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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

Caribbean and Western Atlantic Territories

VIRGIN ISLANDS^{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 United States Virgin Islands,^{2/} the main islands of which are St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas, lie forty miles east of Puerto Rico. The total area is about 132 square miles. The climate is sub-tropical. Rainfall, the only source of water, varies widely from year to year, and there are frequent severe droughts. The principal natural resource is the land. Over 90 per cent of the population is wholly or partly Negro. There is a settlement of French fishermen on St. Thomas who maintain their own language and customs; on St. Croix, Puerto Ricans constitute nearly one-fourth of the population. Charlotte Amalie, the capital, has the greatest concentration of population.

Population

<u>July 1947</u>	<u>July 1953</u>	<u>July 1957</u>
27,100	27,000	24,000

Vital statistics

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	36.9	32.3	...
Death rate per 1,000 population	15.1	10.3	...
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	91.6	41.3	66.5

In 1953, the territorial legislature fixed responsibility for registration of vital statistics in the Division of Statistical Services, and extended the scope of mandatory legislation.

^{2/} For the British Virgin Islands, see under Leeward Islands.

GOVERNMENT

The Territory was purchased from Denmark by the United States of America in 1917, and administered by the United States Navy until 1931. In 1936, a civil government was set up with two municipalities, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John, each having an executive and legislative system, and universal adult suffrage was established. United States Congressional legislation of 25 February 1957 and 28 June 1932 granted United States citizenship to Virgin Islanders. On 22 July 1954, the United States Congress revised the Organic Act "to give a greater degree of autonomy, economic as well as political, to the people of the Virgin Islands."^{3/} The revised Act provided, inter alia, for abolition of the separate municipal executive and legislative systems, unification of the executive department, and a unicameral legislature whose power is subject to the veto of a Governor appointed by the President of the United States. Constitutionally, Congress has plenary authority to legislate for the Territory. The power to appoint heads of executive departments was transferred from the United States Secretary of the Interior to the Governor, subject to territorial legislative confirmation.

All territorial laws were codified for the first time in 1957.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economy of the Territory is based on agriculture; the production of sugar and its by-products is the main activity, occupying about 90 per cent of the land from which crops are harvested on St. Croix. The other two main islands are much less suited to intensive agriculture. On St. Thomas, shipping and handicrafts, the chief supports of the economy in 1947, have been replaced in importance by the tourist industry and light manufacturing industries.

^{3/} United States: Senate Report No. 1271, Calendar No. 1276, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session, p. 2.

Economic progress is geared to increased sugar and food production, the establishment of a year-round tourist programme, and the development of small industries. To this end, the Federal Government created the Virgin Islands Corporation in 1949 with a revolving fund of \$9 million.^{4/} Since its establishment, the Corporation has played a decisive role in the economic development of the Territory. Practically all agricultural improvement programmes have been implemented through this agency; it controls or owns some 5,000 acres on St. Croix, produces about two-thirds of the sugar cane crop, owns and operates the only sugar mill, produces most of the molasses required for the manufacture of rum and, since 1952, has distributed all electric power.

Tourism has been expanded into the main industry on St. Thomas; in 1957, 120,000 tourists spent about \$13 million, compared with 36,000 visitors who spent approximately \$2 million in 1949.

The tax exemption applicable to new industry has had a salutary effect; in 1955, for the first time, the value of exports of jewellery and metal articles (\$1.5 million) exceeded that of sugar and rum (\$1.1 million).

In 1954, appropriations to meet annual deficits were discontinued when the metropolitan Government made provision for regular annual grants equal to the amount of annual local taxes collected on goods produced in the Islands and shipped to the United States.

LAND, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Land on St. Croix is concentrated in the hands of a few large landowners. The nine largest units, ranging from approximately 1,000 to 5,000 acres, represent about half the farm land and are owned by 2 per cent of the farm owners. Under the Virgin Islands Corporation's land clearance programme, initiated in 1953, over 5,000 acres of land have been cleared and sold; purchasers have to use it for agricultural purposes for at least five years.

The production of sugar was 2,946 tons in 1947, slightly more than 12,000 tons in 1953 and 14,442 tons in 1957. The 1956 crop showed a yield of 36.5 tons per

^{4/} The local currency is the United States dollar.

acre, the highest in the history of the industry, and although the yield declined by 4.1 tons per acre in 1957, there was a slight increase in the amount of sugar produced, attributable to the higher quality of sugar cane grown and the substantial increase in factory efficiency.

There is a chronic water shortage because of limited rainfall and a high rate of run-off and evaporation. In 1951, Congress authorized the establishment and maintenance of an agricultural research and extension service. As a result, a soil and water conservation programme was started and by 1957 ninety-three dams had been constructed with an estimated impounding capacity of 445 million gallons.

Livestock

Beef cattle are the principal livestock reared on St. Croix. More of the resources of the island are used to support this enterprise than any other, and the gross value of the annual production is exceeded only by that received from sugar cane. There was a marked upward trend in the number of cattle for the decade ending 1950, when 8,521 head were reported. Cattle production on St. Croix reflects the same distribution as that of land ownership. Less than a third of the farmers reported cattle in a census taken in 1950. It is estimated that 40 per cent of all cattle are owned by five estates, each with a herd of some 500 head. An additional 25 per cent is in the hands of some fifteen owners of small herds, ranging from 100 to 300 head. In 1956, the livestock development programme continued to receive technical and financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture. The Virgin Islands Corporation maintains a veterinarian with a small staff to provide services at a minimum charge, and makes pedigree bulls available to farmers for breeding in an attempt to improve the stock. The value of livestock and livestock products for export increased from \$90,000 in 1947 to \$3,902,000 in 1956.

FORESTRY

In 1954, the Virgin Islands Corporation, in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture, initiated a forestry development programme for conservation purposes on St. Croix where there are about 9,000 acres of land too

steep or shallow for other productive purposes. Over 300 acres have been planted with mahogany and teak seedlings; expenditure up to mid-1957 was \$82,641.

POWER

Electric power was originally produced and distributed by private enterprise (later by local government organs) in urban areas and by an agency of the Federal Government in rural areas. In 1952, the Virgin Islands Corporation acquired all production and distribution facilities and became responsible for electric power distribution throughout the Territory.

Production and consumption of electricity

	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Revenues (US\$)	501,441	738,895
Net Income (US\$)	124,432	205,591
Kilowatt hours generated (thousand kwh)	12,178	19,510
Kilowatt hours sold (thousand kwh)	9,461	17,086
Number of consumers:		
Residential	5,147	6,311
Commercial, industrial	<u>1,003</u>	<u>1,256</u>
Total number of consumers	6,150	7,567

INDUSTRY

In 1950, the transshipment of bauxite was discontinued, and by June 1952 the harbour activities of St. Thomas had declined to one-third of their 1941 peak. The effects of this decline were somewhat offset by the considerable expansion of the tourist industry which began in 1950. During the last seven years, there has been considerable growth in small industries, particularly on St. Thomas, which is reflected in the increasing value of territorial exports.

The promotion of tourism is the responsibility of one of the executive departments of the territorial Government. The success of its efforts has been enhanced by the establishment of the Virgin Islands National Park.

Sugar and alcoholic beverages are also manufacture.

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Manufactures^{a/}
 (dollars)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956^{b/}</u>
Jewellery, metal articles and parts	177,223	1,467,101	1,802,737
Sugar	1,519,311	1,077,282	1,285,191
Alcoholic beverages	408,886	590,772	541,883
Perfumery, toilet water, bay rum	56,651	96,308	56,630
Buttons, button blanks	34,022	127,644	41,117

a/ Exports.

b/ First eight months only.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

Although there are good roads, road construction and maintenance have been major problems. The waterfront highway on St. Thomas was completed in 1957 at a cost of some \$600,000 and an extensive highway programme was started on St. Croix in 1957 under a legislative appropriation of \$237,000. Motor vehicles increased from 900 in 1946 to 4,104 in 1957.

Air transport has become the principal means of travel to and from the Territory. Two airports, one on St. Croix and one on St. Thomas, accommodate daily scheduled flights by three airlines. Airport maintenance and development are aided by the metropolitan Government.

Surface transport has been irregular and inadequate. There is a deep-water harbour on St. Thomas, but the lack of well-developed port facilities on the other islands has been decisive in the growing dependence on air transport. In 1956, a cargo ship with accommodation for 300 passengers began a bi-monthly service to the United States, the first regular shipping service in three years.

Ships calling at St. Thomas

	<u>1947/1948</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Number	417	406	504
Tonnage (1,000 gross tons)	2,436	1,935	2,765

In addition, forty-eight cruise ships called at St. Thomas during 1956/1957 compared with twenty in 1953.

Communications

The number of telephones increased from 750 in 1946 to 2,825 in 1957.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The administrative and fiscal year ends on 30 June.

The territorial Government is financed by local tax revenues, including collections under the federal income tax law, and from funds from the federal treasury. In 1954 the metropolitan Government's contribution was substantially increased (see above, under Government). The federal contribution of matching funds was \$3.5 million in 1954 and \$4.4 million in 1956. Following the increase in matching funds, other annual and special appropriations were either discontinued or reduced. The Territory also qualifies under several grant-in-aid laws, including those for soil conservation, forestry, public health and public assistance.

Revenue and expenditure
 (thousand dollars)

	<u>1947/1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue	1,226	2,692	6,155
Expenditure	1,524	2,711	4,738
Main heads of revenue:			
Income tax	598	720	1,863
Customs duties and other taxes	49	304	484 ^{a/}
Real property tax	136	206	269
Import, export, sales tax	58	550	1,069
Federal appropriations:			
Deficit appropriation	135	745	-
Matching funds	-	-	2,469
Main heads of expenditure:			
Department of Health	317	854	1,491
Department of Education	303	672 ^{b/}	992
Department of Public Works	213	538 ^{b/}	337
Department of Social Welfare	215	346	386
Essential public projects <u>c/</u>	-	-	1,888

a/ Revenues from Government services or operations.

b/ Including Fire Department.

c/ This category was provided for in the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

Development finance

In 1944, the United States Congress authorized a \$10 million development programme providing mainly for capital improvements, including sewers, fire protection, road projects, potable water supplies, new schools and hospitals, an airport and extensive waterfront and harbour improvements. Several of these projects have been completed.

BANKING AND CREDIT

There are two banks in the Territory. The Virgin Islands Corporation also operates a loan programme which has been implemented as follows:

	<u>Loans</u>					
	<u>1950/1951^{a/}</u>		<u>1953/1954</u>		<u>1956/1957</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commercial	5	12,075	3	15,126	4	96,509
Industrial	-	-	3	7,646	2	95,195
Agricultural	<u>41</u>	<u>1,751</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10,233</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total	46	13,827	15	33,005	7	199,204

a/ The fiscal year during which the programme was started.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Imports rose from \$11 million in 1950 to \$16.3 million in 1955, and data for the first eight months of 1956 indicated a continuing increase. Exports ranged between \$2.6 million and \$3.7 million from 1950 to 1954, and increased to \$4.1 million in 1955.

Imports from foreign countries more than doubled, from \$1.7 million in 1950 to \$3.9 million in 1955, partly because products shipped from foreign countries are not subject to United States customs duties but, instead, are taxed uniformly at 6 per cent ad valorem. Furthermore, goods processed in the Territory may be shipped duty free to the United States if they do not contain foreign materials exceeding 50 per cent of the total value of the merchandise. Exports to foreign countries are negligible.

Before 1955 sugar and alcoholic beverages were the largest single export items in terms of value. They were mainly exported to the United States.

Imports and exports
(value in thousand \$)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956^{a/}</u>
Imports	9,032	12,052	9,033
Exports	2,184	2,577	3,902
Principal imports:			
Machinery and vehicles	769	2,536	1,812
Vegetable food products and beverages	1,694	2,073	1,572
Animal and animal products, edible	814	224	137
Metals and manufactures, except machinery and vehicles	690	1,097	703
Wood and paper, non-metallic minerals	1,090	2,117	1,109
Principal exports:			
Sugar	312	1,519	1,285
Alcoholic beverages	522	409	542
Jewellery, metal articles and parts	-	177	1,803
Perfumery and toilet water, bay rum	^{b/}	57	57

a/ First eight months only.

b/ Excluding bay rum.

Direction of trade
(thousand \$)

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956^{a/}</u>
Origin of imports:			
United States of America	7,666	12,052	9,033
Foreign countries	1,800	2,894	3,113
Destination of exports:			
United States and Puerto Rico	1,138	2,577	3,902
Foreign countries	560	547	418

a/ First eight months only.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Racial discrimination has never been a problem in the Virgin Islands. The increasing interest in the Territory which has followed the expansion of the tourist industry and other business activities has imposed greater responsibility on the Government and people to safeguard community values. In 1950, the Legislature enacted an anti-discrimination law providing for equal rights in places of public accommodation and in employment opportunities, and for the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for violations. Following enactment of the Revised Organic Act in 1954, it was provided that adult suffrage may not be limited by property, language, income, race or colour qualifications or by sex or by religious beliefs. It also restated in substance the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. There is no distinction in the enjoyment of any right or privilege based on sex.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

In 1954, the legislature enacted a Full Employment Act establishing full employment and production in a free competitive economy as government policy. A Department of Agriculture and Labor was set up in 1955. By 1957, full employment had been substantially achieved, labour was in short supply and wage rates were generally above the minimum.

On St. Croix, the manufacture of sugar and alcoholic beverages provide the major employment. Since 1953, migrant labour has been imported from United Kingdom Caribbean Territories and more recently from the French Caribbean Departments, to overcome the shortage of agricultural labourers. Since 1956, non-agricultural labourers from the British Virgin Islands only particularly those engaged in domestic service, have been admitted for periods of up to one year on certification of an employer that no qualified local workers are available to fill a specific occupation. The working conditions and wages of imported labour are carefully stipulated to ensure that prevailing rates in the community are maintained.

Manufacturing on St. Thomas has become more diversified and a greater number of small plants of the fabrication and assembly type offering regular employment

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have been established. Transport and allied industries are also becoming important. However, the service industries, including hotels, have assumed major importance in the economy, particularly on St. Thomas. Estimates of direct and indirect employment in tourism are over 4,000 persons.

Conditions of employment

Increased economic activity during the past five years is reflected in placement and employment data; between 1953 and 1956, job openings doubled. Placements in manufacturing industries showed the greatest relative increase, rising from 112 in 1953 to 559 in 1956.

The wages and hours of employees engaged in interstate commerce are regulated by the United States Department of Labor under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. On St. Croix, the United States Department of Agriculture determines minimum wages in the sugar industry. Local legislation protects workers not otherwise covered, except certain categories such as domestic or agricultural workers, and those who earn more than \$1,200 a year.

In 1956, the territorial Legislature prescribed a general minimum wage of 40 cents an hour and established tri-partite wage boards which may recommend rates of not more than 40 cents an hour, and prescribe other working conditions. Owing to the demand for labour, however, earnings in recent years have generally been above the minimum required by federal and local legislation.

Workers' and employers' organizations

Although in recent years private bargaining as a means of determining wage rates has largely given way to decisions by public agencies (see above, Conditions of employment), labour unions continue to participate in wage negotiations and, in fact, have helped to bring about changes in wage rates and conditions of employment. There are three labour unions, two of which are affiliated with the labour movement in the United States. Membership estimates vary from 1,500 to 1,700 persons.

The Municipal Labor Relations Act of 1949 was given territorial application in 1956. It provides for the adjustment of disputes through collective bargaining,

encourages and protects workers and defines unfair labour practices. The Virgin Islands Employment Service was established in 1951. It receives financial assistance through its affiliation with the United States Employment Service.

Placements through the Virgin Islands Employment Service

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1953/1954^{a/}</u>	<u>1957/1958</u>
Job placements	...	1,266	2,309
Total employment	4,160	3,931	5,432

a/ First quarter of 1953 only.

Employment

	<u>1957</u>
Contract construction	330
Manufacturing	1,565
Transportation, communications and other public utilities	868
Wholesale and retail trade	766
Finance, insurance and real estate	136
Service industries	<u>1,090</u>
Total	4,755

STANDARD OF LIVING

The cost of living in the Virgin Islands is one of the highest in the United States and its Territories and, conversely, average hourly wages rates for many occupational categories are among the lowest. The Government has been attempting to alleviate this problem through a price and rent control programme related to basic food commodities and to housing and business accommodation. One explanation for the high cost of living is the continued importation of a substantial percentage of food and clothing.

In 1946, the median annual family income was \$430 on St. Thomas and St. John and \$339 on St. Croix. A survey committee appointed by the Governor in that year stated that the minimum health requirements in St. Thomas for a family of three called for an annual expenditure of some \$1,400. Data from the census taken in 1950 show that on St. Thomas almost 14 per cent of 9,800 persons

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reporting employment had annual incomes of less than \$100 in 1949 and more than 50 per cent received less than \$500.

On St. Croix, incomes were even lower: 15 per cent of 4,600 persons reporting earned less than \$100 and 60 per cent less than \$500. Higher minimum wage rates in 1952, however, reflected an increase in the expenditure on food.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Before the Territory became eligible for aid under the United States federal housing and redevelopment programme in 1950 there was little planning according to housing needs.

In 1951, the Legislature created the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority to succeed the Virgin Islands Authority; a planning consultant was engaged to prepare master plans for the three main towns and programmes were initiated for the construction of low rent housing.

By 1954, the Authority completed thirty two-storey rental units to accommodate 240 families on St. Thomas and 110 units on St. Croix. A federal housing administration project was also renovated, making available 110 units. In 1955, the Legislature appropriated \$210,000 for further slum clearance and low-cost housing construction, with assistance from the Federal Housing Administration.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

There is a local workmen's compensation law, applicable to business firms having two or more employees. The law does not cover workers engaged in agriculture or domestic service.

Public assistance has a long history in the Virgin Islands. The United States Congress has extended to the Territory the application of the Federal Social Security Act, including provisions relating to maternal and child health and crippled children, the protection and care of homeless, dependent and neglected children and of children likely to become delinquent. In 1950, benefits relating to public assistance and old-age and survivors insurance were also extended on a dollar for dollar basis, thereby providing all the benefit of the Act except unemployment insurance.

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In 1957 the annual grant of federal matching funds for public assistance was raised from \$160,000 to \$200,000, and an additional sum was authorized to provide for aid to the guardian of the child.

There are shelters for the aged on St. Thomas and St. Croix; each person provides his own furnishings, clothing and meals; all receive assistance and most of them obtain services from the housekeeping aid and home nursing programmes provided by the local voluntary agency.

Old-age pensions and public assistance, exclusive of emergencies, was provided for 1,583 persons in 1953 and 1,935 in 1957. Annual expenditure amounted to \$350,000 in 1952 and \$425,000 in 1956.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Assault, burglary, disorderly conduct and traffic infractions are the major crimes.

In 1947, juvenile delinquency was almost non-existent, but the increase in tourism and commercial activities has resulted in an increase in juvenile offences and by 1957 their prevalence had become disturbing to the community. The preventive measures developed include case-work for potential delinquents; censorship of films and magazines for minors; supervised and adequate recreation programmes and facilities for young persons; provision of opportunities for experiences in a group-setting at the Insular Training School; and follow-up probationary services to youths in the custody of the Bureau of Child Welfare.

A school for "dependent, neglected and delinquent" boys, established in 1947 on St. Thomas, was replaced in 1955 by a territorial training school on a 225-acre estate on St. Croix. The academic and vocational programme follows that offered in the earlier schools. There is a farmer-counsellor on the staff, and projects include poultry, gardening and animal husbandry. Since 1957, some of the facilities of the school have been used as a home for girls.

Vegetable raising and fishing for institutional needs, education and recreation and general institutional maintenance are a part of the rehabilitation programme at the Territorial penitentiary.

Crime statistics

	<u>Number of cases</u>		
	<u>1947/1948</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u> ^{a/}
Criminal homicide	-	-	2
Assault	169	241	250 ^{b/}
Robbery, burglary	13	39	90 ^{b/}

a/ Offences reported and arrests made.

b/ Cases handled by Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Statistics on juvenile delinquency

	<u>1946/1947</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Number receiving:			
Detention care	...	55	33
Institutional care	36 ^{a/}	44	42
Number of cases	84 ^{b/}	81	73 ^{c/}

a/ Average number.

b/ 1947/1948 figure.

c/ Excluding cases of trespass and malicious mischief.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health services were reorganized in 1954; administrative arrangements on a municipal basis were replaced by a single department having authority throughout the islands.

Because of the low level of incomes, most of the population is dependent on government medical care, including free hospitalization. In 1957, following a study of hospital and health programmes, United States public health experts recommended that existing regulations be amended to provide medical experts based on the ability to pay, and that definite policies of full pay and free patient services be established to help provide additional revenue for departmental needs.

Federal aid in cash and commodities has enabled the Government to carry out a school lunch programme since 1946. The effectiveness of the programme, which is of continuing importance in a community where malnutrition is common, is reflected in the increased weight and generally improved health of the school children. The number of school lunches served rose from 502,000 in 1946 to 837,000 in 1956, and the average number of those served daily increased from 2,800 to 4,700 during this period.

In 1947, a ten-year residual spraying programme for the eradication of filariasis was inaugurated on St. Croix, accompanied by the use of a new drug, hetrazan. The local mosquito control programme was discontinued in 1949, principally because of the reduced infection rate which followed application of these measures. By 1950, the aedes aegypti had been eliminated on St. Croix.

In 1947, an incipient epidemic of whooping cough was arrested through a mass immunization programme for small children which also included inoculation against diphtheria and tetanus.

The success of an earlier tuberculosis control programme was confirmed in 1949 when mass X-rays revealed only seven new cases. A similar project for venereal diseases proved equally successful. Although no polio myelitis was reported in 1956, almost 5,000 persons up to twenty years of age have been vaccinated against the disease. Two typhoid immunization programmes have also been carried out.

In 1946, about 80 per cent of all housing lacked modern water supply and toilet facilities. To meet this need, the metropolitan Government provided funds which led to the construction in 1951 of potable water supply systems on St. Thomas and St. Croix to replace water conservation in individual cisterns and to introduce modern methods of sewage disposal. Despite a vigorous campaign by the Government to encourage their use, the systems are still not fully utilized. Sewage disposal by open gutters and storm drains still exists, but is being gradually replaced. In 1957, gastro-enteritis was the leading cause of hospitalization.

The birth rate has increased slightly since 1953. The lowest death rate of 9.8 per thousand population was recorded in 1953. Diseases of the heart continue as the leading cause of death, but the rate declined from 337 per hundred thousand in 1947 to 329 per hundred thousand during 1956.

Specialized units for the treatment of tuberculosis, neuro-psychiatry, obstetrics, pediatrics and radiology are attached to the two general hospitals. Separate facilities exist for the treatment and care of patients suffering from Hansen's disease. In 1957, there were thirty-six patients with leprosy and, owing to the dilapidated condition of the institution in which they were housed, efforts are being made to have the patients transferred to the United States Public Health Service Hospital in the State of Louisiana.

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A resident physician was engaged in 1955 for St. John, thereby obviating the vi-weekly or weekly visits of a medical officer from St. Thomas.

In 1952, a modern 116-bed hospital on St. Thomas and a sixty-bed hospital with a twelve-bed clinic on St. Croix were completed.

In 1946, visiting specialists from Puerto Rico were engaged to give treatment in ophthalmology, leprosy and orthopedics. By 1956, several specialist physicians were available.

There are no training facilities for staff in the Territory. The shortage of specialists and nurses is mainly due to the low salaries and high cost of living. In an attempt to improve this situation, selected local staff are given grants by the metropolitan Government in co-operation with the territorial Governments, for post-graduate and specialist training abroad.

Nurse midwives are responsible for most of the deliveries on St. Croix, but increasing use is being made of hospital facilities. Total births in 1947 were 834 out of which 491 took place in hospital, whereas in 1957, of 1,039 births, all but seventy-five took place in hospital.

Medical staff

	<u>1947/1948</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Doctors	11 ^{a/}	14 ^{b/}	21 ^{c/}
Dentists	5	5	3
Nurses	62	55 ^{d/}	65
Midwives	...	3	20
Sanitary inspectors	10

a/ Including two employed by the Government.

b/ Including an obstetrician and a paediatrician.

c/ Including four employed by the Government on a part-time basis.

d/ St. Thomas only.

Expenditure
 (thousand dollars)

	<u>1947/1948</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Local government	310	787	1,270
Metropolitan government	90	186	221
Central administration	<u>25</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	425	1,004	1,491

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EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Public education is free and compulsory for children from five-and-a-half to fifteen years of age. The school system is organized on the basis of six years of elementary school and six years of secondary school (three years of "junior high school" and three years of "senior high school"). Curricula generally follows that of United States schools with three main fields of concentration: commercial, college preparatory and general. On St. Croix there is greater emphasis on agriculture in vocational studies because of its importance to that island. Kindergartens are an integral part of the school system, under the direction of a trained supervisor. The language of instruction is English.

In 1946, the most pressing problems were the lack of qualified teachers and inadequate buildings and equipment. On St. Croix, the problem was further complicated by the difficulty of administering two educational systems, one for each municipality. On St. Thomas, all primary classes were operated on a double shift to accommodate the growing enrolment, and elementary teachers were usually recruited from among secondary school graduates. By 1954, the total elementary enrolment was approximately 200 per cent of capacity.

In 1953, the Territory embarked on a school construction and repair programme financed from metropolitan funds and by 1954, two new secondary schools, a twenty-room elementary school and a rural elementary school had been completed and improvements had been made to three rural elementary schools on St. Thomas. One rural elementary school was build on St. John.

The school system was reorganized in 1954 under a single territorial Department of Education.

In June 1948, a veteran's education programme was established through the collaboration of the local Government and the United States Veteran's Administration, with an enrolment of some 300 veterans. Courses were offered in the academic and vocational fields. The adequacy of this programme and the low enrolment of non-veteran students obviated the necessity for separate adult education programmes. Courses offered included auto mechanics, electricity, plumbing, pipe-fitting, masonry, mathematics and related sciences. In addition, the municipality of St. Thomas and St. John provided funds to defray the cost of

transportation of veterans to and from the United States for educational purposes and offered vocational scholarships of \$250 a year.

Although there was a vocational education programme prior to 1949, its development was encouraged by the extension to the Islands of the United States Vocational Education Act which provided for annual grants up to \$40,000 on a matching basis. The first appropriation of \$33,000 was made in 1950/1951. An Insular Board for Vocational Education was created and supervisory personnel were hired. The three-year curriculum was carried out through the two local high schools.

In 1955/1956, a training programme for hotel and restaurant employees was in effect, including on-the-job training. On-the-job training was also made available to students in other trades and industries. Courses offered since the commencement of the programme include carpentry, electricity, plumbing, auto mechanics, commercial sewing and agriculture. Since 1950, United States contributions have exceeded \$200,000. In 1953, the adult and veterans education programmes were correlated and in 1956, the programme was broadened.

Ninety per cent of the population can read and write. Educational objectives are therefore directed towards responsible citizenship and vocational adaptation to employment opportunities. In 1947, an adult education programme was already in effect offering three types of courses: (1) those intended to meet short-term community needs such as commercial subjects; (2) courses for vocational or avocational training such as home economics, arts and crafts; and (3) general academic training.

In an attempt to raise teaching standards, summer sessions and extension courses were offered on St. Thomas in 1946 by the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico. In 1953, through a grant by the Ford Foundation to Hampton Institute, Virginia, whose president is a Virgin Islander, a long-range programme of teacher-training scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study and in-service courses was offered for teachers. In 1955, this programme was broadened by the addition of a summer programme in which eighty teachers were enrolled. The number of college trained teachers is steadily increasing and has been given considerable impetus by the programme at Hampton Institute.

Expenditure
 (thousand dollars)

	<u>1946/1947</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Local government	302	619	1,066
Federal government	45	99	63
Average annual educational expenditure per pupil	66	96	137
Average monthly teacher salary	166 ^{a/}	164	256

a/ St. Thomas only.

Schools

	<u>1946/1947</u>		<u>1953/1954</u>		<u>1956/1957</u>	
	Public	Indep.	Public	Indep.	Public	Indep.
Number of schools	22	7	31	11	28	12

Pupils

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1946/1947</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
Public:			
Kindergartens	-	299	324
Grades I to VI, inclusive)			
Grades VII to IX, inclusive)	2,950	3,694	3,981
Grades X to XII, inclusive	988	990 498	1,233 613
Independent	<u>1,702</u>	<u>2,270</u>	<u>2,412</u>
Total	5,640	7,751	3,563

Teachers

	<u>1946/1947</u>	<u>1953/1954</u>	<u>1956/1957</u>
College-trained	33	65	59
Normal school, two years or more	-	12	31
High school <u>a/</u>	95	87	73
Special or other	<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	160	186	171

a/ Including those with less than two years' college training.

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CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

There is a library in each of the three main towns. The library in St. Thomas has been evaluated as one of the best in the entire Caribbean area. In 1949, its book collection consisted of 22,220 volumes and 300 adults and 1,500 juveniles were using its facilities. Between 1952 and 1956, the library staff has, through scholarships and summer sessions, consistently improved its educational and technical qualifications. The number of books circulated in the year ending June 1954 was 32,702. With the governmental reorganization in that year the library system was unified with headquarters in St. Thomas. The number of volumes in the system is increasing steadily.

Two 250-watt radio stations have been constructed and put into operation, one in St. Croix and one in St. Thomas. There are four small newspapers, three dailies and one published three times a week; two are St. Croix and two in St. Thomas.
