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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

AFRICAN AND ADJACENT TERRITORIES

ST. HELENA

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 St. Helena.

This information, which was received on 4 April 1962, is herewith submitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> 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.

## ST. HELENA

### POPULATION

St. Helena covers an area of 47 square miles and had an estimated population of 4,644 at 31 December 1959. St. Helena was uninhabited when discovered and there is thus no truly indigenous population.

### CONSTITUTION

The present Constitution dates from 1956, and provides for a Governor, an Executive Council and an Advisory Council. Prior to 1956, the Executive Council consisted of civil servants and the Advisory Council consisted of six non-official members appointed by the Governor. Under the 1956 Constitution, the Executive Council was expanded to include up to 3 non-official members and the Advisory Council to include up to 8 non-officials.

The main features of the present Constitution are as follows:

#### Governor

The Governor (at present Sir John Field) is head of the administration of the Territory. In the exercise of his powers he is advised by an Executive Council, and normally acts in accordance with the advice he receives from it.

#### Executive Council

The Executive Council consists of three civil servants and three non-official members, who are local residents. The present members of the Executive Council, under the chairmanship of the Governor, are as follows:

Mr. E.J. Moss

Mr. H.J. Corker

Mr. J.A. Thorpe

Mr. B.J. Weston (Government Secretary)

Mr. R.J. Bond-Taylor (Colonial Treasurer)

Mr. R.B. Johnson (Agriculture and Forestry Officer)

ST. HELENA

### Advisory Council

The Governor alone passes laws for the government of the Territory, but submits the drafts of all laws for the consideration of the Advisory Council before enactment. The Advisory Council comprises from 7 to 10 members: of these 5 represent the 5 districts of the island, and 2 represent the Friendly Societies, which play an important part in the life of St. Helena. All members of the Council are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the various district associations and Friendly Societies.

The present members of the Advisory Council are:

Mr. E.J. Moss  
Mr. H.J. Corker  
Mr. J.A. Thorpe  
Mr. D.H. Thorpe  
Mr. K.W. Joshua  
Mr. O.N. Duncan  
Mr. T.C. Mainwaring  
Mr. F.C. Graham

### JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court of St. Helena has full criminal and civil jurisdiction and deals with cases according to English procedure as far as local circumstances permit. The trial of a person is by a jury of eight. Appeal under certain circumstances lies to the Privy Council. In view of the small number of cases, the Governor acts as Chief Justice; when cases occur which are unsuitable to be heard by the Governor in his capacity as Chief Justice, a judge from outside the Territory is appointed Chief Justice as a temporary measure. There is also a Magistrates' Court, which may be presided over by the Magistrate (who is the Government Secretary) or by any two justices of the peace. In addition, there is a Small Debts Court and a Juvenile Court.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Certain welfare and municipal services in Jamestown (such as control of markets and street lighting) are administered by a local board.