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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

BERMUDA^{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 1948-1959	annual average

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Bermudas or Somers Islands are a group of about 300 coral islands situated in the Western Atlantic Ocean, about 580 miles east of Cape Hatteras on the American continent. The main island, with an area of 20.59 square miles, is about fourteen miles long with an average width of one mile. Hamilton, the capital with a resident population of about 3,000, is located there. The climate is generally mild and humid, with a mean annual temperature of 70° F. The average rainfall is 58.1 inches. Apart from its climate, the natural resources are cultivable land and marine products. The population was estimated at 43,000 at the end of 1957, about three-fifths of whom are Negro or mixed and two-fifths are white.

Population

1 July 1947

35,262

1 July 1953

39,352

1 July 1957

42,410

Vital statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	26.5	26.1	25.6
Death rate per 1,000 population	9.6	8.5	8.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	41.7	29.2	41.4

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economy depends primarily upon tourism which has been the key factor in the growth of Bermuda. From 1953 to 1955 a downward trend became discernible in the economy owing largely to reduced expenditures by visitors. To correct this, the Government, beginning in 1956, has, with some success pressed for the continuing expansion of tourism. The House of Assembly, recognizing the economic necessity of diversifying and expanding subsidiary sources of income, enacted

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in that year the Freeport Act to encourage the development of light industry. During 1956 the downward trend was reversed, largely owing to the expansion of the tourist trade and the secondary industries, and an increasing sale of goods and services to the United States Base. The number of visitors has increased from about 94,000 to 120,000 and it is estimated that for the past several years the income from tourism has amounted to £8 million annually, excluding rentals of housing accommodations.^{2/}

Contributing to the economy of the Territory are goods and services supplied to the United Kingdom and United States armed forces stationed in Bermuda, repairs to shipping and considerable investments locally of United Kingdom capital. In addition, light industries such as the production of brass electrical contacts, drugs, essences and cinematographic and televisions films have been developed. In 1956, the overseas companies operating in the Territory were worth about £500,000. Employment has been provided for most of the available labour; however, a gradual change in the spending habits of many tourists has resulted in some under-employment. Agriculture, stock-raising and fisheries have also contributed substantially to the economy. The economic expansion is shown by the budgetary and foreign trade figures. Revenues have increased from £1.4 million in 1947 to £3.5 million in 1957 and expenditures from £1.4 million to £3.3 million. Imports have risen from £6 million to £15,821,555 and domestic exports have risen from £.8 million to £2.2 million. Including re-exports, the sum total of exports for 1957 was £5.5 million. The economy of Bermuda after recovering from the economic decline of the early 1950's has shown signs of continuing growth.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The ever-growing population and the corresponding increase in housing accommodation has continued to encroach on the already limited area available for agriculture of which there remains a total of 1,842 acres (a reduction of 608 acres from the 1953 figure). Tenant farming accounts for 80 per cent of the

^{2/} The currency unit of Bermuda is the Bermuda pound which is equivalent to £1 (sterling) or \$US2.80.

land under cultivation. Almost one-half of the tenant farmers are Portuguese. They cultivate a wide variety of vegetables and fruits for local consumption on holdings many of which are less than ten acres. The principal crops are mixed vegetables and bananas. Production of mixed vegetables rose from 4.6 million pounds valued at £96,000 in 1947 to 5.5 million pounds valued at £174,000 in 1956, and bananas from 640,000 pounds worth £16,000 to 1.3 million pounds valued at £45,000 for the same period.

Like agriculture, animal husbandry is carried on on individual holdings and is insufficient for local requirements. It is chiefly concerned with the production of milk which rose from 590,000 in 1947 to 696,000 gallons in 1956. Poultry farming is also important and egg production increased from 4.7 million valued at £97.5 thousand to 5.4 million worth £112.5 thousand over the same period.

FISHERIES

Fish is a staple item of diet the demand for which continues to exceed the supply. Some 70 per cent of the catch is obtained by trapping. Eighty men were employed full-time in 1947 when the catch totalled 870,000 pounds. Their number had increased to 130 in 1957 and the catch totalled 1.2 million pounds. Bermuda is represented in the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, an organization with the technical staff for research of common fisheries' problems.

POWER

Apart from one or two small stand-by plants owned privately, there is one diesel power plant also owned by private enterprise. The installation of a new generator will increase the capacity by 4,000 kwh in an attempt to meet the growing demand for services. In recent years, overhead high voltage transmission cables were being moved underground.

Electricity generated and distributed
(thousand kwh)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1957</u>
Annual output:			
Generated	47,545	56,714	68,832
Sold	39,246	47,206	57,629
Number of consumers	11,650	12,503	13,245
Domestic consumption	23,936	28,084	31,145
Commercial consumption	15,310	19,122	26,483

INDUSTRY

Tourism is the main economic activity and is under the aegis of the Trade Development Board which has promotion offices in London, New York and Toronto. The majority of visitors are from the United States. In an effort to diversify the economy, the Government under 1956 legislation set up an industrial estate catering for light industries manufacturing for export. This Act established an area, into which, or from which, goods may, under licence, be imported or exported, or in which they may be manufactured, without payment of taxes or duties. Some of these items are perfume, concentrates and pharmaceuticals. Upwards of eighty acres have been acquired for this purpose. During 1957, additional licences were being issued for the expansion of present industries and the establishment of new industries at Freeport.

Production
(Bermuda pounds)

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1957</u>
Concentrated essences	11,410	85,083	183,473
Pharmaceutical products	984	10,301	963,586
Brass electrical contacts	-	82,933	47,354 ^{a/}

^{a/} Production and export has been discontinued.

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TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Roads

There are 127.8 miles of roads, most of which are surfaced. Following the abandonment of the railway in 1947, public transportation is largely by omnibus. In that year, legislation was passed permitting the use of motor vehicles and by the year's end there were in use 1,611 motor cars including taxi cabs. This number had increased to some 8,000 in 1953 and to approximately 14,000 in 1957.

Sea-borne shipping

There is direct communication with European, North and South American and Caribbean ports. The Board of Trade operates water transport between the islands in the Great Sound. Bermuda is on the itinerary of several regularly scheduled cruise ships. There are two main ports, one at Hamilton, the capital, and the other at St. George, the former capital, both having deep-water and land-locked harbours.

Shipping

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of ships	436	378	569
Net tonnage	1,419,697	2,058,995	3,439,646
Tonnage of cargo
Number of passengers:			
Inland	13,677	25,244	17,381
Outward	...	22,580	14,864

Air transport

The air terminal at Kindley Field is served by ten scheduled international air lines linking Bermuda with Europe, North and South America and the Caribbean. During 1956, the United States Air Force completed the major reconstruction of the surface of the main runway and lengthened it to 9,700 feet. A new major project was under way during that year to lengthen and resurface the other two runways.

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International transport

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Landings	1,414	2,103	3,152
Passengers:			
Arrivals	28,137	93,882	143,697
Departures	.../	96,382	146,645
Freight:			
In (kgs.)	...	429,210	762,176
Out (kgs.)	...	85,860	113,471

Telephones and telegraphs

Automatic telephone service is provided by a private company. External radio telephone and telegraph connexions are available, the number of telephone subscribers having risen from about 3,300 in 1947 to almost 10,000 in 1957.

PUBLIC FINANCE

There is no direct taxation, revenue being derived mostly from custom duties including an ad valorem tariff on some items of food. Revenues and expenditures have almost tripled since 1948.

Revenue and expenditure
(thousand Bermuda pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue:			
Ordinary	1,455	2,747	3,524
Expenditure:			
Ordinary	1,363	2,667	3,322
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs duty	1,112	1,863	...
Stamp duties	283 ^{a/}	76	...
Motor car and drivers licences	-	97	...
Main heads of expenditure:			
Trade Development Board	84	361	390
Public works	195	321	212
Education	122	331	399
Public health	114	221	252

a/ Departmental.

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BANKING AND CREDIT

The notes in circulation are those of the Bermuda Government in denominations of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5. Although the United Kingdom notes are not legal tender, the coins in circulation are United Kingdom coinage. Banking services are provided by two institutions together with the savings bank facilities available at the Post Office. The number of depositors in 1953 was some 9,800 and deposits amounted to £291,295. Comparative totals for 1956 were 9,000 depositors and £305,804.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Territory's needs are satisfied by imports, many of which are re-exported. The chief imports are food, textiles, furniture, motor vehicles and fuel. The main domestic exports are pharmaceuticals and essences, brass electrical contacts and cut flowers. The decline in exports of flowers and vegetables has been more or less offset by the increase of exports of mineral water concentrates, essences, oils and pharmaceuticals. Re-exports include fuel for ships, personal effects and alcoholic beverages. Although the visible balance of trade is adverse (some £10.2 million in 1957), there is substantial revenue from invisible items, including tourism (£8 million) and services supplied to foreign interests in Bermuda (£2 million in 1954, £7 million in 1957). The over-all balance of payments is favourable. The value of imports had risen two and one-half times to £15.8 million since 1947 while local exports had gone up almost three times to £2.2 million. Commerce is generally with Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Committee appointed by the House of Assembly to consider problems of racial relations reported in 1954. It was the Committee's view that racial tensions had increased within the last ten years and that, in the interest of the various sections of the community, the reforms undertaken as a consequence of its

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recommendations should be in consonance with the generally accepted conditions of the country from which the majority of the visitors came in order to avoid the risk of endangering the Territory's vital trade interests. In the past, approximately 75 per cent of Bermuda's visitors have come from the North-eastern part of the United States.

The population is increasing rapidly and Bermuda is the seventh most densely populated land unit in the world. A commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate and advise on the subject, and an advisory committee was then appointed to implement the commission's recommendations. It was believed that unless measures could be devised to offset the upward trend, deterioration in the material well-being of the population would appear inevitable.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Most of the employment opportunities are provided by tourism, followed by the enterprises providing goods and services to the United Kingdom and United States Forces stationed in the Territory, and by the growing number of light industries, most of which are established in the Freeport industrial area. Under-employment exists in the hotel and retail trades, generally, between the three principal tourist seasons and in agriculture during the summer.

The Inter-Racial Committee recognized that discrimination "bears hardly on the Coloured people"; that it would be inadvisable to enact legislation to compel private employers to hire their employees without regard to race, but that if the civil service were opened generally to all, regardless of race, it would probably lead over a period of time to a change in the policy of local employers. Migratory workers from the Azores, and from North America and the United Kingdom are engaged in agriculture and in the hotel business, respectively. It is said that almost all residents belong to the middle income group.

On the whole, wages have been increased; for example, the weekly rates for male clerks rose during the ten-year period, from a range of £5-15 to £12-18 and hourly rates for non-farm labourers from the range of 2s. 2d. - 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.

Workers' and employers' organizations

Employers' and workers' organizations are regulated by the Trade Union and Trade Disputes Act of 1946, but trade unionism is not well advanced. There are four such organizations including two teachers' associations and one of civil servants.

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STANDARD OF LIVING

Beginning with a downward trend in the economy in 1953 and continuing through 1956, retailers held almost continuous "sales" campaigns to stimulate business on most commodities except food. Consequently, the cost of commodities was lowered. On the other hand, rent for living accommodations continued to rise because of the excess of demand over supply. The cost of food has remained more or less constant because reduction in the cost of some staples was offset by an increase in others. However, beginning around 1953, self-service food stores, retailing at lower cash prices, were being established. A further store was opened in 1955 to make a total of five operating in Hamilton.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

During the Second World War, a serious housing shortage developed largely owing to the rapidly increasing population. As a consequence, the Housing Commission recommended that between 1945 and 1950 no fewer than 600 houses should be constructed for families with weekly incomes from £6-£10. In fact, 1,125 houses or apartments had been erected and 100 others had been enlarged by the end of the target date. Building activities have continued and by the end of 1957, the total number of residential premises built since the war was 2,521 and those enlarged, 1,076, an increase of nearly 41 per cent over the pre-war total. Between 1955 and 1957, the Bermuda Crown Lands Corporation received loans from the United Kingdom Colonial Treasury totalling some £175,000 which was applied to the rehabilitation of low-rent houses. Of 319 such houses taken over by the Corporation, 206 had been rehabilitated and occupied at the end of 1957. This project is continuing.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

There are no special measures relating to the employment, safety, and welfare of workers nor is there any government social insurance scheme. However, some of the larger corporations have organized their own contributory schemes providing insurance benefits for medical expenses and hospitalization and for old age. For the destitute and aged, of which there are few, there is an institution which receives a grant from the Government and assistance from the parish vestries. The care and protection of children is provided for by statute and is furnished by a voluntary organization.

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PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

There has been an increase in the incidence of crime; assault, breaking and entering, and larceny are the most prevalent offences. In 1950, legislation was put into effect to liberalize penal administration. Its full effect is being hampered by the unavoidable limitations of site, space and suitability of accommodation. There are separate institutions for male and female prisoners. The average daily prison population has risen from 95.56 in 1953 to 117.67 in 1956.

There is a similar increase in the incidence of juvenile delinquency. For example, in 1954, 30 per cent of the breaking and entering offences were committed by youths. There is a senior and a junior training school for boys from sixteen to twenty-one and for those up to sixteen, respectively. They are operated by the Department of Education and house juveniles who are referred by the court. The record of these boys after institutional care has, on the whole, been very good. A similar school for girls up to seventeen is run by the Salvation Army with a government subsidy. The policy of placing many young offenders on probation instead of imprisoning them is having a salutary effect and the number of parole violations is rather small. There are two probation officers assisted by a corps of honorary social workers who supervise those who are placed on probation by the court and carry out the after-care programme.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The status of health and nutrition of the inhabitants continued to be satisfactory through the period under review. The crude death-rate remained at a low level. Very few minor epidemics occurred in the Territory during this period and endemic diseases are reported to be non-existent. This situation allows the health authorities to concentrate more energetically on the social aspects of health and on preventive public health measures.

Water supply depends largely on rainfall, supplemented, in case of drought, by imported water. Chlorination plants are being used progressively in view of the lack of a constant supply of drinking water.

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There is a Tuberculosis Association on the island which is subsidized by the Government and which has a very good record. There have been frequent mass X-ray surveys and the results obtained are reflected in a remarkable drop of the specific tuberculosis death-rate from 17.8 per 100,000 population in 1953 to 9.6 in 1956. Mosquito and rodent control programmes are continuously carried out with good results. Aedes aegypti, the main carrier of yellow fever, which was abundant in 1947, has now been virtually eliminated. Leprosy cases on the island have been reduced to a negligible level.

Maternal and child health services are provided at the parish level, with clinics devoted to ante- and post-natal consultations. When the mother is unable to pay the small fee charged, the parish vestries usually come to her assistance. These clinics also offer advice on family planning to those who seek this information. Infant pre-school clinics are also maintained.

The hospitals on the island are all private, supported by fees, voluntary contributions and government grants. A new hospital for mentally and physically handicapped children was established in 1953. A medical specialist on neurology and psychiatry was appointed in 1953 and also serves as consultant for developing mental health programmes. The largest hospital is the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital which has training facilities for ancillary and auxiliary medical personnel. Physicians and dentists get their training abroad.

The Inter-Racial Committee reported in 1954 some discriminatory practices in the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, whereby separate public wards were maintained for White and Coloured male patients while there were common wards for female patients of both races. It further reported that Coloured nurses were not admitted for training in the Hospital and recommended that training opportunities should be made available to both White and Coloured girls, and that, while nurses of the two races could be separately housed, Coloured nurses should be eligible for employment at the Hospital on an equal footing with the White nurses.

The annual grant to the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital has increased from £50,000 in 1947 to £132,000 in 1957 while total expenditure has increased from £104.4 thousand to £252.1 thousand during the same period.

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EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and thirteen; beyond this level, fees are charged. Secondary education leads either to the School Certificate standard or the Higher School Certificate examination. Thirteen Board of Education scholarships are awarded annually to pupils from secondary schools. With the exception of two schools, one each for boys and girls, all schools are co-educational.

There are three types of primary schools, vested, non-vested and private. While the first type receives grants from the Board of Education upon meeting certain conditions, those that are non-vested are directly administered by the Board of Education. The standard in these schools continues to improve as new classrooms and, in particular, trained teachers become increasingly available. The school system is segregated, as was found by the Inter-Racial Committee, but it was noted that government funds spent for education were divided equally between the two races and in proportion to the number of school children of each race. The Committee was unanimous in recommending that these arrangements remain unaltered until changes in social thinking invited reconsideration. The demand for additional places created by the ever-expanding school population is being met by continued building, the expansion of existing premises and improvisations. It is expected that the approved programme of new construction for 1958 to 1959 will not only overcome overcrowding in the primary schools but will also provide buildings for the expanding secondary schools.

A technical institute was opened in September 1956 with an enrolment of eighty-six boys between the ages of eleven and fourteen. The full five-year course was restricted to the twenty-two students who qualified through intelligence tests, while the remaining sixty-four applicants were admitted to a three-year trade course. Information is not available as to whether this training is being offered to candidates of both races as recommended by the Inter-Racial Committee. Fees for the Institute amount to £9 a term.

There is no organized adult education programme but the School of Home Economics provides evening courses in cookery, including a chef's course, waiting and needlework, and limited classes for adults are held at the Technical Institute. At one of the two handicraft centres, classes were being offered in woodwork and metal-work.

There are no institutions of higher learning but the Government offers four scholarships annually for study at educational institutions abroad. Summer courses for teachers are given in collaboration with Queens University, Ontario.

Schools^{a/}

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1955</u>			<u>1957</u>		
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non- aided</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non- aided</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non- aided</u>
Primary	19	6	16	20	6	12	20	6	16
Secondary	-	7	3	-	9	4	-	9	4
Technical and vocational	-	4	1	-	5	1	-	8	1

a/ A school providing both primary and secondary education is counted as a primary school and also as a secondary school.

Pupils

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1954</u>		<u>1955</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Primary	3,841	3,768	4,028	3,910	4,035	7,952
Secondary	455	706	444	553	586	643
Technical and vocational	19	195	124	273

Teachers

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1954</u>		<u>1955</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Primary	43	269	46	270	43	295
Secondary	33	56	37	45	44	45
Technical and vocational	-	10	-	13	8	15

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CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The Bermuda Library at Hamilton, which has adult, children and music departments, is being enlarged. It has a branch at St. George and a distribution service to the schools. The Bermuda Government Aquarium with an adjoining live zoological collection, which was recently expanded, has a museum of local natural history and other exhibits.

The Bermuda Welfare Board co-ordinates the activities of youth groups, such as boy scouts and girl guides.

Radio broadcasting is carried on by a private company which operates two stations. A commercial television service began in January 1957 in addition to the television service already being operated by the United States Base in Bermuda. In October, successful negotiations took place between the Government of Bermuda and the United States authorities for the extension to the entire Territory of the television broadcasts from the United States Air Force Base in Bermuda which had hitherto been restricted to that base.

There are four newspapers on the island.
