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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

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

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. Volume II concerning information transmitted during 1950 summarizes additional information received in the course of that year.
3. In 1951, the following Members voluntarily transmitted information under the optional category of the Standard Form: Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, 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. Any information transmitted under the heading of Human Rights has been summarized for the Special Committee in application of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 446 (V).

AUSTRALIA

Papua

4. The Papua and New Guinea Act, 1949, came into force on 1 July 1949. It declares that the intention of the Commonwealth Parliament is that the identity and status of the Territory of Papua as a possession of the Crown, and the identity and status of the Territory of New Guinea as a Trust Territory shall continue to be maintained. The Act provides for the government of the two Territories in an Administrative Union, and for an Executive Council and Legislative Council for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.
5. The Executive Council consists of not less than nine officers of the Territory appointed by, and to hold office during, the pleasure of the Governor-General of Australia.
6. The Act makes provision for a Legislative Council to consist of 29 members

/as follows:

as follows: (a) The Administrator; (b) Sixteen officers of the Territory (to be known as official members); (c) Three non-official members of qualifications to be fixed by Ordinance and elected by electors of the Territory; (d) Three non-official members representing the interests of the Christian Missions in the Territory; (e) Three non-official Native members; and (f) Three other non-official members.

7. The Papua-New Guinea Act provides that the Legislative Council shall commence to function on a date to be fixed by Proclamation as soon as practicable after the expiration of one year after the commencement of the Act. Until the Legislative Council is functioning, the Governor-General may make Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.

DENMARK

Greenland

8. The Parliament of Denmark, by Act of 27 May 1950, gave effect to a number of the proposals of the Greenland Commission in respect of the administrative and political organizations of Greenland.

9. A Colonial Governor has been appointed. He replaces the two Provincial Governors and will be president of the new Colonial Council. The Colonial Council consists of 13 members elected by the population and the Colonial Governor. Subject to certain exceptions, all men and women 23 years of age and over who are Danish subjects with permanent residence in the Territory for not less than six months immediately prior to an election, are entitled to vote in the elections for members of the Colonial Council and Local Councils. All electors are eligible for membership in the Colonial Council and Local Councils, for a four-year term. The first elections under the new franchise were held in the summer of 1951.

10. The administrative districts have been reorganized. The Territory is now divided into Western, Eastern, and Northern Greenland. The district of Western Greenland comprises the former Southern Greenland and a large part of what was formerly Northern Greenland. In this new district administration will be directed by the Colonial Council and sixteen Local Councils. Under the Act, all Metropolitan legislation relating solely to Greenland must be placed before the Colonial Council for its consideration and report before submission to the

"Rigsdag" (Danish Parliament). The Act also provides that the Greenland Colonial Council may nominate to the Greenland Committee in the "Rigsdag" two persons who were or are members of the Colonial Council.

11. In 1950, a bill was prepared for an Administration of Justice Act for Greenland, applicable to both Danes and Greenlanders. The Act will provide for (a) the severance of Judicial and Executive powers; (b) the establishment of a police service; (c) the use of the Greenland and Danish languages in the Greenland Courts, the meetings of which are to be held in public; and (d) the right of appeal in both civil and criminal matters, to higher courts, including the Danish Supreme Court.

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands New Guinea

12. The information refers to the negotiations between the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands in December 1950. No agreement being reached, the status of the Territory remains unchanged.

13. The New Guinea Council, provided in the constitutional provisions as a co-legislative organ, has not as yet been established, since at present the representatives of the population are deemed to have an insufficient knowledge and experience of the technique of legislative bodies. In order to remedy this deficiency, three advisory councils have been set up on a lower level, one for each of the districts of North, West and South New Guinea. In these councils the number of indigenous representatives exceeds the number of other members. In addition a council has been created to advise the Government on all educational matters of a social nature, which are considered to be of importance for the indigenous community. In this "Council for the Education of the People" the missionary societies are particularly represented; one member is a representative of the Papuan population.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Alaska

14. In 1950, a Bill providing for statehood for Alaska was passed by the United States House of Representatives but failed to reach the Senate for action.

American Samoa

15. The administrative responsibility for American Samoa was transferred from

/the Secretary

the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior, effective 1 July 1951. Organic legislation, which would confer United States citizenship upon Samoans and provide by Federal law for the structure and powers of the territorial government is now being considered by the Congress of the United States. At the South Pacific Conference held in Suva, Fiji, 25 April-5 May 1950, American Samoa was represented by a delegation of Samoan representatives.

Guam

16. The transfer of the administration of the island of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior took effect on 1 August 1950. In preparation for this transfer, military personnel serving with the Government of Guam had been replaced by civilian personnel. On 2 September 1949, the first civilian governor of Guam was appointed.

17. The Organic Act for Guam, which was passed by the Congress of the United States on 1 August 1950, provides a civil government for Guam consisting of three branches - Executive, Legislative and Judicial; raises Guam's status to an unincorporated Territory of the United States; and declares Guamanians to be United States citizens. The Governor heads the executive branch of the Government. Legislative power is vested in a single house of not more than twenty-one members to be elected at large. Provision is made for the establishment of a Federal Court to be designated the District Court of Guam. Other administrative changes included the plan for the establishment of an Office of Land Management which will include the present Land Transfer Board.

Hawaii

18. In preparation for the admission of the Territory as a State of the Union, the Territorial Legislature provided for the holding of a Constitutional Convention to formulate a constitution for the future State of Hawaii. The Convention, elected on 11 February and 21 March 1950 during the primary and final elections respectively, met on 4 April 1950, and, in a three-month period of deliberation, drafted a constitution, which was to be submitted to the electorate for ratification at the General Election of 7 November 1950.

Meanwhile, the Statehood Bill, having passed the United States House of Representatives on 7 March 1950, was before a Senate Committee for consideration.

19. Of the estimated civilian population of 467,711 in 1950, 141,319 registered as voters, or approximately 30 per cent of the Territory's population. At the

1950 general election, 118,704 persons voted, being 84 per cent of all persons registered.

Puerto Rico

20. The following statement is made in the information transmitted:

"The extent of the self-government enjoyed by the people of the Territory is illustrated by a Congressional Act of 3 July 1950, by the terms of which the United States recognizes the right of the people of Puerto Rico to write their own constitution and to organize a government of their own choosing. By a referendum the Territory will accept or reject this Act. If accepted, an election will be held to choose the persons to frame the territorial constitution, which will finally be submitted to the United States Congress for approval."

Virgin Islands

21. On 24 March 1950, the first Virgin Islander was inaugurated as Governor.
