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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION ON
CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN ATLANTIC TERRITORIES
UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General

BERMUDA

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 of the Territory of Bermuda.

This information, which was received on 26 February 1963, is herewith submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session.^{1/}

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

BERMUDA

POPULATION

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

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

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

CONSTITUTION

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

Executive

3. The Executive Government is in the hands of the Governor (Sir J. Gascoigne), who is advised in the exercise of his functions by an Executive Council. He is not bound to accept the Council's advice but in practice he invariably does so. The present membership of the Council, under the chairmanship of the Governor, consists of 6 members of the House of Assembly and 3 officials. Those at present holding office are:

Mr. J.E. Pearman
Mr. A.D. Spurling
Mr. J.E.P. Vesey
Mr. W.L. Tucker
Lt. Col. J.C. Astwood
Dr. E.A. Cann

Warwick Parish

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

Southampton Parish

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

Sandys Parish

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

* Denotes member of previous House of Assembly.

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

JUDICIARY

10. The Supreme Court, over which the Chief Justice or the Assistant Justice presides, has jurisdiction in all serious criminal matters and has unlimited civil jurisdiction. Appeal to Her Majesty's Privy Council exists of right where the

matter in dispute exceeds £500, and otherwise at the discretion of the Court if the question is one which by reason of general or public importance or otherwise ought to be submitted to Her Majesty in Council. There are two courts of summary jurisdiction, each presided over by a magistrate, which have jurisdiction over less serious criminal offences and have a limited civil jurisdiction. One of these courts is held in the capital (Hamilton) while the other is held at the eastern and western ends of Bermuda as necessary.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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