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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

BAHAMAS^{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 Bahamas archipelago lies across the sector of the Atlantic Ocean between the tip of Florida and the coasts of Cuba and Haiti. Extending over an area of 760 miles, it comprises nearly 700 islands having a land surface of some 4,400 square miles. New Providence, although not the largest, is the most important island. Nassau, the capital, is located there and is inhabited by more than one-fourth of the total population. The climate is sub-tropical, and the rainfall is slight. The population was estimated at 131,000 at the end of 1957 and, with the exception of about one-sixth, is Negro or mixed.

	<u>Population</u>		
	<u>1 July 1947</u>	<u>1 July 1953</u>	<u>1 July 1957</u>
	74,185	85,328	123,000
	<u>Vital statistics</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	32.6	35.8	25.4
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.3	10.6	6.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000			
Live births	91.5	66.8	40.3

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Tourism is the mainstay of the Territory and the decisive factor in the economic expansion which has taken place. Its continuing development occupies directly and indirectly the attention of almost the entire population. Until recently, Nassau had a monopoly of the tourist trade, but the Out Islands are now competing with it. The Development Board is pursuing the expansion of the industry energetically. Closely related to tourism, there has been a building boom, continuing encouragement being given to the construction of new hotels, apartment

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houses and homes. Over the period, the number of visitors has increased from about 30,688 to 195,000 a year.

The development of Freeport, an area on Grand Bahamas Island where industrial projects largely financed by American capital are being undertaken, is providing increasing opportunities for employment. This large development has the approval of the Bahamas Legislature but is not a government scheme. The Bahamas Government has undertaken to supply - on reimbursement - administrative, police, customs and immigration staff, who will remain under its control. The Freeport Authority will provide its own medical and educational facilities, subject to inspection of these services by the Government. Licences to operate within the Freeport area are granted by the Freeport Authority, copies being sent to the Government. In 1951, the Industries Encouragement Act was enacted to attract light industries. It provided exemption from payment of duty on the importation of materials as well as of emergency and export taxes. At that time, the bulk of capital flowing into the Territory was being invested in real estate. By the end of the period, a great deal of foreign capital was going into the formation of a number of subsidiary companies of large American concerns. Other economic activities are agriculture, livestock raising, forestry, fisheries and the salt industry and, in the aggregate, they substantially contribute to the economy especially by way of employment and exports.

At the end of the period, domestic exports had earned some £793,000, lumber being the most valuable.^{2/} Imports totalled about £15.2 million as compared with £4.2 million in 1947. The budget estimates over the same period provided for an expenditure of some £4.3 million in 1957 compared with £1.1 million ten years previously and revenues of £4.9 million as compared with £1.3 million.

The expanding tourist trade, the continuing increase of capital investment, the buoyancy in revenue and the general absence of unemployment all contribute to an apparently expanding economy.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

There is very little arable land, some 30,000 acres being cultivated annually. The nature of the terrain and the paucity of the soil limit the scope of farming, which is a peasant industry. The main crops are vegetables, onions, okras and

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

tomatoes, the last two being raised mainly for export. The value of okras has declined from about £17,000 to £3,000 and tomatoes from £46,000 to about £40,000. The decline in exports of tomatoes is attributable to competition offered by growers in Florida, United States of America. All produce for export is crated and packed under government supervision by the Bahamas Produce Exchange, which also markets farm products for the farmers' associations. There are no credit facilities available to farmers other than advances by the Board of Agriculture for the purchase of agricultural supplies such as seed and fertilizer for crop production.

Land utilization

	Production			Value (£)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Tomatoes (000 bu.)	53 ^{a/}	88	70 ^{b/}	46,350	119,165	39,781
Okra (000 lb.)	670	773	1,090 ^{c/}	16,749	22,289	3,255
Onions (short tons)	...	118	160	...	5,899	8,000
Pigeon peas, beans (bu.)	...	2,700	3,400

- a/ Exports.
b/ Number of bu. processes by canneries only.
c/ Cwt.

Livestock

Generally, governmental activities affecting the livestock industry have taken the form of the provision by the Board of Agriculture of superior sires for stock improvement and veterinary services. Except for poultry, the bulk of livestock is owned by peasant farmers. About one-half of the total number of poultry is owned by a private concern, which is reported to be the most important agricultural undertaking in the Bahamas.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Poultry	337,000	405,000	407,500
Sheep	20,700	22,200	22,500
Goats	13,000	14,000	14,250
Pigs	7,000	10,000	10,000
Cattle	3,100	3,300	3,550

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FORESTRY

The timber industry is confined to the pine forests in the Out Islands and is organized by three companies. The main exploited timber is yellow pine (pinus caribaea). During 1957, one of the companies discontinued lumber production and embarked upon the production of pulpwood. This new industry is considered to promise well for the future stability of the forest industry. The lumber produced is marketed locally or in the Caribbean area, while pit-props have been sold in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Since 1947, kiln-drying has been introduced and production speeded up.

	Production (in Bahamas pounds)					
	1947		1953		1957 ^{a/}	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value ^{b/}
Pit-props (cu.ft.)	11,133	228,344	10,725	186,922 ^{d/}
Lumber (ft.)	965,000	38,069 ^{c/}	4,609,000	207,088	15,175,412	246,795
Pulpwood (cords)	-	-	-	-	56,368 ^{e/}	...

a/ Export.

b/ 1955 figures.

c/ Value of exports.

d/ Production discontinued.

e/ Including exports of about one-half valued at £193,000.

FISHERIES

Nassau provides the chief market for fish caught locally. It is estimated that 1,500 men are engaged in this phase of the industry, most of them having their own boats. In terms of export value, crawfish is the most important. It is seasonal and production for export is under licence issued by the Agriculture and Marine Products Board. Its export value has risen from about £68,000 to £196,000. Of the other marine products, salt and sponge are the most important. Production of the former has continued to expand, exports rising during the period under review from 2,033,000 bushels worth about £66,000 to 3,176,000 bushels

worth £159,020. At the outset, sponge exports were earning some £52,000; however, the devastation wrought by a marine disease led to the closing of the sponge beds from 1949-1956 to facilitate recovery. The value of production in 1957 was almost £30,000. During the last four years of the period, the number of plants processing frozen lobster tails and fish fillets for export increased from one to three.

POWER

In 1956, a Government corporation was set up in New Providence to succeed the Bahamas government electrical department as owner and operator of all public electricity generating plants. In the Out Islands, privately owned plants provide limited services to the general public. Extensive plans have been made for the construction of additional generator facilities, some of which will serve two evaporator units for distilling sea water for drinking which will become a part of the public water system. Orders have already been placed for some of the generating equipment, and a power station has been erected in the industrial area. The expansion is taking place in response to an ever-increasing consumer demand for additional service. The supply has increased from 13.3 million kwh in 1947 to 45.4 million kwh in 1957 and the number of consumers from 4,988 to 11,137 over the same period.

INDUSTRY

Tourism continues to be the main industry and the largest source of revenue in general and of United States dollars in particular. In 1953, for example 91.8 per cent of 155,000 visitors were from the United States of America. Inducements to establish light industries are offered under 1951 legislation.

The development of Freeport on Grand Bahamas Island got under way in 1955. This project, financed by American capital, includes the construction of a large deep water harbour. By 1957, the dredging and wharfage construction was almost completed. Ancillary equipment for the port is being procured and administrative staff appointed. Some 50,000 acres have been acquired for development, and plans call for industrial projects of all kinds in the vicinity of the harbour.

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Elsewhere in the Territory a number of small canneries engaged in processing, pineapples and tomatoes, for example, as well as a factory manufacturing mayonnaise are in operation. The salt industry has continued to expand, the value of production rising from £66,000 in 1947 to £159,020 in 1954.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

There is direct steamship communication with North and South America and the West Indies. The main port is Nassau, and two others of lesser importance are located in the outlying islands from which salt and lumber are exported. A great deal of the import-export trade is transported by locally-owned vessels ranging in size from eighty to 300 tons, plying between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Nassau is on the itinerary of several regularly scheduled cruise ships, which made 212 calls in 1956.

Shipping

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of ships	3,768	5,476	7,289
Net tonnage	267,854	2,658,600	3,845,042
Tonnage of cargo landed at Nassau	...	107,009	153,032 ^{a/}
Number of passengers			
Inward	12,332	35,057	210,178
Outward		32,909	198,372

^{a/} Short tons.

Nassau's new international airport was completed and put into use in 1957 with a complete hydrant refueling system, a main 7,000 foot runway, and a spacious air terminal building. Its predecessor at Oakes Airport was closed. International and local airlines are provided with twenty-four hour service. The increasing number of government-owned air strips in the Out Islands is resulting in a greater flow of passengers and goods and leading to the expansion of the resort business in the outlying islands.

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International air traffic

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Landings)			
Take-offs)	2,672	7,971	11,840
Passengers		7,968	11,789
Arriving	25,524	64,810	168,838
Departing		64,697	159,062
Freight			
Incoming (kilos)	...	330,125	935,625
Outgoing "	...	99,041	255,546

Roads

All main roads and the majority of secondary roads in New Providence are asphalted. There are no railways.

Roads and motor vehicles

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Main roads	138	145	178
Secondary	20	20	40
Registered vehicles	8,108	14,013	16,296

Telephones and telegraphs

During the first half of the period under review, there arose a pressing demand for telephone service and additional equipment. Some expansion took place in 1949 and more equipment was due for delivery and installation in 1952. The demand for services continues. Between 1956 and 1957, the number of subscribers increased from 7,130 to 7,855. The system is automatic in New Providence. There are internal radio telephone and telegraph services in the Bahamas and external services through Florida.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Neither income tax nor excise duty is in force. The general customs duty, the main source of revenue, is 20 per cent ad valorem plus 7 1/2 per cent ad valorem emergency tax. Staple items of food are subject only to a low specific duty.

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Revenues and expenditures have more than tripled, the respective totals for 1957 being £4.9 million and £4.3 million. There were surpluses in 1955 and 1957 of £313,000 and £624,000, respectively.

Revenue and expenditure
 (thousand of Bahama pounds)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue:			
Ordinary	1,350	2,611	4,939
Expenditures:			
Ordinary	1,294	2,712	4,315
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs	755	1,444	3,219
Licences and internal revenue	44	355	665
Court fees, etc.	102	122	242
Main heads of expenditure:			
Public works <u>a/</u>	33	449	705
Development Board	51	309	557
Medical Department	91	278	414
Education	63	158	325

a/ Non-recurrent.

BANKING AND CREDIT

Because of the geographic location of the Bahamas and their dependence on tourism, there is free circulation of United States currency. Residents are obliged, however to exchange all dollars received with authorized dealers. Banking services are provided by four commercial institutions and the post office savings bank. The number of depositors has risen from 19,609 with £361,140 deposited in 1947 to 32,566 with £646,369 deposited in 1957.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Nearly all the Territory's requirements are imported. The chief imports are food, cotton manufactures, furniture, motor vehicles and machinery. The main exports are crawfish and lumber. The economic expansion which has taken place

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in the ten year period is reflected in the aggregate trade figures. From £4.9 million, the value of import-export trade has risen to some £16 million. The value of imports during 1957 amounted to £15.2 million, almost four times as much as the comparable figure for 1947. The Territory trades mostly with Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States and the West Indies.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

It has been reported that the social problems of racial and cultural relations in the Bahamas are those common to all countries in which peoples of different origins have to work. In 1956, discrimination against persons on account of their race or colour in the use of facilities at hotels, theatres and other such public places was declared by resolution of the Legislature as not being in the public interest.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The development of the new industrial area offers a prospect of full employment. It is intended that, apart from skilled key personnel such as technicians, indigenous labour should be employed.

Throughout the ten-year period, workers have been recruited for agricultural employment in the United States. The number may not exceed 4,200 and compulsory deductions of some 22 per cent of gross earnings are made, the disposition of which is determined by the migrant worker on recruitment. In 1956, when there were 3,740 such labourers in the United States, their gross earnings amounted to \$US5.5 million. There has been a decrease in their numbers from a peak of 4,000 to about 3,600. The decline in recent years may be generally attributed to the increased labour demands of the industrial area and other new developments together with payment of satisfactory wages in other areas of employment.

Apart from tourism, the largest single sources of employment are found in the timber, salt and fishing industries, each employing several hundred men.

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In certain industries, wages are regulated by Orders in Council under the Minimum Wage Act of 1936. The increased cost of living has generally caused wages to rise beyond the minimum in most occupations.

	<u>Wage earners</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Unskilled labourers	2,200	3,363	4,000
Masons	300	1,137	1,500
Carpenters	600	2,204	3,000
Mechanics	120	879	1,000
Fishermen	400	2,588 ^{a/}	3,000 ^{a/}

a/ Including seamen.

	<u>Daily wage rates^{a/}</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957^{b/}</u>
Unskilled	8s. - 10s.	13s. - 18s.	2s.0d. - 3s.3d.
Semi-skilled	12s. - 16s.	16s. - 25s.	3s.8d. - 4s.6d.
Masons	20s. - 40s.	40s. - 50s.	6s.3d. - 7s.0d.
Carpenters	20s. - 40s.	40s. - 50s.	6s.3d. - 7s.0d.
Mechanics	20s. - 35s.	30s. - 35s.	8s.0d. - 12s.0d.

a/ Males only.

b/ Hourly.

Workers' and employers' organization

Trade unionism is developing slowly but the movement has been asserting itself in recent years. In 1957, a dispute arose between the taxi-cab union and the operators of hotel and bus-tour transport concerning the distribution of passengers going to and from the airport. As a consequence, the taxi-cab union withdrew its taxis. This was followed by a walk-out of hotel staff, which, in turn, led to a general strike. The general strike was also a protest against the Territory's trade union legislation which precludes hotel and agricultural workers from organizing trade unions. There was considerable disruption of the tourist traffic and of services in New Providence.

The number of trade unions has risen from two in 1947 to fourteen in 1957, with a total membership of about 1,200. A Labour Board, established in 1949, has the responsibility of inquiring into trade disputes and determining conditions affecting labour. Its recommendations are made to the Governor-in-Council, the Labour Office concerning itself only with matters relating to migratory workers.

During 1957, a representative of the Trade Union Congress of the United Kingdom visited the Bahamas in connexion with its programme of giving advice and material assistance to overseas trade unions.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

There are no co-operative societies as such, but there are separate associations of tomato growers and other farmers. In 1957, there were seventeen of the former and sixty-five of the latter.

STANDARD OF LIVING

It was estimated that a single man and a married man with two children residing in New Providence would need £600 and £1,200, respectively, excluding rent, to live reasonably well in 1947. The comparable figures had risen to a range of £1,000 to £1,300 and £1,700 to £2,000 respectively in 1955, including rent. Similarly, the working man's rent had risen from a range of 20s. - 40s. weekly to 40s. - 90s. in 1955. His staple articles of diet, such as, flour, meal, sugar, fish and occasional meat, have also risen in price.

Cost-of-living index

September 1939 = 100
March 1947
292

September 1949 = 100
December 1953 December 1957
147 160

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

On the whole, housing has been in short supply. By 1947, the shortage of homes in Nassau for working class families had become acute because of the influx of migrants from the outlying islands. Apart from normal growth, the additional expansion which arose from this demand for housing took place in areas where water supplies and sanitary facilities were generally inadequate. The most pressing

need for housing is to be found among working class families, who ordinarily cannot afford financially to satisfy their housing demands. Building costs are high on account of the necessity of importing materials. In 1957, forty-nine permits were issued for 719 buildings (the largest amount of building taking place in a cost range of £1,000 or less) as compared with 304 permits for 556 buildings in 1953. There are no government housing schemes, all construction being in the hands of private enterprises. The development of the industrial area envisages the establishment of a town built in conformity with modern town planning. Over 100 houses have already been erected.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

A Workmen's Compensation Act in respect of industrial accidents and diseases was enacted in 1943. There are neither industrial welfare schemes nor legislation on industrial safety and related matters.

Public social assistance is limited to the provisions of relief and rations to paupers, the aged and the infirm by the Medical Department. Friendly Societies play an important part in providing benefits to their members in the event of illness or death.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Improvements have been made in the treatment of offenders including the construction and operation of a new prison in 1952 with single cells for 244 males. There was a similar institution with accommodations for thirty females. There is provision for segregation of first offenders. The daily average prison population rose from 214 to 261 during the period under review.

As recently as 1955, officers of the police force were being appointed from the United Kingdom Colonial Police Service. Lesser ranks are recruited locally.

Crime statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Criminal cases in:			
Magistrate Courts	1,137	2,696	4,781 ^{a/}
Supreme Court	88	62	82

a/ Including 3,470 traffic offences.

Juvenile delinquency

In 1947, the Children and Young Persons Act came into force setting up a juvenile court in Nassau. This was an attempt to remedy the lack of proper services to cope with juvenile delinquency, the incidence of which at that time showed a high percentage of indictable offences by persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five.

There is an industrial school run on the Borstal system to which juvenile offenders between the ages of ten and sixteen are assigned. Agriculture and crafts are taught in conjunction with elementary subjects. In 1955 a system of release on licence was instituted. Towards the end of the period, a panel had begun to sit with the magistrate to assist in cases of delinquency. The after-care programme is supervised by two probation officers. In 1947, there were ninety-two boys in residence as compared with eighty-two in 1957. The problem of delinquent girls remains unsolved.

Juvenile delinquency

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1957</u>
Offences against the person	9	3	-
Offences against property	139	12	11
Other acts and offences (including traffic infractions)	83	85	103 ^{a/}

a/ Traffic infractions only.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

On the whole, the health of the population has been good. The three main health problems are tuberculosis, venereal diseases and malnutrition. Of the three, tuberculosis has been given maximum attention and, since 1957 prophylactic measures with BCG vaccination of tuberculin negative cases have been carried out. The incidence in the Territory had declined slightly from 110.2 per 100,000 population in 1953 to 101.4 in 1956. Negotiations with the World Health Organization are also under way for a tuberculosis control campaign. Venereal diseases are reported to be under control. Recent treatment with penicillin has been effective and a significant decline in the number of reported cases of syphilis has been reported, from a rate of 131.3 per 100,000 population in 1953 to 19.5 in 1956.

Malnutrition, mostly caused by protein deficiency, is widespread.

A programme of eradication of the Aedes aegypti in order to control yellow fever was put into operation in 1955 with the assistance of WHO. An extensive immunization project against poliomyelitis for the age group of one to nine years was carried out in four of the islands during the same year. Other problems of some importance are alcoholism and cardio-vascular diseases, which showed a rather high incidence in recent years. Both are receiving special attention by the authorities and studies and research are under way in co-operation with medical institutions in the United States.

Pipe-borne water supplies are available in Nassau and in several of the major Out Island settlements. Nassau also has a good drainage and sewage system. In other areas sewage-disposal is effected by the activated sludge process and by other similar devices. To supplement the water supply of New Providence, the Bahamas Electrical Corporation has undertaken the distillation from sea-water of 1 million gallons per day of potable water. This scheme is expected to be completed by 1960, bringing the total daily capacity to 2.5 million gallons per day.

The provision of health services to the inhabitants is usually hampered by shortage of personnel necessary for a wide decentralization of medical and health facilities. Medical care and hospitalization are rendered free of charge to those unable to pay. New construction during the period has included the 210-bed Bahamas General Hospital, opened in 1953, and a 200-bed mental hospital, opened in 1956.

There are no training facilities for doctors or dentists, but nurses and midwives are trained in the hospitals of the Territory. The public health nurse service is composed of a qualified supervisor and five graduate nurses. They work in the three health centres of the area which provide ante- and post-natal care, as well as infant and child welfare services, and are responsible for home visits for the follow-up cases. A school medical service is also combined with this scheme. Medical expenditures have risen from £106,000 to about £397,000 and are met without grant-in-aid funds from the United Kingdom.

Medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>
Registered physicians	8	12	16	16	22	19
Dentists		...	-	5	-	...
Nurses	93 ^{d/}		112 ^{a/}	40	173 ^{b/}	93
Midwives (registered)			12	-	114 ^{c/}	

- a/ Including 65 partially trained.
- b/ Including 71 partially trained.
- c/ Including 12 partially trained.
- d/ In the General Hospital only, including 68 in training.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Education is compulsory for all children between the ages of six and fourteen. However, the fulfilment of this requirement more often than not has been frustrated by two factors: the family requirement that children help at home, when parents must be away marketing their produce, or assist in the fields; and the over-crowding of schools. Beyond the primary level, pupils pay fees for education in the government high school. Eight scholarships are awarded annually exempting the holders from the payment of fees and purchase of books. A maintenance allowance of £90 per year is included in four of the eight scholarships which are earmarked

for children from the Out Islands. Students at the secondary level in the government high school work towards the Cambridge School Certificate or the Higher School Certificate. All schools are co-educational.

There are three types of primary schools, government schools, providing free education; grant-in-aid schools; and denominational or private schools. The first type is staffed by teachers appointed by the Governor-in-Council, while the grant-in-aid schools are conducted by teachers selected by their own communities, grants being made towards teachers' salaries. Although expenditure on education has greatly increased in the period reviewed, there is over-crowding in the schools. The problem is most serious in the Out Islands, where single-room schools are in quite general use.

Secondary education is available at the Government High School where fees are low, and at private schools. The Government High School is managed by a committee appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Grants are made to private secondary schools, which provide most of the secondary education offered in the Bahamas to assist them in their work. These schools are fee-paying and have primary departments. In an attempt to meet the demand for teachers, a training college was set up in 1950 with accommodation for thirty trainees. It was temporarily closed in 1957 because of staffing difficulties. Efforts are being made to provide new schools as well as to maintain those in use.

In October 1949, a technical school was opened, limited at first to employees of the public utility departments and to pharmaceutical apprentices. In 1952, the syllabus in use was that of the City and Guilds of London Institute. There is also a centre for the training of domestic workers.

There is no organized adult education programme but the Board of Education provides courses in preparation for Junior and Secondary Certificates and in commercial subjects. Higher education is not available locally; the Government provides some scholarships of which there were six in 1957. In 1955, nine scholarships were granted to nursing students under a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant.

Expenditure
(thousand £)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Regular	64	158	325

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

There are two public libraries in New Providence and several in the outlying islands, and a museum is attached to the public library in Nassau. There are many organizations, such as Boy Scouts, for young persons. There were some forty-two groups of this kind in 1957.

Daily broadcasting services are provided by a private company which utilizes programmes from the BBC and the Voice of America. Some 6,000 radio receiver licences were issued in 1953 and in 1957 it was estimated that there were 15,000 radio receivers. Distribution of films is mainly through six commercial cinemas. There are two daily newspapers and one weekly and one quarterly magazine.
