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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 transmitted by the Government of Denmark^{1/}

On 6 and 26 June and 6 July 1951, the permanent delegation of Denmark to the United Nations forwarded information transmitted by the Government of Denmark under Article 73 e in respect of Greenland.

In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of General Assembly resolution 218 (III), the Secretary-General has prepared the following summary showing such changes in statistics and such other appreciable changes as have occurred in the year under review, together with relevant statistics for previous years. The summary supplements the full summary of information transmitted during 1949, which is contained in Chapter III of Volume II of the Summaries and Analyses of Information Transmitted to the Secretary-General during 1949,^{2/} and the summary of information transmitted during 1950.^{3/}

The period covered in the information transmitted is the fiscal year which ended 31 March 1950. Where in the following summary a year is mentioned without qualification, it refers to the twelve months ending 31 March in the year given.

The currency of Greenland is the Danish kroner.

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

^{2/} United Nations: Non-Self-Governing Territories. Summaries and Analyses of Information Transmitted to the Secretary-General during 1949. Lake Success, 1950.

^{3/} United Nations: General Assembly documents A/1272, dated 14 July 1950, and A/1280, dated 28 July 1950.

GREENLAND

Area

2,182,000 sq. kilometres

Population

1949: Total 23,019; 22,078 Native; 941 non-Native

Government

The Danish Parliament, by the Act of 27 May 1950, passed a number of the proposals of the Greenland Commission, appointed in 1948, in respect of the administrative and political organization of Greenland. The following are some of the significant changes.

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 will be held in the summer of 1951.

The administrative districts have been reorganized. The Territory is now divided into Western, Eastern, and Northern Greenland. The district of Western Greenland now comprises the former Southern Greenland and a large part of what was formerly Northern Greenland. In this new district the administrative work will be carried out 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.

Public HealthVital statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Deaths	490	536	916
Rate per 1,000	18.5	24.2	41.5
Births	955	890	964
Rate per 1,000	44.05	40.2	43.7

The mortality rate increased from 24.2 in 1948 to 41.5 in 1949. There was a serious whooping-cough epidemic in 1949, with many deaths, particularly among infants, and a widespread influenza epidemic with many cases of pneumonia. The information transmitted contained a diagram showing graphs of the birth and mortality rates during the period 1907-1949, which indicated several years - the latest being 1936 - with a higher mortality rate than that of 1949. In those years, as in 1949, there were widespread epidemics with great mortality in Greenland. In this connexion it must be borne in mind that the population of Greenland is so small that a few epidemics with many deaths may show a high mortality rate for several years although the actual number of deaths in succeeding years may be lower. However, the main impression gained from a perusal of the average curve on the diagram is that despite the high mortality figures in the middle thirties, the mortality rate during the period under review has been on the downward grade. On the other hand, the birth rate during the same period ranges between 36 per cent and 47 per cent and is therefore considerably more stable than the mortality rate.

Health staff

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Doctors			
Government	14	14	15
Private	2	2	2
Dentists	3	3	3
Nurses	24	24	25
Midwives trained in Denmark	15	15	13
Midwives trained in Greenland	99	99	100

Institutions

	<u>Number</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
		<u>Beds</u>	<u>Beds</u>	<u>Beds</u>
Medical stations	15	292	292	443
Medical depots	118	-	-	-

Housing programmes

There are about 4,000 houses scattered over the Territory. Many of the houses built during the last 50 years to replace the primitive earthen huts, which have almost disappeared, are of poor quality. The Greenland Commission recommends the construction of 350 new houses a year. The technical organization to manage this building programme will be established at Godthaab. Conditions all over the Territory being practically uniform, 8 types of standard houses will be used. The houses, mainly out of timber, are prefabricated in Denmark. Twenty of these houses in 1948 and 48 in 1950 were shipped to various settlements in the Territory. For 1952, it is planned to erect 55 more of these houses. In addition, the Government finances private house building by subsidy of 40 - 50 per cent, the balance by loan bearing interest at the rate of 2 - 3 per cent per annum. In 1950, the construction of about 50 houses was financed in this way. Building loans in 1947 totaled Kr. 461,330; in 1949, Kr. 698,579; in 1950, Kr. 1,029,369.

Welfare and relief

<u>West Greenland</u>	<u>1948</u> Kr.	<u>1949</u> Kr.	<u>1950</u> Kr.
Municipal funds:			
Poor relief	1,730	1,744	2,522
Support	13,114	16,519	21,017
District funds			
Invalidity relief	23,992	28,181	34,109
Extraordinary old-age pensions	2,019	2,981	5,417
Government funds			
Old-age pensions	<u>138,401</u>	<u>149,779</u>	<u>193,838</u>
Total	179,256	199,204	256,903

Education

Compulsory for all children between 7 and 14 years.

The education objective is to raise the cultural and vocational level so that Greenlanders may learn to utilize the resources of their country, and by their own efforts attain improved economic conditions, and also to undertake the management of their own communities at the earliest possible date.

In accordance with recommendations of the Greenland Commission, two Acts of 27 May 1950 separated the Church from the schools. As of 1 September 1950, all

/education was

education was placed under the control of a School Board. An Inspector of Schools has been appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Board to each of the school districts in Western Greenland, the most advanced community. Each municipality has a school committee on which parents are represented. A dual-language of instruction experiment is also being tried in Western Greenland. There are no illiterates in the Territory.

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Occupations followed after training</u>
7-year elementary	At all settlements	Hunters, fishermen and unskilled labourers.
2-year post-primary	4 at 3 settlements	Artisans' apprentices, male and female assistant-catechists, nurse apprentices, midwives, sheep-farming apprentices, trading and office apprentices.
2-year catechist	1	Catechists.
2-year high school	1	Pupil radio operators' school, office and trading apprentices, catechists, advanced education in Denmark, skilled labourers.
2-year seminary	1	Catechists, head-catechists, teachers, advanced education in Denmark.
4-year technical	1	Artisans (all crafts, clerks), advanced education in Denmark.

<u>Enrolment</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Elementary and primary	4,214	4,063	4,063
Secondary and/or			
Post Primary	130	130	130
Technical and/or Vocational ^{1/}	118	152	191
University or other higher ^{1/}	54	55	70
<u>Teachers</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1947</u>
<u>Danish</u>			
Clergymen	5	6	7
Male teachers	4	6	13
Female teachers	-	3	8

^{1/} Trained in Denmark.

<u>Greenlandic</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1947</u>
Clergyman	12	13	16
Teachers with special training	3	4	2
Seminary-trained catechists	68	69	86
Catechists with other training	56	78	83
Catechists without training	<u>46</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>
Total	194	224	260

	<u>Livestock</u>		
<u>Type</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Sheep	22,288	11,253	14,000
Goats	40	35	35
Milch-cows and heifers	60	44	90
Horses	112	98	100
Sheep dogs	148	126	-
Hens	1,700	2,024	2,000

Livestock sold:

Live lambs	9,919	9,436	5,000
Sheep	575	764	373

Livestock products:

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Lamb's meat and mutton	kg.	133,821	143,114	84,824
Mutton tallow	kg.	7,952	12,385	5,385
Casings	bals.	5,733	5,826	3,890
Canned goods	tins	18,086	14,544	9,404
Wool	kg.	12,089	13,924	-
Fleece	ea.	11,753	-	-

Fisheries

<u>Type</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
	kg.	kg.	kg.
Whole codfish	20,600,000	18,100,000	22,300,000
Salmon	30,240	31,080	21,360
Halibut	228,287	264,877	253,779
Shrimp	53,991	22,082	22,082

Minerals

<u>Type</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
	tons	tons	tons
Coal produced	4,900	7,400	4,935
Coal imported	3,802	3,350	7,719

Power

In 1949, 3 power plants were completed; in 1950, 4. The total power produced in 1950 was 636,000 kwh.

/Industries

Industries

<u>Type</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Electric power plants	4	8
Tank plants for oil distribution to fishing boats	4	13
Abattoir	1	1
Sausage factory	1	1
Shrimp cannery	1	3
Cod liver melting plants	20	20
Administration fishery stations	79	81
Private Danish codfish stations	2	2
Fillet cutting and freezing plants	2	3
Halibut cutting plants	2	2
Shipyards for boat repairs	1	2
Coal mines	1	1

Industrial productionGoods purchased in Greenland by the Trading Company^{1/}

<u>Item</u>	<u>1948</u> kg.	<u>1949</u> kg.	<u>1950</u> kg.
Fishery - Cod, cleaned and dried	11,849,129	10,052,084	13,059,324
Cod liver oil, etc.	409,378	336,008	-
Shark liver oil, etc.	457,212	442,909	307,571
Salmon, salted	30,240	31,080	21,360
Halibut	228,287	264,877	253,779
Cannery-Shrimps	54,000	22,000	176,000
Blubber and oil	827,060	775,252	-
Hides - walrus	28,491	8,662	-
Skins - bear, shark, seals, wolf-fish	147,067 (ea.)	124,450 (ea.)	-
Furs - fox	3,508 (ea.)	3,480 (ea.)	-

LabourAverage wage rates

In 1950, the annual salary rate of trading post managers, assistants, foremen first class, master artisans, masters of schooners, chief catechists first class, and chief telegraph operators was increased from a maximum of

^{1/} The Royal Greenland Trading Company is a Government monopoly which acts as the Territorial marketing agency.

Kr. 2,910. to Kr. 3,810. at a new increment of Kr. 450. every three years. Wages for unskilled labourers fixed at Kr. 0.50 per hour in 1948 were increased to Kr. 1.00 per hour plus various allowances.

Public finance

	<u>1948</u> kr.	<u>1949</u> kr.	<u>1950</u> kr.
Expenditure	18,490,320	23,594,367	35,258,000
Revenue	14,806,473	17,448,586	19,673,000
Deficit	3,683,847	6,145,781	15,585,000
<u>Medical expenditure</u>	<u>1949</u> kr.	<u>1950</u> kr.	<u>1951</u> kr.
Total expenditure including capital investment	2,918,908	3,156,775	4,072,100

Educational expenditure

Total expenditure including capital investment	1,880,460	2,353,893	3,684,333
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International trade

<u>Imports</u>	<u>1948</u> kr.	<u>1949</u> kr.	<u>1950</u> kr.
Total value	7,017,606	10,207,715	13,739,842
<u>Principal imports</u>			
Groceries	2,736,977.39	4,223,820	5,724,127
Textiles	1,336,316.29	1,524,470	2,043,987
Tobacco	825,527.78	1,158,496	1,346,325
Fuel etc.	776,613.34	931,184	1,501,377
Hardware	232,882.73	324,403	419,584
Woodware	221,036.04	377,683	584,989

Principal exports

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Salted fish	tons	6,207.5	5,681.3	5,257.1
Blubber	tons	908.7	647.1	684.9
Wolf-fish skins	each	66,871.	57,868.	144,011.
Seal skins	each	8,293.	6,550.	7,032.
Fox furs, blue	each	2,106.	2,606.	2,245.
Canned shrimps	90 gm. tins	73,711.	108,410.	37,669.
Cryolite	tons		17,750.	19,000.

Other statistics

<u>Outstanding in Government loans:</u>	<u>1947</u> kr.	<u>1949</u> kr.	<u>1950</u> kr.
Motor boats	282,975	574,161	1,062,296
Sheep farmers	19,518	18,479	29,208
Tradesmen	38,342	48,907	55,926
<u>Number of boats owned by Greenlanders:</u>			
	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Rowing boats - flat bottom	1,369	1,462	1,492
with keel	339	459	464
Motor boats - less than 22 ft. long	231	193	275
more than 22 ft. long	36	97	92

Progress of Development

Economic policy hitherto pursued in Greenland favoured Government monopoly in trade and industry. The Greenland Commission of 1949 advocated material changes in the policy, among other things the opening of the Greenland Trades and Industries to private initiative. Accordingly, by the Trading Act of 27 May 1950, effective 15 April 1951, the Territory was opened to private Danish enterprise. Also, to stimulate the participation of private capital in Greenland trade and industry, an Act has been passed providing for the establishment of a Greenland Trade Loan Fund. From this Fund kr. 3 million has been loaned to a Danish fishery company operating in the Territory. Loans are usually granted for a period of 15 years. However, the Royal Greenland Company will continue to operate State business activities.

The ancient trade of the Greenlanders, the hunting of large sea and land mammals is rapidly being superseded by cod-fishing and its by-products. In 1950, about 21,300 fishermen participated with an average yield of 9,700 kg. of fish per fisherman. In keeping with this trend, more attention is directed towards the development of what is now Greenland's principal trade, the fishing industry. Consequently, Greenland fishermen are using, in increasing numbers, boats with motors. Government loans which facilitate purchases, provisions for oil distribution, and more profitable financial returns greatly encourage this development. The systematic fishery biological investigations of the Greenland Department in 1949 disclosed three exceedingly rich shrimp banks in Disko Bay. This find has stimulated shrimp fishing and stepped up improvements for processing

/and canning.

and canning. Old plants have been reconditioned for processing, and a new modern cannery built in 1950 contains a picking plant, a packing plant, and a freezing plant. Experimental shipments of shrimps to the United States carried out in 1950, give hopes for the development of a profitable industry.

So far there has been virtually no taxation in Greenland; but difficulties encountered in providing revenues for public funds have made necessary the discontinuance of this system. However, there will be no general transition to the income tax system as practiced in more developed countries. Instead, a tax on consumption has been decided on. A plan was submitted to the Greenland Colonial Council, imposing an import duty on coffee, tea, tobacco, beer, wines, spirits, sugar, chocolate, candles, malt and hops. The final text of the Bill exempted coffee and tea from duty in accordance with the wishes of the Greenland Colonial Council. It is estimated that kr. 2 million a year will accrue from this form of revenue, and will be paid into the public funds for the sole benefit of the Greenland population. It is also expected that the revenue thus collected will make Greenland less dependent upon subsidies from the Danish Government.
