



Seventeenth session

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: SUMMARIES
OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN ATLANTIC TERRITORIES

In accordance with the statement of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 27 September 1961, the Government of the United Kingdom has transmitted to the Secretary-General the following political and constitutional information on the Territory of Bermuda.

This information, which was received on 23 March 1962, is herewith submitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.^{1/}

^{1/} In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, this information is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

BERMUDA

POPULATION

The estimated civil population at 31 December 1960, was 44,617. The division by races is as follows:

European descent ...	16,335
African descent ...	<u>28,282</u>
	44,617

Bermuda was uninhabited when discovered and there is thus no truly indigenous population.

CONSTITUTION

The present Constitution of Bermuda is similar to that of the former North American colonies prior to the War of Independence. Representative government was introduced in 1620 and the laws of the Territory have been enacted by the local Legislature since 1684. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing, respectively, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

EXECUTIVE

The Executive Government is in the hands of the Governor (Sir J. Gascoigne), who is advised in the exercise of his functions by an Executive Council. He is not bound to accept the Council's advice but in practice he invariably does so. The present membership of the Council, under the chairmanship of the Governor, consists of 5 members of the House of Assembly and 3 officials. Those at present holding office are:

Mr. H.T. Watlington
Mr. J.E. Pearman
Mr. A.D. Spurling
Mr. J.E.P. Vesey
Mr. W.L. Tucker
Mr. W.W. Davidson (Colonial Treasurer)
Mr. J.W. Sykes (Colonial Secretary)
Mr. J.C. Hooton (Attorney General)

All except the last 2 named are Bermudans.

LEGISLATURE

The Bermuda Legislature is bicameral and consists of a Legislative Council and a House of Assembly. The Legislative Council (Upper House) has 11 members appointed by the Governor, 3 of whom are "official" members while the remaining 8 are prominent citizens of Bermuda, the majority of whom have previously served in the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council reviews legislation passed by the House of Assembly and may itself introduce any bill other than a money bill. All except 2 of the Council members are local inhabitants.

The House of Assembly (Lower House) is the oldest elected institution in the dependent Territories; its first meeting took place in 1620. It consists of 36 elected members, all of whom are local inhabitants. The Presiding Officer is the Speaker (Sir John Cox). The House of Assembly is elected for five years' maximum duration.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The 36 members of the House of Assembly are elected by nine parishes (i.e., constituencies) each of which returns 4 members. The electoral qualification is the possession of freehold property worth £60 or more.

The results of the last elections (held in 1958) were as follows:

St. George's Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* The Hon. A.D. Spurling	393	Mr. A. Stuart Outerbridge	88
* Major J. Brownlow Tucker	381		
* Mr. C.V.R. Burch	373		
* Mr. S.S. Toddings	346		

Smith's Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
Mr. C. Vail Zuill	401	Mr. Arthur Smith	228
* Mr. N.H.P. Vesey	396	Mr. Russell Pearman	181
* Mr. Earle Outerbridge	329		
Mr. Robert Outerbridge	291		

Hamilton Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
Mr. Rendell Arton	237	* Mr. Eilton Gray Hill	144
Mr. Morris A. Gibbons	230		
* Mr. E. Bernard Wilkinson	219		
* Mr. Walter N.H. Robinson	157		

Faget Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* Hon. H.J. Tucker	452	* Hon. W.W. Davidson	225
Mr. deForest Trimmingham	387	* Capt. W.V.R. Winter	195
* Mr. Lionel Barnes	345		
Mr. Dudley Butterfield	354		

Fembroke Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* Mr. Roy Selley	741	Mr. W.E.R. Joell	351
* Mr. G.A. Cooper	728		
Mr. A.A. Francis	727		
* The Hon. J.E. Pearman	727		

Devonshire Parish (only 4 candidates)

<u>Elected</u>	
* Sir John Cox	
* Sir Payard Dill	
* Mr. W.L. Tucker	
* Hon. H.T. Watlington	

Warwick Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* Mr. Edward T. Richards	398	Mr. John G. Young	295
* Mr. E. Harley Barnes	363	Mr. Benjamin Rego	193
Mr. John M.S. Patton	351	Mr. Herbert Simons	134
* Mr. William R. Kempe	326	* Mr. Donald C. Smith	131

Southampton Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* Mr. Gayous E. Powell	312	* Mr. E.L. McD. Benjamin	223
* Mr. J.E.P. Vesey	306	Lady Conyers	131
* Wor. E.R. Williams	258		
Dr. W.H.C. Masters	235		

Sandys Parish

<u>Elected</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
* Mr. George O. Ratteray	363	Mr. Fred Kessell	104
* Mr. Albert E. Nicholl	295		
* Mr. Frederick C. Misick	284		
* Lt. Col. J.C. Astwood	284		

* Denotes member of previous House of Assembly.

On 7 April 1958, Sir John Cox was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly and, on 9 April 1958, Lt. Col. J.C. Astwood was elected Deputy Speaker.

JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court, over which the Chief Justice or the Assistant Justice preside, has jurisdiction in all serious criminal matters and has unlimited civil jurisdiction. Appeal to Her Majesty's Privy Council exists of right where the matter in dispute exceeds £500, and otherwise at the discretion of the Court if the question is one which by reason of general or public importance or otherwise

ought to be submitted to Her Majesty in Council. There are two courts of summary jurisdiction, each presided over by a magistrate, which have jurisdiction over less serious criminal offences and have a limited civil jurisdiction. One of these courts is held in the capital (Hamilton) while the other is held at the eastern and western ends of Bermuda as necessary.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

All junior posts, and many of the senior posts in the Administration, are filled by local inhabitants, including the posts of Colonial Treasurer, Colonial Auditor and Collector of Customs. Most members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and all members of the House of Assembly are Bermudans.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The city of Hamilton (the capital) and the town of St. George (the former capital) are each governed by a corporation, consisting of elected mayors, aldermen and councils. The main sources of revenue are charges for water and dock facilities and municipal taxes. Elsewhere in Bermuda, the main unit of local government is a parish of which there are nine in all. The parish vestries raise revenue by means of levies on land and personal property and are responsible for such functions as street lighting, road cleaning and certain welfare services.
