, Lloyds Bank, Ltd., and Hambros Bank.

## Development

31. It was stated by the Minister of Overseas Development in the United Kingdom House of Commons on 21 January 1969 that the current allocation for the Territory under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act was £40,000 for each of the financial years 1968/69 and 1969/70. This was being spent mainly on the improvement of roads, government housing and the telephone service. It has been agreed to provide a team of five experts to undertake a study of the sheep and cattle industries and to assist with the completion of a new geographical map of the islands.

32. On 2 December 1968, it was reported by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom House of Commons that under an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Space Research Organization which entered into force on 24 November 1967, the United Kingdom had undertaken to construct and operate on behalf of the organization a satellite telemetry station at Port Stanely. This station, which formed part of the scientific satellite telemetry and tracking network of the organization of which the United Kingdom was a member, was now in service.

## 4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

33. Sheep farming employs approximately 500 men. In Stanely the largest sources of employment are government and public services, trading and shipping. There is a labour shortage and most labourers come from the United Kingdom and Chile to work on the farms under contract.

34. In Stanely, at the end of 1969, unskilled labourers were paid at the rate of £11. 8s. 9d. per week, skilled labourers from £12 to £13. 10s. per week and tradesmen at £14. 1s. 3d. per week. In the camp, general labourers received £37. 8s. per month and foremen a minimum of £50. 7s. per month. Shepherds living in the settlement received £39. 16s. 6d. per month while those living outside the settlement received an additional £3. 5s. per month. A special allowance of 12s. 6d. per month was paid to all employees on West Falkland. Extra bonuses are paid for shearing. In addition, labourers and shepherds receive free quarters, fuel, meat and milk. The work week averages forty-five hours, with Saturday afternoons and Sundays off.

35. Although it has no legal status, the Sheepowners' Association is recognized both by the Government and the employers as an authoritative body. The Falkland Islands General Employees' Union is registered under the Trade Unions and Disputes Ordinance.

### Public Health

36. The Government Medical Department employs one senior medical officer, three medical officers, two dental officers and nine nurses. There is a thirty-two-bed general hospital in Stanley. Health expenditure was £54,986 (representing

11.8 per cent of total ordinary expenditure) in 1968/69, compared with £44,930 (representing 10.7 per cent of total ordinary expenditure) in the preceding year.

#### 5. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

37. Education in the Territory is free and compulsory between the ages of five and fifteen. There are only primary schools. In 1968/69, there were six such schools, staffed by thirty-eight teachers (including itinerant teachers) and with a total enrolment of 372 students.

38. An average of two scholarships annually are awarded to deserving students to continue their studies in the United Kingdom and Uruguay. The United Kingdom Government awards bursaries for three-year teacher-training courses.

39. Educational expenditure totalled £58,979, or 12.4 per cent of total ordinary expenditure in 1968/69, compared with £58,353, or 13.9 per cent of total ordinary expenditure in 1967/68.



## CHAPTER XX

### BRITISH HONDURAS

#### A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 737th meeting, on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, by approving the forty-seventh report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.623), decided, inter alia, to take up the question of British Honduras as a separate item and consider it at its plenary meetings.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 775th meeting, on 29 October 1970.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to this chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and on the latest developments concerning the Territory.

#### B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

5. At its 775th meeting, on 29 October 1970, following a statement by its Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.775), the Special Committee decided, first, to transmit to the General Assembly the working paper referred to in paragraph 4 above, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Fourth Committee; and, secondly, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion, to give consideration to this item at its next session.

ANNEX\*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.661.

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. In 1969, the Special Committee decided to transmit to the General Assembly the working paper on the Territory a/ and subject to any directives the General Assembly might give, to consider the item at its next session.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY<sup>b/</sup>

1. GENERAL

2. British Honduras lies on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bounded on the north and part of the west by Mexico and on the south and southwest by Guatemala. The Territory's land area is 8,866 square miles (22,563 square kilometres), which includes a number of islets lying off the coast. The estimated population in 1968 was 118,000, consisting mainly of creoles, American Indians (Maya) and Caribs.

3. The seat of Government was moved from Belize City to Belmopan on 1 August 1970 (see also paragraphs 40 to 42 below).

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Constitution

4. The present Constitution came into force on 6 January 1964. The main provisions of this Constitution are set out below.

(a) Governor

5. The Governor, who is appointed by the Queen, is required to act in accordance with the advice of ministers in all matters except those specifically excepted. Special responsibilities are reserved to him under the Constitution, namely, defence, external affairs, internal security and the public service.

(b) Cabinet

6. The Cabinet consists of the Premier and other ministers who are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier. The person likely to command the support of the majority in the House of Representatives is appointed Premier. Only members of the Legislature are eligible for appointment as ministers. Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed for the first time in January 1969.

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a/ A/7623/Add.7, chapter XXXII, annex.

b/ The information presented in this section has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter, on 17 July 1969, for the year ending 31 December 1968.

. The Constitution provides for a Security Council and a Consultative Committee on External Affairs to advise the Governor and to enable ministers to familiarize themselves with matters for which they will ultimately assume responsibility.

(c) Legislature

. The Legislature, called the National Assembly, is bicameral and consists of Senate and a House of Representatives.

. The Senate consists of eight members appointed by the Governor - five on the advice of the Premier, two on the advice of the leader of the opposition and one after such consultations as the Governor considers appropriate. The president is elected by the Senate either from among its members or from outside the Senate; the vice-president, however, is elected solely from and by senators. The Senate has power to initiate legislation, other than financial bills, on which its powers of delay do not exceed one month. In respect of other bills, the power of delay is limited to six months, provided the bill in question has been sent forward in two successive sessions.

0. The House of Representatives consists of eighteen members elected by universal adult suffrage. There are no nominated or ex officio members. The speaker is elected by the House either from among its own members or from outside.

Political parties

1. There are four political parties in the Territory. The two older and more important parties are the People's United Party (PUP) and the National Independence Party (NIP). The other parties are the People's Development Movement (PDM) and the United Black Association for Development (UBAD).

2. The PUP, with Mr. George Price, the Premier, as its leader, has been active in the Territory since shortly after the Second World War. Mr. Price, who became first Minister under the 1961 Constitution, has been Premier since 1964. The PUP was formed by the amalgamation of a labour movement, the General Workers' Union, and the People's Committee.

3. NIP was formed in 1958 as the result of a merger between the Honduras Independence Party and the National Party.

4. The main issue separating the PUP and the NIP at the last general election, held on 5 December 1969, was the timing of independence. The PUP's policy reportedly called for immediate independence coupled with a security guarantee from the United Kingdom and "other Commonwealth countries". The NIP advocated delaying independence because it did not believe that the United Kingdom would give such a guarantee, unless it was demanded from it.

5. The PDM was formed in October 1969, by a splinter group which left the NIP on 1 August of the same year. However, the PDM supported the NIP during the 1969 general election.

## Electoral system

16. The Constitution requires the holding of a general election at intervals of not less than five years. Members of the House of Representatives are elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. In the 1969 general election, the PUP won seventeen of the eighteen seats, the NIP the remaining seat.

## Local government

17. There are six administrative districts: Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo. Each, except Belize, is administered by a district officer. Belize is administered by an elected city council and there are six elected town boards. There are also village councils.

## Judiciary

18. The law of British Honduras is the common law of the United Kingdom together with locally enacted legislation. The Territory has a Supreme Court and a number of Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. Provision was made for the establishment of a Court of Appeal and in November 1969, the three judges of the Bahamas Court of Appeal, who also make up the Bermuda Court of Appeal, began sitting as the British Honduras Court of Appeal (the three Courts of Appeal are different entities from each other). An Attorney-General was appointed in British Honduras in February 1969.

19. Apart from the judges of the Court of Appeal who commute between the Territory and the Bahamas and Bermuda, the judiciary consists of the Chief Justice, a puisne judge and four magistrates. Some district villagers have an alcalde (in effect, a headman) appointed by the Governor from among the villagers. Each alcalde has limited jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters.

20. The Constitution provides for a Judicial and Legal Service Commission, which is responsible for advising the Governor on all matters relating to the appointment, removal and discipline of certain judicial officers. It consists of the Chief Justice as Chairman, the puisne judge and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

## Public service

21. Provision is made in the Constitution for a Public Service Commission, which consists of a chairman and four other members appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Premier. The Governor must consult with the Commission on matters relating to the appointment, removal and discipline of officers in the public service, including senior officers in the police force.

## Recent developments

22. On 9 November 1969, the Territory's Governor, Sir John Paul, on the advice of the Premier, dissolved the National Assembly. The general election was held on 5 December 1969. The ruling PUP won seventeen of the eighteen seats of the House of Representatives. The only seat won by the opposition is held by Mr. Philip Goldson, leader of the NIP, who was re-elected.
23. The new Cabinet is headed by Mr. George Price as Premier and Minister of Finance and Economic Development.
24. In October 1969, it was reported that the United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Shepherd, visited the Territory mainly to discuss two questions with Mr. Price - the convening of a constitutional conference in 1970 and the ratification of a defence agreement. According to the same report, United Kingdom officials drew a clear distinction between a defence agreement and a defence treaty which would be a more formal commitment.
25. In March 1970, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was asked in the House of Commons whether he would make a statement on the future constitutional progress of British Honduras. His reply was as follows: "... As frequently stated in this House, independence is recognized as the natural and legitimate aspiration for the people of British Honduras. When detailed constitutional proposals are made by the British Honduras Government we shall be ready to consider them."
26. On 16 September 1969, at the 1753rd plenary meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Guatemala declared: "Although there does exist a controversy with the United Kingdom on the Territory of Belize - and here again I wish to state that we reaffirm our rights to that Territory - ... we are still ready to consider possible agreements that will put an end to that dispute and guarantee the welfare and security of the inhabitants of Belize."
27. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General and dated 6 October 1969, c/ the representative of the United Kingdom referred to the above-mentioned statement of the representative of Guatemala and added: "The United Kingdom is continuing to explore means of resolving its differences with Guatemala with regard to British Honduras. Meanwhile, I am obliged to state that the United Kingdom does not accept the statement of the distinguished representative of Guatemala in so far as it disputes the sovereignty of the United Kingdom over British Honduras. The United Kingdom Government has no doubt as to its sovereignty over the Territory of British Honduras, and I wish formally to reserve the rights of the United Kingdom Government on this question."

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c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 23, document A/7696.

### 3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### General

28. Until the mid-1950s the Territory's economy was based almost entirely on the export of forest products. This industry declined slowly as the result of continued exploitation of the more valuable wood and unfavourable weather conditions. However, agricultural output (particularly sugar and citrus) increased and now provides about two thirds the value of the country's exports. The policy of the Government of British Honduras in development planning is to emphasize the expansion of agricultural production for export and the tourist industry (whose contribution to foreign exchange earnings tripled since 1964), to reduce dependence on food imports and to build up a skilled labour force. It is also its policy to attract investment capital from abroad by offering investors concessions, such as tax holidays ranging up to fifteen years and import duty exemptions.

29. British Honduras, a founding member of the Caribbean Development Bank, is reportedly considering entry into the Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA).

#### Agriculture, forestry and fishing

30. Although about 2 million acres, or 38 per cent of the total land area, are considered potentially adaptable for agricultural use, only slightly over 100,000 acres are actually under cultivation.

31. Sugar production increased from 13,614 tons in 1961 to over 63,000 tons in 1968. The total estimated acreage under sugar cane was 38,901 in 1968, compared with 22,893 in 1967. Belize Sugar Industries, Ltd., a subsidiary of Tate and Lyle, Ltd., operates the old sugar factory at Libertad as well as a new factory (opened since 1966) at Tower Hill in the north. In 1968, sugar exports accounted for 67 per cent of agricultural exports and 53 per cent of total exports.

32. Production of citrus (grapefruit and oranges) totals approximately one million boxes annually. Much of it is processed for export at two factories producing canned grapefruit segments, fruit juices, concentrates and oils. The value of citrus exports increased from \$BH3.1 million d/ in 1960 to over \$BH4.3 million in 1968, representing 25 per cent by value of all exports.

33. Other agricultural exports which have emerged since the 1960s are cocoa, bananas and cucumbers. In 1968, a total of 2,180 acres were planted under bananas, compared with 2,250 acres in 1967.

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d/ The unit of currency is the British Honduras dollar (\$BH) which is equivalent to £0.25 or \$US0.47.

34. Crops grown principally for local consumption include maize, rice, beans, coconuts, peas, cassava and yams. The number of acres planted under rice decreased from 4,805 in 1967 to 4,130 in 1968. The number of acres planted under maize totalled 16,360 in 1968. Maize production in that year was over 15 million pounds, compared with 9 million pounds in 1964. During the period 1964 to 1968, production of red kidney beans rose from 1.6 million pounds to almost 6 million pounds.

35. There were 30,000 head of cattle at the end of 1968. Forest products represented approximately 7 per cent of total domestic exports. The main timbers exploited are mahogany, cedar and pine.

36. The fishing industry provides sufficient fish supply for domestic consumption and a variety of marine products (mainly shell fish) for export. Lobster production increased from 316,970 pounds in 1967 to 390,868 pounds in 1968, while shrimp production decreased from 228,024 pounds to 140,657 pounds during the same period.

### Industries

37. The main industries are those concerned with processing indigenous products: saw milling, citrus processing and sugar manufacturing. Smaller enterprises which have recently emerged include the manufacture of metal doors and windows, furniture and clothing. The manufacturing sector's contribution to gross domestic product increased from \$BH0.8 million in 1955 to \$BH1.1 million in 1959 and again to an estimated \$BH5.7 million in 1967.

38. Development concessions were granted in 1968 for the establishment of the Territory's first brewery (expected to come into operation in 1971), a small steel re-rolling mill, a flour mill and a paint mixing operation.

39. The tourist industry has shown a notable upsurge since 1964. Its contribution to foreign exchange earnings increased from less than \$BH1 million in 1964 to an estimated \$BH3 million in 1967. It was reported in 1968 that two United States groups were planning the construction of hotels to meet the need for expanded facilities in the Belize City area. One of them wanted to include a gambling casino, but the Government had not yet decided whether to permit casinos there. Most of the tourists come from the United States of America and Canada.

### New Capital

40. In 1966, preliminary construction work started in the new capital city at Roaring Creek, about fifty miles inland from Belize City. The total project was designed to be built in five stages. The first stage, which was to be completed in 1969, was expected to accommodate a population of 5,000; when the last stage is completed the city would accommodate a population of 25,000 to 30,000.

41. In November 1969, the United Kingdom Minister of Overseas Development was asked how much the United Kingdom had contributed to date to the building of the new capital of British Honduras; and how much was the estimated total commitment to its completion. He replied "£3,400,000 has so far been drawn. Further sums amounting to about £1.5 million have been earmarked for this project".



42. It was reported in February 1970 that the Territory's 1970 budget provided \$BH5 million for the new capital.

### Public finance

43. The total revenue (recurrent and capital) in 1968 was \$BH24.42 million, compared with \$BH16.92 million in 1967. The main items of national revenue were import duties and internal taxation. Total expenditure in 1968 was \$BH25.15 millions, compared with \$BH15.48 million in 1967. Capital expenditure (\$BH12.07 million in 1968) is financed to a large extent by Colonial Development and Welfare funds and other United Kingdom grants and loans, and in some cases by locally raised loans and by capital revenue.

44. It was reported, in February 1970, that the Territory's House of Representatives had approved the 1970 budget which provides for expenditure totalling \$BH27,310,074, including \$BH12.2 million in capital expenditure. Of this capital expenditure, \$BH5 million was set for the new capital.

45. There are three commercial banks in the Territory (Barclays Bank DCO, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia) and a Government Savings Bank.

### Trade

46. The value of imports in 1967 amounted to \$BH36,951,914; import figures for 1968 are not yet available. The value of domestic exports in 1968 totalled \$BH20,011,480 and re-exports amounted to \$BH5,181,875, making a total of \$BH25,193,355. In 1967, domestic exports totalled \$BH16,351,439, and re-exports totalled \$BH4,118,441, making a total of \$BH20,469,880.

47. Imports include virtually all capital goods, fuel and all manufactured consumer goods. The principal trading partners of British Honduras are the United Kingdom and the United States, the former taking the largest share of exports (almost 40 per cent in 1967), and the latter providing the largest proportion of imports (34 per cent in 1967).

## 4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Labour

48. Approximately 40 per cent of the working population is engaged in agriculture. The estimated numbers engaged in the principal wage-earning occupations at the end of 1967 were as follows: agriculture, forestry and fishing, 4,225; manufacturing, 2,743; construction, 1,316; and trade and commerce, 1,502.

49. Unemployment is reported to be a serious problem in Belize City, where about one third of the population is concentrated. Wages are low; minimum wages for unskilled workers may average 10s a day, while secretaries can earn £6 or more a week. Notwithstanding a high literacy rate, there is a severe shortage of skilled labour due to a lack of technical education.

50. At the end of 1966 there were eight registered trade unions with a membership of over 6,000.

### Public health

51. The Territory is reported to be relatively free from endemic disease. The main general hospital, with 162 beds, is in Belize City, where there are also two private hospitals with a capacity of 22 beds. There is a 30-bed hospital in the Toledo District and smaller hospitals in each of the other districts. There is a government infirmary and mental hospital in Belize City and a small temporary tuberculosis sanatorium outside the capital. Twenty government and mission dispensaries and mobile clinics operate in the more remote areas.

52. In 1968, there were thirty-five registered physicians (including twenty-one government employed) and seventy certified nurses (including sixty-three government employed).

53. Government expenditure on medical and health services in 1968 was \$BHL,209,621.

## 5. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

54. Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen. Primary education is free. In 1968 there were 28,257 pupils enrolled at the two government and 158 aided primary schools. Another 800 pupils were enrolled at seven independent primary schools.

55. There are seventeen secondary schools, all but one provided by the missions. These schools include an agricultural college, a vocational school and the Belize Technical College. In 1968, enrolment of secondary school students totalled 2,864. The first junior secondary school was opened in Belize City in January 1969. There is a government teacher-training college, with an enrolment of 155 students in 1968.

56. There is no university in the Territory. Students go abroad for higher education, mostly to the West Indies and the United Kingdom. In 1967/68, there were 52 British Honduras students in higher education institutions in the United Kingdom.

57. Government expenditure on education in 1968 amounted to \$BHL,964,900 compared with \$BHL,943,398 in 1967.

## CHAPTER XXI

### INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER

#### A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions at its 763rd, 765th and 766th meetings, between 10 and 28 September 1970.
2. In its consideration of this item, the Special Committee was guided by the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of other General Assembly resolutions concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter and related questions, in particular, resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 which, inter alia, dissolved the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and transferred certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 8 of resolution 2558 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969 which requested the Special Committee to study, in accordance with the procedures established by it in 1964, 1/ the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter.
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (see annex below) containing information on the dates on which information from the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned, called for under Article 73 e of the Charter, was transmitted for the years 1968 and 1969.
4. At the 763rd meeting, on 10 September, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania introduced a draft resolution on behalf of the following members: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia (A/AC.109/L.663).
5. The Special Committee considered the draft resolution at its 763rd and 765th meetings, on 10 and 25 September respectively. Statements on the draft resolution were made at the 763rd meeting by the representatives of Bulgaria and Iran (A/AC.109/PV.763) and at the 765th meeting by the representatives of Venezuela, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Ivory Coast, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia and Ecuador (A/AC.109/PV.765).

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 8 (part 1) (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter II.

6. The draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.663) was adopted by the Special Committee at its 765th meeting, on 25 September, by 15 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions. The text of the resolution is reproduced in paragraph 10 below.
7. At the same meeting, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Italy (A/AC.109/PV.765). The representative of the United Kingdom made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply (A/AC.109/PV.765).
8. A statement by the representative of Madagascar was made at the 766th meeting, on 28 September (A/AC.109/PV.766).
9. On 29 September, the text of the resolution was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the administering Powers for the attention of their Governments.

#### B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

10. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/364) adopted by the Special Committee at its 765th meeting on 25 September, to which reference is made in paragraph 6 above, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 2558 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969, in which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures,

Recalling further the provisions of paragraph 6 of resolution 2558 (XXIV) in which the General Assembly once again urged the administering Powers concerned to transmit, or continue to transmit, to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the item, 2/

1. Deeply regrets that, despite the repeated recommendations of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

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2/ A/AC.109/358 and Add.1.

Colonial Countries and Peoples, some Member States having responsibilities for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories still have not transmitted information under Article 73 e of the Charter, have transmitted insufficient information or have transmitted information too late;

2. Condemns the Government of Portugal for its persistent refusal to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with regard to the colonial Territories under its domination, in open defiance of the provisions of the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee concerning those Territories;

3. Deplores the refusal of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to transmit such information on the Territories of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent;

4. Once again urges the administering Powers concerned to transmit, or continue to transmit, to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned;

5. Reiterates its request that the administering Powers concerned transmit such information as early as possible and, at the latest, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned;

6. Decides, subject to any decision that the General Assembly might take in that connexion, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

ANNEX\*

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter

1. The Secretary-General's previous report on this subject<sup>a/</sup> listed the dates on which information was transmitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter up to 22 September 1969. The table at the end of the present report shows the dates on which such information was transmitted in respect of the years 1968 and 1969 up to 4 August 1970.
2. The information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter follows in general the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history, population, economic, social and educational conditions. In the case of Territories under the administration of Australia, France, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, the annual reports on the Territories also include information on constitutional matters. Additional information on political and constitutional developments in Territories under their administration is also given by the representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States during meetings of the Special Committee.
3. No information has been transmitted to the Secretary-General concerning the Territories under Portuguese administration, which the General Assembly, by resolution 1542 (XV) of 15 December 1960, considered to be Non-Self-Governing Territories within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter. Nor has the Secretary-General received any information on Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. With respect to Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia, the representative of the United Kingdom stated at the 1752nd meeting of the Fourth Committee, on 15 December 1967, that having achieved the status of Associated States, they had achieved "a full measure of self-government" and that information on them would not be transmitted in future. A similar statement with respect to St. Vincent was made by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1867th meeting of the Fourth Committee on 10 December 1969.

Study of information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter

4. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, paragraph 4 of resolution 2109 (XX) of 21 December 1965, paragraph 4 of resolution 2233 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, paragraph 5 of resolution 2351 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, paragraph 7 of resolution 2422 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and paragraph 8 of resolution 2558 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969, which requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e and, in accordance with the procedure approved by the Special Committee in 1964, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation of working papers on each Territory for the Special Committee.

\* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/358 and Add.1.

<sup>a/</sup> A/7623/Add.8, chapter XXXIII, annex.

TABLE

Dates of transmission of information under Article 73 e  
of the Charter for 1968 and 1969

This table includes all Territories listed in Part one, annex II, of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session, a/ with the exception of Aden, Barbados, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, British Guiana, Cook Islands, Equatorial Guinea (Fernando Poo and Rio Muni), Gambia, Ifni, Jamaica, Kenya, Malta, Mauritius, North Borneo, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Sarawak, Singapore, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Zanzibar.

|  | <u>1968</u>      | <u>1969</u>    |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| AUSTRALIA (1 July-30 June) <sup>b/</sup>           |                  |                |
| Cocos (Keeling) Islands                            | 3 July 1969      | 3 June 1970    |
| Papua  | 9 July 1969      | 22 June 1970   |
| FRANCE (calendar year)                             |                  |                |
| Comoro Archipelago <sup>c/</sup>                   | -                | -              |
| French Somaliland <sup>c/ d/</sup>                 | -                | -              |
| New Hebrides (condominium with the United Kingdom) | 11 February 1970 |                |
| NEW ZEALAND (1 April-31 March) <sup>e/</sup>       |                  |                |
| Niue Island  | 18 August 1969   | 31 August 1970 |
| Tokelau Islands                                    | 18 August 1969   | 31 August 1970 |

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/5514), part one, annex II.

b/ Period extends from 1 July of previous year to 30 June of year listed.

c/ On 27 March 1959, the Government of France notified the Secretary-General that this Territory had attained internal autonomy and, consequently, the transmission of information thereon had ceased as from 1957.

d/ The new designation of the Territory is French Territory of the Afars and the Issas (see Terminology Bulletin No. 240 (ST/CS/SER.F/240) of 15 April 1968).

e/ Period extends from 1 April of the year listed to 31 March of the following year.

19681969

## PORTUGAL

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Angola                                    | - | - |
| Cape Verde Archipelago                    | - | - |
| Guinea, called Portuguese Guinea          | - | - |
| Macau and dependencies                    | - | - |
| Mozambique                                | - | - |
| Sao Tomé and Príncipe<br>and dependencies | - | - |
| Timor (Portuguese) and<br>dependencies    | - | - |

## SPAIN (calendar year)

|                |                   |             |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Spanish Sahara | 22 September 1969 | 1 July 1970 |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|

## UNITED KINGDOM (calendar year)

|                             |                   |                            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Antigua                     | -                 | -                          |
| Bahamas                     | 20 June 1969      | 13 July 1970               |
| Bermuda                     | 14 July 1969      | 29 July 1970               |
| British Honduras            | 17 July 1969      | 29 July 1970               |
| British Virgin Islands      | 10 June 1969      | 26 June 1970 <sup>f/</sup> |
| Brunei                      | 4 September 1969  | 3 August 1970              |
| Cayman Islands              | 17 July 1969      | 12 June 1970               |
| Dominica                    | -                 | -                          |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 19 September 1969 | 9 June 1970 <sup>g/</sup>  |
| Fiji                        | 19 September 1969 | 30 June 1970               |
| Gibraltar                   | 15 September 1969 | 30 July 1970               |
| Gilbert and Ellice Islands  | 30 June 1969      | 26 June 1970 <sup>h/</sup> |
| Grenada                     | -                 | -                          |
| Hong Kong                   | 10 June 1969      | 26 June 1970               |
| Montserrat                  | 22 September 1969 | 21 July 1970               |

f/ Additional information for 1969 was transmitted on 8 September 1970.

g/ Additional information for 1969 was transmitted on 18 September 1970.

h/ Additional information for 1969 was transmitted on 4 August 1970.



|  | <u>1968</u>                   | <u>1969</u>  |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|
| UNITED KINGDOM (calendar year)<br>(continued)          |                               |              |
| New Hebrides (condominium<br>with France)              | 12 September 1969             | 29 June 1970 |
| Pitcairn Island  | 4 June 1969                   | 26 June 1970 |
| St. Helena   | 23 June 1969 <sup>i/</sup>    | 26 June 1970 |
| St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla                               | -                             | -            |
| St. Lucia  | -                             | -            |
| St. Vincent  | 9 October 1969                | -            |
| Seychelles   | 16 July 1969                  | 30 July 1970 |
| Solomon Islands  | 23 June 1969                  | 5 June 1970  |
| Southern Rhodesia                                      | 12 August 1969                | 29 June 1970 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands                               | 4 November 1968 <sup>j/</sup> | 13 July 1970 |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA<br>(1 July-30 June) <u>b/</u> |                               |              |
| American Samoa   | 6 June 1969                   | 30 June 1970 |
| Guam   | 17 February 1969              | 1 April 1970 |
| United States Virgin Islands                           | 12 February 1969              | 1 April 1970 |

i/ Additional information for 1968 was transmitted on 2 February 1970.

j/ Additional information for 1968 was transmitted on 4 September 1969.

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