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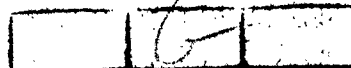
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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 OF THE CHARTER

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Summary of general trends in the Territories under French
administration 1/

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

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/Summary

Summary of general trends in the Territories under
French administration

1. In section C of the explanatory preface to the revised standard form, Members are invited "to provide a survey of the principles and practical measures showing general trends in the Territories" for which they are responsible, "in order to permit the Special Committee to review the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the fields covered by Article 73 e of the Charter". In order to meet this request the French Government has communicated the information summarized below which forms an introduction to the reports on the Territories enumerated in document A/2131.

I

PARTICIPATION OF THE INHABITANTS IN THE EXAMINATION
OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

2. The general situation is described in the preface to the report on French Equatorial Africa as follows:

"All population groups, whatever their origin, have the same status under public law. Consequently they share equally in the conduct of public affairs, through their representatives in the local assemblies (the Territorial Assemblies and the Grand Council) and in the assemblies of the central government (the Parliament of the French Republic, the Economic Council and the Assembly of the French Union)."

3. The information submitted by the Administering Power on the Comoro Archipelago stresses the fact that the considerable work done to repair the ravages of the cyclone of 22 December 1950, which caused 524 deaths and damage amounting to more than a thousand million francs CFA, "would have been impossible without the goodwill and co-operation of all sections of the population". Local members of parliament, members of the General Council, large firms and European as well as indigenous inhabitants gave the administration their "full support in the task of reconstruction". "All measures to this end were voted unanimously by the General Council, in spite of the sacrifices they entailed".

II

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

4. Generally speaking the reports stress that despite obstacles of every kind the general drive for the economic, social and educational development of the Territories - which is financed both by aid from metropolitan France (budget of "FIDES" Fonds d'investissement pour le développement économique et social - Investment Fund for the Economic and Social Development of the Overseas Territories) and out of local budget funds - is being continued.

In this connexion it should be noted that in order to reduce as far as possible expenditure for personnel payable out of these budgets, the salaries of military personnel and certain civilian officers (higher civil servants and legal officers) are paid by metropolitan France, which also subsidizes most of the scientific research bodies having their own budgets. In this way, considerable sums are freed for allocation to equipment projects.

5. Under present conditions, however, the financial resources of the Territories alone are inadequate for their economic and social development. The development plans framed and put into operation as from 1947 have tended to remedy this deficiency. At the end of 1951, i.e. at the conclusion of the first four-year period, the following sums had been allocated to the various Territories:

French Equatorial Africa	33,000,000,000 francs (metropolitan)
French West Africa	35,300,000,000 " (CFA)
French Somaliland	573,000,000 " (Djibouti)
Madagascar	4,391,000,000 " (CFA)
Comoro Archipelago	198,000,000 " (CFA) ^{1/}

This represents a total investment of nearly 110,000,000,000 metropolitan francs.

6. Where French industry has for various reasons been unable to meet the needs of the Territories, purchases of capital goods and the accumulation of

^{1/} The CFA franc has twice the value of the metropolitan franc. The Djibouti franc, which is pegged to the United States dollar, is at present worth 1.63 metropolitan francs.

stocks of essential commodities, such as hydrocarbons, have in some cases been restricted by the shortage of hard currency. American E.R.P. aid has generally made it possible to overcome these difficulties, at least to some extent.

7. In general, the increase in economic potential achieved by the development programmes put into operation has led to a considerable rise in budgetary revenue, as is shown by the following table:

<u>Budgetary revenue</u>		
(in millions of CFA or Djibouti francs)		
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
French Equatorial Africa	6,000	11,000
French West Africa (a)	11,822	13,765
French Somaliland	830	939
Madagascar (b)	7,758	10,200

(a) General budget, derived from indirect taxes only.

(b) Estimates.

This increase in revenue is largely attributable to the formation of a considerable number of new companies, or capital expansion by existing companies, and to the customs duties paid on materials imported for the development of the Territories. Thus, during 1951, 124 new companies, with a capital of 530,000,000 francs CFA, were created in French Equatorial Africa, and fifty companies increased their capital to an amount totalling 1,568,000,000. The policy of tax exemption for new investment or local reinvestment of profits applied in all the Territories thus appears to be bearing fruit.

8. In the same Territory it has been estimated that three-quarters of the public investment made from 1947 to 1951 was connected with the development and improvement of means of communication or the setting up of research institutions designed to increase the output of local production. The remaining quarter went to social and cultural development. Appropriations for these purposes are to be substantially increased in the forthcoming instalments of the plan. In Madagascar, as in French West Africa, the percentages are even higher (roughly 83 to 17 per cent).

9. The balance of trade of these Territories still shows a disequilibrium between imports and exports, due to large-scale imports of capital goods. Despite the progress made, therefore, local production still remains inadequate to meet the Territories' requirements of manufactured articles and consumer goods of various kinds.

(Millions of CFA or Djibouti francs)

	Imports		1950	Exports 1951
	1950	1951		
French Equatorial Africa	13,393	18,243	7,253	10,996
French West Africa	42,170	61,336	30,965	38,697
French Somaliland	2,344	3,247	1,383	1,241
Madagascar	15,073	22,400	12,432	13,436
Comoro Archipelago (a)	324	391	338	260

(a) The situation of this Territory is rather special, as its economy has been seriously affected by the destruction caused by the cyclone of December 1950 (estimated at 1,000 million francs CFA).

10. Another noteworthy fact is the quantitative improvement of the food-crop harvests. The effects of the work done by the agricultural extension services are now being more continuously felt. The result is more regular food supplies to the indigenous inhabitants and an improvement in the standard of living of the agricultural population. In this connexion, the campaign in Madagascar for the development of indigenous rural organizations, reflected in the creation of the "Conseil supérieur du paysannat malgache" (Higher Council of Farmers of Madagascar) and the "Centrale d'équipement agricole et de modernisation du paysannat" (Farmers' Agricultural Equipment and Modernization Centre), may give valuable results. Mention should also be made of the work done by the rural engineering and agricultural hydraulic services in French Equatorial Africa and French West Africa. These services offer direct assistance to rural communities wishing to increase their production and modernize their farming methods.

/The following

The following figures show the progress made in 1951 for the basic food-crops:

	<u>Crop</u>	<u>1950</u> (metric tons)	<u>1951</u> (metric tons)
French Equatorial Africa	Millet, sorghum	600,000	836,000
	Manioc	540,000	1,240,000
French West Africa	Millet	1,700,000	1,900,000
	Rice	385,000	530,000
Madagascar	Rice	772,000	816,000
	Manioc	817,000	953,000
	Sweet Potatoes	256,000	321,000

11. However the economies of the Territories under consideration are still based on agriculture. Industrialization still makes but slow and gradual progress, mainly owing to the lack of sources of energy. For this reason, one of the principal objectives of economic development is to exploit the potential energy resources to be found in these Territories. The coal-measures of Sakoa in Madagascar are shortly to be worked by a semi-public corporation. This arrangement has also been used for hydro-electric development, in which several important projects are under way, e.g. at the Djoué falls near Brazzaville (15,000, later 30,000 kilowatts), the Samou falls near Conakry (9,000 kilowatts) and the Mandraka falls, near Tananarivo (11,000 kilowatts in the first stage).

12. Mining industry has not shown any spectacular developments. There has been a downward trend in gold production and a considerable increase in diamond production in French Equatorial Africa and graphite production in Madagascar.

		<u>Mining output</u>	
		<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
French Equatorial Africa	Gold	1,710 kg.	1,589 kg.
	Diamonds	111,000 cts.	148,753 cts.
French West Africa	Gold	102 kg.	51 kg.
	Diamonds	135,584 cts.	100,980 cts.
Madagascar	Graphite	14,013 tons	18,598 tons
	Mica	801 tons	943 tons

It may be observed that the report on French Equatorial Africa mentions for the first time some interest by certain indigenous inhabitants in extractive industry. Several have obtained prospecting permits and were

/reported

reported to be about to begin working ores that had been discovered.

13. In French Equatorial Africa, where cotton production is on the increase, plans are being considered for the creation of a textile industry in Oubangui-Chari. Local processing of the fibres would have the obvious advantages of effecting considerable economies, training new labour and accelerating the development of the Territory. This project is linked with the exploitation of the Bouali falls, which offer a cheap, nearby source of energy (3,000 kilowatts in the first stage).

III

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

14. In public health the campaign against the major endemic tropical diseases has been pursued with increased vigour. In Madagascar, in particular, mobile anti-malaria teams have brought protection to nearly 400,000 homes and thus been of real assistance to more than half the population. In French West Africa an anti-malaria campaign was planned in 1951 and is to be carried out in 1952 with the assistance of the United Nations specialized agencies. In French Equatorial Africa the main effort during this period has been directed against sleeping-sickness. In general, it should be stressed, curative medicine has been promoted by means of mobile teams who go to the indigenous inhabitants instead of requiring them to undertake long journeys, which they often fail to make. At the same time, venereal disease, leprosy, yellow-fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis have been combatted with more ample means.

15. The number of indigenous medical officers and auxiliary medical officers is being appreciably increased, as may be seen from the following table:

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
French Equatorial Africa	145	173
French West Africa	-	581 ^{a/}
Madagascar	380	407 ^{b/}

a/ Not including thirty-six medical officers and auxiliary officers in private practice.

b/ Not including 148 medical officers and auxiliary officers in private practice.

Training of medical practitioners in French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa will henceforth be ensured thanks to the conversion of the African Medical School of Dakar in 1951 into a Medical School awarding the degree of Doctor of Medicine. A similar change is shortly to be made for the School of Medicine and Pharmacy at Tananarivo.

16. The funds appropriated for public health and the proportion of total budget expenditure they represent have shown little change. They are as follows:

	(Millions of CFA or Djibouti francs)		
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
French Equatorial Africa	364 ^{a/}	802	11.4 ^{b/}
French West Africa	4,121	4,965	11.4
French Somaliland	55	67	12.5
Madagascar	939	780	9.6
Comoro Archipelago	14	19	17

a/ General budget only.

b/ Average of general and local budget percentages.

17. The continued growth of towns is presenting the authorities with increasingly urgent housing and public health problems. In order to deal with these problems, master town plans have had to be drawn up, prominence being given to the construction of cheap collective housing developments (e.g. at Dakar, Brazzaville and Tananarivo). Two major obstacles, however, remain to be overcome: firstly, the cost of imported materials and the expense of transporting certain local materials, and secondly, the lack of skilled labour.

18. In order to improve the present labour situation, steps have been taken to speed up vocational training. Pilot centres for rapid vocational training are now in operation in the large towns; and in technical training greater stress is being laid on apprenticeship. The workers thus trained will contribute to the improvement of both rural and urban living conditions.

19. Although the only condition laid down for the formation of workers' trade unions is notification in advance, the number of trade unions and their membership do not appear to be increasing to any marked extent - in many cases

owing to a lack of active and qualified organizers. Though a few new organizations have come into being, it may be observed that trade union membership is comparatively static, if not on the decline (for example, the number of trade union members in private employment in French West Africa was 52,000 in 1950 and 33,078 in 1951).

20. A promising measure was the creation under the Government of Madagascar of a social affairs service^{1/} which "has the general duty of seeking to achieve a progressive improvement in the material and moral circumstances of individuals and communities". An advisory council for social affairs, whose membership includes the President and four members of the Representative Assembly was set up at the same time.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

21. The main objective of the educational services remains the development of elementary education, with a view to providing schooling for the entire population of the Territories. This entails, firstly, the adaptation of the schools to the educational necessities of the present time, and secondly, the training of new teachers in establishments of a higher level.

22. Elementary education is already free; and in addition it is to be made compulsory. The extent to which compulsory education can become a reality, however, will depend on the rate at which school buildings can be put up. Thanks to financial aid granted by metropolitan France, a great deal of progress was achieved in 1951. (For example, 140 new classrooms were built in French West Africa). As far as can be foreseen however, it will be many years before compulsory education can be provided everywhere.

23. There has been considerable progress in secondary and technical education. The building of a lycée at Brazzaville and the organization of colleges or extension courses in the administrative centres of Territories or provinces will make it possible to accommodate the ever increasing number of pupils who have completed their elementary education.

^{1/} Order of 23 June 1952 (Journal officiel de Madagascar, 28 June 1952)

24. As far as higher education is concerned, the Institut des hautes études de Dakar - the first beginnings of a university in French West Africa - started working in 1951. This institute, which is attached to the universities of Paris and Bordeaux, comprises a science school, a law school, a school of humanities and a school of medicine, which will award the degree of doctor of medicine under the same conditions as do the medical faculties in metropolitan France. A similar institute, which will be attached to the University of Aix-Marseille, is to be set up shortly at Tananarivo, where courses in law and science are already being given. At the same time the number of scholarship-holders at universities in metropolitan France has risen to 252 from French West Africa (as compared with 150 in 1950) and 112 from Madagascar.

25. The general progress of elementary education by the end of 1951 may be noted from the following figures:

	<u>Number of schools</u> ^{a/}		<u>Number of pupils</u> ^{b/}	
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
French Equatorial Africa	677	698	87,510	88,810
French West Africa	1,086 (1949)	1,163	158,083	170,378
Madagascar	1,781	1,894	156,791	171,798
French Somaliland	13	14	1,437	1,503
Comoro Archipelago	33	33	2,302	2,263

a/ public and private

b/ of public and private schools.

26. In Madagascar a major educational reform was carried out in 1951. Under an order made with the approval of the Representative Assembly, education in the island of Madagascar was directed along new lines, by the fusion of the metropolitan French and the indigenous types of education into a single form. The purpose of this decision, which will be felt particularly in elementary education, is to bring education in Madagascar up to the level of French education at every stage, so that Malagasy children will be able to pass freely from one type of education to the other.

/PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

27. The Territories under review take part, either indirectly, through the Government of the French Republic, or directly in the work of most of the United Nations specialized agencies. Thus, they are members of the Universal Postal Union and of the International Telecommunication Union. French Equatorial Africa operates with WHO, the African regional office of which is to be set up in Brazzaville during 1952.

28. French Equatorial Africa, French West Africa and Madagascar are fully associated with the work of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (C.C.T.A.) and its specialized bureaux. The tsetse and trypanosomiasis bureau is at Brazzaville, and the Inter-African Labour Bureau was recently installed at Bamako (Sudan-French West Africa).

29. These Territories have been represented at the more important international meetings held in Africa or concerned with African problems, such as the conference which drafted the rules of the C.C.T.A., the International Scientific Council which met at Dakar in 1951 and the Conférence Internationale des Africanistes de l'Ouest (West African Scientific Congress). In 1951 the Director of the Scientific Research Institute of Madagascar was among those representing Overseas France in the National Committee for UNESCO. The head of the Public Health Service of French Somaliland attended two regional WHO conferences during the same year.

VI

USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

30. A pedologist of the Research Institute of Madagascar has been sent to the United States to study the methods used in American pedological laboratories for the analysis of soils and their classification in practice.

31. The same Institute has sent botanical and zoological specimens requested by researchers to various scientific bodies throughout the world. It has been visited by an entomologist from the Department of Agriculture of the Hawaiian Islands, and its own entomologists lent their assistance to the medical-entomological plague mission sent to Madagascar by WHO.

/VII. INTERNATIONAL

VII

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

32. French Equatorial Africa sent a special representative to the International Radio Consultative Committee (Geneva, 1951) which reached an agreement on the distribution of radio frequencies.
