



The Territory of Papua and New Guinea

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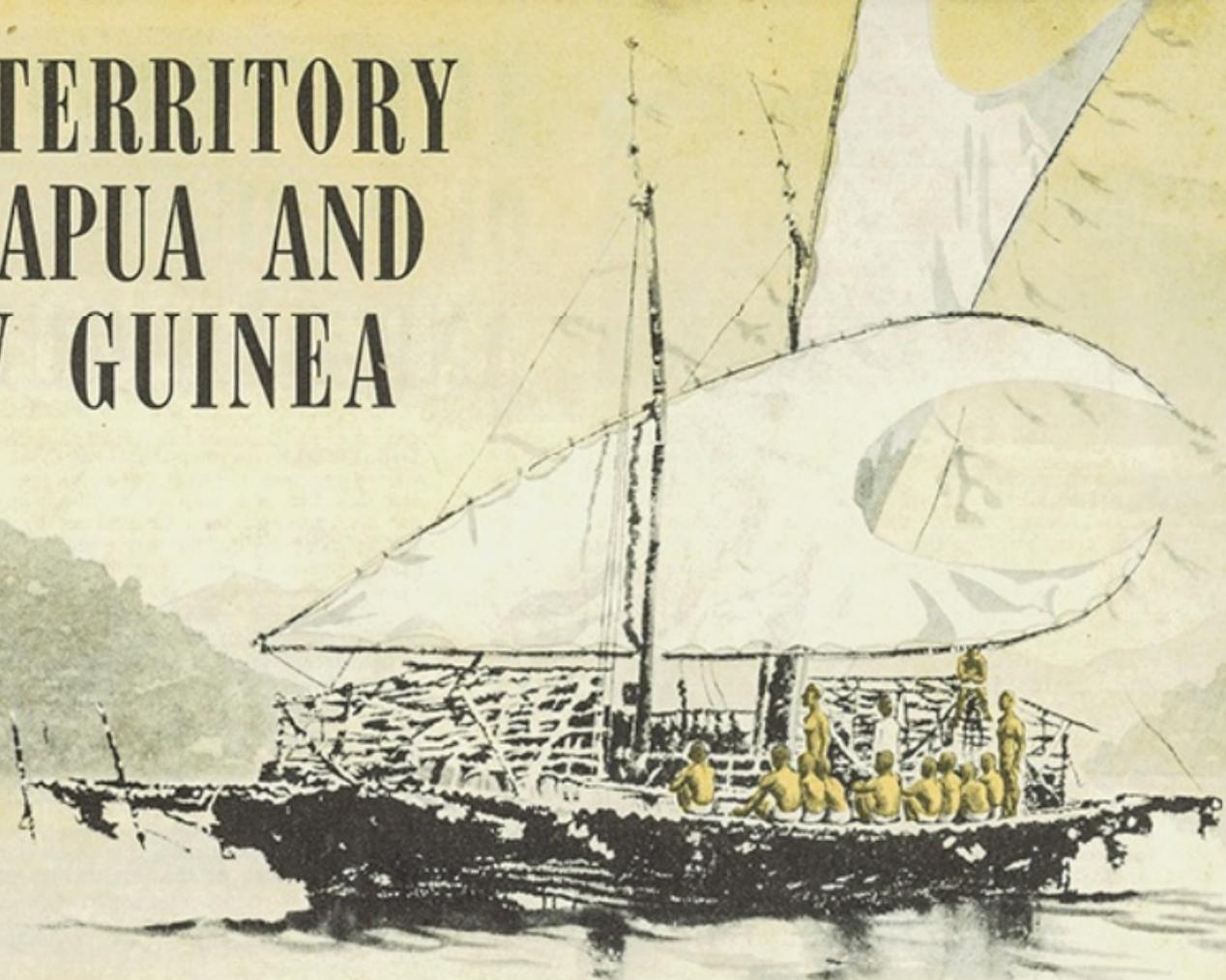
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THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA





THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

THE Territory of Papua and New Guinea comprises the eastern half of the main island of New Guinea (the western half is Netherlands New Guinea) together with hundreds of small and large adjacent islands. The Australian possession of Papua is made up of the southern part of the eastern half of the mainland, the Trobriand and D'Entrecasteaux Islands, and the Louisiade Archipelago; the Trust Territory of New Guinea embraces the northern part of the eastern half of the main island and adjacent islands, the islands of the Bismark Archipelago, and Bougainville. The Territory's total area is 183,540 square miles—more than twice the size of Victoria—and its total population exceeds 1,900,000—more than that of Queensland. About 20,000 are Europeans and 5,000 are Asians and other non-indigenous people.

The whole of the Territory lies south of the equator—most of it between three and ten degrees south. On the main island mountains rise to 15,400 feet and, in contrast, there are jungles, swamps and torrential rivers. These features, and the spread of the many adjacent islands, cause problems of communication and administration which increase the difficulties and costs of government.

THE PEOPLE—In their tribal state the native people of New Guinea are very primitive; many of their customs are barbarous and they live in a state of warfare with their neighbours; their lives are governed to a large extent by fear and sorcery. They are separated by the forbidding terrain, by a multiplicity of languages, (there are more than 700 different languages spoken) and by differences in culture and social organization. They vary widely in colouring and other physical characteristics. They have no hereditary chiefs, no political organization, no slightest suggestion of national unity. They are now in varying stages of advancement ranging from near-naked primitives in areas just coming under Australian influence, to people, mainly in coastal areas, who have been in touch with Europeans for many years. Some of these have become teachers, medical assistants, mission workers, skilled tradesmen, clerks, plantation owners and business operators.

At 30th June, 1961, over 160,000 square miles of the Territory were under Administration control and the remainder, with the exception of some 4,000 square miles, was under varying degrees of Administration influence. All the Territory has been penetrated by patrols.

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Australia has voluntarily undertaken the task of advancing socially, economically and politically the people of the Territory to a stage where self-determination can become a reality for them. Health and education are the fundamental bases for advancement of the native people and the development of their country.

HEALTH—The maintenance of the medical services at the village level is entrusted to native aid post orderlies who have completed an Administration two-year course of training. The aid posts extend simple medical aid to natives, assist in establishing good hygiene practices and encourage the sick and injured to seek admission to hospital for treatment.

In 1961 there were about 4,800 medical personnel in the Territory, of whom nearly 4,000 were natives. The number of non-indigenous medical personnel varies and includes about 110 doctors and 350 nurses.

The Papuan Medical College has been established with the object of providing as rapidly as possible large numbers of well trained auxiliary medical personnel to supplement the existing medical staff. The course consists of a preliminary year and a further five years' study along the lines of medical courses at Australian universities.

In 1961 there were 107 Administration hospitals and 96 mission hospitals in the Territory. Two of the mission general hospitals have special Hansenide wards.

During 1960-61 expenditure by the Administration on public health exceeded £3,800,000 (including £310,000 assistance to mission medical services and £100,000 in building grants for mission hospitals and other approved work). In addition considerable sums are spent by religious missions from their own funds and by Native Local Government Councils on health services. In the year ended 30th June, 1960, the expenditure on public health from these two sources were £127,000 and £27,000 respectively.

*Feeding a premature baby at Lorengau Administration Hospital,
Manus District*

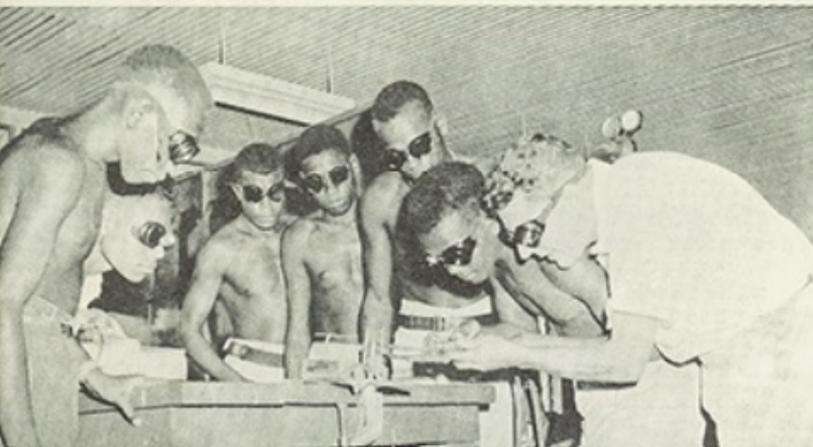


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Administration Education Centre, Popondetta

Welding students, Malaguna Technical Training Centre



EDUCATION—The Government's primary aim in education is universal literacy in English, a task of immense proportions. In 1939 there were only 10 Administration schools with an attendance of 385 native and 135 non-native pupils. By 1961 there were over 26,000 native pupils enrolled at 310 Administration primary schools and more than 170,000 at Mission primary schools; there were about 1,700 native students attending post-primary schools conducted by the Administration or the Missions, about 630 at technical schools and some 450 at Administration and Mission secondary schools. In addition 74 native students were attending secondary schools in Australia. In 1960-61 Government grants-in-aid to Missions for education totalled £420,000.

As the standards of education and achievement of the native people rise, increased opportunities are opened up to them, so that they can assist in the advancement of their people and the development of the Territory's resources. The Public Service of Papua and New Guinea, for example, is open to native people. At present more than 500 are members of the Auxiliary Division, a training division which prepares officers for positions of greater complexity and responsibility. Banks and private commerce and industry are also providing useful employment for native staff.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—Because the Territory is almost wholly a primary producing country the development of agriculture is vital to its economy. Under the guidance of Administration agricultural officers the native people are learning new techniques and are being encouraged in the transition period from subsistence farming to the growing of cash crops. Less than three per cent. of the 183,540 square miles of the Territory is owned or occupied by the Administration or non-indigenous settlers.

The chief crops grown are copra, cocoa, rubber and coffee. In recent years timber has become an industry of major importance; there are now about 3,000 native people employed in the forest industries.

Exports of copra and coconut products increased from 58,960 tons in 1949-50 to 103,191 tons in 1959-60. Over the same period cocoa bean exports rose from 207 tons to 5,870 tons and exports of coffee beans from 21 tons to 1,487 tons.

About one-quarter of the Territory's copra and cocoa and about one-third of its coffee are now produced by native planters.

The tonnage and value of the principal exports from the Territory in 1959-60 were:

Product.	Tons.	£
Copra and coconut products	103,191	10,286,515
Cocoa beans	5,870	1,671,317
Coffee beans	1,487	717,141
Rubber	4,399	1,500,197
Timber (including plywood)	1,664,246
Peanuts	1,897	284,371
Marine shell	389	109,579
Gold	634,732

The total revenue of the Territory Administration has increased from £5.6 million in 1949-50 to over £22 million in 1960-61. During this period the Commonwealth grant increased from £4.2 million to £14.8 million. In the same period the annual expenditure on Capital Works and Services rose from £628,000 to £5,225,000.

An important step in the native economy was the setting up in 1947 of a Co-operative Section of the Administration. By 1949-50 there were 100 native co-operative societies with a total membership of 8,556. At 31st March, 1961, there were 218 native co-operative societies, 13 associations and one federation with a total membership

Pruning a coffee tree, Goroka





of 74,140, a capital of about £500,000 and an annual turnover exceeding £1,000,000.

There is probably no country in the world where physical communications are naturally more difficult. This has led to a remarkable development of air transport. From 55 airfields and seaplane alighting areas in 1938-39 more than 200 have now been developed. From a mere 974 miles of roads suitable for heavy, medium and light traffic in 1939 (confined entirely to the coast) a mileage of more than 6,000 has been opened. In the main ports of the Territory wharves have been rebuilt, extended and improved. Expenditure on such facilities since 1948-49 has been about £3 million.

In March, 1961, a Department of Labour was created to foster employer-employee relations, supervise standards of safety precautions taken in industries and to assist in the supervision and training of native staff.

A Department of Trade and Industry is being established in the Territory to investigate and promote the sale of Territory products, assist in the formation and extension of native co-operatives, improve port and harbour facilities and for the guidance in business management of the native people.

POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT—Native Local Government Councils were introduced in Papua and New Guinea as a carefully planned stage in the political development of the native people. Each Council is an area organization usually covering about 30 villages and some 5,000 people. Councillors are elected by all adult males in the area (who are subject to a local tax fixed by the Council) and by youths and women who elect to pay the tax. The Councils' powers are defined by law and their duties include the development of community economic enterprises, public and social services and local community works. The Councils are a practical application of local politics and administration, and represent the foundation upon which ultimate self-government of the Territory is being built.

Harvesting cocoa pods, Kokoda District.

Today 305,000 indigenous people are represented by 1,221 elected councillors on 43 Native Local Government Councils which, operating with funds they themselves raise, supplement the civic services provided by the Administration. There are also native representatives on Town and District Advisory Councils.

A major step towards self-government was taken on 10th April, 1961, when six elected and six appointed native members (including one woman) took their seats in the reconstituted Legislative Council for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. The Council, inaugurated in 1951, previously consisted of the Administrator, sixteen official members, three elected non-native members and nine appointed non-official members (including three native members). The reconstituted Legislative Council now contains 37 members—The Administrator as President; twelve elected members, ten appointed members and fourteen official members. The number of non-official members has thus been increased from 12 to 22, of whom at least eleven (six elected and five appointed) must be natives.

The elected native members gained their seats by a simple majority vote at the elections on 18th March, 1961, after members of 39 Local Government Councils had appointed 220 members and 33 electoral groups of advanced peoples had selected 144 representatives to form six electoral colleges of 364 members. Thus, about 500,000 indigenous people in the Territory are directly represented in the Legislative Council. Ultimately Council members will be elected by universal suffrage with a common electoral roll.

FURTHER INFORMATION—Detailed information about the Territory and careers in the Territory can be obtained from:

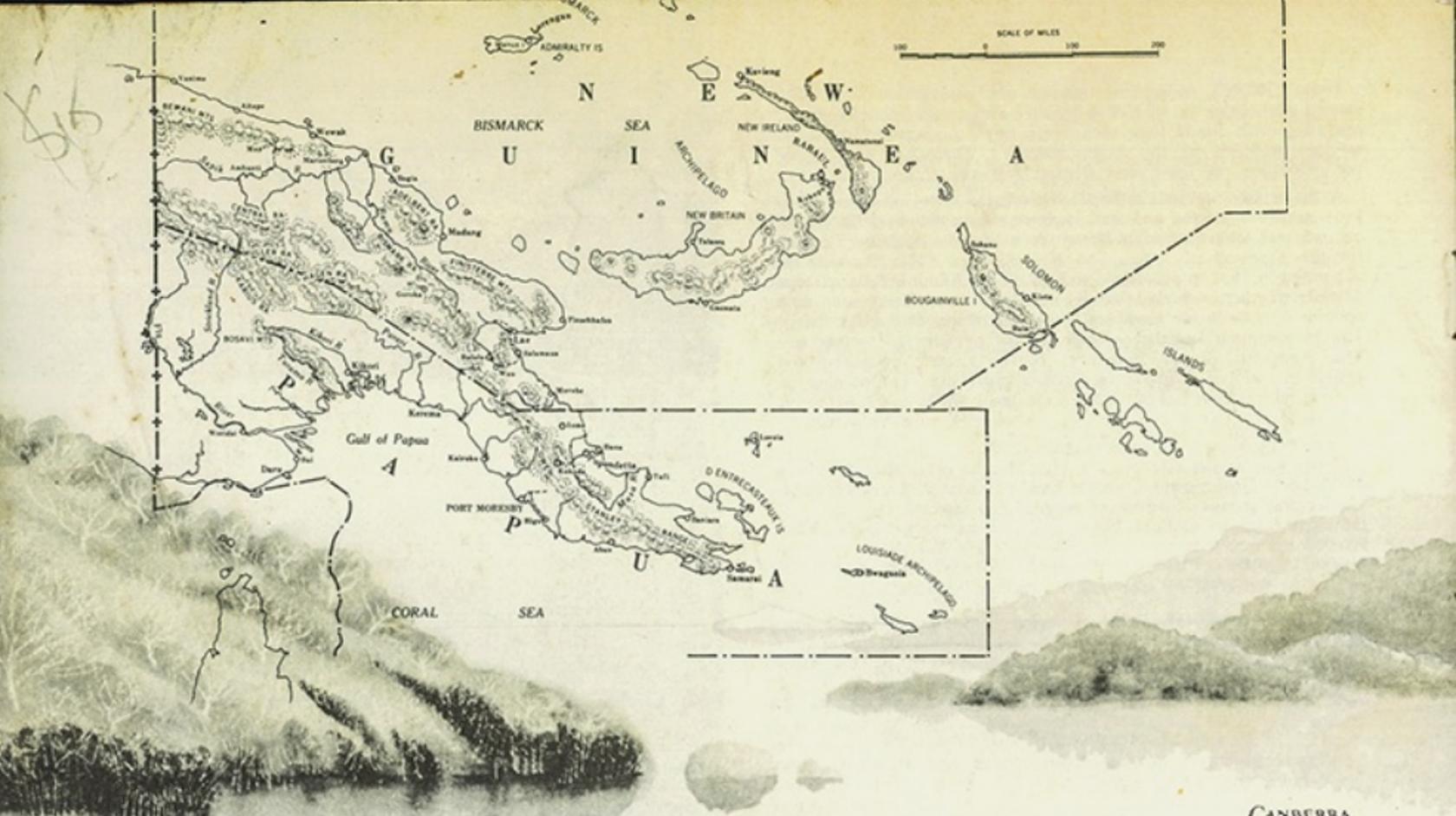
- The Secretary, Department of Territories, Canberra;
- The Public Relations Officer, Department of the Administrator, Port Moresby;
- The Public Service Commissioner, Port Moresby;
- The Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, Port Moresby.



The Legislative Council of Papua and New Guinea, Port Moresby

Port Moresby, capital and administrative centre of the Territory





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