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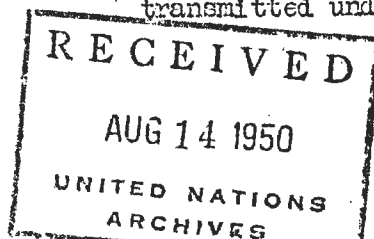
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifth session

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Summary of information voluntarily transmitted^{1/}

^{1/} This summary is also submitted to the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter.



/INTRODUCTION
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INTRODUCTION

1. General Assembly resolution 218 (III), adopted on 3 November 1948, in paragraph 4 (c) invites the Secretary-General to prepare for the General Assembly and for any Special Committee which the General Assembly may appoint, annual summaries of any material which the Members may have voluntarily transmitted under the optional category of the Standard Form.
2. The optional category of the Standard Form contains as main headings: A. Geography; B. History; C. People; D. Government; and E. Human Rights. Volume II of the Summaries and Analyses of Information Transmitted to the Secretary-General during 1949 contains a complete summary of the information heretofore transmitted under these headings.
3. In 1950, the following Members voluntarily transmitted information under the optional category of the Standard Form: Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States of America. The following paper is a summary of this information in cases where for the period covered changes were recorded in the information previously transmitted.

AUSTRALIA

Papua

4. In respect of this territory, the information transmitted in 1950 indicated that there was no change from the information submitted during 1949.

DENMARK

Greenland

5. A Commission appointed by the Danish Government in November 1948 to consider, inter alia, the reorganization of the Greenland structure of Government, has made several recommendations which are now before the Danish Rigsdag (legislature). The Commission proposed the establishment of a central administration; the appointment of a Colonial Governor and expert advisers, with supreme authority, to replace the present Provincial Governors; the abolition of the District Councils and expansion of the Municipal Councils, with greater powers for the latter; the amalgamation of the existing two Provincial Councils into one Council, with powers to act upon certain matters, and power to appropriate funds for use by the territory; election to all the councils by direct voting; and the inclusion of the representative of the Greenland population on the "Greenland Committee of the Rigsdag".

/NETHERLANDS

NETHERLANDS

Curacao and Surinam

6. Agreement on an alliance between the Netherlands Government and its West Indian Territories, Surinam and Curacao, was reached at the Netherlands-Surinam-Curacao Conference, which met in Holland in March 1948. A United Kingdom of the Netherlands is to be established, having a national constitution, national advisory council, and legislature, in which Surinam and Curacao will be represented. Governors will be appointed by and will be responsible to the Crown, and encouragement will be given to the inhabitants to serve in the diplomatic service and in international organizations.

7. Universal suffrage was introduced in the Territories in 1948. Elections were held in Curacao on 17 March 1949, and in Surinam on 31 May 1949. The age limit of the electorate was reduced from 25 to 23. The legislatures of the two Territories have been increased from 15 to 21 members each. Under the old franchise law, a small number of qualified voters in each of the islands chose 10 members of the legislature, while five were appointed by the Governor.

8. In January 1950, an Interim Regulation came into force which assures self-government in internal affairs and regulates the relations between the Netherlands and Surinam in dealing with external matters of mutual interest. The local constitution (landsregeling) of Surinam came into force on 20 January 1950. The people of Curacao and Surinam are to have the status of Netherlanders.

9. In respect of Netherlands New Guinea: See document....

NEW ZEALAND

10. In respect of the Territories of Cook Islands, Niue Island, and Tokelau Islands, the information transmitted in 1950 indicated that there was no change from the information submitted during 1949.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Alaska

11. During the first session of the Eighty-First Congress of the United States, 1949, a bill to provide for admission of Alaska as a state received the approval of the House Committee on Public Lands, but again failed to reach the House for action. Evidence of Alaska's desire for statehood is demonstrated by the creation of an Alaska Statehood Committee by the Nineteenth Territorial

/Legislature.

Legislature. One of the duties of this Committee is to have ready, in preparation for the Constitutional Convention, detailed information and analyses for use by the Convention in preparing the required draft of a constitution for Alaska.

American Samoa

12. An Assistant-Governor is now included in the Executive Branch of the Government.

Guam

13. The Executive Branch of the Government includes the Department of Commerce, formerly called Department of Internal Affairs.

14. Provision has been made for the election of village commissioners, one from each municipality, to serve for a four-year term.

15. The Judiciary includes an Island Court, composed of four Guamanian judges instead of one Guamanian citizen as reported in the information transmitted during 1949.

Hawaii

16. Of the estimated civilian population of 540,500 in 1948, 123,616 registered as voters, or approximately 23 per cent of the Territory's population. In 1948, 107,529 persons voted at the general election, being 87 per cent of all persons registered.

Puerto Rico

17. Insular political controversy on the future status of the Territory has centered around two alternatives, federal statehood and independence. Concentration on these had, to a considerable extent, diverted emphasis from the basic social and economic problems. From 1940 on, it became more and more apparent that complete political autonomy, whether as a state or as an independent country, would be hollow if it were not accompanied by economic self-sufficiency. The drive of the Government, supported by the people, has been towards industrialization, which has produced promising initial results. A new political attitude has developed, to the effect that with a few adjustments from the United States, Puerto Rico could enjoy as complete self-government as is possible in the present world, without embracing either statehood or independence.

18. The amendments to the Organic Act by Public Law 362 of the Eightieth Congress of the United States were a practical expression of this attitude.

With a few more minor changes, Puerto Rico, while maintaining its present relationship with the United States, will, in fact, have complete autonomy over its own affairs. The belief is growing that Puerto Rico can contribute to America the development of a new form of statehood.

19. That the people vigorously support the Government in the new direction which it has taken is adequately shown by the results of the election of 2 November 1948, when, for the first time, the Island chose its Chief Executive. Of a total of 873,085 eligible voters, 640,714 went to the polls. The votes were cast as follows:

Populares	392,386
Coalicion (made up of three old parties: Estadistas, Socialistas, Reformistas, advocates, generally, of statehood)	182,977
Independentistas (advocates of independence)	65,351

20. The Populares (the majority party), in addition to the Governorship and the Resident-Commissionership, won 17 out of 19 seats in the insular Senate and 38 out of 39 seats in the House of Representatives. They also won control of 76 out of 77 municipalities. No Independentistas were elected to any public office. The elected Governor took office on 2 January 1949.

21. The information states that even though, technically, Puerto Rico may be within the scope of Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, as a matter of practice Puerto Rico is virtually self-governing.

Virgin Islands of the United States

22. In November 1948, for the first time in the history of the Virgin Islands, a referendum was held. The purpose was to determine the views of the electorate on questions of basic importance in any revisions which the United States Congress might make in the present Organic Act or Constitution of the Virgin Islands. This referendum revealed that an overwhelming majority of the voters were in favour of the Virgin Islands having direct representation in the Congress of the United States through a locally-elected Resident Commissioner. They did not approve of the plan to unify the two political districts of St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John, nor were they favourably disposed toward the proposal for popular election of the Governor. However, more than

40 per cent of the voters who took part in the general elections did not take the opportunity to cast referendum ballots. The following table shows the number of registered voters and the actual votes cast in the 1948 general election:

<u>Registered voters</u>	<u>Actual votes cast</u>
St. Croix 2331	1599
St. Thomas and St. John <u>3178</u>	<u>2060</u>
Virgin Islands 5509	3659