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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

Asian Territories

SARAWAK^{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 Territory comprises a coastal strip of about 450 miles long and 40 to 120 miles wide on the north-west coast of the Island of Borneo and covers an area of approximately 47,500 square miles. The country is intersected by many rivers, most of them navigable, and is topographically divided into three zones: an alluvial and swampy coastal plain, an area of rolling country interspersed with mountain ranges and a mountainous area in the interior. The climate is tropical and influenced by monsoons. Tropical rain forests cover the greater part of the country. The important mineral resources are oil, gold, antimony, mercury, bauxite and phosphate. Kuching is the capital.

The indigenous inhabitants form about 70 per cent of the population. The main ethnic groups are Sea Dayaks, Land Dayaks, Malay and Melanau. The most numerous non-indigenous group is the Chinese (30 per cent of the population in 1956), followed by Indians, Javanese and Europeans.

	<u>Population</u>		
Indigenous:	<u>1947</u> (Census)	<u>Dec. 1953</u> (Estimate)	<u>Dec. 1956</u> (Estimate)
Sea Dayaks	190,326	209,950	197,945
Land Dayaks	42,195	46,760	49,175
Melanaus	35,560)	137,220	155,419
Malays	97,469)		
Other indigenous	29,867	31,820	30,541
Non-indigenous:			
Chinese	145,158	164,480	189,826
Other Asians	5,119)	6,560	6,419
Europeans	691)		2,106
Total:	<u>546,385</u>	<u>596,790</u>	<u>631,431</u>

	<u>Vital statistics</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	13.7	26.7	24.0
Death rate per 1,000 population	6.2	9.0	6.6
Infantile mortality, rate per 1,000 live births	75.4	93.5	72.2

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The basic economy has remained one of subsistence agriculture supplemented by the collection of forest produce and fishing and by the cultivation of cash crops, primarily rubber and pepper. More than two-thirds of the estimated population are engaged permanently in agriculture, which earns well over half the national income. The Dayak and other indigenous groups are rice farmers, mostly following a system of shifting cultivation, grow rubber and sago on small plantations or collect forest produce (jelutong and dammar). The Chinese farmers cultivate rubber and pepper. The Malays and Melanaus are principally fishermen or engaged in lumbering and growing sago. Mining (oil, oil-refining and gold) and other activities, such as trade, transport, and government services, account for the remaining part of the national income. The economy has been affected by the price fluctuations of the principal export crops.

As the Territory had been occupied during the war, the main tasks which faced the Government at the beginning of 1947 were rehabilitation and development. A comprehensive development plan (1948-1956) was adopted by the Council Negri in May 1950. When the Colombo Plan for economic development in South East Asia was initiated in 1950, Sarawak extended the original development plan to coincide with the schemes of the Colombo Plan. The revised development plan (1951-1957) adopted in May 1952 called for public expenditure of \$M38.6^{2/} million allotted as follows: agriculture, 13 per cent; transport and communications, 34 per cent; fuel and power, 2 per cent; and social services, 51 per cent. For constant review and planning, a Development Board was established in 1951 and reorganized in 1957 with a majority of unofficial members. A Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund was also established as part of the machinery for financing development schemes. In 1954, it was realized that the schemes in the revised development plan could not be carried out simultaneously and that priority should be given to economic development schemes which would assist production directly or indirectly. A new development plan (1955-1960) was adopted in August 1954 and called for an expenditure of \$M99.4 million, of which 54 per cent was allotted to transport and communications, 14 per cent to agriculture, forestry, fuel and

^{2/} The local currency is the Malayan dollar (\$M) which is equal to £0.2s.4d. or \$US0.327.

ower and a geological survey, and 25 per cent to social services. In 1957, this new development plan (1955-1960) was revised and its cost increased to 136.2 million with a reduction in economic schemes from 63.7 per cent up to the end of 1956 to 55.64 per cent in the period 1957-1960.

Expenditure under all development plans for the period up to the end of 1957 amounted to approximately \$M86.5 million. Of this amount \$M11 million were grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and the remainder, or \$M75 million, came from Sarawak's own funds.

Projects carried out under the development plans include, among others: surveys of agricultural, mineral and fishery resources; cultivation of cash crops alternative to rubber; rubber planting and replanting schemes; improvement of harbour facilities; expansion of sea communications; construction of Sibu airport; road construction; establishment of the Sarawak Broadcasting Service, and forestry development.

A Development Finance Corporation was established in 1957.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The Department of Agriculture, organized after the war, also bears responsibilities for veterinary services and fisheries, and for the rubber-planting scheme. It was expanded in 1956 to include a soils division and a rice research unit. In 1957, plans were approved for the research unit to undertake investigations into soils, pepper and rice growing. In recent years, the department has operated five agricultural stations, one padi experimental station and three padi test and demonstration stations.

Except for rubber, the development of agriculture has been retarded by an acute lack of qualified and experienced staff at all of the Department levels. Because of the lack of local men with appropriate university training, the senior posts for the most part have been held by expatriate officers. These posts, however, have been difficult to fill. A two-year training course for agriculture assistants has been given at the School of Agriculture, Batu Lintang; of the twenty-nine students enlisted in 1956, only four passed the final examination in 1957. Steps were taken in 1957 to start an in-service training programme for junior staff, most of whom had had no previous training.

General agricultural policy has aimed at the increase and diversification of agricultural productivity. Specifically, it is a matter of policy to encourage the small local farmers to develop agriculture by a system of mixed farming rather than to foster development by the large specialized plantations.

The Natural Resources Ordinance 1949 established a Board to control the development and use of land without changing its tenure. A land classification scheme was approved in 1954 and is administered by the Land and Survey Department. It classified all the land under four main headings which, by the end of 1955, were as follows: mixed zones, in which alienation is not restricted and indigenous and non-indigenous persons may hold titles (4,346 square miles); Native areas, where land may be held under title only by a member of one of the indigenous groups (2,317 square miles); interior areas and Native customary lands, where a title under the Land Code cannot be held, but where indigenous customary rights may be established, subject, since 1954, to the issuance of a permit to prevent jungle destruction (29,497 square miles), and reserved lands, such as forest reserves, indigenous communal forests and other government reserves (10,842 square miles). A new Land Code was promulgated in 1957.

A land-use estimate of 1957 showed that 36,079 square miles (76 per cent) were forest land of all types, 8,724 square miles (18 per cent) were under shifting cultivation and 2,699 square miles (6 per cent) under settled cultivation. Partly owing to the success of the rubber-planting scheme, applications for rubber land cultivation have increased since 1955.

Principal crops

Export crops, in order of importance, are rubber, pepper, sago and coconut. The most important crop for local consumption is rice, the staple food; it is grown on dry fields under shifting cultivation, and on wet fields. The export is prohibited. The annual production of rice is below that required for self-sufficiency, although greater acreages have been planted. The 1957 production was estimated at about 48,000 long tons, half of the rice requirements. Rice imports, which fluctuated with rubber and pepper exports, increased from 21,667 long tons in 1953 to 37,544 long tons in 1956 and 46,982 long tons in 1957. A sharp increase occurred in 1957 which was partly attributed to the removal of import restrictions. Other food-crops are casava and maize.

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Accurate statistics about acreage and production are not available. The acreages estimated in 1957 were: rubber, 265,000 acres; padi, 200,000 acres (140,000 dry and 60,000 wet); sago, 150,000 acres; coconut, maximum 50,000 acres. The acreage under pepper, 90 per cent of which is grown by Chinese farmers on small plots, dropped from an estimated 4,000 acres before the war to some 150 acres in 1948. Rehabilitation has proceeded steadily and, in 1956, the acreage under pepper was greater than before the war and exports reached a record of 396,000 cwts. The decline in the price and exports of pepper in 1957 led to the establishment of an advisory committee to study the needs of the industry; the possibilities of improved marketing were under investigation by a Marketing Advisory Committee, also recently formed. During 1957 the sago industry was even more affected by the fall in prices and, as a measure of relief, export duty has been waived since October 1957.

Rubber is still cultivated predominantly on small holdings; only 13,285 out of 265,000 acres in 1957 were planted by (five) estates. As the acreage of mature high-yielding rubber was negligible, a planting scheme, to cost one million Malayan dollars, was approved in 1954 under the development plan (1955-1960). A revised planting scheme, providing for an expenditure of \$M4 million was adopted in 1956. It applies to estates and small holders of all races, and provides for a subsidy (in cash and kind) of \$M200 and \$M450 per acre to approved new planters and to replanters, respectively. From the introduction of the scheme up to the end of 1957, approval was granted for subsidies to 1,737 applicants to plant 14,447 acres and to replant 2,460 acres. Applications in 1957 for 1958 indicate that some 20,000 acres will be added to these figures.

Control over the standard grading of sago and pepper for export has been introduced.

Exports of crops

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Rubber (tons)	42,521	23,958	41,005
Pepper (cwts)	24	180	275
Sago (tons)	23,945	16,073	12,718
Copra (tons)	3,864	2,635	Nil

Livestock

Animal husbandry plays a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Poultry and goats are kept mainly for family consumption. There are some cattle and buffaloes, used to a limited extent in wet rice cultivation; only a few small herds of cattle are kept for milk or meat production. The breeding of cattle has, however, increased and been improved by the import of stock. The Territory is not self-supporting in pork. Pigs are reared by Chinese and Dayaks and special efforts are being made to intensify and extend pig-rearing. The production of pork has increased but imports of pigs remained heavy. A provisional livestock census completed in 1957 gave the following figures: pigs, 66,722; buffaloes, 5,552; cattle, 4,390; goats, 3,933.

FISHERIES

The coastal waters and the estuaries of the larger rivers are the main fishing grounds; the great majority of the fishermen (about 4,500 according to the 1947 census) are Melanaus and Malays and the rest Chinese. Both marine and fresh-water fisheries have only recently begun to profit from new techniques and experience in other areas.

A fishery survey scheme was introduced in 1948 and later extended to include the study of the transport, marketing and distribution systems in the industry. The survey was interrupted and postponed several times as a result of personnel difficulties (resignation, sick-leave) and priorities of work. The Senior Fisheries Assistant in 1956 made a study of fishing methods abroad under the auspices of the Colombo Plan and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Upon his return, a survey of existing fish ponds was begun and the planned development of fish-culture in rural areas initiated. Ninety-nine new fish ponds were constructed in 1957 (fifty-nine Malays and Dayaks and forty by Chinese).

For sea fishing, a loan system was introduced in 1956 for installing inboard engines in fishing craft; it was extended in 1957, ten further loans being granted. A small experimental fish-meal plant has been established. The demand by pig feeders justified the establishment of a larger plant, which will be erected downstream from Kuching. Experiments with Danish seine nets and special traps have been successful.

FORESTRY

About 42,000 of the total land area of 47,500 square miles are forest land, of which 16,000 square miles are covered with productive forests. In 1954 the Governor-in-Council adopted a statement of forest policy, which is to: (1) reserve permanently forest land sufficient for the needs and economic development of the inhabitants; (2) manage the productive forests of the permanent forest estate with the object of obtaining revenue; (3) promote the utilization of forest products on land not included in the permanent forest estate; (4) foster, as far as compatible with local demands, an export trade in forest produce. In 1950 the area of permanent forest was over 3,000 square miles. An average of 937 square miles per year has been constituted as permanent forests, and by the end of 1957, the permanent forest estate had reached 10,780 square miles, equivalent to about 22 per cent of the total land area.

Licensed mills increased from seventeen in 1947 to forty-seven in 1953 and sixty-five in 1957. Measuring in tons of 50 hoppus feet, production and export of round timber were: 289,640 and 204,222 respectively in 1953; and 407,336 and about 310,000, respectively, in 1957. A fall in demand and price for the timber of ramin was caused by a recession in the United Kingdom furniture industry during 1955 and continued through 1956. In 1957 the situation improved.

MINING AND INDUSTRY

Oil is the most important of Sarawak's minerals. The value of all mineral products, consisting of oil, gold, phosphate bricks, lime and stone, increased from \$M3,869,681 in 1953 to \$M5,348,000 in 1957. The search for oil entered a new dimension in 1954 by the extension of the boundaries of Sarawak to include an area of 55,000 square miles below the sea on the continental shelf. In 1957 the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, which now holds oil rights over 10,250 square miles on land and off-shore, drilled the first test bores eight miles out to sea in this shelf area, but oil was not found. Another development during 1957 was the establishment by a local company of a bauxite mine, the deposits of which were discovered by a government geologist in 1949. Bauxite export was expected to start in early 1958 with shipment of about 180,000 tons annually.

Principal mineral production

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Oil (tons)	23,964	49,057	65,906
Gold (fine oz.)	389	442	902
Phosphate (tons)	...	632	465

The major industry is the refining of oil. Much of the oil produced in adjoining Brunei is piped to Sarawak and refined at Lutong. Brunei oil constituted between 80 and 90 per cent of the output.

Light industries, which include the manufacturing of cooking oil and soap from copra, matches, vermicelli and aerated waters, had a limited output. Handicrafts and cottage industries are the making of jars and gongs and the weaving of mats and baskets. A Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Ordinance was enacted in 1957 which provides for the granting of relief from customs duty and income tax to persons undertaking new industries.

POWER

Since the public purchase of the privately held shares of the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited in 1953, the Government has financed the development and expansion of electricity supplies. The programme of power expansion in the development plan (1955-1960) called for an expenditure of \$M4 million. This was increased to \$M7.5 million.

Generating capacity, units generated and consumers

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Generating capacity AC	(1,307 kva.	(1,952 kva.	(6,017 kw
Generating capacity DC	(614 kw.	(791 kw.	(-
Production (1,000 kwh)	1,716	5,589	10,357
Number of consumers	...	4,214	9,300

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

A territorial system of roads has not yet been developed although road construction was given a prominent position in the development plans. The

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comparatively poor system of communications has led to different divisions remaining rather separate economic units. In 1948 only sixty-eight out of a total of 459 miles of road were surfaced. Over \$M16 million were allotted to road building under the development plan (1951-1957), and \$M33 million for trunk and secondary roads under the development plan (1955-1960). In 1957 the total mileage of roads reached 556, nearly 110 miles of which were concrete. Road construction was also undertaken under town development programmes and in rural communities.

Since the official opening of Kuching's airport in 1950, air travel has to a certain extent alleviated the internal and external communication problems. Another airfield was built at Sibu and airstrips at Bintulu and Lutong. Malayan Airways, which maintained scheduled air services between Kuching and Singapore four times weekly in 1952, had daily flights in 1957 connecting Sarawak with Singapore, North Borneo and Brunei. Internal air services were also established. In November 1957, a new company was formed by the Governments of British Borneo, British Overseas Airways Corporation and Malayan Airways; it took over the internal air services of the three Borneo territories. Between 1948 and 1957 the number of embarked and disembarked passengers increased from 697 to 29,109.

Sarawak remained dependent on the sea and its rivers as the chief means of transport. A number of local shipping companies, mainly Chinese, ply the main rivers and between coastal ports with launches and small powered craft. Registered coastal vessels increased from an estimate of less than 100 in 1947 to 740 in 1957; their inward and outward tonnage increased from 469,192 in 1952 to 1,030,042 in 1957. The tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Sarawak from and to foreign ports during 1957 was 3,876,947 and 3,847,420 tons, respectively, as against 1,047,317 and 1,005,997 tons, respectively, for 1947.

Telecommunications

In 1948, twelve telephone exchanges were in operation. About \$M8 million was allocated in 1952 for the development of the public telephone service. The number of telephones increased from 720 in 1954 to 2,135 in 1957. At the end of 1957, a scheme was near completion for single channel VHF radio telephones to provide single channel links between out-stations and their respective divisional headquarters.

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PUBLIC FINANCE

Revenue has exceeded expenditure during the period 1947 to 1956, with the exception of the year 1949. There was no public debt at the end of 1957. The principal sources of revenue are export duties on rubber and pepper, import duties on tobacco and liquors, a company income tax, trade licences, interest and royalties. Prior to the introduction of income tax on companies in 1950, about 75 per cent of the revenue came from import and export duties. Since then, the proportion has fallen to about 50 per cent. An examination of Sarawak's fiscal system was undertaken in 1955 by an expert. The survey was published in 1956 and recommended the introduction of an income tax (including income tax on businesses), increased duties on imported luxury items and a modification of export duties as well as an increase in timber royalties.

Revenue and expenditure (thousands of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u> (estimate)
Revenue	12,879	43,688	50,588
Expenditure	10,987	34,280	51,351
Main heads of revenue			
Customs	8,595	23,235	26,086
Income tax	-	9,613	7,500
Licences, taxes and internal revenue	701	1,749	3,557
Interest	547	2,554	3,125
Main heads of expenditure			
Education	235	769	7,662 ^{a/}
Medical	971	2,882	5,202
Public works	1,709	4,077	7,050

^{a/} Excluding development plan expenditure.

Development finance

The funds necessary for development during 1957-1960 are estimated at \$M105.6 million, of which \$M11.7 million are from Colonial Development and Welfare grants, \$M26 million to be raised by loans, and the rest (\$M67.9 million) from local revenue.

Summary statement of development plan and expenditure

(Malayan dollars)

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Expenditure to 31 Dec. 1956</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure 1957-1960</u>		
		<u>Capital</u>	<u>Recurrent</u>	<u>Total</u>
Agriculture	3,186,736	10,711,044	275,853	10,986,897
Fisheries	386,311	165,000	57,107	222,107
Forestry	491,246	81,115	127,334	208,449
Communications	31,057,648	41,770,500	-	41,770,500
Fuel and power	5,717,500	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Education	2,631,015	15,584,111	99,000	15,683,111
Medical and health	9,472,917	11,483,185	-	11,483,185
Miscellaneous	12,226,336	20,418,153	867,045	21,285,198
Total	65,169,709	104,213,108	1,426,339	105,639,447

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The growth in foreign trade which took place during the period under review was interrupted in 1957 when the value of the major exports, except oil, declined. The imports of oil (from Brunei for refining) and the corresponding exports dominated the trade picture from 1947 on. However, even without Brunei oil, it appears that, in general, the balance of trade would have been favourable. The continued rise in the level of imports is, to a certain extent, a reflection of the increased capital investment by the Government and by private enterprise. In December 1957 a new tariff of import duties was introduced, designed to increase the revenue from luxury goods.

The major part of Sarawak's exports pass through the entrepôt of Singapore. In imports and in direct trade the neighbouring countries and the United Kingdom are leading.

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Imports and exports
(thousands of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Imports	103,138	394,912	463,429
Exports	72,254	424,728	499,535
Principal imports			
Petroleum, crude and refined	30,643	269,296	328,524 ^{a/}
Food	16,717	43,723	54,848
Manufactured goods and sundries	13,217	67,322	31,256 ^{b/}
Machinery and transport equipment	476 ^{c/}	9,009 ^{c/}	18,963
Principal exports			
Petroleum, crude and refined	51,226	299,580	376,932
Rubber	26,085	31,616	73,302
Timber	233	13,862	19,559
Pepper	3,213	49,443	17,232
Sago flour	10,599	4,371	2,089

a/ Since the new trade classification in 1954 a broader term "mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials" has been used.

b/ Under the new trade classification, "manufactured goods classified by materials" and "miscellaneous manufactured articles" are separated.

c/ For 1947 and 1953 transport equipment was not specified.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Difficulty of communication, scattered populations of various origins, languages and cultures, and differences in the stages of their development have been problems which have also complicated the efforts of the Government in the social field. Nevertheless, the impact of Western thought and practices has been greatly accelerated since the war and, in particular, government education and mission activities have generally created - in a relatively short time - an entirely new set of values among the younger generation in the traditional societies of the Dayaks and other indigenous groups. The most tangible sign of this change is the decline of independent craftsmanship and the appearance of the machine-made product.

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During the war, education and health services came almost to a standstill. In the post-war period, the expansion of social services has been slowed up by the limitations in the availability of trained personnel, in materials and in financial resources.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Labour Ordinance 1952 embodied the principles of the International Labour Conventions concerning hours of work, health conditions, the age of admission to employment and other conditions.

Sarawak shares a Commissioner of Labour with Brunei who resides in the oil-field area. In general, employment for wages involves a relatively small percentage of the population. The Sarawak Oilfield Limited was the largest employer of industrial workers; the company employed in 1947 some 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen, compared with 1,862 in 1957. The basic daily wage for the company's unskilled and skilled workers ranged from \$M4.08 to \$M6.64 in 1953 and from \$M4.22 to \$M11 in 1957. Aside from amenities such as free housing, the daily earnings of rubber tappers in 1957 averaged \$M3.24 per day, compared with \$M3.42 at the end of 1952. The rubber estates employed approximately 1,000 workers. The wages in the sawmills, with roughly 4,200 workers in 1956, had a rate ranging from \$3.00 to \$12.00 per day with an average rate of \$5.61.

There is no unemployment as demand for labour exceeds supply; recruitment from Hong Kong and Singapore helped to overcome the shortage of skilled labour in construction work. Trade union legislation was enacted in 1947, and at the end of the year, four unions had been registered. In 1957, three trade unions were added to the register, bringing the total to thirty-two, with a total membership of about 6,000. The first major strike since 1952 occurred in June 1957 and resulted in a loss of 1,452 working days.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1956, replacing the 1949 Ordinance, increased the amount of compensation to workmen (or their dependants) who have been injured or killed in the course of their employment.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A Co-operative Societies Ordinance 1948 came into operation in 1949; field staff were trained and demonstration societies were started in selected areas. A five-year plan of development of the movement was initiated which led, in 1953, to the establishment of a secondary society, a Co-operative Central Bank. In the same year, an expert of the International Labour Organisation visited Sarawak and reported on ways of introducing co-operative principles to the Chinese of the Territory. In 1957, a co-operative officer was awarded an ILO Fellowship to study in Malaya, India and Ceylon and arrangements were also made for staff training at the Co-operative College at Kuala Lumpur (Malaya).

The co-operative societies are organized mainly on ethnic lines; only eight out of a total of 150 in 1956 were mixed societies. Credit societies and padi-saving and padi-milling societies form the majority. Four societies are engaged in marketing the products of their members (fish, vegetables, poultry). By 1956, there were two secondary societies, including the Bank. To broaden the range of purposes for which co-operative societies may be financed, the Government in 1957 granted to the Bank a loan of \$M250,000, interest-free for ten years.

	<u>Co-operative societies</u>		
	<u>1949</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1956^{a/}</u>
Registered societies	24	109	150
Membership	1,481	6,901	10,454
Total assets (\$M)	39,533	560,077	1,284,400
Total liabilities (\$M)	39,533	586,736	1,308,637
Share capital	30,825	225,593	360,296

a/ During 1957, ten new societies with an initial membership of 296 were added to the register, making a total of 160.

STANDARD OF LIVING

As part of the survey of the fiscal system of Sarawak, a national income study was conducted in 1955 which attempted to measure the gross domestic product. The survey gave the following figures:

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Approximate estimates of gross domestic product, 1947-1954

(at market value in millions of Malayan dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	109	127	262	203	192	198
Mining	21	77	43	38	37	41
All other activities	<u>55</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>105</u>
Total	185	269	404	337	331	344

From these figures it was concluded that the income per head appeared to be \$M500 per annum; this was probably rather evenly distributed as there were few very high incomes.

A price index has been kept with the basic figure of 100 for August 1950. It gave a figure of 122 in 1955, 119.6 in 1956 and 121.2 in 1957.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

In the principal towns, over-crowding remains a major problem notwithstanding measures taken to alleviate the general housing shortage such as the provision for home ownership schemes and town development projects. A Town and Country Planning Ordinance was enacted in 1952 and in Kuching, a master plan was approved in principle that same year. The development of Kuching and other larger towns was subsequently undertaken by standing committees of their urban councils which are responsible for planning. In the past few years, the Government has tried without success to recruit a town planning officer.

The first low-cost housing project in Kuching, at a cost of \$M3,845,300, began in 1954 and in November 1956 the first phase of the project, providing for 532 housing units, was completed. A private development, a building estate of 169 units, was started in 1957. In Sibuluan, where considerable building construction took place, a site of fifty acres was acquired in 1957 for a proposed low-cost housing scheme to be carried out by the urban council.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

In 1947, a social welfare advisory committee was set up to consider and advise on the extension of social welfare work. In 1952, it was decided to

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organize social welfare work through volunteer bodies with no special government department, as much of the work in the Chinese community had been undertaken by voluntary organizations. In 1953, the pattern for the organization of social welfare emerged when a Social Welfare Council consisting of six appointed members, eight nominated members representing eight large social organizations and twenty delegated members from other societies and committees began to function as the central agent for social welfare. Small local committees varying in size and organization were established to administer social welfare in their own districts. The Social Welfare Council depends on annual government grants (\$M80,000) and on contributions and interest for its expenditure. The Council's income increased from \$M142,050 in 1954 to \$M274,456 in 1957. The Council makes grants to various institutions for their social welfare projects; in 1957 it gave \$M19,634 in food parcels and \$M12,500 in cash to relief committees.

The Council has been assisted by a trained social welfare officer from the United Kingdom since 1954. For some time the Government has offered two social welfare scholarships for training overseas.

Community development

The community development movement is administered by a committee of administrative and departmental heads under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Secretary; a trained officer is its executive secretary.

Since 1949, the Committee has conducted pilot projects in adult literacy for Sea-Dayaks and Malays, in Malay farm and village improvement, and in Sea-Dayak area development. It has helped a Heng Hua sea-fishing community to move from slum dwellings and to build a new co-operative village with roads and water supply.

A major scheme was the establishment in 1948 of a rural improvement school at Kanowit (Sea-Dayak area). It provided a two-year residential course designed to give selected couples and young men a practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare. Fifty-two couples and eighteen single persons had completed the course by April 1954. An agricultural development officer loaned by Australia under the Colombo Plan was in charge of the school during 1954. In 1955, the school had no principal and, owing chiefly to persistent staffing difficulties, it was closed in April 1957.

A community development scheme among the Sea-Dayaks in the Kalaka District has been directed towards the improvement of health, training in co-operation and the introduction of new agricultural techniques. In 1957, the scheme entered a new phase when the number of expatriate assistants was reduced from three to one and increased authority was given to the local committee (the Progress Society). This committee sent seven young people to the United Kingdom, one to Malaya and two to Kuching for training as future executives.

The Padawan Scheme among the Land-Dayaks began in January 1957 and has already effected changes in this community. Village Progress Committees have built paths and bridges, contributed materials and labour to build a community development centre (with clinic, workshop, classrooms and playing fields), and have in many cases reallocated land holdings to facilitate rubber and other crop plantings.

In the past few years, special attention has been paid to the training of women and girls in multi-purpose schemes and in the centres at Kanowit and Kuching. During 1957, an assistant was temporarily posted to Radio Sarawak to feature community development in broadcast programmes.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

The crime rate remained low but the total number of cases reported to the police increased. Improved economic conditions were often reflected in the reduction of thefts. In 1957, forty out of the fifty-one juvenile offenders were charged with stealing. Intensified police action against illegal immigration resulted in 1957 in 1,446 cases as compared with 704 in 1956. Comparable data on the crime rate are not available before 1954.

Crime statistics

	Number of convictions		
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Offences against the person	110	112	124
Offences against property	249	231	283
Offences against penal codes	178	147	195
Offences against local laws	<u>2,819</u>	<u>4,857</u>	<u>5,359</u>
	3,356	5,347	5,961

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PUBLIC HEALTH

The difficulty of obtaining trained personnel for the senior posts in the Medical and Health Department and the impossibility of recruiting educated boys and girls in Sarawak to be trained as medical auxiliaries, have hindered from the beginning the work of the Department. At the end of 1947, only six of the twelve new senior staff members had arrived in the Territory. In 1948, seven posts of medical officer were established but only four could be filled. Since 1955, the staff situation has improved and in 1956 only two of the fifty approved posts for senior staff were not filled. A programme of training nurses, laboratory technicians and dispensers in the Territory has been expanded. Midwife-training was successful and, since 1952, a large number of rural midwives completed the one-year course and returned for service in their own districts. Schemes for training medical personnel overseas were provided, and during 1957 thirty-one students were studying medicine, nursing and public health in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and Malaya. Rural medical services have utilized travelling dispensaries, including floating dispensaries, so as to overcome the problems posed by scattered populations and poor communications. Despite every effort, it was not possible to recruit doctors during 1957 for a Travelling Doctors' Scheme.

Expansion of medical facilities and services included the extension of the Kuching General Hospital, the construction of a new mental hospital in Kuching, the rebuilding of a leper settlement and the opening of new clinics and health centres. Maternal and child health organizations exist in the main towns and over 90 per cent of all births in Kuching are now attended by a doctor or a midwife. Four fully qualified dentists in the dental department operate principally in Kuching and Sibü.

Most of the communicable diseases, which were the principal causes of death in the main centres, were under control. Yaws, malaria, and tuberculosis remained the most common diseases in the rural areas. With the assistance of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, a B.C.G. vaccination project was started in 1952 to provide 100,000 persons with protective vaccination against tuberculosis and to train local personnel in the techniques necessary to carry on the work. By 1953 over 140,000 persons had been tested and vaccinated. The project has been continued with local personnel. On the Baram River, a pilot

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anti-malaria project was started in 1953 assisted by WHO; the conclusion in 1954 was that under conditions prevailing in Sarawak malaria could be controlled by residual spraying. The project became in 1956 a country-wide eradication scheme with the help of three WHO experts. It is expected that by the end of 1958 all malarious regions in Sarawak will have been sprayed.

For the improvement of water supplies in Kuching and other centres and in rural areas, an expenditure of M\$4.6 million had been included in the development plan (1955-60). During 1957, experimental work was done on the installation of shallow bore-wells in rural areas.

Senior government medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Medical officers	6	14 ^{a/}	21 ^{a/}
Dental officers	1	3 ^{b/}	4 ^{b/}
Senior nurses	2	15 ^{b/}	18 ^{b/}
Health inspectors	1	1	1

a/ One seconded to Brunei

b/ Four seconded to Brunei

Number of hospital beds

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Kuching General Hospital	250	283	269
Kuching Mental Hospital	100	100	220
Sibu Hospital	55	135	131
Simanggang Hospital	-	54	42
S.O.L. Hospital, Miri	100	120	...

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

When civil government was re-established in 1946, an administrative officer was appointed to take charge of all educational services, including the Chinese school system. In 1947 a professionally qualified director of education was appointed. An education ordinance was enacted in 1950 (amended in 1955) providing for registration of schools and teachers, inspection of schools, grants-in-aid and the formation of educational advisory committees. The basic policy of the Education Department aims at providing four to six years of free and compulsory education for all children.

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Progress made in education during the past decade is reflected in the expansion of the Department and in the increase in the number of schools and enrolment. The senior staff of the Department rose from three in 1947 to twenty-eight in 1957. Additional senior posts created during 1957 were Supervisor of Technical Education, Schools Broadcasting Organizer and Director of the Literature Bureau. For 1956 and 1957, the increase in enrolment was about 10,000 annually. The school-age population in 1957 was estimated at 126,000 to 142,000, of whom almost 80,000 attended school. The greatest expansion was in the system of primary education.

Prior to the war, there was only one government school for indigenous pupils (excluding Malays and Meleenaus). By the end of 1947, seventeen government schools had been established to meet the requests of the Land and Sea Dayaks and Muruts. Local government authorities began to assume responsibility for primary education in their areas and by 1957, when the jurisdiction of these authorities extended to nearly every part of the Territory, the number of local authority schools had risen to 270. All but three of the primary schools, which had remained under central government control, were handed over to local government authorities in 1957, and seventy new primary schools were opened, nearly all for indigenous pupils. The number of indigenous children attending school rose from 6,246 in 1947 to 27,520 in 1957.

The ethnic composition of the population and geographical and historical factors have influenced the development of the educational system in Sarawak. Schools are divided into two general categories: public and private institutions. The former include the central government and local authority schools, while the latter consists of Chinese, mission and village committee schools. In the public and primary schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction. In the urban schools, however, English is the medium of instruction. Secondary education was largely provided by the mission and Chinese schools. Before the Government decided in 1956 to establish a nucleus of secondary schools throughout the Territory, the enrolment in the two government junior high schools amounted to 288 out of a total secondary school population of 7,174. With the assistance of the New Zealand Government, which provided three teachers under the Colombo Plan, the first government secondary school was opened in 1957 at Miri. Preparations were

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made also to open in 1958 the former Rural Improvement School at Kanowit as a government secondary school. In 1957, indigenous pupils numbered 911 out of a total secondary school population of 7,993.

The Department is now confronted with the task of overcoming the wide disparity in educational level between the indigenous and non-indigenous population and to integrate the different school systems into a national system. In addition to the establishment of secondary schools on a multi-racial basis, other measures have been taken to bring about greater uniformity.

The system of financing education has been subject to a review made by an expert from England in 1954, who recommended that more public funds should be devoted to education, and the system of grants to voluntary agencies revised. This led in 1955 to the adoption of a new Grant Code, under which a major portion of approved recurrent expenditure, and up to 50 per cent of approved capital expenditure of these agencies may be met from public funds. All schools under local authorities as well as Chinese and mission schools are now eligible for the same financial assistance and all teachers in government and aided schools are paid according to the same salary scales. While it was not possible to introduce in all schools common syllabuses and textbooks, though in different languages, a committee has been appointed to examine the suitability of the present textbooks and syllabuses in Chinese schools and to recommend necessary changes. Steps taken towards integration of the English and Chinese systems include examination of syllabuses in the English and Chinese schools to find grounds for common examination papers, and the introduction of Chinese as a subject in English schools.

An advisory committee on education was formed in 1956 in order that important matters of policy may be considered by representatives of different types of schools and by leaders of public life.

The expansion of the school system has called for an increase in the number of trained teachers. Initially, under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, a teacher-training centre was opened at Batu Lintang in 1948 to provide teachers for Dayak and Malay schools. By the end of 1954, over 250 students had been awarded certificates as primary school teachers. In 1957, the minimum qualification, both for entry at Batu Lintang and for registration as an untrained

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teacher, was raised, and an additional teacher-training centre was opened, designed to produce fifty trained teachers a year, mainly for Chinese schools.

There is no university in Sarawak, but scholarships for higher education and training overseas are awarded by the Governments of Sarawak, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and by private organizations. The number of students studying overseas with the aid of scholarships was nine in 1947 and ninety-nine in 1957. Thirty-four of the ninety-nine students had received Colombo Plan scholarships.

The Education Department's expenditure rose from \$M235,163 in 1947 to \$M9,016,000, which included \$M1,888,000 for development schemes, in 1957. The new grant system was principally responsible for the increases in 1956 and in 1957 when expenditure on recurrent grants amounted respectively to \$M4,663,785 and to \$M5,612,080. Capital grants to aided schools for buildings and equipment amounted to \$M155,880 in 1956 and \$M541,000 in 1957.

	<u>Schools^{a/}</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Central government	72	41	3	3
Aided:				
Local authority	-	99	270	-
Private (village com.)	8	49	7	-
Mission	58	85	121	17
Chinese	192	238	241	14
Unaided	-	-	34	2
Total	330	512	712	

a/ Available figures for 1947 and 1953 gave no breakdown between primary and secondary schools. The 1957 figures do not include three teacher-training schools with a total enrolment of 260.

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Pupils</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Central government	4,416	3,527	398	66
Aided:				
Local authority	-	3,608	12,782	4,400
Private (village com.)	591	2,407	474	319
Mission	5,089	9,446	10,673	5,415
Chinese	19,522	30,084	25,459	17,548
Unaided	-	-	1,114	759
Total	29,618	49,072	79,407	/...

		<u>Teachers</u>			
				<u>1957</u>	
<u>Schools</u>		<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Central government		146	99	15	3
Aided:					
Local authority		-	126	1,779	721
Private (village com.)		18	65
Mission		192	320
Chinese		656	999
Unaided		-	-	27	30
Total		<u>1,012</u>	<u>1,609</u>	<u>2,575</u>	

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The British Council provided libraries and reading rooms as well as film shows for schools at Kuching and Sibul. Under the development plan (1955-1960), a sum of \$M250,000 has been allocated for the establishment of libraries at the main centres of population. A central library has been established in Kuching and smaller libraries in other towns. A building for the Sarawak Museum was completed in 1956. The Museum is a centre of anthropological and archeological research in Borneo, and has carried out, with the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare funds, a series of socio-economic studies of the Land-Dayaks, Sea-Dayaks, Melanaus and Sarawak Chinese. A survey of Malay communities was under preparation. The results of its archeological and other work are published twice a year in the Sarawak Museum Journal.

For disseminating official news and information, a government service, started originally on a temporary basis, became a permanent department in 1954. During 1957 the circulation of the department's English weekly (Sarawak in the Week) increased from 350 to 650 copies and its Malay counterpart was first issued. Four mobile cinema units of the Information Service showed educational, documentary and news films.

The English, Chinese and Malay press in Sarawak has grown in size and influence: two Chinese and one English daily newspapers, in addition to two periodicals in English and Chinese, were published in 1947, compared with six Chinese and one English daily newspaper and ten periodicals in Chinese, English Malay and Iban in 1957.

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Over \$M400,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds were contributed towards the capital cost of a broadcasting service. Radio Sarawak was inaugurated in 1954. In 1957, the staff numbered 102, of whom ninety-six were Asians and Radio Sarawak broadcasted twelve hours of programmes daily in English, Malay, Chinese and Iban. It has also assisted schools in transmitting educational programmes. A mobile broadcasting unit covers important events in the rural areas.
