



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

ASIAN 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 Hong Kong.

This information, which was received on 22 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.

HONG KONG

AREA AND POPULATION

Hong Kong is a Territory under British administration consisting of the Island of Hong Kong itself, on which stands the City of Victoria and an adjoining area of the mainland, with the City of Kowloon immediately opposite. There are also a number of other islands.

The total population of Hong Kong as shown by the census of March 1961 was 3,128,044, of whom it is estimated that over 99 per cent are Chinese. There are about 15,000 non-Chinese British subjects and 9,500 others, including Indians, Portuguese and Americans.

STATUS CONSTITUTION

The formal documents which lay down the principal features of the Constitution of Hong Kong are the "Letters Patent" which provide for the office of the Governor, the Executive Council and the Legislative Council, and the "Royal Instructions" which deal with other related matters. The Governor appointed by the British Government is the Queen's representative and head of the executive in the Territory.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council is the chief executive body in Hong Kong and the Governor as the head of the Executive must consult it on all important matters. The responsibility for taking action lies with the Governor, but if he acts otherwise than advised by the Executive Council, he is required to report his reasons fully to the United Kingdom Government. The Council also has powers under many ordinances to make subsidiary legislation by way of rules, regulations and orders, and also to consider appeals and petitions under certain ordinances.