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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

Other Territories

ST. HELENA^{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 (...)	information not available
Dash (-)	information negligible or non-existent
Slash 1948/1949	crop or financial year
Hyphen 1948-1949	annual average

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GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Helena Island in the South Atlantic Ocean has an area of forty-seven square miles (122 square kilometres). The capital is Jamestown, which had 1,568 inhabitants in 1956.

The population is largely of mixed origin; the language has always been English. Despite a substantial excess of births over deaths, the number of inhabitants has remained relatively stable over the last ten years, owing to emigration. The last census was taken in 1956, when the population was 4,642, estimated mid-1957 population was 4,649.

Dependencies of St. Helena are Ascension Island since 1922 and Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands since 1938. The last two islands are uninhabited.

Vital statistics

(St. Helena excluding dependencies)

	<u>Rates per thousand population</u>		
	<u>1946</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1957</u>
Live births	28.3	31.1	25.8
Deaths under 1 year	108.0	47.0	41.7
Deaths	10.8	8.4	12.0

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economy is dependent on agriculture. Owing to the limited cultivable area, the lack of power and raw materials, the Territory imports part of its food supply and all of its consumer and capital goods. Export earnings, arising principally from New Zealand hemp, do not meet the costs of imports. The fall in the export price of hemp since 1951 has led to depressed economic conditions and to an increasingly adverse balance of trade aggravated by rising import prices.

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Throughout the period under review, the Island has relied on metropolitan grants-in-aid to balance its budget; the Island has also benefited from continued and substantial Colonial Development and Welfare grants. Available resources, including Colonial Development and Welfare allocations, have been mainly concentrated on agricultural development, with particular attention to soil conservation, reforestation and development of water resources.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Of the total area, about five square miles are under hemp (Phormium tenax) seven square miles are pasture, about 1,000 acres are established forest and some 500 acres are arable; the remainder is waste land, some of which could be brought back to forest through assisted natural regeneration. Soil erosion has been a major problem, which is being gradually controlled. A rat eradication scheme initiated in 1953 has been effective in reducing damage to growing crops. Experiments are continuing to develop the lily bulb industry and the Agriculture Department is seeking to develop export crops other than hemp. In 1956, an entomologist was appointed for two years to study local insect pests and their control.

There is a Land Settlement and Government Pasturages Advisory Committee, established in 1954.

Agricultural training is fostered through a Young Farmers Club. A Youth Training Scheme, financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds, to train boys leaving school in practical farming was started in 1954. In 1956, the government farm was handed over to the scheme.

Associations for the encouragement of agriculture exist in most districts: under the Territory's 1956 constitution, they are consulted on the choice of representatives to serve on the Advisory Council. An Agriculture Society was founded in 1954 to further the welfare of agriculture.

Since 1947, land under flax has increased. Production of hemp, tow and rope has declined from 784, 393 and 61 long tons respectively in 1947 to 505, 268 and 42 long tons in 1954; production has since risen to 629 long tons of hemp, 178 long tons of tow and 45 long tons of rope in 1957. The acreage under potatoes, sweet potatoes and vegetables has almost doubled between 1947 and 1956,

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from about 130 acres to about 250 acres, thus ending the shortages of potatoes which were common prior to 1954. The St. Helena Growers Co-operative Society markets local produce and provides seeds and fertilizers; the value of total sales has risen from less than £1,000^{2/} in 1947 to £3,225 in 1956.

Measures taken to control range animals and to protect pastures are reflected in a decline in the number of goats, from nearly 2,200 in 1947 to 1,716 in 1957 and in the number of sheep from 3,315 to 1,163. Cattle, which had decreased from 900 in 1947 to about 700 in 1954, numbered 871 in 1957. The breeding of pigs is encouraged by the Department of Agriculture, but as yet they number less than 350. Donkeys have declined from 1,274 in 1947 to 1,125 in 1957, but still exceed the Territory's requirements.

Improvements have been made in livestock and poultry by the introduction of superior breeding stock. As a result of the pasture improvement programme followed since 1946, the amount of fodder crops grown has increased and in 1954 haymaking was started again for the first time in twenty-five years.

Despite an increase in pork production, there is often a shortage of locally-produced meat. The output of milk (2,000 gallons in 1947 and about 12,000 gallons in 1956) now meets the local demand. Experiments in cheese-making have started.

FORESTRY

Main objectives of forest policy are soil and water conservation and the increase in fuel supplies.

Since 1940, reforestation has proceeded by annual plantings and by natural regeneration, assisted by the limitation of areas where range animals may be freely kept and by keeping the felling of trees to a minimum despite a chronic local shortage of firewood. In 1954, a Forestry Advisory Committee was established and a new Forest Ordinance enacted, providing for the constitution of national, dedicated and protected private forests. In 1939, it was estimated that only 400 acres of woods remained: by 1956, forests comprised more than 1,200 acres, of which about 1,000 were national forests. More than 180,000 trees have been planted by the Forestry Division since 1953 with Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

^{2/} The currency of St. Helena is the pound sterling which equals US\$2.80.

FISHERIES

Although fish are plentiful in St. Helena waters, the number of boats employed has declined from thirty-two in 1946 to twenty-five in 1956 and the number of fishermen from fifty-one to forty. A fish cannery opened at the beginning of 1957 was unsuccessful and closed after a few months.

POWER

Electricity, supplied by a private firm, has been available in Jamestown on a twenty-four-hour basis since 1954; available capacity is 75 kw.

There is no central waterworks; about 80 per cent of the population have a piped water supply.

INDUSTRY

The only industry is the processing of hemp into tow, rope and twine. The number of hemp mills in operation has fallen from eight in 1948 to five in 1957. Owing to improved milling efficiency, the government-owned mill has become redundant and has been permanently closed.

The Handicrafts Association, which previously received a government subsidy of £60 per annum, became self-supporting in 1949; in 1956 it had 130 active members doing lace, embroidery, woodwork and fibre work.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

There are sixty-four and a half miles of motor-roads, many of which have been bitumen-surfaced since 1946. There is no public transport system. The number of motor vehicles increased from 150 in 1951 to 209 in 1956, including sixty-five taxis.

In 1957, forty-three merchant ships, with a net registered tonnage of 309,116 called at Jamestown, the only harbour, as compared with twenty-two vessels totalling 122,160 net registered tons in 1946. There are no air services. There is no internal postal service. The capacity of the government-owned telephone service has been expanded from seventy-five lines in 1947 to eighty-five lines. Cable and Wireless Ltd. operate a submarine cable and provide radio facilities.

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PUBLIC FINANCE

The Territorial budget covers all public expenditure. The currency is the pound sterling; estimated currency in circulation at the end of 1955 was £40,000, which was the same amount as in 1947. There is no public debt.

<u>Revenue and expenditure</u>			
(thousand pounds)			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue			
Territorial	37.1	85.4	71.6
Metropolitan grant-in-aid	-	25.7	62.5
Colonial Development and Welfare grants	<u>23.6</u>	<u>25.1</u>	<u>33.9</u>
Total Revenue	60.7	136.2	168.0
Expenditure			
Territorial	101.0	116.8	137.4
Colonial Development and Welfare schemes	<u>23.8</u>	<u>22.3</u>	<u>35.2</u>
Total Expenditure	124.8	139.1	172.6
Main heads of territorial revenue			
Customs	13.8	26.8	19.2
Licences, taxes and court fees	3.3	8.8	9.9
Ascension Island	5.3	6.0	23.0
Main heads of territorial expenditure			
Public works (recurrent and non-recurrent)	37.6	28.2	27.1
Public health	7.6	12.1	15.9
Education	7.4	13.2	13.9
Agriculture and forestry	11.2	11.9	11.9
Poor relief	4.8	8.5	8.6
Ascension Island	1.7	1.1	9.8

Succession and death duties, introduced in 1942, were increased in 1949. An entertainment tax was introduced in 1947. Personal income and company taxes, at the rate of $3 \frac{3}{4}$ per cent and $7 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent of taxable income respectively, became payable in 1954. An export tax is imposed on hemp when the price on the London market exceeds £70 per ton.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE
(thousand pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Imports	107.5	209.5	201.1
Exports	48.0	82.9	69.8

The value of the principal export, phormium fibre and its products, has declined from £135,543 in 1952 to £44,767 in 1957. The bulk of exports is to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The island is free from major social problems. Men and women have the same status and equality of opportunity.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The principal employers of labour are the Government and the hemp millers.

Despite some emigration and an expansion in government activities, the supply of labour since 1946 has remained in excess of local requirements and the number of men on relief work has fluctuated between 130 and 180 in any one year. The number of persons from St. Helena employed on Ascension Island normally fluctuates between 100 and 200 but in the last two years it has been over 300.

There is a Factories Board and an Inspector of Factories. The rare labour disputes are settled in consultation with Government.

The principal categories of wage-earners are as follows:

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	<u>Number</u>			<u>Daily wage</u>			
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1956</u>		
				s.d.	s.d.	s.d.	s.d.
Flax workers	177	258	215	2.6 ^{a/} to	3.5	6.0 ^{a/} to	6.8
Agricultural labourers							
Government	{164	280	200	3.5	3.0	9.0	
Private				2.3 ^{a/} to		6.8	
Skilled labourers	{344	450	380	4.2	3.5	9.3 1/2 to	10.8
General labourers				2.3 ^{a/} to		6.8 ^{b/} to	9.0 ^{c/}
Fishermen and boatmen	51	40	40
Mechanics and motor drivers	71	100	70

a/ Females.

b/ Employed by private firms.

c/ Employed by the Government.

In 1957, wages declined slightly.

The cost of living index has moved from 166 (1939 = 100) in 1948 to 214 in 1956 and to 224 in 1957.

The average hours of work have declined from forty-eight per week in 1947 to forty-five per week in 1956.

The Agricultural and Forestry and the Public Works Departments train between twelve and twenty-five apprentices every year. The term of apprenticeship is three years.

Labour legislation comprises the Factories Ordinance 1937, the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance brought into force in 1947 and the Contracts of Service Ordinance 1951. Thirty-five International Labour Conventions are adhered to.

HOUSING

There are no building contractors and all houses not erected by the inhabitants themselves for their own use are built by the government Public Works Department. Between 1944 and the end of 1955, 120 houses and flats for rent had been built by the Government with Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and eight houses had been built for private owners. Subsidies up to a maximum of

£50 are given to inhabitants building their own home in conformity with certain minimum requirements. Loans on easy repayment terms for the purchase of imported building materials are granted from the Housing Loan Revolving Fund. It is estimated that about 23 per cent of the total population enjoy improved housing as a result of the programme undertaken.

SOCIAL SECURITY, WELFARE AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Labourers receive up to thirty days sick leave with pay in any twelve consecutive months. Unemployment relief is given at weekly rates from 20 shillings for a single person to 27 shillings 1 penny for a person with four dependants. Workmen's compensation is paid for death or disablement.

The care and relief of the destitute is in the hands of a Statutory Poor Relief Board, which levies an annual rate on property owners and since 1947 has received an annual government grant of £500. It maintains a poor-house with twenty to twenty-five inmates. In 1957, eighty-six persons were in receipt of outdoor relief.

There were six Friendly Societies with a total membership of 3,047 in 1955, compared with 2,536 in 1947. The Societies provide for old age pensions, sick relief pay or burial expenses.

There are four community associations in rural areas, one of which has a social centre. A Social Welfare Officer, who acts also as Probation Officer and Labour Inspector, was appointed in 1956 and a Social Welfare Advisory Committee was formed in 1957.

There is some petty thieving, particularly by juveniles, but little serious crime.

The number of persons sentenced to prison in any one year has ranged from two to ten. A second prison was opened in 1956.

Corporal punishment for juveniles was abolished in 1950.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no tropical diseases and the general health of the population is good; epidemics of influenza and other infectious diseases, however, sometimes affect a large proportion of the population.

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In 1956, the medical and health staff included two registered physicians, one dentist, four nursing sisters, nine nurses (including six probationers), three dressers, one health and one sanitary inspector and four mental hospital staff. The medical and health staff has remained substantially unchanged since 1947. There are no private medical practitioners or nurses. Two midwives have been locally trained since 1953.

The general hospital with thirty-two beds was completely modernized in 1955 and a physiotherapy department was added. The mental asylum with twenty beds was modernized in 1954. The leper station was closed in 1956.

As in 1946, there are five out-patient clinics where free ante- and post-natal consultations are given.

In 1953 a Nurses and Midwives Board of Control was established, and a Nurses' Training School has started.

A water-borne sewage system exists in Jamestown. A campaign against ascariasis was initiated in 1955 through the provision of safer sewage control methods and the intensive treatment of known cases.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Under the Education Ordinance of 1941, which amalgamated church, charity and government schools, education is free and compulsory between the ages of five and fifteen years. The population is almost entirely literate.

A Board of Education comprising professional and lay members advises on policy and administration. There is a Parent-Teachers' Association in Jamestown and three district associations in rural areas.

	<u>Schools</u>		<u>Teachers</u> ^{a/}		<u>Pupils</u>			
	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Secondary</u>	
					<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
1946	11	1		52	492	638	4	8
1952	11	1	55	4	1,221			48
1956	11	1		61	1,275			62

a/ Including part-time and pupil teachers.

The secondary school was started in 1946. Vocational training is given in the secondary and post-primary schools.

The first officer appointed specifically for teacher-training duties arrived in 1950. A pupil teacher system has long been operating: training extends over a four-year period. Since 1955, one student-teacher every year has been sent to the United Kingdom for training on Colonial Development and Welfare scholarships.

Most schools have been rebuilt or expanded since 1946. School meals, discontinued in 1950 owing to lack of funds, were provided again in 1956: free milk and fish oil capsules were issued in 1957 under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund. A school dental service is maintained.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The Education Officer and his staff function also as the Information Department, providing library facilities, cinema shows and periodicals. There is a public library with some 3,000 books in Jamestown. A weekly news sheet and, since 1955, a monthly magazine (circulation about 600) are published by the Department. There are two privately owned cinemas. No broadcasting station exists.

Group activities include boy-scouts, girl guides, women's institutes and a Red Cross group.

DEPENDENCIES OF ST. HELENA

Ascension Island

The area is about thirty-four square miles. The inhabitants, either European or St. Helenian employees of Cable and Wireless Ltd. with their dependants, totalled 158 in 1949 and 504 in 1957.

Tristan Da Cunha

Tristan da Cunha, approximately 1,500 miles south-south-west of St. Helena in the South Atlantic ocean, is a partly wooded volcanic cone, with an area of forty square miles.

Following a long period of isolation, a meteorological and wireless station was established on the island in 1942. A post-office was established in 1952 and a public radio-telegraph service in 1954.

The population totalled 266 in 1950, comprising 240 islanders, all of European origin, and 26 non-islanders; by the end of 1955 the population had grown to 286, comprising 253 islanders and 33 non-islanders.

In 1949, the Tristan da Cunha Development Company, a South African concern, obtained a twenty-five year crayfish fishing and processing concession. In 1950, the Colonial Development Corporation acquired a controlling interest in the Company and erected a cannery on the island.

Exports for the 1954/1955 season were 25,234 cases of frozen tails and 1,413 cases of canned crayfish.

The staple subsistence crop is potatoes. By the terms of its concession the Company was required to maintain an agriculturist; this responsibility was assumed by the Government in 1953. A government farm has been started. Colonial Development and Welfare grants have been obtained for the introduction of fruit trees and for a programme of reafforestation.

The major portion of revenue is derived from the Development Company's subventions, sale of postage stamps and a cess on the export of crayfish.

A Trust Fund in the Union of South Africa was established in 1951 for the provision of scholarships, the construction and maintenance of communal buildings and the provision of special medical treatment.

Due to their isolation, the inhabitants are very vulnerable to epidemic diseases such as colds and influenza, which tend to occur after the arrival of a ship. Since 1950, the whole population has been vaccinated against small-pox and pulmonary tuberculosis and children are immunized against diphtheria.

A survey was carried out in 1955 for the purpose of establishing a water-supply and drainage system.
