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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

West African Territories

SIERRA LEONE^{1/}

^{1/} In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1332 (XIII) this summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

NOTE: The following symbols are used:

Three dots (...)		data not available
Dash (-)		magnitude nil or negligible
Slash	1948/1949	crop or financial year
Hyphen	1948-1949	annual average

GENERAL INFORMATION

The area of the Colony, including the capital, Freetown, is 256 square miles and that of the Protectorate, 27,669, totalling 27,925 square miles.

At the census of 1947, the population of the Colony was 117,292, including 28,050 non-indigenous Africans, mainly descendants of Africans who were settled there between 1787 and 1860. The 1947 Colony census, with test counts in the Protectorate in 1948, gave a total population of 1,858,275, of whom 2,038 were Asians and 930 were Europeans and Americans. In 1953 the population was estimated at 2,020,000, and in 1957 at 2,120,000. Registration of births and deaths has not yet been applied throughout the Territory.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In the past decade, the pattern of Sierra Leone's economy has been changing gradually towards less dependence on agricultural products. In 1955, for the first time, the value of minerals exported exceeded that of agricultural exports; in 1957, this excess was about £WA7 million.^{2/} Linked with the expansion of mineral production has been an increasing shortage of rice, the inhabitants' staple food. Sierra Leone produced enough rice for its own requirements until 1954, when a movement of labour from agriculture to diamond mining began to decrease production while an increase in purchasing power led to a high rate of consumption. In 1957, imports of rice totalled 31,000 long tons, valued at £WA1.4 million.

The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board was established in 1949 with the aim of securing the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, marketing and export of Sierra Leone produce, and of aiding in the development of agriculture and of secondary industries connected with it.

The value of exported diamonds was not included in the export returns for 1946 and 1947; the trade balance for these years showed as adverse. From 1948 to 1953 the balance was favourable. In 1954, when a great increase in

^{2/} The local currency is the West African pound (£WA), which is equal to the pound sterling or US\$2.80.

illicit export of diamonds began, the balance showed as adverse. Unrecorded exports of diamonds made it appear more adverse in 1955 and even more so in 1956, when imports were shown as totalling £WA23 million and exports as only £WA12 million. In 1957, imports appeared as £WA28 million and exports as £WA18 million.

A ten-year development plan was drawn up in 1946 and reviewed in 1949. This plan provided for the development of transport and communications, natural resources, and social and basic services, at a total cost of £WA5 million over the ten-year period. In the period 1957 to 1959 an expenditure of £WA10.5 million is expected, mainly on works construction.

LAND, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

In the Protectorate, land may not be alienated, though it may be leased for a term not exceeding fifty years to non-indigenous persons with the consent of a Tribal Authority and the approval of the District Commissioner. In the Colony, individual ownership is recognized and there is no restriction on alienation to non-indigenous persons.

The swamp soil in the coastal deltas and inland along the rivers is rich, but the upland soil is poor. The traditional farming system on the uplands is shifting cultivation, supplemented by the production or collection of palm kernels and other oil products, piassava fibre, ginger, kola nuts, cocoa and coffee. The Agricultural Department encourages the farming of inland, riverine and mangrove swamps as alternatives to the uplands, and the planting of trees such as oil palms, cocoa and citrus on the higher land. One of the Department's main concerns is to increase soil fertility and prevent erosion.

In 1954, certain departmental schemes were taken over by district councils; this process is being continued to enable local administrations to run their own agricultural affairs, so that the Department of Agriculture will eventually assume an advisory role, concentrating on experimental work and the establishment of further schemes.

Agricultural research, demonstrations and assistance to farmers, and disease and pest control, are carried out through a system of main research stations and local government farms. Aid to farmers includes distribution of seed, seedlings and fertilizers. Loans from the Protectorate Mining Benefits

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Fund were started in 1948 to help farmers clear mangrove swamp forests for rice farms; loans for the large-scale felling of mangrove began in 1949. In 1952 to 1953, under a pilot empoldering scheme, 500 acres of mangrove swamp were cleared; by the end of 1957, 890 acres had been empoldered. This method is being studied with the aim of reclaiming much larger areas. In 1957, an irrigation and drainage engineer was appointed, and orders were placed for heavy equipment. The southern riverine grasslands and the north central flood plains total about 300,000 acres; successful trials of mechanized rice cultivation in these lands were made in 1949 to 1950 and field schemes were started; by the end of 1957, 15,000 acres were being cultivated. Inland swamp clearance schemes have expanded rapidly, particularly in the north, from pilot schemes established by the Department of Agriculture. District councils have helped with grants and loans.

In 1948, a large-scale programme for planting improved varieties of oil palm in groups of individually owned plantations was started by the establishment of oil palm nurseries, mostly in the Northern Province, where oil palms were few. About 100,000 seedlings are distributed yearly. As a result, palm oil production rose considerably.

Principal crops

	<u>Area</u> (thousand hectares)			<u>Production</u> (thousand metric tons)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Rice (paddy)	316	290	263	274	222	251
Cassava	14	15	19	71	37	50
Millet and sorghum	20	20	12	...	33	20
Maize	...	8	10	...	8	10
Ground-nuts (unshelled)	2	11	7	3	7	5
Palm kernels <u>a/</u>				67 ^{b/}	70 ^{c/}	61 ^{c/}
Palm oil				2	-	24
Piassava <u>a/</u>				3	5	4 ^{c/}

a/ Oil palms grow wild over large areas, and piassava palms grow wild in swamps.

b/ Exported in 1948.

c/ Exported.

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Livestock

The main function of the Veterinary Department is the control of disease. There were outbreaks of rinderpest from 1949 to 1953, but since then, annual immunizations have prevented them. The Department also aids livestock production through research stations, the improvement of breeds of cattle and other stock and of fodder and pasture grasses, and demonstrations. Extension work includes a scheme to settle nomadic cattle owners; by the end of 1957, fifty-nine areas, each of one square mile, had been settled, and help had been given to build small dams, to improve water supplies and pastures, and to start soil conservation measures.

A count of cattle made in 1948 to 1949 gave a total of 58,000, but this number was greatly reduced by rinderpest in 1949. By 1955, the cattle had increased to about 150,000. The numbers of sheep and goats have remained about 10,000 and 21,000, respectively; but pigs, owing to government aid for building piggeries, increased from 3,000 in 1948 to 5,000 in 1955, and in 1956, for the first time, no pork was imported, as local supplies were adequate. Most of the meat consumed in Sierra Leone comes from Guinea, 10,000 to 15,000 head of cattle being imported annually.

FORESTRY

Forestry policy aims at the protection and development of natural vegetation; the conservation of soil and water resources necessary for agriculture; the training of field staff; ecological and silvicultural research; and the economic management and exploitation of the forest estate. At the end of 1957, the total area of constituted forest estate was 1,118 square miles; the limits of natural high forest available for productive reservation were being reached. Sawn timber produced by the Forestry Department sawmills amounted in 1947 to 202,000 cubic feet, in 1953 to 150,500, and in 1957 to 241,500.

FISHERIES

Trawler fishing on an experimental basis was carried out by the Fisheries Development Branch of the Department of Commerce and Industry from 1946 to 1951, when it was decided to concentrate efforts on the development of the

indigenous fishing industry. The West African Fisheries Research Institute, with headquarters in Freetown, had, by 1955, made surveys indicating that there were fishing grounds which could be worked by trawlers from Freetown; in 1957, there were five privately owned trawlers in operation. Other marine fisheries are confined to inshore waters and estuaries. The Institute also demonstrated the use of surf-boats for inshore fishing. The total annual catch from marine fisheries was about 4,500 long tons in 1947 and 5,000 in 1957. Rivers and lakes are fished to the limit of their potential, and smoked and dried marine fish are distributed inland; but, in general, supplies of fish do not meet the needs of the Territory, and with rising standards of living, the demand is increasing.

The West African Fisheries Research Institute was closed in 1957 and was replaced by a joint fisheries development and research unit which is confining its activities to Sierra Leone.

MINING

There are two types of mining in Sierra Leone: that carried out by companies, mainly for iron ore, chromite and diamonds; and small private workings for diamonds and gold. Prospecting for titanium-bearing minerals began in 1955 when a company was granted a prospecting licence for about 2,300 square miles in the Southwestern Province. In 1957, a sample of 400 tons was prepared for shipment to the United States for tests.

Up to 1955, diamonds were legally produced and marketed exclusively by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust. A serious increase in illicit diamond digging and trading in 1954 led to an agreement in 1955 by which the Trust relinquished its rights to mine alluvial diamonds in a large area of the Territory in return for £WAL,570,000 compensation. Legislation was passed in February 1956 providing for the licensing of African diamond mining and for the marketing of African-won diamonds through the Diamond Corporation Sierra Leone, a public organization.

A geological survey was begun in 1949 with a grant of £70,000 for three years from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In 1953 and 1957, further grants were provided for continuance of the work.

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	<u>Mineral production</u> (thousands)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Iron ore (metric tons)	512	848	1,468
Chrome ore (metric tons)	8	10	17
Diamonds, gems and industrial (carats)	606	482	863

POWER AND INDUSTRY

Kilowatt hours generated in 1957 totalled 15 million, compared with 4.5 million in 1947 and 9.12 million in 1953. A hydroelectric scheme is being carried out in the Guma Valley near Freetown.

An industrial development programme, started in 1947, includes industries such as palm kernel cracking, fruit juice manufacture, mechanical coffee hulling and oil and rice milling. Other minor industries include the production of tiles, concrete blocks, furniture and mineral waters. Loans are made to promote local industries. The distribution of ownership of industrial plants in 1957 was indigenous, 63 per cent, non-indigenous, 32 per cent, and Government 5 per cent.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Roads and Bridges Division of the Public Works Department, formed in 1951, took over all major road construction and made plans for replacing certain ferries with bridges. By the end of 1957, the bridge-building programme was completed. Trunk roads totalled 1,325 miles in 1948, 1,604 in 1953 and 1,594 in 1957; figures for feeder roads in these years were 413, 1,030 and 1,398.

The Government railway is 311 miles long. There is also a private fifty-seven mile railway used for carrying iron ore. Improvement of railway facilities has been carried out under the economic development programme. Goods ton-miles were 14 million in 1947 and 20 million in 1953 and 1957. Corresponding figures for passenger-miles were 21 million, 29 million and 43 million.

In 1947, an airfield at Lungi was opened as the Territory's airport. Arrivals of civil aircraft numbered 489 in 1946, 660 in 1953 and 1,245 in 1957.

Launch routes along inland waterways total nearly 500 miles. Rock bars and rapids restrict the use of the upper reaches of the rivers, and some routes are navigable during three months of the year only, when the streams are in flood. However, a considerable amount of the country's produce is still transported by inland waterways.

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The Railway Department, as Port Authority, is responsible for the administration of the Port of Freetown. In 1954, a new quay was opened to shipping, providing 1,250 feet of wharf berths with a mean depth of thirty-two feet of water. Freetown has anchorage for 240 ships of unrestricted draft. Cargo handled totalled 943,487 long tons in 1947, 1,535,603 in 1953 and 1,705,496 in the period January to September 1957.

There were seventy-six post offices and agencies in 1947, ninety-six in 1953 and 114 in 1957. The number of telephones increased from 829 in 1946 to 2,816 in 1957. In 1954, a central automatic telephone exchange came into operation in Freetown, and in 1955, very high frequency radio telephone links were installed between Freetown, Lungi and Port Loko. The number of telegraph offices rose from fifty-two in 1946 to sixty in 1957.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Revenue and expenditure
(thousand West African pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue			
Ordinary	1,907	5,058	9,649
Extraordinary			
Colonial Development and Welfare Vote	117	281	647
Other	85	78	62
Expenditure			
Ordinary	1,599	3,852	7,667
Extraordinary	520	1,417	9,351
Main heads of revenue			
Customs	955	2,375 ^{a/}	5,888
Direct taxes	556	2,003	2,320
Fees and reimbursements	194	332	822
Main heads of expenditure			
Ordinary			
Education	78	404	1,239
Medical and health	192	395	725
Public works annually recurrent	119	325	617
Agriculture	66	128	243
Extraordinary			
Development schemes ^{b/}	340	575	773
Public works	44	622	470

^{a/} Excluding £WA457,290 transferred to Sierra Leone Development Fund.

^{b/} Including expenditure recoverable under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

Development finance

A Development Fund was established in 1952 into which half the amount collected in respect of certain export duties was paid. With the reduction in the rates of these duties, this practice ceased; payments into the Fund are now made from the annual surplus of reserve and expenditure. In 1954 the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board paid £WA600,000 into the Fund. Development expenditure is also met from Colonial Development and Welfare grants and, when necessary, by loans. Loans for development totalled £WA3.71 million between 1950 and 1955, and a further £WA1.25 million was raised at the end of 1956. The Government makes grants to district councils to enable them to carry out small scale local development.

Expenditure under development plans 1946-1955

(thousand West African pounds)

Deep water quay	1,350
Railway	1,250
Roads and bridges	800
Inland waterways	20
Lungi airport	165
Freetown electricity supplies	550
Guma Valley hydroelectric scheme	500
Water and electricity supplies in the Protectorate	<u>300</u>
Total	4,935

Financing of the plans was by loans and by a Colonial Development and Welfare allocation of £WA2.6 million.

Expected expenditure on development 1956-1959

(thousand West African pounds)

Lungi airport	94
Inland waterways	13
Freetown electricity supplies	158
Provincial electricity supplies	181
Provincial water supplies	347
Roads and bridges	2,092
Railway and port development	2,474
Guma Valley hydroelectric scheme	1,130
Agriculture	879
Schools and colleges	1,651
Hospitals and clinics	356
Public buildings and housing schemes	1,050
Fisheries research	74
Total	10,499

It is expected that this programme will be financed from loan funds, the territorial Development and Education funds, and, to the extent of £WA2,482,737, from the Territory's allocations under the 1945 and 1955 Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. The allocation under the 1955 Act is £WA1.2 million.

INTERNATIONAL TRADEImports and Exports

(thousand West African pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Imports c.i.f.	4,590	11,100	28,239
Exports f.o.b.	3,280	11,940	18,346
		<u>1954</u>	<u>1957</u>
Principal imports a/			
Food, beverages and tobacco		3,094	...
Crude materials, inedible; mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials		779	...
Chemicals		562	...
Manufactured goods		6,379	...
Machinery and transport equipment		1,837	...
Principal national exports f.o.b.	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Iron ore	567	4,345	4,380
Diamonds	...	1,198	6,425
Cocoa	-	453	386
Coffee: green	-	333	896
Chrome ore	112	332	170

a/ According to the Standard International Trade Classification, first used in Sierra Leone in 1954.

Direction of Trade
(percentage of value)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Origin of imports			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	46.5	70.9	46.6
Netherlands Antilles	3.8	2.9	10.1
Japan	0.7	0.8	7.7
Italy	0.9	0.5	6.2
United States of America	13.9	2.9	2.9
India	7.3 <u>a/</u>	5.3	2.1
Other countries	26.9	16.7	24.4
Destination of exports			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	82.3	76.3	61.2
Federal Republic of Germany	-	9.1	7.0
Netherlands	-	2.2	6.9
United States of America	7.3	9.1	5.7
Other countries	10.4	3.3	19.2

a/ India and Pakistan.

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There are no longer any major tribal antagonisms, though there are still tribal differences which cause a lack of social cohesion. In general, the division between the Africans of the Colony and those of the Protectorate is decreasing as the whole country becomes more developed. Women have their own tribal organizations and societies, which are counterparts of similar men's organizations and societies. In the Colony, the status of women is equal to that of men. In the Protectorate, women are to a certain extent restricted by local customs, which are, however, rapidly changing in the direction of full emancipation.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Most of the population is engaged in agriculture. Of the industrial wage-earners, about 7,000 are engaged in mining (excluding large numbers of self-employed diamond diggers and of people engaged in related activities); 10,200 in maritime and waterfront work; 5,800 in railway work; 7,500 in building and construction; 1,100 in road transport; and 5,400 in commercial and clerical work. Wage-earners total between 70,000 and 80,000.

Unemployment is not a serious problem. In 1947 to 1948, special labour problems in Sierra Leone arose mainly from different standards of living, illiteracy, the need for raising standards of craftsmanship, and a tendency for self-employed agricultural workers to leave their farms and move to urban centres or to any new project which offered employment. In 1948, for instance, several thousand men from the Protectorate came to Freetown in the hope of obtaining work on the construction of the deep-water quay. They remained in Freetown until the beginning of the rice harvest, when the numbers of workers registered for employment dropped by 4,000. Measures were taken to deal with these problems. In the agreements of two Joint Industrial Councils, made in 1949, there is provision for the payment of three area wage rates (in the Colony peninsula, including Freetown, the township of Bo, and the rest of the Protectorate). Moreover, a Joint Apprenticeship Scheme was started in 1954 to raise the standard of craftsmanship. The drift of workers from the Protectorate to urban centres has become less pronounced.

The increase in diamond digging in 1954 induced large numbers of workers and traders to enter the Territory from neighbouring areas; they settled in the diamond areas of the south-eastern Province, where their presence accentuated the scarcity of local foodstuffs and inflated the cost of living. Their numbers increased, especially in 1956, but most of them were returned to their homes by administrative action which took place at the end of that year.

Legal recognition is given to organizations which register under the Trade Unions Ordinance 1939. There is wage negotiation machinery, and legislation provides for the settlement of disputes where no negotiating machinery exists or where such machinery has failed to produce a settlement. The number of trade unions was seven in 1947 and ten in 1957; membership figures for these years were 12,821 and 27,054. There were no labour disputes involving stoppages of work in 1947. There were two strikes in 1953, with a loss of 1,600 man-days, and three in 1957, with a loss of 3,321 man-days. In 1956, there was an improvement in the relations between employers and their workers in the factory, as well as in industrial negotiations.

Under the Joint Apprenticeship Scheme, apprentices receive theoretical and practical instruction in carpentry, coach building, fitting, electricity, plumbing, painting and decorating, masonry and bricklaying and welding. In 1957, 472 trade tests were made; 378 persons passed them, of whom 196 obtained the first class certificate.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed in 1948, when there were six societies with a total membership of 176. On 30 April 1957 there were 283 co-operative societies with 15,500 members and with capital and savings amounting to over £29,000. Their surpluses and reserves were over £26,000, and their turnover during the year ending on that date was £273,000. In addition, they bought equipment for cultivation and transport worth over £24,000. The main items were cocoa and coffee marketing, which accounted for over £144,000, and rice marketing, which accounted for over £55,000. An important new work was mechanical rice cultivation with co-operatively owned equipment; twenty-two tractors cultivated over 3,500 acres. Societies issued short-term loans to their members

amounting to about £40,000, and also distributed a new type of long-term loan for the extension of cocoa farms to the amount of about £2,000. Societies received on short-term loan from the Registrar some £35,500, and medium-term loans amounting to about £23,000 for the purchase of equipment. By the end of 1957, the number of societies had increased to 313, and their turn-over was £WA344,000.

Co-operative rural credit is provided by a scheme under which Government-guaranteed credit, up to a limit of £WA100,000, is controlled by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, with £WA65,000 available for short-term credit. Loans made by societies to members in 1957 totalled £WA87,000.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Cost of living: index numbers
(Base: 1953 = 100)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
All items	60	100	106
Food	49	100	109

Index of retail prices

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u> (third quarter)	<u>1957</u>
Freetown (base: second quarter of 1955 = 100)	100.0	107.8	119.7
Mining industry (base: third quarter of 1956 = 100)	-	100.0	107.9

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

In Freetown and the other main towns, building is controlled and designs are subject to official approval. In Freetown and Bo, the improvement in the standard of building has been most marked; mud block and timber houses have been replaced by concrete structures with flat corrugated iron or cement-asbestos roofs; in Bo, where there has been extensive rebuilding since 1948, programmes carried out by the Town Planning Committee have resulted in the replacement of narrow laterite roads between mud or wattle and thatched houses with wide tarred streets and two- and three-storey concrete buildings. African civil servants may obtain loans

from the Government for house-building, and aid similar to that provided by building societies in the United Kingdom is available under the Freetown Municipality Building Scheme, whose capital has come largely from the Sierra Leone Government. In the remoter villages, the wattle and daub construction is being replaced by sun-dried mud blocks. Roofs of grass, palm thatch or palm tiles are giving way to corrugated iron sheeting.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

The safety of workers employed in places where dangerous machinery is installed is provided for in the Machinery (Safe Working and Inspection) Ordinance, 1941. The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1954, which replaced the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1939, included improvements in benefits in regard to accidents and compensation for occupational diseases. Welfare facilities are provided by the large mining and commercial companies.

The first concerted measures to promote social welfare in the Territory were taken in 1943. A community centre, opened in 1946 in Freetown, enabled the Welfare Department to expand its activities. At this time, the Department was concerned largely with juvenile delinquency; a Juvenile Court was opened in 1946, a probation system was introduced, and a remand home was opened. Other activities included the sponsoring of women's institutes and other groups interested in child welfare and domestic affairs; the promotion of youth groups; care of the aged, the blind, and the mentally deficient; and the training of staff and voluntary workers. In 1955, the three allied services of social welfare, juvenile delinquency and community development were reorganized into a new Department of Social Development under the direction of the Minister of Education, Local Government and Welfare. To co-ordinate the Department's work, an Assistant Secretary of Social Development was appointed. In 1955, the Department began to implement a five-year development plan.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development, which began with the establishment of the Freetown community centre in 1946, was one of the services transferred from the central Government to district councils in 1954. The councils have continued the policy of aiding schemes for the social betterment of the community and of providing funds to enable villages to improve communications and water supplies. Other projects carried out under community development include the building of houses of improved design, the laying out of plantations of economic crops, the organization of communal labour for farming and the building of minor motor roads. In 1957, work began on the building of a social development training centre at Bo.

A mass education mobile cinema unit began to operate in 1957 with a staff consisting of a literacy instructor, a home demonstrator, a midwife and a driver-operator. The unit's tours are designed to interest and stimulate communities to achieve better ways of living through voluntary participation and also to discover new fields for expansion.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Number of true cases in the Colony

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957 a/</u>
Offences against the person	370	320	1,653
Offences against property	3,567	3,501	7,237
Offences against public order	521	250	911
Other offences	<u>1,260</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>2,280</u>
Total	5,718	4,778	12,081

a/ Colony and Protectorate.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Since 1953, the Minister for Health, Agriculture and Forests has been responsible for health policy. The health services are administered by the Department of Medical and Health Services under the Director of Medical Services. Local government authorities are taking an increasing interest in these services;

the administration of local health services such as health centres, dispensaries and environmental sanitation was handed over to the District Councils in 1954, and staff was assigned or transferred from the Department. Because of taxation and other difficulties, it was decided that health centres and dispensaries should revert to the Department in 1957, but that the sanitary staff would still be assigned to the District Councils. At present, the Department administers the hospital services, health centres and dispensaries, measures for the control of epidemic disease, port sanitation and quarantine, and medical stores. Certain important endemic diseases, at present trypanosomiasis, yaws and leprosy, are controlled by the Endemic Diseases Control Unit.

All of the twenty-two health centres planned under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes were completed by the end of 1956; by the end of the following year, four out of five new hospitals built with Colonial Development and Welfare grants had been opened. Each health centre contains a dispensary, a small maternity and child welfare unit and a sanitary office and store. The staff comprises a dispenser, a midwife and a health inspector.

There is no medical school in the Territory, but nineteen of the thirty-four practitioners on the staff of the Department of Medical and Health Services in 1957 were Sierra Leoneans. Nursing and auxiliary staffs are trained locally. Village girls are trained as village maternity assistants. After training in the conduct of normal confinements, they return to their villages to practise domiciliary midwifery in association with the qualified midwives at health centres and hospitals.

In 1946, the health problems were set against a background of poverty and lack of education. Malnutrition existed in a moderate degree, but was more an urban than a rural problem. Malaria was the most widespread disease and was responsible for much illness; the mortality, particularly in the early years of life, was high. Intensive measures against the insect vector had been taken in Freetown and its vicinity and a certain degree of control was in force in the areas around the larger towns in the Protectorate. Yaws was widespread and was being dealt with by mobile treatment teams in parts of the Protectorate. Treatment was free at all Government hospitals and dispensaries. Sleeping sickness in the endemic areas was also being dealt with by mobile teams, and, in areas where mass diagnosis and treatment had been carried out, static dispensaries had been established to follow up the work of the teams. Leprosy was found throughout the Territory, but the incidence did not appear to be high.

By 1954, malaria control had expanded; an entomological laboratory had been established as a unit of the health service and was responsible for new malaria control methods and for pilot schemes in both Freetown and the Provinces; whereas formerly control depended entirely on larvicidal measures, increased reliance was being placed on residual house-spraying, with good results.

The incidence of yaws was already low in 1954. In 1956, the Endemic Diseases Control Unit, in conjunction with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, started a scheme to eliminate this disease and in two years gave 450,000 treatments. Resurveys of treated areas showed a substantial reduction in yaws, and hospital admissions in these areas were much reduced.

In 1954, only fifty-two cases of sleeping sickness were diagnosed, the lowest number in any year up to that time. Sulfone treatment of leprosy, which began in 1953, has been successful. Sulfone drugs are available at all hospitals and dispensaries, and over twenty-two out-patient treatment centres have been established. In 1958, the total number of cases was estimated at 85,000.

Great difficulties in environmental sanitation have arisen owing to the development of diamond mining in the south-eastern Province. The immigration of some thousands of Africans from other Territories to take part in illegal diamond mining led to the growth of insanitary and overcrowded camps. Vaccination against smallpox was intensified in the mining area, but the return of Sierra Leone miners to their homes in other parts of the Territory led to a wide-spread outbreak which became epidemic at the beginning of 1957. A total of 942 cases had been notified up to the end of 1956. Measures were taken to deal with the situation by vaccination, isolation and treatment of the sick, and by the destruction of unfit and infected huts in mining areas after they had been abandoned. Plans were made for orderly housing and sanitation in areas where licensed mining was permitted.

In 1957, the rapid changes caused by the development of diamond mining still presented serious problems in public health and social medicine, but by the end of the year intensive vaccination appeared to have established enough immunity to control smallpox. Of over 4,700 cases, 4,000 were notified in the first six months and nearly half in the first quarter. Vaccinations in 1957 totalled 835,644.

Medical Department current expenditure in 1947 to 1952 was £WA1,423,000, and in 1953 to 1957, £WA2,265,302.

Medical and Health Staff

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>
Registered physicians	30	...	36	17	54 <u>a/</u>	22 <u>b/</u>
Licensed physicians	27	...	2	3	34 <u>b/</u>	...
Dentists	2	...	3 <u>c/</u>	...	6 <u>a/</u>	...
Nurses (of senior training))	84	...	161	...	79 <u>a/</u>	...
Nurses (certificated) )		...		...		...
Nurses (partially trained)	74	...	101	...	...	...
Midwives (of senior training))	121 <u>d/</u>	...	104	...	8 <u>a/</u>	...
Midwives (certificated) )		...		...		...
Midwives (partially trained))		...		19		...
Certificated nurses and midwives and partially trained nurses and midwives	...	...	...	...	410 <u>a/</u>	...
Sanitary inspectors	...	...	51	...	69	...

a/ Approved establishment.

b/ 1956.

c/ Including one with a degree recognized locally only.

d/ 1949.

	<u>Institutions</u>						
	<u>Number</u>			<u>Number of beds</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	
General hospitals	17	20	23	844 <u>a/</u> 35	beds cots	776 beds 49 cots	1,069 bed 117 cot
Dispensaries and health centres	...	65	58	... <u>b/</u>	... <u>b/</u>	... <u>b/</u>	

a/ Including beds in maternity and infectious diseases hospitals.

b/ Some dispensaries have beds and cots for lighter cases.

/...

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Education is given the highest priority. Though much remains to be done, there is a strong upward trend both in facilities and numbers of pupils. There is no compulsory education, but in a few cases local authorities have waived fees and given free education, mostly to encourage the education of girls.

The formulation of educational policy in the period 1947 to 1953 was carried out by the Director of Education and his staff with the aid of the Board of Education, working mainly through a planning committee, as a central consultative and advisory body. Policy is aimed especially at increasing literacy and at teacher training. In 1953, a Minister for Local Government, Education and Welfare was appointed; he is responsible for educational policy, and is advised by the Board of Education and its committees on secondary education, teacher training and technical education.

In 1953, in the Protectorate, an increased degree of decentralization was introduced under the Education Ordinance 1953, which provided for the establishment of local education authorities, joint education committees and school committees, to enable local authorities to assume gradually greater responsibilities for educational services within their areas. The devolution of responsibility to these authorities increased interest in, and support for, educational plans and progress throughout the provinces. All Protectorate primary schools satisfying certain minimum conditions were placed on the assisted list; these included forty-five new schools, which received financial assistance immediately upon opening, and ninety-two existing schools. All applications for approval to open new schools have since been dealt with by local education authorities, which prepare annual estimates for new buildings, renovations and the supply of equipment. Each local education authority has a supervising teacher whose duties include supervising the collection of school fees. The supervision of teachers is under the general surveillance of the three Education Secretaries, who are appointed on a provincial basis.

In 1947, secondary education in the Colony was provided by one government and eight assisted schools. In the Protectorate, there was one government secondary school and one independent aided girls' school that was partly

secondary; girls' education had developed slowly owing to the reluctance of parents to send their girls to primary schools and to keep them there to the end of the course. In 1956, there were ten government and aided secondary schools in the Colony and five government and six aided secondary schools in the Protectorate; most of the Protectorate schools, classified as junior secondary, are being developed into full secondary schools.

Non-graduate teachers are trained in the teacher-training department of Fourah Bay College and at two government and three mission colleges. Fourah Bay College also provides supplementary specialized courses for qualified teachers.

Fourah Bay College, founded by a mission and affiliated to the University of Durham, has developed since 1949 under the auspices of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Colonial Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology. Up to 1954, the college offered, in its University Department, arts courses (including commerce and economics) to general degree level, post-graduate diplomas in education and theology, ministerial courses, and two-term preliminary courses (arts); courses were also offered in science and teacher training, and adult education work was carried out by the Extra-Mural Department. As a result of the report of the Sierra Leone Education Commission, 1954, which recommended that the aim of Fourah Bay College to develop eventually into a full University College should be accepted, the Secretary of State for the Colonies ended a compromise agreement which had previously placed an obligation on the College not to expand the work of its University Department. The work of the College was then organized on a faculty basis with Faculties of Arts (including a Sub-Faculty of Education), Economic Studies, Theology, Science and Applied Science, and Departments of Teacher Training and Extra-Mural Studies. Courses to degree level are provided by the Faculties of Arts and Economics.

By January 1954, some of the buildings of a new Technical Institute were advanced enough to provide accommodation for technical courses for eighty-five pupils. By the end of 1955, full-time places in permanent buildings numbered 400. In 1957, pupils receiving technical education totalled 787.

Government scholarships in 1957 numbered 1,495 for secondary education, 583 for teaching training, and 302 for higher education.

Education Department current expenditure in 1947 to 1952 was £WA1,045,000, and in 1953 to 1957, £WA3,839,382.

The language of instruction in the Colony area and in those places in the Protectorate where there is no dominant vernacular is English, but in places in the Protectorate where there is a dominant vernacular the language of instruction in the lower classes is the vernacular.

	<u>Schools</u>								
	<u>1947</u>			<u>1953</u>			<u>1957</u>		
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Non- Aided</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Non- Aided</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Non- Aided</u>
Primary	24 a/	141	93	3	257	96	5	465	27
Secondary	2	9	-	8	11	2	7	15	2
Vocational	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Teacher training: colleges	2	3	-	2	4	-	2	4	-
Teacher training: pre-training centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Higher education	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

a/ Including eighteen Native Administration schools.

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Pupils</u>					
	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Primary	26,124		29,910	13,234	61,881	
Secondary	2,170		2,340	972	5,924	
Vocational	-		59	-	787	
Teacher training: colleges		161	340	90	620	
Teacher training: pre-training centres		-	-	-	104	
Higher education						
in the Territory		121	209	20	268	
in the metropolitan country		44	66	19	...	
Elsewhere		10 a/	41	2	...	

a/ In the United States only.

Teachers a/

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Primary		733	718	383	1,863	
Secondary		134	113	59	311	
Vocational		-	1	-	...	
Teacher training		19	22	13	...	
Higher education		...	16	5	...	

a/ Government and government-aided schools only.

Cultural institutions and mass communications

Fourah Bay College has a library of 18,500 books and pamphlets. The British Council maintains a subscription library of over 18,000 books and makes regular bulk loans of books and periodicals in the Protectorate. In Freetown there are also two small public libraries.

In 1947, there were three daily and three weekly newspapers and one monthly periodical, with circulations of 4,300, 2,600 and 500 respectively. In 1957, there were three daily, one twice-weekly and seven weekly newspapers, and one monthly periodical. In addition, the Information Department issues a weekly bulletin with a circulation of 6,500.

There was no directly transmitting radio station until October 1955, when the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service, operating from Freetown, came into operation. The Government runs a wired system in Freetown. The number of radio receiving licences rose from 717 in 1947 to 3,356 in 1957; subscribers to the wired system numbered 1,030 in 1947 and 4,314 in 1957.

Instructional films are shown by mobile or static cinema units.
