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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

Central African Territories

BELGIAN CONGO^{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 Belgian Congo lies in Central Africa and is crossed by the equator. It has an area of 2,344,932 square kilometres and covers the greater part of the Congo basin. It is divided into six provinces - Leopoldville, Equator, Eastern, Kivu, Katanga and Kasai. The capital is Leopoldville, which had a population of 380,314 in 1957, as against 126,115 in 1947.

	<u>Population</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
	<u>31 December</u>	<u>31 December</u>	<u>31 December</u>
Indigenous	10,761,353	12,026,159	13,174,883
Non-indigenous	44,305	91,276	115,804

The average population density was 5.61 per square kilometre in 1957, as against 4.60 in 1947.

In 1953, a sample population survey covering 3.6 per cent of the total population indicated a birth rate of 34.3 per 1,000, a general death rate of 21.6 per 1,000, and a death rate under one year of age of 148.0 per 1,000 live births. A further sample survey, covering 10 per cent of the population in rural areas and 15 per cent in urban centres, was carried out in 1955 and completed in 1957; the results will be published later.

As the continuation of a trend already recorded in the previous decade, there was considerable migration from rural to urban areas between 1947 and 1957. In 1957, there were 3,047,734 people, representing 23.1 per cent of the population, living outside the rural tribal areas, as against 1,677,443, or 15.6 per cent in 1947. In 1957, this movement seemed to have come temporarily to a halt. The new rural-urban population pattern has been accompanied by a lop-sided distribution of the sexes, there being seventy-five women per 100 men in the extra-tribal centres in 1957, as against 123 women per 100 men in the tribal areas. Since it is principally the young people who leave the country for the town, the age pattern has also been disrupted.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Although the economy of the Belgian Congo has been almost evenly divided between agriculture and mining, a third type of economic activity, viz. manufacturing, has been increasing in importance during the past ten years. Basically, the economy is still an export economy extremely sensitive to fluctuations on the world market. However, with the first steps towards industrial development and the gradual establishment of a local market, an element of stability has been introduced. Growing urbanization is, in addition, accelerating the transformation of a rural subsistence economy to an exchange economy.

The gross national product, expressed in current prices, was BC fr. 60,200 million in 1957,^{2/} as against BC fr. 33,700 million in 1950,^{3/} an increase of 78.7 per cent. Throughout the period, the upward movement continued from year to year with the exception of 1957, a year in which economic conditions were generally bad, when a decline of 1.5 per cent from the 1956 level was recorded. Between 1950 and 1957, the gross national product, calculated in constant prices for 1950, increased by some 53 per cent.

The relative contribution of the main branches of economic activity to the national product was as follows:

	Percentage	
	1950	1957
Agriculture (including subsistence agriculture)	30.4	26.7
Processing of agricultural produce	5.9	4.8
Mines and basic metallurgy	19.9	19.4
Manufacturing	5.5	8.0
Construction (including the materials industry)	5.0	6.3
Transport and communications	7.3	10.6
Trade	9.5	8.5

By comparison with 1947-1949 as the base period, the general index of agricultural production was 127 in 1953 and 153 in 1957. The production of food-stuffs, which increased from 1947 to 1953, remained stationary from 1953 to

^{2/} The currency unit of the Belgian Congo is the Belgian Congo franc (BC fr.) which is at par with the Belgian franc and is equal to \$US.02.

^{3/} According to a very rough estimate, the gross national product for 1948 was about BC fr. 23,000 million.

1957, the indices being 128 and 129, respectively. On the other hand, the upward trend in production for export continued, the index rising from 120 in 1953 to 177 in 1957. The rise in exports between 1947 and 1957 was particularly noticeable as regards palm oil (83 per cent), coffee (176 per cent) and rubber (780 per cent). These figures represent the initial results of a policy for increasing both the volume and efficiency of agricultural production. As regards the value of agricultural products exported from the Belgian Congo, the aggregate world-price index during the period 1949 to 1957 fluctuated between 100 and 117, with the exception of a peak of 146 in 1951, which was a boom year.

The production index for the mining and ore refining industries rose from 100 in 1950 to 149 in 1957. Copper, by far the most important product, continued to account for about half the total value of mineral production. The electro-metallurgic treatment of a number of non-ferrous metals has been vigorously developed. With 1949 as the base year, the aggregate world-price index of mineral products exported from the Belgian Congo continued to move upwards until it reached 200 in 1956, but in 1957 it fell back to 148. These fluctuations have a decisive influence on the resources available to the Territory for consumption and investment expenditure, since mineral products represent a proportion of total exports varying from 51 per cent in 1947 to 60 per cent in 1957. The collapse in copper prices in the second half of 1956, the effect of which continued into 1957, was largely responsible for the slowing-down that occurred throughout the Belgian Congo economy.

The branch of industry that expanded the most was manufacturing, the volume of industrial production in 1957 being 188 per cent in relation to 1950. Side by side with the growth of industries processing export products, a large number of undertakings have been set up to produce for local consumption. The compartmentalization of markets in consequence of the great distances has resulted in the multiplication and decentralization of production units. There are now, for instance, eight textile factories, eight breweries and four cement works, as against three, two and two, respectively, in 1947.

The volume of trade has doubled since 1950. Internal trade has expanded rapidly under the influence of the increasingly rapid growth of urban and

industrial centres. The value of foreign trade^{4/} increased threefold from 1947 to 1957. The balance of trade remained favourable throughout the period, the ratio of exports to imports being 110 per cent in 1957 as against 125 in 1947, with peaks of 128 in 1951 and 130 in 1956. Being dependent on world markets, the economy is very sensitive to variations in the terms of trade, which were very favourable until 1956, when they reached a peak of 150.7, as against 100 in 1949. There was a subsequent decline to 116.7 in 1957, which caused the equilibrium to be upset and led to difficulties in financing.

The balance of payments,^{5/} which showed a surplus of 5,864 million francs in 1950, became unfavourable in 1956, with a deficit of 294 million francs, and even more so in 1957, when the deficit rose to 7,482 million francs. This situation has been due mainly to the gradual increase in foreign payments for transport and insurance and for debt service on investments and has resulted in a deficit on current account each year from 1952 onwards. Long-term capital receipts to an amount of about 3,000 million francs served to offset these deficits until 1955, but in 1957 the net surplus from the movement of private capital was only 365 million francs, and from the movement of public capital, only 76 million francs.

Gross national expenditure is characterized by a high rate of investment. Gross investment has varied in a downward curve, between 32 per cent of the national product in 1950 and 19 per cent in 1957, while expenditure on current account went up from 65 per cent to 78 per cent during the same period. Private investment is financed mainly through the reinvestment of profits by business undertakings, and to a much lesser extent through new capital. Public investment is financed mainly by loans and to a lesser degree by local budget surpluses, under a ten-year economic and social development plan covering the years 1950 to 1959.

The direct public debt increased from 4,400 million francs in 1947 to 31,400 million francs in 1957. In 1957, the servicing of the debt accounted for 15.5 per cent of ordinary budget expenditure, as against 5.9 per cent in 1947. Ordinary expenditure as a whole increased threefold in ten years. Current

^{4/} Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

^{5/} Ibid.

revenue has followed a similar trend, with the result that it has been possible not only to end each financial year with a surplus but also to build up a reserve of more than 8,000 million francs to meet possible deficits in periods of low economic activity. The sums earmarked for this purpose amounted to about one fifth of the national income in 1957, as against one sixth in 1950.

The economic expansion of the Belgian Congo is due both to private enterprise and to public action, the latter having been carried out under the current ten-year plan (1950-1959), the aim and principal result of which are the development of the Territory's economic and social infrastructure. The second ten-year plan will concentrate mainly on raising production in all branches of activity.

LAND TENURE SYSTEM, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The total area of the Belgian Congo comprises 236.5 million hectares. About half of this is forests and there are also 50 million hectares of arable land and 2,344,000 hectares of pasture. The area of land under cultivation by the indigenous inhabitants - including land lying fallow - was about 48.7 million hectares in 1947. Land concessions to the non-indigenous population as of 31 December 1947 totalled 6,740,782 hectares, of which 1,226,893 hectares were in use at that time. This apportionment of land as between the indigenous and the non-indigenous population has not undergone any appreciable change.

A commission for the study of land tenure problems affecting the indigenous inhabitants was set up in 1956. A report on the results of its work was submitted in 1957 and is now under consideration. One of the desired objectives is to determine practical means of progressively introducing individual land ownership by the indigenous inhabitants, taking into account the tribal system of land tenure, which is collective. The right to private ownership of land was proclaimed by a Decree of 1953. Under two other decrees promulgated in the same year, this principle was applied to rural areas, and individual tenure was introduced into the extra-tribal centres.

European agricultural production is on a large scale and is heavily financed. The principal crops are coffee, palm products and rubber, all for export. The output of the European sector, however, is only one quarter as great in value as that of the indigenous sector. Thus, the chief aim of the ten-year plan is the expansion and stabilization of the indigenous sector with a view to increasing the

income of African producers and the supply of agricultural produce for local consumption. The importance of the programme is due to three principal factors. In the first place, it is of direct concern to the vast majority of the population, three quarters of which are still occupied in rural activities, as against four fifths in 1947. Secondly, agricultural products comprise nearly half the exports of the Territory. Thirdly, the problem of food is particularly significant owing to the rapid expansion of mining and of urban areas. This means that a decreasing number of farmers must supply the needs of an increasing number of consumers.

Food production, which is almost entirely in the hands of Africans, has increased by about 30 per cent in ten years. Over the same period, the quantities of **food-stuffs** put on the market have almost tripled.

This increase was not accompanied by a parallel rise in export products, as is apparent from the table below. Between 1949 and 1957, however, more than 39,000 hectares were planted by the indigenous inhabitants to coffee, palms and rubber, but much of this area has not as yet reached the production stage.

Indigenous agricultural production of a commercial character

	<u>1948</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Food-stuffs	852,500	55	2,443,820	71
Palm products (fruit, oil, kernels)	558,000	36	860,500	25
Other export crops (cotton, urena, etc.)	139,500	9	137,680	4
	<u>1,550,000</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>3,442,000</u>	<u>100</u>

The index of indigenous commercial production (base 1947-1949 = 100) rose from 121 in 1953 to 173 in 1956 and 175 in 1957. Despite the increased volume of market crops, however, about 65 per cent of the indigenous agricultural production still consists of subsistence crops. The index of the total indigenous agricultural production (base 1947-1949 = 100) rose from 123 in 1953 to 139 in 1957. The slowing-down of agricultural expansion in 1957 was due principally to a drop in cotton production caused by weather conditions. Cotton cultivation is confined exclusively to the indigenous inhabitants, and over 700,000 African planters are engaged in it.

In order to carry out the ten-year programme for agricultural expansion, various measures have been introduced with regard to personnel, training, research, credit, processing of products, markets and the establishment of paysannats (peasant groups).

As a means of introducing a more efficient system of agriculture and of providing indigenous producers with information on farming methods, the number of agricultural experts was increased from 234 in 1947 to 484 in 1957, and the number of auxiliary personnel, including assistants and qualified instructors, but not the more than 5,000 unqualified instructors, rose from 345 to 1,343.

This training is given in the agricultural schools, which increased in number from nine in 1947 to thirty in 1957. The University of Leopoldville has been training agricultural engineers since 1956.

The efforts to introduce a more efficient system of agriculture are backed up by a scientific research organization, the National Institute for Agronomical Research in the Belgian Congo (INEAC), which in 1957 had a panel of advisers consisting of over 400 technical experts and their thousands of assistants who gave freely of their experience in such matters as soil research, choice of the best cropping methods, improvement of breeds, and the selection and distribution of higher-yield seeds and plants. Subsidies totalling 439.5 million francs were paid to the Institute in 1957 as against 134 million in 1948. A selection tax on agricultural exports was introduced in 1947 as a means of providing the Institute with funds.

Financial assistance for production is provided by a special indigenous agricultural credit fund that was reorganized in 1951 and by advances of capital to the agricultural co-operatives.

Semi-public agencies known as "offices" provide a means of supervising the processing of products and the development of markets at home and abroad. In the case of some products, minimum purchase prices have been fixed by the authorities in order to protect the producers. The Cotton Reserve Fund, which was reorganized in 1947, serves primarily to stabilize prices for the indigenous planters, but it also participates in such action as the distribution of implements and the construction of roads in the cotton-producing areas. At the end of 1957 its net assets were 1,494 million francs as against 434 million francs at the end of 1947.

The crowning achievement of the Ten-Year Plan for the reorganization of the rural economy has been the establishment of the indigenous agricultural settlements (paysannats indigènes). With the assistance of the authorities, groups of indigenous families follow systematic and efficient procedures in developing and working land on which they have settled. The Ten-Year Plan provides for the settlement of about 500,000 peasants in this way. By the end of 1957, about 223,000 small holdings had been parcelled out, and 175,000 of these were occupied as against 25,000 in 1949. A total of about 9 million hectares have been surveyed for the purpose of being eventually parcelled out. Each paysannat area is provided with specialized services such as experimental and reproduction stations and co-operatives, and with medical facilities and schools.

The first attempts to mechanize agriculture were made in 1949. In 1957, 6,000 hectares were ploughed mechanically as against 1,800 hectares in 1954. The use of chemical fertilizers is also in its early stages, 600 tons being used in 1957 as against 200 tons the previous year.

Principal crops

	<u>Area^{a/}</u>			<u>Production</u>		
	(thousand hectares)			(thousand metric tons)		
	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Manioc	587.0	566.0	690.2	4,911.3	6,751.2	7,793.8
Bananas (plantains)	114.8	224.2	240.9	1,628.4	1,812.8	1,731.6
Maize	332.5	348.9	359.7	362.4	327.1	330.3
Sweet potatoes	43.5	55.3	55.2	256.5	309.3	324.2
Rice (paddy)	133.2	164.2	165.0	137.1	176.6	179.4
Peas and beans	87.6	118.4	124.1	49.5	67.0	78.2
Natural palm groves brought under cultivation	36.2	58.0	46.0	-	-	-
Palm groves planted I ^{b/}	48.4	64.6	80.5	-	-	-
Palm groves planted E ^{c/}	100.0	109.3	141.5	-	-	-
Total palm-oil	-	-	-	155.5	179.5	231.8
Total palm kernels	-	-	-	111.5	118.8	144.5
Ground-nuts	195.8	301.8	271.5	112.0	180.2	177.0
Cottonseed	317.9	363.5	331.5	123.8	136.4	129.8
Coffee I	4.4	9.0	25.3	1.2	2.5	5.0
Coffee E ^{d/}	54.5	72.2	118.3	18.0	20.7	38.1
Hevea, I ^{d/}	28.4	20.1	22.3	-	1.0	3.2
Hevea, E	54.5	56.6	61.1	5.2	20.4	31.9
Urena	19.1	11.7	9.2	18.2	6.5	12.0

(footnotes on following page)

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(footnotes from preceding page)

- a/ The area of palm, coffee and rubber plantations include both those already in production and those recently planted.
- b/ I: indigenous crops.
- c/ E: European crops.
- d/ A large proportion of the indigenous plantations have not yet reached the production stage.

Livestock

With a view to combating the shortage of meat in the people's diet, the Ten-Year Plan has provided for a large-scale expansion of stock-breeding.

During the period 1949-1957, the primary object of the various measures was the improvement of stock, pastures and water supplies. The specific means that have been employed include a system of dipping-tanks to combat ticks and blood-sucking insects; the provision of artificial water holes and natural pastures; a network of selection and reproduction farms; the establishment of two veterinary laboratories making animal vaccines; and a network of veterinary clinics.

In 1957, there were forty-eight veterinary surgeons employed by the Government and fifty-three employed by private companies, as against sixteen and twenty-one, respectively, in 1947. The numbers of auxiliary personnel increased in similar proportions.

As the livestock owned by the indigenous inhabitants is now protected from the epizootic diseases that were formerly rampant, there has been an increase in numbers that has not as yet been accompanied by a corresponding improvement in quality.

Livestock statistics
 (Number of head)

	<u>European livestock</u>			<u>Indigenous livestock</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Cattle	220,130	348,732	449,075	352,901	457,236	517,440
Pigs	25,173	35,856	42,087	199,268	288,520	307,983
Sheep	28,123	24,362	22,241	1,447,089	529,127	614,230
Goats	...	8,754	5,424		1,473,783	1,793,763

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FORESTS

There are about 100 million hectares of forest land. The forestry policy is designed to ensure the conservation of the forest cover and the development of timber resources. To that end, the development programme includes the annual placing under management of an area of 5,000 hectares of forest, the afforestation of open land and the establishment each year of 5,000 hectares of protective belts protecting an area of about 50,000 hectares.

Management and reafforestation of forests, 1948-1957
(cumulative totals in hectares at the end of the year)

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Forest under management	5,545	18,971	38,407
Wooded savannah	19,676	31,662	36,537
Wooded belts for protection	-	6,483	11,099
Savannah protected	1,020	105,355	255,494

Forestry production

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Rough timber (thousand cubic metres)	349	800	828
Sawn timber (thousand cubic metres)	134	270	321
Veneer wood:			
Veneers (thousand cubic metres)	...	6.7	31.4
Plywood (thousand cubic metres)	...	6.4	8.9
Firewood (thousand steres)	1,899	6,576	3,684
Pit-props (thousand metres)	1,227	2,070	3,049
Charcoal (thousand tons)	...	7.6	8.8

The increased use of full oil in the operation of river craft provides a partial explanation for the decrease in the production of firewood, a large proportion of which was formerly consumed by such vessels.

FISHERIES

The Department of Fisheries and Fish Breeding is trying to increase the stocks of edible fish in lakes and rivers and to introduce the breeding of fish in artificial ponds so that by these means there may be an increase of animal proteins in the human diet.

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The Fisheries Commission set up in 1946 has established research stations and fish-stocking centres. A fisheries school has been in operation since 1952, and the schools of agriculture and the missions are promoting fish-rearing amongst the indigenous inhabitants. A large number of ponds have been constructed for the indigenous inhabitants. In 1957 there were 117,995 covering an area of 4,011 hectares, as against 15,174, covering 961 hectares, in 1950. The average output is from one to two tons per hectare. Total production of maritime, river and lake fisheries rose from about 42,000 tons in 1950 to 118,000 tons in 1957.

MINING

The mining industry, which is an extremely important element in the economy, accounts for over half the total value of exports. The capital invested in mining and in the iron and steel industry came to 13,700 million francs in 1953 and 14,900 million francs in 1956, representing an annual increase of 3 per cent. The mining industry provides more than one third of the Territory's fiscal revenue.

The ownership of the mines is separate from that of the soil and is vested in the State. Concessions to operate mines are granted by the State, which, in return for this privilege, holds up to 50 per cent of the capital of the mining companies, an arrangement which provides an additional source of revenue.

Progress in the mining industry in the past ten years has mainly concerned prospecting; more efficient extraction; expansion and diversification of output; improvements in refining; the establishment of affiliated industries and the utilization of energy resources.

The Ten-Year Plan has laid stress on the need to prolong the productive period of the mines through more intensive research and prospecting that will lead to the discovery of additional useable reserves. A geological commission was established in 1948 for the purpose of co-ordinating geological research. A Decree of 1949 reopened the Belgian Congo to prospecting by private individuals thus abolishing the restrictions introduced in 1941. A large number of prospecting permits are issued every year.

Mechanization, particularly in the copper and associated metal mines in Katanga province, and in the gold mines of the North-East, has made it possible

to reduce the labour force from 113,882 to 75,972 in the period 1950 to 1957. Although this represents a one-third reduction in manpower, there has been a 50 per cent rise in output. Productivity per worker in the mining industry has risen from 2.5 cubic metres a day to thirty-two cubic metres a day in the mechanized mines.

In relation to the base year 1950, the index of mining production in 1957 was 149, a slight regression as compared with 1956. Among the principal types of metals that have been mined for only a fairly recent period are manganese, zinc and cobalt, the last named representing about three fifths of the world total. With an output of 15 million metric carats in 1957, as against 5 million in 1948, the Belgian Congo is producing three quarters of the world total for industrial diamonds. Having only come into production fairly recently, special metals such as cadmium, tantalum, columbium, tungsten, lithium, beryllium and germanium have a minor but increasing place in the mining economy.

Ore-processing methods are being steadily improved. About half the copper produced is exported in the form of electrolytic copper, and the other half as blister copper. The electrolysis of cobalt and zinc was introduced in 1953. The production of tin has remained stationary.

Measures to stabilize prices include the accession of the Belgian Congo to the International Tin Agreement of 1954. At the end of 1957, copper producers acted in co-operation with other world producers in deciding to reduce their production by 10 per cent in order to adjust supply to demand.

The mining and metallurgical industry has given rise to the establishment of many affiliated industries. These include the manufacture of sulphuric acid, the production of which has increased by 600 per cent. The mining industry also produces its own electric power, and most of the large hydroelectric power stations in the Territory have been constructed by the mining companies. Between 1947 and 1957, one of those companies alone increased its installed power by 400,000 kilowatts.

Principal mineral products

	<u>Production</u> (thousand tons)			<u>Value</u> (million Belgian Congo francs)		
	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Copper	155.5	209.2	242.2	3,498	7,178	7,567
Granulated cobalt	1.7	4.4	5.5	249	1,171	1,125
Cobalt alloy	6.4	9.0	6.3	296	826	587
Cassiterite	16.2	16.3	15.1	1,098	1,380	1,119
Tin ^{a/}	3.9	2.8	3.2	21 ^{c/}	7 ^{c/}	9 ^{c/}
Manganese ore	12.8	216.7	367.0	14	620	1,013
Zinc ore	82.4	242.1	188.2	177	654	538
Electrolytic zinc ^{b/}	-	7.8	49.2	-	46	357
Coal	117.5	315.2	433.1	41	113	159
Silver (thousand kilogrammes)	118.4	154.3	94.7	124	214	140
Fine gold (kilogrammes)	9,020.0	11,411.0	11,540.0	443	659	656
Industrial diamonds (thousand carats)	5,273.7	12,016.2	15,015.8	148	733	1,545
Jeweler's diamonds (thousand carats)	550.8	564.1	630.9	109	131	228

^{a/} Tin extracted from part of the cassiterite mentioned above.

^{b/} Zinc extracted from part of the zinc ore.

^{c/} Value added through processing of cassiterite.

The total value of mining production in 1957 was 15,529 million francs, as against 14,107 million francs in 1953 and 6,392 million francs in 1948.

POWER

Although the building of power stations is generally left to private initiative, provision was made in the Ten-Year Plan for the public authorities to supply electricity to urban and industrialized areas where there was a scarcity of electric power. The Forces du Bas-Congo and the Forces de l'Est are semi-public undertakings which were set up for this purpose. They have so far erected two new hydroelectric stations, one at Zongo near Leopoldville (18,600 kw) and one at Tshopo near Stanleyville (21,000 kw), both of which were put into service in 1955.

The supply of power to the less important areas is the responsibility of the Belgian Congo Electricity and Water Supply Undertaking, an independent public body financed by the Plan; in 1957 it was supplying nineteen areas as against four in 1947.

The increase in the supply of electricity has made it possible to provide additional power to industry, to public and private consumers, to the electrified portion of the Katanga railway and to international transmission lines for export to Northern Rhodesia.

A plan to build a power station at Inga on the lower Congo river is being studied. This would be a large-scale project and would be related to the establishment of electro-metallurgical or electro-chemical industries, which are heavy consumers of power.

Electric power produced by government
and industrial power stations

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Total installed capacity (thousand kilowatts)	261	309	696
Hydroelectric capacity	247	275	616
Total output (million kilowatt-hours)	704	1,073	2,489
Hydroelectric output	665	992	2,375

INDUSTRY

The years between 1947 and 1957 were marked by an increase in industrial output and in the number and variety of industries and industrial enterprises. New types of industries include the production of palmetto-oil and cottonseed oils and the manufacture of cement tiles, bags, blankets, bottles, paints and varnishes, metal frames and furniture, copper wire and nails.

The index of industrial production stood at 377 in 1957 as compared with 250 in 1953 and 100 in 1947-49. The rate of expansion diminished in the course of 1957, the sector most affected being the textile industry where the index fell by 11 points in comparison with 1956. This was the result of a decline in the production of ready-made clothes, piece-goods and bags. Progress has continued in other sectors but at a slower rate than in preceding years.

There has been a marked increase in the number of industrial establishments. In 1947, there were 671 food processing plants (dairies, breweries, etc.); by 1957 this figure had exceeded 2,866. The number of chemical plants increased from fourteen in 1947 to 110 in 1957. Also in 1957 there were, besides eight spinning mills and clothing factories, 530 establishments manufacturing clothes and shoes and processing hides and skins, as compared with 256 in 1947. These statistics relate not only to a few larger undertakings but also to a considerable number of smaller handicraft-type establishments of which there were 8,676 in 1957 compared with 5,016 in 1955 and which are to an increasing extent in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants.

With a view to encouraging local industry, the tariff regulations were revised in 1952 to provide for a sliding scale of import duties imposing a less heavy duty on raw materials than on semi-finished and finished products. Preferential treatment was, however, accorded to semi-finished products required by industry. Lower rates also apply to tools and machinery, but manufactured goods which might compete with local industries are subject to rates that provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Principal industrial products

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Cement (tons)	115,441	248,270	463,952
Lime (tons)	36,947	94,332	100,460
Cement tiles (thousand units)	-	357	2,216
Fibro-cement (thousand square metres)	1,117	2,122	2,340
Sulphuric acid (tons)	22,400	60,600	122,751
Soap (tons)	22,776	16,068	25,371
Sugar (tons)	15,613	16,458	19,332
Beer (hectolitres)	200,916	738,764	1,382,478
Palm-oil (tons)	134,970	182,610	233,455
Palmetto-oil (tons)	-	24,800	54,297
Piece-goods (thousand metres)	21,000	43,498	52,982
Blankets (thousand units)	160	1,157	1,976
Bags (thousand units)	-	4,860	6,985
Ready-made clothing and hosiery (thousand units)	-	11,592	13,504
Foot-wear (thousand pairs)	293	1,267	2,851
Bottles (thousand units)	-	12,000	13,478
Cigarettes (million units)	...	2,701	4,045
Metal containers (thousand units)	347	1,087	912
Cast-iron articles (tons)	...	2,558	2,927
Metal beds (units)	-	-	31,942

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The transport problem, which is greatly complicated by the Territory's vast area, is being progressively dealt with through a more effective use of navigable waterways as well as by small additions to the railway system and an increased investment in the road network. Whereas in 1947 there were 14,700 motor vehicles and 100,524 kilometres of roads, there were in 1957 more than 60,000 vehicles and 140,676 kilometres of roads, of which 33,620 kilometres consisted of main roads, 89,934 kilometres of local roads and 17,122 kilometres of private roads. The quality and alignment of many roads have been improved, ferries have been replaced by bridges, and temporary bridges have been replaced by permanent bridges. By the end of 1957, 324 metal and 184 stone bridges had been built, and fifty-one metal and seven stone bridges were in course of construction.

In 1957, there were 5,121 kilometres of railways compared with 4,756 kilometres in 1947. The Kamina-Kabalo line, which was inaugurated in 1955, is 445 kilometres long and provides a connecting link between the Rhodesia Railway, the Benguela Railway and the greater part of the Belgian Congo's railway system. A section of the railway in Katonga province has been electrified.

Railways

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Passengers carried (thousands)	856.6	1,476.6	1,842.0
Passenger-kilometres (millions)	124.0	224.7	353.4
Tons carried (thousands)	5,914.0	9,237.3	9,711.6
Tons-kilometres (millions)	1,785.0	2,185.4	2,716.6

In 1957 there were 13,708 kilometres of lake and river services in operation, as against 11,987 kilometres in 1947. The number of passengers in 1957 was over 200,000, as compared with 172,000 in 1953. The total goods traffic was 2.4 million tons in 1957, as against 1.9 million tons in 1953.

At Leopoldville a programme for the enlargement of the river port is providing 867 metres of new quays, of which 580 metres had been completed by 1955. Various projects have also been undertaken for the improvement of other lake and river ports.

A substantial part of the capital investment is channelled through the Colonial Transport Office (OTRACO), a government agency which is responsible in particular for essential port services and the purchase of boats of all types. The total tonnage of the OTRACO fleet increased from 100,000 tons in 1948 to 242,000 tons in 1955.

Matadi, the principal seaport, accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the total traffic. The volume of goods passing through there increased from 682,190 tons in 1947 to 1,458,851 tons in 1957. The length of the quays has been increased from 1,170 metres to 1,730 metres, and the number of berths for seagoing ships from seven to eleven. There have been corresponding increases in warehouse space and handling gear.

Air transport has become an important economic factor in the Territory and has created many problems as regards basic facilities. A new all-purpose airfield with a runway of 4,700 metres was completed at Leopoldville in 1957. New airfields at Elisabethville and Luluabourg were put into service in 1955. Besides these a system of airstrips links the main centres with the administrative, mining and farming outposts in the bush.

Air transport
(principal airports)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Passengers carried	36,855	115,564	203,997
Cargo (tons)	855	8,700	14,846
Mail (tons)	616	1,481	2,467

Communications

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Post offices	147	189	315
Items of correspondence (thousands)	27,006	52,528	70,349
Number of parcels	150,695	509,171	600,746
Number of telephones in operation	...	10,943	21,632
Number of subscribers	3,234	6,056	11,609

PUBLIC FINANCE

The Belgian Congo is a separate entity from Belgium. It has its own resources and complete financial autonomy. Its budgets, public debt, treasury and accounts are wholly separate to those of Belgium. It finances all expenditure from its own resources. The budgetary system includes the ordinary budget, which forecasts and authorizes the expenditure required for the normal operation of the public services, including the servicing of the debt; and the special budget, most of which comes under the Ten-Year Plan. The ordinary budget is covered by general revenue, including taxes, and by miscellaneous income, including revenue from capital and the income tax. The special budget is covered by the proceeds of loans, after utilization of any surplus from the ordinary budget.

The provinces are administrative divisions with no separate budget. The towns (Leopoldville, Elisabethville, Jadotville) have their own budgets, but their general administrative expenses are covered by a grant from the Territorial Treasury. In addition, the local indigenous communities (chiefdoms, sectors, extra-tribal centres) have separate legal status, their own finances and a separate budgetary system. The indigenous authorities prepare an annual budget (the funds being provided by additional levies on the taxes payable by the indigenous inhabitants, miscellaneous charges and revenue, and loans), which takes effect after being approved by the District Commissioner.

The development of the fiscal system has been marked by the increasing importance of direct taxes as compared with indirect taxes. For instance, the scope of the supplementary tax on profits was widened in 1951. Whereas previously it had been levied on company profits only, it is now applied to all taxpayers (companies and individuals) whose head office or principal administrative establishment is in Belgium and whose business office is situated in the Territory.

A special budget equalization fund was instituted in 1951 to mitigate the effects of business fluctuations on the ordinary budget. It is financed by appropriations from the ordinary budget and by surpluses in the ordinary budgets for the years between 1939 and 1946. The total resources of the fund on 31 December 1957 were approximately 8,400 million francs.

The issuing of loans, mainly to finance the Ten-Year Plan, has led to a substantial increase in the Belgian Congo's direct public debt, which rose from BC fr 4,400 million in 1947 to BC fr 31,400 million at the close of 1957. The interest charges on the debt, which in 1947 amounted to only 5.9 per cent of the ordinary expenditure, represented 15.5 per cent of this expenditure in 1957. The Territory's holdings of securities, which consist mainly of shares in semi-public corporations and in mining companies, have increased considerably, having risen from 11,465 million francs at the end of 1951 to 35,629 million francs by the end of 1957.

Revenue and expenditure
(million Belgian Congo francs)

	<u>1947^{a/}</u>	<u>1953^{a/}</u>	<u>1957^{b/}</u>
Ordinary budget			
Revenue	3,927	10,354	11,325
Expenditure	3,426	7,737	11,293
Special budget			
Expenditure	566	8,122 ^{c/}	6,843 ^{c/}
Principal items of ordinary revenue			
Customs duties, excise and warehouse taxes	2,287	4,100	4,817
Income tax	585	3,786	3,276
Proceeds of capital invested and interest received <u>d/</u>	158	863	1,204
Indigenous tax	177	330	361
Principal items of ordinary expenditure			
Social services	401	1,620	3,122
Economic services	752	2,489	3,152
Public debt	-	542	1,746

a/ Actual.

b/ Estimated.

c/ Including expenditure on the Ten-Year Plan.

d/ Mainly income from securities holdings.

Development financing

Allocation of grants under the Ten-Year Plan

When the Ten-Year Plan was being prepared in 1948, the authorities estimated that its total cost would be 25,500 million francs. About half this sum was allotted to investments in the economic sector (for infrastructure) and over a third to investments in the social sector. The remaining sectors, i.e. agriculture and the public services (town planning, telecommunications, scientific research) were allotted 12.7 per cent. Important changes were subsequently made in this total figure. The most important occurred in 1954 and was occasioned by rising costs and the emergence of new technical and economic factors during the first phrase of the Plan. The total estimated expenditure was increased to 48,000 million francs, and the proportion allocated to the economic and social sectors was reduced somewhat in favour of agriculture and the public services. In 1957, a transitional expenditure item of 2,800 million francs was included in the budget estimates to ensure continuity in projects under the first Ten-Year Plan and those under the second Ten-Year Plan, which is now under consideration.

The Plan's total funds have therefore been increased to 51,000 million francs distributed as follows:

- 25,300 million for the economic sector;
- 13,100 million for the social sector;
- 2,900 million for agriculture;
- 9,600 million for the public services.

Estimated expenditure under the Ten-Year Plan
 (million Belgian Congo francs)

	<u>1948</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Estimates</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Estimates</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Transport	12,758	50.0	21,871	42.9
Electricity (power stations)	1,909	7.5	3,412	6.7
Housing for the indigenous inhabitants	1,900	7.5	4,520	8.9
Sanitation and medical facilities	1,972	7.7	3,166	6.2
Education of the indigenous inhabitants	1,838	7.2	2,728	5.4
Water and electricity supply, street lighting	1,616	6.3	2,418	4.8
Agriculture	1,388	5.4	2,926	5.7
Town planning and public buildings	1,200	4.7	8,399	16.5
Other capital investment	931	3.7	1,496	2.9
	<u>25,512</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>50,936</u> a/	<u>100.0</u>

a/ An additional 1,410 million francs under the Indigenous Welfare Fund should be included.

Authorized expenditure under the Ten-Year Plan 1948-1957
 (million Belgian Congo francs)

		<u>Percentage</u>
Transport	17,705.2	40.7
Electricity (power stations)	2,253.8	5.2
Housing for the indigenous inhabitants	3,196.5	7.3
Sanitation and medical facilities	2,869.6	6.6
Education of the indigenous inhabitants	2,744.9	6.3
Water and electricity supply, street lighting	2,366.2	5.4
Agriculture	3,203.1	7.3
Town planning and public buildings	8,274.3	19.0
Cartography, geological exploration and meteorology	295.3	0.7
Telecommunications	636.7	1.5
	<u>43,545.6</u>	<u>100.0</u>

In addition to this expenditure under the Ten-Year Plan, there was an even greater volume of private expenditure. For joint-stock companies alone, the capital investment (formation of new companies and increases in the capital assets of existing companies) amounted to a total of 32,350 million francs during the period 1950-1957.

BANKING AND CREDIT

The right of issue, formerly exercised by the Banque du Congo belge was transferred in 1952 to the Banque centrale du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi. The note circulation rose from BC fr 1,846 million on 31 December 1947 to BC fr 5,885 million on 31 December 1957.

At the end of 1957, six private banks were carrying out all banking and short- and medium-term banking operations. The rate of interest allowed on deposit accounts was increased in the course of 1957.

Since 1947 a semi-public corporation, the Société de crédit au colonat et à l'industrie, has been making long- and medium-term loans to artisans, professional workers, farmers, merchants and manufacturers. The aggregate value of the loans made by this corporation from the time of its establishment up to 31 December 1957 was 1,319.8 million francs.

The Caisse d'épargne du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi was opened in 1951 to encourage small savings. Deposits rose from 855.3 million francs on 31 December 1951 to 3,595 million francs at the end of 1957. Of the latter sum, 1,658.6 million francs were deposited by individuals (593.5 million by indigenous inhabitants and 1,065.1 million by non-indigenous inhabitants) and 1,936.4 million by organizations (1,007.9 million by Congolese organizations and 928.5 million by European organizations).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Under the Act of Berlin of 1885, as revised by the Convention of Saint-Germain-en-Laye of 1919, free trade is guaranteed in the Treaty Basin of the Congo, and preferential treatment is prohibited. The import and export licences

required are administrative in character rather than restrictive. An exchange declaration is, however, required before goods can be either imported or exported. The customs duties on imports and exports are dictated mainly by fiscal considerations, but there is an increasing tendency to use them as an instrument of economic policy. The import duties, in particular, take into account the growing industrialization of the Territory.

The expansion of the foreign trade of the Belgian Congo during the period under consideration has been due to many factors. Increased production and higher prices, wages and profits have led to a substantial rise in the national income. This in turn has produced new needs, which have been reflected in a sharp increase in the demand for consumer goods. As the local industries are far from being able to satisfy this new demand, most goods have to be imported. As regards producer goods and capital equipment, the rise in imports has been no less considerable. Exports have followed the same trend as imports, for, with higher prices as an incentive, Congolese producers have invested fresh capital and expanded production, and the result has been an appreciable increase in all fields that has been reflected in the volume of exports.

In 1957, two opposing trends determined the course of Congolese foreign trade. There was a higher volume of imports and exports as a result of the basic expansionist trend in the economy, but there was also a considerable drop in the value of exports (23,900 million francs in 1957, compared with 27,100 million in 1956) as a result of lower world prices for raw materials.

The foreign-trade statistics cover the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. Because of the customs union between the two Territories, separate figures for each Territory are not available.

Imports and exports

	<u>Quantity</u> (thousand tons)			<u>Value</u> (million Belgian Congo francs)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Imports	578	1,432	1,684	6,453	18,172	21,807
Exports	782	1,178	1,531	8,098	20,430	23,959

Principal imports

	<u>Quantity</u> (thousand tons)			<u>Value</u> (million Belgian Congo francs)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Machinery, tools and electrical equipment	23.3	66.8	58.4	852	2,961	3,847
Non-precious metals and metal products	45.9	227.8	263.9	516	2,988	3,634
Motor vehicles, tractors, cycles	16.3	35.9	35.8	646	1,875	2,270
Textiles	9.9	10.0	17.1	1,223	1,181	1,690
Mineral oils	75.9	289.7	465.6	171	720	1,430

Principal exports

	<u>Quantity</u> (thousand tons)			<u>Value</u> (million Belgian Congo francs)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Copper	159.0	207.1	241.6	1,731	6,831	7,485
Coffee	24.3	34.1	67.0	342	1,683	2,917
Palm-oil	84.9	134.1	155.5	700	1,151	1,723
Cassiterite	16.7	20.9	16.9	542	1,657	1,233
Diamonds (thousand carats)	4,941.2	12,580.0	15,193.3	333	858	1,537
Cobalt	8.3	13.5	12.3	233	1,890	1,463
Cotton	43.6	47.1	39.4	858	1,852	1,287
Rubber	3.9	18.1	34.3	61	411	1,019
Gold (kilogrammes)	10,610.0	13,682.0	16,718.0	470	662	637
Zinc, metal	-	5.9	49.6	-	46	549
Manganese, ore	11.1	183.7	346.4	4	273	448

Direction of trade
(percentage of total value)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Origin of imports			
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union	29.7 ^{a/}	39.6	35.1
United States of America	38.1	23.6	17.9
United Kingdom	8.6	7.2	7.5
Germany	...	4.5	8.9
France	2.5	3.2	3.2
Union of South Africa	5.5	3.4	3.2
Italy	...	2.0	3.2
Netherlands	1.4	3.0	3.7
Other countries	14.2	13.5	17.3
Destination of imports			
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union	58.7 ^{a/}	57.2	49.3
United States of America	15.4	16.7	13.5
United Kingdom	13.1	7.8	7.7
France	...	6.0	6.1
Germany	...	3.2	4.8
Italy	2.2	2.8	4.3
Other countries	10.6	6.3	14.3

a/ Belgium.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Racial and cultural relations

At the beginning of the period under review, the basic policy of the public authorities with regard to racial relations was to bring about a progressive adaptation of the indigenous inhabitants to European ways. The first step in this direction was taken in 1948, when a "civic merit card" was issued to Congolese who had reached what was considered a suitable level of advancement. The possession of such a card conferred both tangible and intangible advantages. The eventual complete assimilation of some classes of indigenous inhabitants to Europeans had been planned. Later on, however, this trend towards assimilation was abandoned in favour of a policy of association, the aim then being to establish a community of interests between indigenous inhabitants and the Belgian settlers in the Belgian Congo.

On 2 September 1957, a Decree providing penalties for "acts likely to incite or perpetuate racial or ethnic hatred", was adopted in order to promote friendly relations between the different racial groups.

Status of women

The status of women in the Belgian Congo is not uniform but varies from tribe to tribe. Generally speaking, the status of women is, by tradition and custom, inferior to that of men, but in practice, the behaviour of individuals by no means conforms to theory. Congolese women own property which they may dispose of as they desire. In the towns, where detribalized Africans are becoming increasingly individualistic in their outlook, the status of women is changing rapidly.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

The aim of the labour employment policy is to induce the indigenous inhabitants to make, of their own free will, a steady effort to improve their conditions. Detailed legislative provisions, which are enforced and supervised by the labour inspectorate, deal with such matters as the health, safety and recruitment of workers and protection against abuses with regard to wages, working hours and similar matters.

/...

The regulations governing the status of workers were amended and codified by virtue of a Decree of 30 June 1954; the provisions for the protection of minors have been made more comprehensive; paid vacations, the weekly rest and the observance of holidays have been made compulsory; the medical assistance scheme for workers has been improved; welfare measures for the families of workers have been strengthened; and the system of penalties has been made less severe. A system of family allowances for indigenous workers was established by law in 1952.

In 1956, a pension scheme and, in 1957, a sickness insurance scheme were introduced for the benefit of indigenous workers (see "Social security and welfare").

Some particularly important legislation, applying equally to indigenous and non-indigenous workers, was passed in 1957. Among the matters dealt with are the right of association, the right to form and join trade unions, procedures for the settlement of labour disputes, working hours and apprenticeship contracts.

A revision of the Decree of 1 August 1949 concerning compensation to indigenous workers in respect of work accidents and occupational diseases is now under consideration.

Employment conditions

On 31 December 1947, the number of employed men was 755,109, or 27.26 per cent of the male working population. According to an inquiry made in 1947, there were at that time more than 85,000 workers less than the total required for the normal development of existing enterprises, and new enterprises were being launched every day. In 1953, the number of employed men was 1,109,501, or 37.51 per cent of the male working population; the corresponding figures for 1957 were 1,147,172 and 37.11 per cent.

From 1956 to 1957, there was a drop in employment due to such factors as the unfavourable economic situation, mechanization, more efficient operating methods and the slowing-down of some building programmes. This produced a certain amount of unemployment in the larger towns, in contrast to previous years when full employment had been maintained.

Distribution of male workers

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
		(percentages)		
Agriculture	27.05	24.82	22.97	25.72
Mines)	40.29 ^{a/}	14.02	9.83	6.63
Industry)		12.83	14.76	11.90
Commerce	9.19	6.45	6.67	6.17
Transport)	<u>a/</u>	6.46	7.54	7.46
Building)		8.82	10.42	10.25
Office work	2.24	1.98	2.69	3.68
Miscellaneous	21.23	24.62	25.12	28.19

a/ Transport and building included in mining and industry.

Wages

New measures establishing minimum-wage and minimum-ration scales came into force in 1955 as part of a reform of the legislation, drawn up in its basic form in 1922, concerning work contracts. Separate minimum-wage scales were established for light, normal and heavy work. An amendment to these regulations in 1956 provides that the standard budget of an unmarried worker is to be regarded as an absolute minimum that is to be increased according to regional conditions and the stage of development of the inhabitants.

In 1947, the daily wages of labourers ranged from 2 to 16.50 francs according to whether according to whether they worked in towns, extra-tribal centres or rural areas. Besides the wages, rations worth between 14 and 50 francs a week were provided.

In 1957, the minimum wages fixed by the new legislation on work contracts varied between 7 and 18 francs a day for normal work, these sums being increased by 10 per cent for heavy work and reduced by 10 per cent for light work. Taking into account the value of the rations and lodging received in addition to these minimum rates, the total wages varied between 15 and 55 francs a day in the different localities of the six provinces.

Under a recent law, such benefits as medical care, family allowances, pensions, sickness insurance and disability insurance have been added to these various total wages.

/...

Average monthly wages

	<u>1950^{a/}</u>	<u>1953^{a/}</u>	<u>1957^{b/}</u>
	(Belgian Congo francs)		
Office workers	265 to 4,000	250 to 10,000	300 to 12,000
Craftsmen	200 to 2,400	250 to 4,000	300 to 5,000
Labourers	110 to 481	165 to 875	177.50 to 1,550
Agricultural workers	110 to 400	165 to 875	177.50 to 1,260

a/ Wages and rations.

b/ Wages only.

Workers' and employers' organizations

The 1957 revision of the regulations concerning the right of association has brought about profound changes. Under the previous legislation, enacted in 1921 and 1942, complete freedom of association was granted only to Europeans. Under an Ordinance of 1946, organizations of indigenous workers and employers could only be local in scope. These various measures have now been repealed, and the revised legislation proclaims the principle of freedom of association for all the inhabitants, without distinction of origin. Indigenous workers may now join whatever organization they choose. However, these organizations must be approved by the Government, and there are special provisions relating to the right of association of civil servants, who, moreover, are not entitled to strike.

Despite the increase in the number of indigenous trade-unions set up under the 1946 Ordinances (fifty-three with a membership of 10,811 in 1947; sixty with a membership of 6,993 in 1953; and sixty-nine with a membership of 8,829 in 1956), these organizations did not elicit wide support among the workers, and their influence on wages and working conditions was negligible. It is expected that the new legislation will help to increase the influence of the trade unions and intensify their activity.

Apart from the trade unions, a useful function in relations between some employers and their workers is still being performed by the indigenous works-councils, which were established in 1946 and increased in number from 384 in 1948 to 673 in 1953 and 858 in 1957. Although not workers organizations in the strict sense, these councils are represented on the same footing as indigenous trade-unions in the local workers' committees and on the regional and provincial labour and social welfare commissions. The deliberations of these organizations are taking on increased significance because of the importance of the questions discussed and of their influence on the occupational, material, cultural and social advancement of the workers.

Labour disputes

A new conciliation and arbitration procedure for collective labour disputes was embodied in a Legislative Ordinance of 20 September 1957, which provides for the compulsory submission of a collective dispute to a conciliation commission and, on appeal, to a higher conciliation commission. Employers and workers are represented on both these commissions. Strikes are legal only if these commissions do not succeed in settling the dispute by conciliation or arbitration.

The number of collective disputes was small during the period under review, and they were, generally speaking, settled by conciliation.

STANDARD OF LIVING

From 1944 to 1957, the official cost-of-living index was computed on the basis of a standard budget worked out by a Joint Index Commission. This Commission, which began as an unofficial body, was given official status in 1947.

The standard budget was based on the most common and representative items of expenditure for a European family of average income having one child of about twelve years of age. The base year was taken as 1935.

On 1 October 1957, a new index worked out by a joint commission called the "Plenary Index Commission" was substituted for the former index which, as it had been established in 1944 and thus related to pre-war living conditions, had fallen into disuse.

The new cost-of-living index is weighted in accordance with the results of a budget survey for the period 1 April 1956 to 31 March 1957. It takes into account the expenditure relevant to the current level of living and the fluctuations in the real purchasing power of the average consumer. The cost-of-living level on 1 October 1957 has been taken as the base of the new index.

Since 23 August 1956, the official cost-of-living index has also served as a basis for the wage scale for Congolese civil servants. These wages and, indirectly, those of non-government Congolese employees were formerly attached to the "cost-of-living index of the more advanced indigenous inhabitants", which had been instituted in 1949 and was abandoned in 1956. That index was based on the monthly expenditure of a typical Congolese family with one child and an "average" income.

Official cost-of-living index

Index based on the old
formula

(base: 1935 = 100)

Index based on the new
formula

(base: 1 October 1957 = 100)

	<u>1 January 1948</u>	<u>1 January 1954</u>	<u>1 January 1958</u>
Food	240.9	306.6	101.8
Household	242.4	360.5	99.9
Transport	-	-	105.5
Clothing	268.4	318.5	102.1
Miscellaneous	150.8	195.0	100.8
GENERAL INDEX	<u>233.3</u>	<u>308.4</u>	<u>101.5</u>
			(or 314.7 according to the old formula)

Cost-of-living index for Congolese workers

(base: 1948 = 100)

	<u>1 February 1953</u>	<u>1 August 1956</u>
Food	138.6	137.0
Cleaning, heating	157.8	148.1
Household, toilet articles, furniture	110.3	107.4
Clothing	117.1	105.6
Miscellaneous	145.5	148.1
GENERAL INDEX	<u>133.0</u>	<u>129.1</u>

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A Decree of 6 August 1949 instituted the first reform in the 1921 legislation applicable to indigenous co-operatives; it made possible the reorganization of societies set up during the post-war period and the establishment of new ones.

A further Decree of 24 March 1956, which aimed at the expansion of the co-operative movement, gave more responsibility to the managing bodies of these societies and authorized the establishment of groups of co-operatives. The existing societies had to amend their regulations in accordance with the provisions of the 1956 Decree. Co-operatives with too many members or with a very extended area of operations took advantage of these changes to split up into smaller societies, joined in a union, or to organize regional assemblies which would strengthen contacts between the managing bodies and the members. Most co-operatives are run by European managers. The operation of the co-operatives is supervised and their activities are co-ordinated by the "Indigenous Co-operatives" section of the Bureau of Indigenous Affairs of the Governor-General's Office.

Since the 1949 reform, ninety-two co-operatives have been approved. In addition, thirty-four have been liquidated, but some only to be reconstituted in another form. Under the previous legislation, twenty co-operatives had been authorized since 1945, and six had been liquidated. In 1957 there were seventy-two co-operatives, including forty-five rural producers' co-operatives, and the total membership was 148,233. The growth of this movement has been due to the increasing interest of the peasants, who regard the co-operative as a means of economic emancipation. On the other hand, sellers' and consumers' co-operatives lead a precarious existence because they must meet the very active competition of private businesses.

HOUSING AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

During the war years and the post-war period, resources for the construction of housing were strictly limited, and as the demand exceeded the supply it was necessary to resort to temporary solutions. This situation continued until the emergence of the Ten-Year Plan, under which an attempt was made to solve the housing shortage by giving priority to the construction of new dwellings providing

suitable accommodation for the people. The Plan called, in particular, for the establishment of towns for the indigenous inhabitants in which well-equipped and sanitary residential quarters would be built; for the setting-up, in mining areas and on large farms, of garden cities for the workers; and for the provision of housing in the main rural settlements.

This programme was rendered more effective with the aid of the Loan Fund, which was set up in 1947. The indigenous districts and the extra-tribal centres borrow money from this Fund and use it to make loans to their inhabitants for the building of houses of durable or semi-durable materials. This system, which provides for loans to individuals up to a maximum of 125,000 francs, is especially popular with the indigenous inhabitants in the extra-tribal centres. The system was extended in 1956, with the result that loans could be granted for the improvement of rural housing in several provinces. By 31 December 1957, the total number of individual loans that had been granted was 42,196 for an aggregate sum of 1,919,475,416 francs, as against 17,431 loans and 610,014,616 francs on 31 December 1954.

For the purpose of giving effect to the ten-year programme of housing, African housing offices were established from 1949 onwards in most of the non-European settlements. In 1952 these local offices were centralized in the "African Housing Authority" whose function it is to plan and set up dwellings and other buildings for housing purposes. In the four areas of the Colony where the African Housing Authority's programme is in effect, the construction of 40,000 dwellings is planned. By 31 December 1957, a total of 25,283 dwellings had been completed, and 7,274 were in process of construction. The Authority has also undertaken the construction of a large number of buildings for community purposes, such as communal dwellings, social centres, schools, dispensaries, maternity hospitals and covered markets, and the provision of basic facilities, such as building plots, roads and drainage and refuse disposal systems. By 31 December 1957 the expenditure for these facilities had reached nearly 300 million francs.

In addition to the types of aid just mentioned, the "King's Fund" was set up in 1956 to assist the indigenous inhabitants to purchase dwellings. This Fund, which was endowed with an initial capital of 1,800 million francs, had by 31 December 1957 helped nearly 3,000 recipients and had made grants totalling more than 4 million francs.

Great efforts have also been made, chiefly since 1950, by employers, and by large enterprises in particular, to improve the housing of their workers and to set up workers' cities. This attitude is in part due to a post-war financial policy which in most companies has resulted in the building-up of large reserves to be invested in the welfare of the indigenous inhabitants. A further factor is the legislation passed in 1949 under which employers are required to provide housing for their workers.

There has been a town planning section in the Office of the Governor-General since 1949, and this is assisted by town planning offices in the various provinces. Town planning activities and methods, particularly with regard to the establishment of local and regional plans, were revised in 1957 to meet new conditions arising from the growth of the urban areas.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

A considerable amount of welfare legislation was passed during the period under review.

Under a Decree of 1 August 1949, provision was made for the payment of compensation to indigenous workers in respect of industrial accidents and occupational diseases. Such compensation was previously limited to Europeans. Under a Decree of 30 June 1954, workers were granted additional protection against occupational diseases and industrial accidents. Enterprises are required to have at least one physician on their staff if they employ 1,000 workers, at least one European health worker if they employ 500 workers, and at least one Congolese male nurse if they employ 100 workers. The same decree introduced improvements in the system of medical care for workers and their families. If, for example, the necessary care cannot be given on the spot, the employer must, at his own expense, have the worker transported forthwith to a place where this care can be given. Cancellation of a work contract because of sickness or accident can only take effect if the incapacity to fulfil the contract has lasted for at least two months.

In 1957, compensation for industrial accidents and occupational diseases was extended to household employees.

A Decree of 19 February 1957 set up a compulsory insurance scheme under which allowances are granted to indigenous workers who are compelled to stop working for reasons of health. The Decree also makes provision for the payment of allowances to the widow and children of a deceased worker.

Under a Decree of 6 June 1956, which came into force on 1 January 1957, a pension scheme was set up for workers. All workers sixteen years of age or over and holding a work contract are in principle covered by this insurance. A pension is granted in respect of the years of service after 1 January 1957, and allowances in respect of the years prior to that date. The retirement pension scheme will be similar to the one set up for workers in Belgium by the Act of 21 May 1955. This means that when the general life expectancy in the Colony becomes the same as that in Belgium, a worker with forty-five years of service may expect to receive, at the age of sixty-five, a retirement pension equal to 75 per cent of his average remuneration. In view, however, of the present demographic conditions in the Territory, the pensionable age has, on a provisional basis, been reduced from sixty-five to fifty-five years.

The administration of these pensions has been entrusted to the Workers' Pension Fund of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. By June 1956 the Pension Fund had received membership applications from approximately 800,000 workers out of a total of 1 million workers eligible to join.

Social welfare for the inhabitants of extra-tribal centres is administered by a central office and by provincial offices and official or approved welfare centres. The welfare centres are run by voluntary associations and by philanthropic organizations, and they provide maternal and child welfare services, such as family and household training for Congolese women, domestic science, child care and so on. By 31 December 1957, there were twenty-two official welfare centres as against five in 1947; the number of approved welfare centres rose from twenty-nine in 1953 to fifty-two in 1957. As regards staff, the number of certified social workers rose from fourteen in 1947 to 189 in 1957, and in the latter year there were also sixty-three assistant social workers and 1,229 Congolese monitors (as against 606 monitors in 1953).

The Indigenous Welfare Fund, an autonomous public agency, was set up in 1947 to initiate and assist activities of all kinds for the material and cultural betterment of the indigenous rural population. The Fund concentrates its efforts and its

resources on rural economic development, social medicine, education and co-operatives. The Fund's resources consist of an initial grant from the State, proceeds from the Colonial lottery and interest on capital. The Fund's total expenditure under the 1957 budget estimates was 394.2 million francs as against 153.5 million in 1949.

An important contribution to social welfare has been made by the commercial and industrial companies that have provided medical and welfare facilities for their workers. In addition, a large number of welfare institutions for orphans, the aged, the sick and the infirm have been provided by the religious missions.

As a further step forward, a circular dated 8 January 1956 prescribed that indigenous districts must assume the medical and hospital expenses of destitute indigenous persons.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

There have been several reforms in the prison system since 1948. The chief aim has been to facilitate the rehabilitation of prisoners, and the measures adopted include separation of the various categories of prisoners, provision of agricultural and handicraft work, and the employment of specially trained staff. In addition, steps have been taken since 1947 for the gradual abolition of whipping as a disciplinary measure in the prisons. While these reforms were being carried out, a special department of prisons was set up in 1951, and several new institutions were built.

Under a Decree of 6 December 1950 on juvenile delinquency, steps have been taken since 1951 to set up custodial and educational institutions, to provide in various prisons annexes exclusively reserved for minors, and to improve prison facilities so that juvenile and adult prisoners might be effectively separated.

The total number of penal institutions on 31 December 1957 was 275, including four for juvenile delinquents, and the total prison population was 22,745, including 642 minors.

The total number of persons committed to prison was 199,261 in 1947, 182,209 in 1953 and 214,807 in 1957.

Crime statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of convictions of indigenous inhabitants for:			
Wilful homicide	417	483	423
Malicious wounding	845	6,805	8,101
Theft and extortion	2,489	14,411	14,933
Breach of trust	873	2,748	3,556
Alcoholism	-	6,008	26,824

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health is under the direction of the Health Department of the Governor-General's Office, administered by a Chief Medical Officer, and of the provincial medical departments, which are administered by provincial medical officers. The provincial departments each comprise a public health section, a medical practice section, and a research section.

In addition to these State agencies the following semi-public agencies have been set up to carry out certain specialized social and medical functions: the Queen Elizabeth Fund for Medical and Social Assistance to the Indigenous Inhabitants (FOREAMI), the Indigenous Welfare Fund (FBET) and the Queen Astrid Fund (ORAMEI).

The activities of these government and semi-governmental agencies are supplemented to a great extent by private agencies, some of which are subsidized (religious missions, scientific and voluntary organizations) and some not (industrial, agricultural and commercial enterprises). Among the private enterprises that are required under the labour legislation to meet certain medical obligations with regard to their staff, many have provided general and maternity hospitals, dispensaries and similar medical facilities which are far in excess of their legal obligations. They have, in addition, made their services available to the entire indigenous population living in the neighbourhood. They have, as a result, assumed responsibility for more than one-third of all the establishments in the Belgian Congo providing general medical care for the indigenous inhabitants.

Medical care in the strict sense is provided by general and maternity hospitals, specialized institutions and clinics on the one hand, and by mobile units for the control of endemic and epidemic diseases, on the other. The public health agencies are also responsible for controlling communicable diseases and for improving health conditions in general.

/...

A further contribution to public health in the Belgian Congo is made by the medical laboratories that engage in research and analysis and by the educational institutions that train medical staff.

Since 1946, an effort has been made to provide each area with a hospital fully equipped for all kinds of medical and surgical services and with a network of clinics and dispensaries that will make it possible for the rural regions of the Colony to benefit from all types of medical care. At the same time, the Government has been working to improve and enlarge urban hospitals and to increase the number and size of laboratories and of institutions for the training of medical and nursing staff. The related building programme, which was started in 1946, was integrated into the Colony's Ten-Year Plan in 1950-51 and has been carried on since then without interruption. Since 1953 there has been a marked growth in medical care, as shown by the increase in the number and capacity of hospitals and clinics. The physical plant of medical institutions has also been improved through such means as the replacement of old buildings, new construction and the installation of modern equipment and additional facilities.

Much of this progress has been due to the Indigenous Welfare Fund (FBEI), which between 1949 and 1956 financed the construction and equipping of twenty-five general hospitals, 118 maternity hospitals and 293 clinics and the purchase of 236 ambulances. In three areas where the need is particularly great, it is using its own resources to provide medical services. In the campaign against the main endemic diseases, the Fund has built leprosaria and has undertaken pilot campaigns against malaria. It has built seventeen schools for male and female nurses and for midwives in order to speed up the training of indigenous hospital staff.

The "Queen Elizabeth Fund" (FOREAMI) was set up in 1931 in order to provide medical facilities for the indigenous inhabitants, and it seeks to encourage intensive local campaigns for the prevention and treatment of endemic and epidemic diseases and to foster the development of health and social agencies. It was particularly active in Kwango, an essentially rural area which, from the medical point of view, has now become one of the best-equipped regions of the Belgian Congo. Since 1953, FOREAMI has been responsible for co-ordinating the leprosy control campaign and, more recently, a large-scale project for the provision of medical care to mothers and children.

There has been a steady increase in the number of persons treated at hospitals and similar institutions. In the State hospitals alone, this number rose from 1,066,731 in 1947 to 2,562,836 in 1957, while the number of bed patients increased from 195,993 in 1948 to 497,373 in 1957.

The campaign against the main endemic diseases - in particular, malaria and trypanosomiasis - has been intensified to the extent that the available resources allow, and substantial results have been attained. Systematic residual spraying has considerably reduced the incidence of malaria. The malaria death-rate among the indigenous inhabitants fell from 0.40 in 1946 to 0.25 in 1957. However, the proportion of persons suffering from malaria, which was estimated in 1951 to be at least 50 per cent of the population, still remains very high. A Congo-Ubani insect-eradication mission was set up in 1957 to carry out a campaign for the treatment of vast highly malarious areas in the north of Equator province. Trypanosomiasis has diminished very sharply in consequence of sustained medical action based on campaigns of chemoprophylaxis with pentamidine in the infested regions. The incidence of new infections has been reduced to the very low rate of 0.02 per cent. Tuberculosis control has been concentrated since 1953 in the extra-tribal centres, where promiscuity and overcrowding in cramped quarters contribute to the spread of the disease and a mass BCG campaign has been undertaken. A vast leprosy-control campaign has been carried out in all areas in conjunction with an increase in the number of mobile clinics. As a result of these efforts all lepers had the opportunity in 1957 to receive what was the equivalent of treatment at home.

Medical training, apart from that provided in the two medical schools of metropolitan university standard, is under the direction of the Colonial health services. In 1957 the institutions giving such training were as follows: three schools for indigenous medical assistants (two in 1947 and 1953); ten schools for male nurses (nine in 1947 and 1953); three schools for health inspectors; seventy-four schools for assistant male nurses (ten in 1947, forty-two in 1953); five schools for nurse-midwives (none in 1947, three in 1953); thirty-six schools for assistant midwives (four in 1947, thirty-two in 1953); and one school for dentists (since 1955).

The number of graduates from these schools in 1957 was as follows: fifteen medical assistants, fifty-four male nurses, five health inspectors, 336 assistant male nurses, four nurse midwives and 100 assistant midwives. /...

	<u>Expenditure</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u> (million francs)	<u>1957</u>
<u>Government</u>			
Ordinary (operating) budget	181.1 ^{a/}	860.6 ^{b/}	1,209.5 ^{c/}
Special (capital) budget	...	852.7 ^{b/}	569.5 ^{c/}
<u>Queen Elizabeth Foundation</u>			
Medical care for indigenous inhabitants	10.2 ^{a/}	... ^{d/}	... ^{d/}
<u>Indigenous Welfare Fund</u>			
Medical-social subsidies	-	114.5	110.6

a/ Actual expenditure.

b/ For the three-year period 1953-1954-1955.

c/ Authorized expenditure for 1957 but of a total of 1,278.8 million francs in authorized commitments for the four-year period 1956 to 1959.

d/ Included in the special budget.

Health institutions

	<u>Number of institutions</u>			<u>Number of beds</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
<u>Institutions for indigenous inhabitants</u>						
State, general and maternity hospitals	55	99	116	12,204	11,505	18,940
State, rural clinics	523	570	1,183		5,648	8,092
General and maternity hospitals subsidized by the State	59	106	116	19,625	7,891	13,931
Rural clinics subsidized by the State	197	338	251		7,694	5,226
General and maternity hospitals run by private companies	76	119	76	11,081	12,378	12,817
Rural clinics run by private companies	358	696	726		2,133	2,096
Specialized units for treatment of sleeping sickness, leprosy and tuberculosis:						
State institutions	...	45	36	11,749	3,973	4,396
Other	...	93	54	5,421	5,061	8,957

Table (cont'd)

	<u>Number of institutions</u>			<u>Number of beds</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
<u>Institutions for Europeans</u>						
General and maternity hospitals:						
State	26	42	56	479	612	792
Subsidized by the State	18	22	29	416	109	164
Run by private companies	30	34	39	139	225	402

Medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1948</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>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>
<u>European Staff</u>								
Registered physicians	196	194	211	200	317	277	374	312
Medical auxiliaries and health workers	218	103	233	128	501	136	472	148
Licensed dentists	1	14	2	16	8	26	10	30
Pharmacists	6	21	8	29	12	45	16	57
Nurses	192 ^{a/}	159	216 ^{a/}	167	344	1,050	533 ^{a/}	647
<u>African Staff^{b/}</u>								
Medical assistants)				52		86		113
Registered male nurses)	412				709			892
Qualified and certified nurses and assistant midwives	125		142		213			390
Certificated assistant male nurses	1,747		1,852		2,805			3,744

a/ Including religious and lay nurses recruited under contract by the Government hospitals (192 in 1947, 195 in 1948, 257 in 1953 and 394 in 1957).

b/ Staff employed by the State, and staff employed by FOREAMI and the missions and paid by the State.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

State education is administered by a department of the Governor-General's Office and by provincial departments of education.

The system of education for the indigenous inhabitants that was established by virtue of legislation passed in 1924 and 1938 has recently undergone considerable change as the result of three successive reforms, although the general organizational structure remains the same. There are three types of schools: (1) State schools, established and administered by the public authorities, which pay the full costs; (2) independent State-aided mission schools that comply with government regulations concerning curricula, inspection, etc.; and (3) independent schools that are organized by missions or private interests and operate without assistance from the Government and free of government control. As there are very few State schools at either the primary, secondary or higher level, the independent State-aided schools actually constitute the public school system and are the principal means of education for the indigenous inhabitants.

The two reforms of 1948 and 1952 concerned the independent State-aided schools for the indigenous inhabitants and were intended mainly to improve primary education, develop secondary education and introduce higher education under a system making a distinction between mass education and the training of an élite. In addition, foreign Christian missions were put on the same footing as the national missions with regard to the granting of subsidies for educational activities.

Under the 1952 reform, the entrance qualifications for students were made more flexible, and financial assistance to the missions was considerably increased in direct proportion to the magnitude of their educational activities and with particular regard to construction and equipment costs (including those of small rural schools) and to the salaries and housing of the teaching staff. The new provisions also encourage the missions to assign qualified lay teachers to their secondary schools. In addition, it has now been laid down that all schools providing elementary education (pre-primary, primary and peri-primary education and handicraft training) must do so entirely free of charge.

In the lower primary schools and the ordinary upper primary schools, both of which provide the general mass education, the local language is the sole, or at

least the principal, teaching language, and French is taught as a foreign language. The study of French at selective upper level primary schools is sufficiently thorough to enable students to continue their studies at a secondary school, where classes are given only in French.

In 1957, the educational system was reorganized so as to include the schools known as "schools for Europeans", which formerly operated under a separate system from that of the "schools for indigenous inhabitants". This dual system has now been replaced by a functional division according to the type of education, as follows: primary and teacher-training; intermediate; higher; vocational and agricultural. Within each of these categories there are now Metropolitan-type schools (the former "schools for Europeans") and Congo-type schools (the former "schools for indigenous inhabitants"). The Metropolitan-type schools accept pupils of mixed descent and indigenous and Asian pupils on much more liberal conditions than before. For example, children of mixed descent with European status, children adopted by a person with European status and children of registered Congo citizens are now admitted on the same basis as European children.

As the independent schools which do not receive State aid are not organized in accordance with the official regulations for schools, they do not form part of the school system described above. The number of pupils attending these schools was greater than that for State and State-aided schools even as late as 1947, but by 1957 it had declined to less than a quarter of the total school population.

The growth of primary, teacher-training and intermediate education is reflected in the increase in the number of schools and students. Between 1948 and 1957 the school population increased nearly four-fold in the Metropolitan-type schools, and almost doubled in the Congo-type schools.

The most notable advance has been in vocational and trade schools, in which the number of pupils rose from 1,135 in 1948 to 4,579 in 1953 and 13,405 in 1957. In addition to the Leopoldville Technical Secondary School established in 1952, another technical secondary school was opened at Jadotville in 1957. The Office of the Commissioner for the Ten-Year Plan has also established a pilot centre for adult vocational training, the results of which have been so encouraging that the experiment has been extended to a number of rural areas and urban centres.

At the beginning of the period under review the only institutions of higher education in the colony were four non-State-aided major seminaries for the training

of indigenous Catholic clergy. Since then, two universities have been founded. One is the State University for the Belgian Congo at Ruanda-Urundi at Elisabethville which opened in 1956 with seventy-nine students and had an attendance of 100 non-Africans and fourteen Africans during the 1957-1958 academic year. The other is the State-aided independent Catholic University of Lovanium, near Leopoldville, which opened at the beginning of the 1954-1955 academic year, and in 1957-1958 had 251 students of whom 180 were Africans.

Expenditure
 (million Belgian Congo francs)

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Ordinary (operating) budget	177.5	678.9	1,586.4
Special (capital) budget	<u>24.5</u>	<u>952.6</u>	<u>157.5</u>
TOTALS	202.0	1,631.5	1,743.9
(including subsidies granted to missionary societies in respect of their educational activities)	(135.7)	(828.2)	(1,032.0)

Number of Schools

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	State-aided	Non-State-aided a/ and Private	State-aided	Non-State-aided and Private	State-aided	Non-State-aided and Private
<u>Congo-type schools</u>						
Primary and teacher-training	8,073	}	11,473	12,641	18,415	11,471
Intermediate	16	c/)	50	119	73	123
Vocational	}	19,030	167	102	144	-
Agricultural	}	d/)	15	2	30	-
Preparation for higher education	-	-	1	-	-	-
Higher education for clergy	-	4	-	4	-	4
<u>Metropolitan-type schools</u>						
Primary and teacher-training	}	}	38	}	122	37
Intermediate	33	}	17	}	24	6
Vocational	}	}	1	-	5	-
Higher	}	}	1	-	4	-

a/ Not including schools organized by private interests.
 b/ Included in figure for primary and teacher-training schools.
 c/ Including four intermediate sections in State schools.
 d/ Including three vocational sections in State schools.

Number of Students

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>			
	State and State- aided Schools	Non-State- aided a/ and Private Schools	State and State- aided Schools	Non-State- aided and Private Schools	State and State- aided Schools	Non-State- aided and Private Schools		
<u>Congo-type schools</u>								
Pre-primary and nursery	409,454	}	24,464	6,503	53,472	10,543		
Primary (including evening courses)			632,603	353,817	1,213,844	370,411		
Teacher-training, home economics and clerical	1,486	} 514,974	8,798	388	18,012	2,119		
Junior teacher- training	2,471		3,884	2,350	9,014	b/		
Secondary and inter- mediate	1,272	}	3,767	6,187	7,550	4,952		
Vocational	859		4,479	4,517	14,321	b/		
Agricultural	-	-	767	91	672	b/		
Preparation for higher education	-	-	130	-	-	-		
Higher education for clergy	-	300	-	374	-	365		
<u>Metropolitan-type schools</u>								
Pre-primary	5,058	}	241	}	4,895	449		
Primary					13,669	367	13,897	541
Secondary							4,138	115
Vocational Higher					374	-		
Pre-university institute and section	-	-	-	-	(90)	-		
State University	-	-	-	-	(114)	-		
Lovanium University	-	-	-	-	(170)	-		

a/ Not including schools organized by private interests.

b/ Included in figure for primary schools.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Social and educational agencies set up in the principal urban areas have since 1955 combined their activities with those of the Welfare Centres for the benefit of persons who have recently moved to the towns. This work has been done mainly by male social workers. The many activities carried on by these agencies include evening classes at different levels, physical culture groups, youth activities, and meetings for the discussion of family, employment and social problems with special emphasis on human relations. Similar agencies have been set up in rural areas for the purpose of assisting the indigenous inhabitants to lead a well-balanced rural life. These agencies are managed either directly by the Government or by private societies that receive government subsidies. In addition many industrial and agricultural undertakings have organized cultural groups and sports clubs as a form of leisure-time occupation for their workers.

A Youth Bureau was set up in 1956 for the purpose of promoting and co-ordinating youth activities, which have been steadily growing and becoming more efficient.

In 1957 there were 1,734 study, sports and recreational groups with a total membership of 96,027. In addition to sports, the activities engaged in include discussions, lectures, theatrical performances and festive entertainments.

Permanently installed film units make it possible to provide regular film shows, and mobile units in the provinces tour about the rural areas.

In recent years the indigenous Press has grown enormously, and in 1957 there were 210 publications, of which 147 were in native dialects. In addition, some of the nine daily newspapers for Europeans publish a weekly supplement for the indigenous inhabitants.

There has been a marked increase in the number of radio receivers owned by indigenous inhabitants. Most of the "clubs for the more advanced elements" have receivers. The broadcasting station of Radio Congo Belge broadcasts seven weekly programmes in native dialects, and Radio Bukavu broadcasts for one and a half hours a week for the indigenous inhabitants. In addition there is a system of news broadcasts through loudspeakers on the main streets, with fifty-six complete sets, as well as installations in the main rural centres and villages.