

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC PLACE-NAMES

Since the last meeting of the Polar Committee there have been two meetings of the Antarctic Place-names Committee, held on 5 October and 2 November 1950.

2. For these meetings, 23 papers were prepared. Eighteen of them covered place-names in the Falkland Islands Dependencies; 3 were concerned with place-names in Norwegian Antarctic territories, and one with place-names in Terre Adélie; and one drew attention to a decision of the P.C.G.N. on place-names throughout the Antarctic continent.

3. Six of the papers on the Falkland Islands Dependencies were prepared in collaboration with F.I.D.S. surveyors, whose help was made available by the Governor of the Falkland Islands through the Colonial Office. Information for two papers on the Falkland Islands Dependencies was provided by the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty. A large number of specific proposals were considered by the Committee, and recommendations were made as follows: Of 21 previously accepted names listed, 2 were altered and then recommended for acceptance, and the remainder were accepted. Of 20 proposals for rejection of names, all were recommended for rejection. Of 6 proposals for temporarily discarding names, all were recommended to be temporarily discarded. Of 12 proposals for alteration of existing names, one was temporarily discarded, 3 were revised and then recommended for acceptance, a decision on one was postponed, and the remainder were recommended for acceptance. Of 94 proposals for new names, 13 were altered and then recommended for acceptance, 10 were recommended for rejection, decisions on 2 were postponed, and the remainder were recommended for acceptance. Of 4 proposals for official acceptance of existing names, one was altered and then recommended for acceptance, a decision on one was postponed, and the remainder were recommended for acceptance. The Committee's recommendations have since been considered by the Polar Committee and by the Governor of the Falkland Islands. Almost all of them have now been finally approved. In consequence, about 100 additional names have been accepted by His Majesty's Government and are available for use in British official publications, in scientific reports and by scientists in the field; many place-name problems on the east coast of Graham Land between lats. 64°30'S. and 68°S., which have puzzled geographers and explorers for more than 20 years, have at last been satisfactorily solved; and a considerable advance has been made in the stabilizing of place-names in various parts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

4. For the Norwegian Antarctic territories (Dronning Maud Land, Bouvetøya and Peter I Øy) provisional lists of place-names have been circulated to the Committee. These lists were prepared at the request of the Secretary by Norsk Polarinstitutt, Oslo, but they still await formal approval by the Norwegian Foreign Office. In the meantime, the Director of Norsk Polarinstitutt has advised that any British authority wishing to publish maps or charts of Norwegian Antarctic territories should (with a few modifications) use the place-names in the forms listed.

5. For Terre Adélie, a list of all the place-names so far accepted for French official use has been circulated. This list was supplied by L'Ingénieur General H. Dyevre, Directeur du Service Hydrographique de la Marine, Paris, and the names

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P(51)12

Previous Reference P(50)15

POLAR COMMITTEE

PLACE NAMES IN THE ANTARCTIC

The attached review of the work of the Sub-Committee on Antarctic Place-Names is circulated for the information of the Committee.

(Signed) A. H. REED.

Secretary,
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,

30 May, 1951.

in one field; many place-name problems on the east coast of Graham Land between Lat. 64°30'S. and 68°S., which have puzzled geographers and explorers for more than 20 years, have at last been satisfactorily solved; and a considerable advance has been made in the stabilizing of place-names in various parts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

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The "Commandant Charcot", commanded by Capitaine de Vaisseau Max Douguet and manned by a volunteer naval crew, left Brest on 20th September, 1949 to make a second attempt to establish a wintering base in Terre Adélie.

Off the West African Coast, André-Paul Martin, the second-in-command of the expedition, died suddenly of a cerebral haemorrhage on 21st October.

The ship called at Dakar, Cape Town, Durban, and Melbourne, where the vessel arrived on 1st December. The twenty-eight huskies previously landed at Melbourne in March 1949 were taken on board again, and after minor repairs the vessel sailed for Hobart, Tasmania, to collect 250 tons of stores and heavy equipment left there at the end of the previous season.

The expedition left Hobart on 21 December 1949; two extensive belts of pack ice were encountered south of lat. 64°S . and slow progress was made in bad weather. On 17th January Pierre Vidlund, the pilot of the expedition's Stinson monoplane, discovered a channel through the pack ice and on 18th January the vessel reached the coast of Terre Adélie at Cap de la Découverte (lat. $66^{\circ}46'\text{S}$., long. $141^{\circ}35'\text{E}$.)

On 20th January, 1950, exactly 110 years after the discovery of Terre Adélie by Dumont d'Urville, landing operations began at "Port Martin", some 25 miles west of the hut occupied by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition in 1911-12. On 8 February the "Commandant Charcot" after laying depots at Pointe Géologie and Commonwealth Bay, began the homeward journey.

The wintering party consisted of:-

- A.F. Lictard, Leader
- A.H. Boujon, Meteorologist
- R. Gros, Wireless operator
- A.M. Harders, Wireless operator
- M. Marrett, Senior Wireless operator
- A. Pagot, Technician
- R. Pennier, Transport officer and photographer
- Dr. Sapin-Lajeustre, Medical officer and biologist
- F. Tabiteau, Hydrographer.
- Y. Vallette, Surveyor.

F.W. Loewe accompanied the expedition as an official Australian observer for the voyage.

The "Commandant Charcot" experienced some difficulty in making a return passage through the pack ice, but Hobart was reached on 23rd February. The vessel later visited Iles de Kerguelon, Ile de Saint-Paul and Ile Amsterdam, and reached Brest on 10th June, 1950.

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RECEIVED

P(51)11.

Previous References P(49)7 and 18 and P(51)3.

POLAR COMMITTEE

FRENCH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1949-50.

The attached paper, prepared by Dr. S.S. Roberts
is circulated for the information of the Committee.

(Signed) A. H. REED.

Secretary,
Polar Committee.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWLING STREET,

27 May, 1951.

Dr. S.S. Roberts, Wireless operator
A. Barrett, Senior Wireless operator
A. Page, Technician
S. Pender, Transport officer and photographer
Dr. S. de la Roche, Medical officer and biologist
P. Tobitson, Hydrographer.
T. Vallée, Surgeon.

F.W. Lewis accompanied the expedition as an official Australian observer for the voyage.

The "Commissaire Charcot" experienced some difficulty in making a return passage through the pack ice, but Robert was rescued on 21st February. The vessel later visited Iles de Marguerite, Iles de Saint-Paul and Iles Amsterdam, and reached Brest on 10th June, 1950.

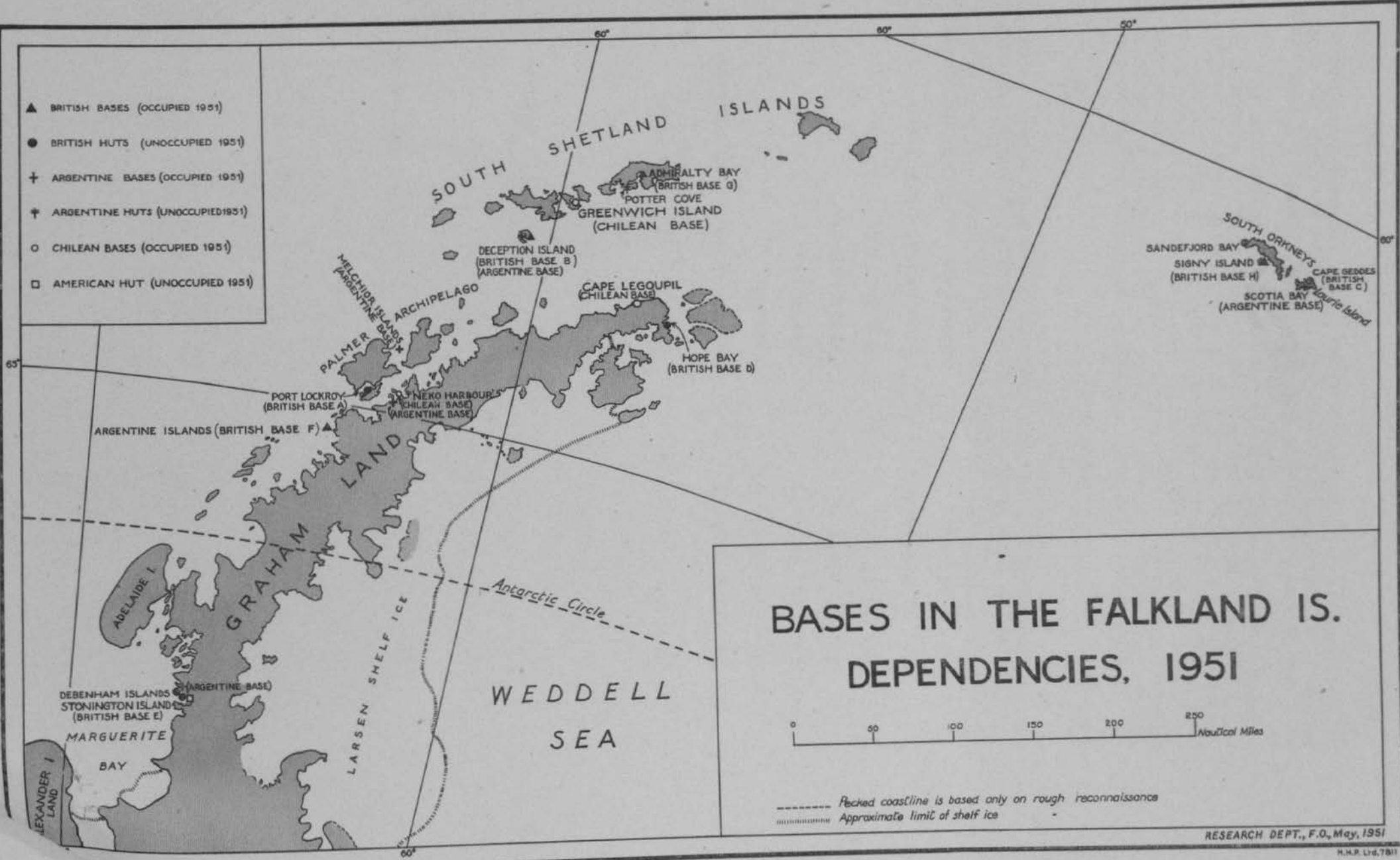
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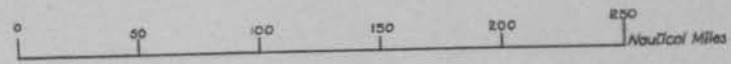
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- + ARGENTINE BASES (OCCUPIED 1951)
- † ARGENTINE HUTS (UNOCCUPIED 1951)
- CHILEAN BASES (OCCUPIED 1951)
- AMERICAN HUT (UNOCCUPIED 1951)

BASES IN THE FALKLAND IS. DEPENDENCIES, 1951



----- Packed coastline is based only on rough reconnaissance
 ----- Approximate limit of shelf ice

RESEARCH DEPT., F.O., May, 1951

H.M.P. 154.781

protest already made. H.M. Ambassador in Santiago had also protested against the establishment of the Chilean base in Paradise Harbour.

ITEM 10. Tripartite Agreement on Naval Activities in the Antarctic.

At the Chairman's invitation Miss Anstee recalled that in January and November, 1949, declarations had been made by the Argentinian, Chilean and United Kingdom Governments affirming their intention to use no more than the customary number of warships in waters south of Latitude 60°S. for the remainder of the 1949 season and for the season 1949/50. On November 20th, 1950 this declaration had been renewed for the season 1950/51. Miss Anstee added that the number of warships used by the Chileans and Argentinians in their recent operations was no greater than in previous years and did not constitute a breach of the declaration.

ITEM 11. Scott Polar Research Institute.

The Chairman said that the Committee had before it two papers dealing with further contributions to the Institute from the New Zealand and South African Governments. In addition the Committee should know that the Australian Government had made a further contribution of £A.500 for 3 years and that the Canadians had also made direct contributions from Defence funds.

Mr. Wordie, as Chairman of the Institute's Committee of Management, expressed the Institute's appreciation of the help afforded by Commonwealth Governments. A considerable proportion of the Institute's funds now came from this source and thanks to Commonwealth help the Institute was not only able to meet normal expenditure but had in addition a balance which it was expending on the expansion of its reference services.

Speaking for the Commonwealth Governments, Sir Cecil Day expressed his sense of the value of the Institute's work.

Dr. Roberts mentioned that the Governor of the Falkland Islands also contributed £100 per annum to the Institute.

ITEM 12. To take note of other papers circulated since the last meeting.

The Committee took note of the following papers circulated since the last meeting:-

P(49)22, P(49)23, P(50)5, P(51)9, P(51)10, P(50)2 and P(51)1.

ITEM 13. Any Other Business.

Mr. Wordie thanked the Chairman for presiding over the Committee's deliberations and expressed good wishes for his new appointment.

The Committee took pleasure in associating itself with Mr. Wordie's remarks.

The Committee expressed its keen interest in the expedition and the hope that the Admiralty would agree to release the officers forming the reconnaissance party and that the Air Ministry would make available air transport for the party.

ITEM 7. Antarctic Place Names Sub-Committee.

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Antarctic Place Names Committee (circulated under cover of P(50)15) and said that after discussion with the Departments concerned he had ruled that the Secretary of the A.P.C. should continue his unofficial co-operation on place naming with the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names to the United States Board on Geographic Names.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the recommendation made at its last meeting that urgent steps should be taken to provide further assistance for Dr. Roberts. He explained that the whole procedure for place naming in the Antarctic was under review and that it was not possible, therefore, to act on the Committee's recommendation for the time being.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work of Dr. Roberts and his assistant Miss Thomas in compiling, analysing and recommending place names.

ITEM 8. Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his appreciation of the kindness of the Colonial Office in making available for circulation to members copies of the Governor of the Falkland Islands' periodic reports. He also drew the Committee's attention to the excellent maps of Graham Land now published and representing the first fruits of the Survey's work.

Mr. Bennett referred briefly to the work of the F.I.D.S. since the last Polar meeting and went on to speak of the future scale of operations.

At present 4 bases were occupied and were engaged principally in meteorological work. Hitherto the F.I.D.S. had been financed mainly from local funds derived from the tax on whale oil. In face of the increased Argentinian and Chilean activities it was now necessary to increase the number of bases in order to maintain our sovereignty and the additional cost would be met from Imperial revenues. Plans for the coming season had not yet been approved but they would include the maintenance of the existing 4 bases and the opening of 2 others. The 2 new bases would probably be at Port Lockroy and at Hope Bay. The latter would be a sledging base for work on the Mainland.

ITEM 9. Chilean and Argentine Activities in the Antarctic.

Miss Anstoc said that in 1950 there were 3 Argentinian and 2 Chilean bases in the Antarctic. The Argentinian bases were at Deception Bay and Laurie Island, and the Melchior Islands. The Chilean bases were on Greenwich Island and at Cape Legoupil. In February 1951 the Master of the "John Biscoe" discovered a Chilean and an Argentinian base in Paradise Harbour and delivered local protests. Subsequently the Argentinian Government announced the establishment of a base in Marguerite Bay. H.M. Ambassador in Buenos Aires had formally protested against the establishment of the 2 new Argentinian bases. The Argentine Government subsequently announced the setting up of a base at Punta Proa. This base turned out to be that discovered by the "John Biscoe" in Paradise Harbour and was, therefore, covered by the diplomatic

/protest

F.I.D. funds on condition that his party included a trained geologist and an experienced mountaineer. It was not yet known whether Mr. Carse would be able to fulfil these conditions. The scientific results of the expedition's work would be made available to the Colonial Office and F.I.D.S. scientists would assist in the analysis of the expedition's scientific observations.

ITEM 4. French Expedition to the Antarctic 1949/50.

Dr. Roberts mentioned that 10 men had spent the winter of 1950 in Terre Adélie under André Liotard. He had received a letter from M. Liotard, which he read to the Committee, in which the latter said that he had had a successful year in spite of continuously bad weather. The base camp was firmly established on rock and it had been possible to cover the breadth of the French sector with sledging parties.

The "Commandant Charcot" sailed again for the Antarctic in October 1950 with a relief party of 17 men. This party would remain in Terre Adélie under Lieutenant Barré and would have as its principal research tasks, ionospheric work, terrestrial magnetism, atmospheric optics, seismology and meteorology. Dr. Loewe of Melbourne University, who was Australian observer on board the "Commandant Charcot" last year, had joined the wintering party as glaciologist.

Dr. Roberts drew the Committee's attention to the draft law tabled in the French National Assembly on 7th May, 1951, transferring the administration of all French sub-Antarctic and Antarctic territories from Madagascar to Paris. He added that it seemed unlikely that the Assembly would find time to discuss this law before the June elections.

ITEM 5. Oxford and Cambridge Expedition to Svalbard, 1951.

Admiral Day said that D.S.R.F. Committee and the Admiralty had approved the expedition's plans. The expedition would sail for Svalbard in one of H.M. survey ships at the end of June 1951 returning in September. It would consist of 12 members under the leadership of Messrs. Hartog and Harland. The survey ship would carry out oceanographic and hydrographic research and R.N. and R.M. boats crews would take part in the work of the expedition.

ITEM 6. Commander Simpson's Reconnaissance Expedition to East Greenland.

Mr. Wordie said that Commander Simpson's plans had been approved by the Royal Society and by the D.S.R.F. Committee and had the support of the Royal Geographical Society. Broadly, the intention was that a reconnaissance expedition of 4 officers should be flown in during mid-July and be brought out again, also by air, 6 weeks later. The main expedition, a wintering party, would come in by air in the summer of 1952. The reconnaissance expedition was essential in order to discover the best area from which operations could be undertaken. In discussion it was pointed out that the Admiralty had not yet agreed to release the 4 officers forming the reconnaissance party and that if sanction for their release was not obtained shortly it would be too late for the expedition to be mounted this year. The Air Ministry, although willing to release a Sunderland flying boat to transport the party, had not yet received confirmation that it would be required and were unlikely to hold open their offer indefinitely.

the Committee was, in fact, celebrating its 21st birthday.

The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth. He suggested that, although as a secret Committee the Polar Committee could not pass any message of sympathy to Mr. Ellsworth's relatives, it might wish that a reference should be made in the minutes to its sense of the loss to Antarctic exploration caused by Mr. Ellsworth's death. The Committee adopted the Chairman's suggestion.

ITEM 2. Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition.

Dr. Roberts gave an account of his visit to Maudheim during the past Antarctic summer. The wintering party of 16 men (from Norway, Sweden, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom) had been carrying out an extremely successful programme of research and exploration in the face of considerable difficulties. The base was built on floating shelf ice, some 150 miles distant from the nearest rock outcrop. It was perhaps the most uninteresting place in which to live that could possibly be found. During the winter the living quarters were deeply buried in snow and ventilation was the main problem. Continued effort was required to keep all routine observations going and lack of fresh air and daylight tended to cause apathy.

Dr. Roberts went on to speak of the lessons in running an international expedition to be learned from the experiences gained at Maudheim. His impression was, that apart from some very real language difficulties with consequent increased risk of misunderstanding, there did not seem to have been any more friction than is usual in a national Polar expedition of comparable size. He felt that the expedition had proved that the over-riding factor was the selection of the right type of men. Although there would be naturally certain differences of opinion apparent at the planning stage of an international expedition due to the natural desire of each nation to play a major part, these differences would not re-appear once the expedition had sailed. One difficulty with an international expedition was that of spending the available funds really economically, as much money would have to go on compromises. On balance Dr. Roberts felt that the disadvantages of national rivalry were outweighed by the advantages of the pooling of knowledge and resources.

Looking further ahead, Dr. Roberts said that he believed that we should support international expeditions when the opportunity occurred but in the immediate future the more efficient development would be a series of concurrent and better co-ordinated national expeditions exchanging observers and scientists one with another. Dr. Roberts referred to the presence of Commonwealth personnel in the Maudheim expedition and paid tribute to the services of the South African Government in arranging radio-communication via Cape Town. In conclusion he mentioned that the officers of the South African Meteorological Service had expressed to him their high opinion of the value of the Antarctic stations and especially of the upper air observations from Maudheim.

ITEM 3. Mr. V.D. Carse's Expedition to South Georgia.

Mr. Bennett explained that this expedition, to be mounted in the coming Antarctic summer, was privately organised but had received the sanction of the Colonial Office and of the Governor of the Falkland Islands. Mr. Carse's intention was to carry out a preliminary reconnaissance of part of the less known south-western coast by water, probably in a whaling company's ship, and then to explore it by land. He had been offered a grant of £500 from

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✓ P(51)1st Meeting

POLAR COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Polar Committee held at the Commonwealth Relations Office at 3 p.m. on Friday, 1st June, 1951.

PRESENT:

Mr. J.J.S. Garner, (Chairman)	Commonwealth Relations Office.
Miss M.J. Anstee,	Foreign Office.
Dr. B.B. Roberts,	Foreign Office, Research Department.
Rear-Admiral A. Day,	Admiralty.
Commander G.P. Adams,	Admiralty.
Commander R.A. Fell,	Joint Planning Staff, Ministry of Defence.
Wing-Commander N.G. Macfarlane,	Air Ministry.
Mr. J.S. Bennett,	Colonial Office.
Mr. A.S. Armstrong,	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
Mr. J.M. Wordie,	Royal Geographical Society.
Mr. J.G. Halstead,	Canada.
Mr. F.B. Cooper,	Australia.
Mr. T. Hewitson,	South Africa.
Sir Cecil Day,	New Zealand.
Mr. N. Pritchard,	Commonwealth Relations Office.
Mr. A.H. Reed, (Secretary)	Commonwealth Relations Office.

Apologies were received from Mr. Broughton, Admiralty, and Mr. Prosser, Ministry of Civil Aviation, who were unable to attend.

ITEM 1. Statement by Chairman.

The Chairman expressed his regret at having to resign from the Chairmanship on his appointment as United Kingdom Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi. Mr. N. Pritchard would succeed him as Chairman. Although the Committee had not met as frequently in the past two years as it had formerly done, he felt that it had nevertheless played a valuable part by functioning as a medium for the circulation of papers, and in providing a convenient link between all those most closely connected with Polar affairs.

The Chairman mentioned that the interdepartmental committee set up to study Antarctic questions had formally taken the name "Polar Committee" in February, 1950. With the present meeting

/the



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

Whitehall 2323
Ext.

DOWNING STREET

Your reference :

LONDON S.W.1

Please quote in reply: F.2872/13

COMMITTEE

Polar Committee held
its Office at 3 p.m. on

12th June, 1951.

Dear Hewitson,

At the last Polar Committee meeting Brian Roberts referred to the draft law tabled in the French National Assembly on 7th May, 1951, which will transfer the administration of all French sub-Antarctic and Antarctic territories from Madagascar to Paris. I am enclosing a copy of the draft law.

*Yours faithfully,
[Signature]*

T. HEWITSON, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

Commonwealth Relations Office.

Foreign Office.

Foreign Office,
Research Department.

Admiralty.

Admiralty.

Joint Planning Staff,
Ministry of Defence.

Air Ministry.

Colonial Office.

Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

Royal Geographical Society.

Canada.

Australia.

South Africa.

New Zealand.

Commonwealth Relations Office.

Commonwealth Relations Office.

Mr. T. Hewitson,

Sir Cecil Day,

Mr. N. Pritchard,

Mr. A.H. Reed,
(Secretary)

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/the

19/88/2

AIRMAIL

SECRET

20th June, 1951.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Polar Committee

As your minute P.M.102/2 of the 29th May unfortunately only reached us on the 2nd June, we were unable to make use of the material contained in it and the annexure at the Polar Committee meeting which took place on the 1st June.

The summary of the minutes of the inter-departmental meeting held on the 3rd April contains much that might be of interest to the Polar Committee and we have therefore sent a copy of the document to the Secretary for circulation as a Polar Committee document. We have also raised, quite informally, the question of the continuance of the weather station set up at Maudheim by the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition.

I enclose copies of the minutes of the meeting of the 1st June, together with the under-mentioned documents:

- P(51)9 - Heard Island and the MacDonalld Islands
- P(51)10 - Marion and Prince Edward Islands
- P(51)11 - French Antarctic Expedition 1949-50.
- P(51)12 - Place Names in the Antarctic.
- P(51) 1st Meeting - Agenda

I also enclose a copy of the draft law tabled in the French National Assembly on the 7th May, 1951, which will transfer the administration of all French sub-antarctic and antarctic territories from Madagascar to Paris. This draft law is mentioned under item 4 of the minutes.

F. Hewitson

Political Secretary.

TH/AG

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SECRET

P(51)1st Meeting (Amendment 1)

PCLAR COMMITTEE

The following amendments should be made to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1st June 1951:

ITEM 3

Page 3 line 2 after "geologist" insert ", a qualified surveyor"

Page 3 line 3 delete sentence beginning "The scientific results...." and insert new sentence "Mr. Carse was also being asked to make the scientific results of his expedition's work available to the Colonial Office in return for the assistance offered".

ITEM 8

Page 4 line 16 insert "Detailed" before "Plans".

Page 4 line 19 delete "probably".

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June, 1951.

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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

27 JUN 1951

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P(51)12 - Place Names in the Antarctic.

P(51) 1st Meeting - Agenda

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T. Hewitson

Political Secretary.

TH/AG

File

ANNEXURE "A"

MEMORANDUM

A. I consider that suitable patches for growing vegetables could be found close to the Meteorological Station. The main considerations would be -

- (1.) Accessibility from living quarters:
- (2.) Locality sheltered from high winds:
- (3.) Vegetable garden to have northern aspect.

B. There is very little true soil on the Island. Even in vertical banks 2 to 3 feet high of Freshwater Stream material which looked like soil proved to be fibrous peaty material. Owing to the continuous high rainfall and water-retaining properties of peaty material, even comparatively steep slopes are sodden, but if the surface vegetation is cleared away in more gently sloping areas and small furrows made to take away standing water I have no doubt that vegetables could be grown successfully. The use of agricultural drainage pipes may also be useful in this connection.

C. In two places against steep slopes not very far from the Meteorological Station I actually came across some firm clayey soil. The extent of this soil appeared to be small but more intensive inspection would conceivably show up sufficient of this material to make terracing practicable. Terrace slopes should be protected with grass and moss indigenous to the island which prevent erosion even against very steep slopes or ridges.

D. On many of the ridges and knolls gravel of scoriaceous rock, which often looks very much like pumice and is partly decomposed, is mixed with soil and peaty material. Such areas are usually firm and it might be quite possible to grow crops in them. They are generally reasonably level and in some cases protected from winds to a certain extent by higher outcrops.

E. I do not recommend attempts to drain level boggy areas. The high and continuous rainfall, retentive nature of material and complete lack of any firm material for a considerable depth would make any such work very difficult to carry out and probably cause it to be a failure. Nor is large scale terracing considered to be justified at this stage.

It is recommended that experimental patches as outlined in B, C and D above should be tackled first under the care of a full time experienced gardener for one tour during summer. This will indicate the potentialities before embarking on considerable terracing or drainage work and I am convinced that it will prove that a variety of vegetables can be grown on the island.

F. It may be possible that willows, poplars or other water-loving trees may be established in windbreaks round the vegetable patches. Whether such trees will be able to withstand the terrific winds is doubtful, but it is considered to be worth trying.

J. P. Kriel.
ENGINEER.

CAPE TOWN
29th March, 1954.

12. White Foxes:

In view of the fact that the albatross and penguins come to the island to breed and incidentally provide welcome fresh meat and that their eggs and young are totally unprotected on the ground, the meeting felt that if white foxes were introduced on the island they would destroy these birds.

13. Reports from Other Islands:

It was agreed that it would be advantageous for the Union Government to obtain reports on horticulture, afforestation, livestock, etc. from the authorities in charge of the Falkland Islands and the South Shetland Islands where conditions appear to be similar to those on Marion Island.

14. Scientific Investigations:

Before any scientific investigations could be conducted to explore the natural resources of the island, it was agreed, a proper topographical survey of the island should be undertaken. Geological, hydrographic, soil and other necessary surveys should follow.

It was considered reasonable to expect officials conducting scientific investigations and surveys to be resident on the island on 12-monthly reliefs. It might become necessary to increase slightly the accommodation on the island to provide for them.

15. Transport:

It was clear that without suitable transport, the Government would be handicapped in all its efforts to develop the island. Frigates are very expensive to run, costing about \$10 an hour in fuel alone, and, furthermore, are not suitable for carrying cargo or passengers.

It was concluded that transport requirements could best be met by the provision of a small cargo vessel with passenger accommodation and of sufficient endurance to enable her to make the 2,400 mile ocean journey and to lie off the island for the necessary period.

The view was expressed that the Government might consider purchasing such a vessel and manning it with naval personnel and employing it on naval duties when it was not engaged on relief work for the island.

7. Farming:

(a) Horticulture

A report was handed in by an Engineer in the Department of Irrigation, regarding the condition of soil on the island, the drainage position and the possibility of growing vegetables. This report is attached as Annexure A.

The meeting was informed that experiments were in progress on the growing of vegetables in cold frames and so far were proving that certain vegetables could be grown.

It was suggested that it might be worth while to erect a greenhouse for this purpose. It was decided, however, to test fully the cold frame method first.

(b) Livestock:

It was reported that the sheep sent to the island in 1949, which were a cross between a Dorsetshire and a German Merino had done fairly well. The pigs were doing well. Fowls would do well if they were properly housed and given laying meal.

8. Afforestation:

It was stated that the Department of Transport was in touch with the Department of Forestry regarding the most suitable trees for planting on the island. A report from the officer in charge of the island was read to the effect that, of the trees planted in November, 1950, the Pinus Pinaster and Cypressus lawsoniana were growing strongly. It was considered that when it is established which trees grow best, these should be planted extensively as wind breaks.

9. Resident Farmer:

It was considered that an experienced official from the Department of Agriculture should be stationed on the island to conduct farming experiments in horticulture, livestock, poultry, afforestation, etc.

10. Fishing:

It would appear that fish can be caught only on the outer edge of the kelp barrier. It was considered that advantage should be taken of the next visit of the frigate to test the fishing possibilities in the vicinity of the island.

11. Sea-elephant Oil Industry:

It was considered that a census should be taken of the number of sea-elephants on Marion and Prince Edward Islands. The census on the latter island could be taken by the forthcoming relief ship. It would of course be a very rough estimate as time would be limited.

From information supplied by the official of the Department of Transport who had been stationed on the island, it would seem, on first sight, that the population is far too small to warrant the establishment of an oil industry there.

7. Farming:

(a) Horticulture

A report was handed in by an Engineer in the Department of Irrigation, regarding the condition of soil on the island, the drainage position and the possibility of growing vegetables. This report is attached as Annexure A.

The meeting was informed that experiments were in progress on the growing of vegetables in cold frames and so far were proving that certain vegetables could be grown.

It was suggested that it might be worth while to erect a greenhouse for this purpose. It was decided, however, to test fully the cold frame method first.

(b) Livestock:

It was reported that the sheep sent to the island in 1949, which were a cross between a Dorsetshire and a German Merino had done fairly well. The pigs were doing well. Fowls would do well if they were properly housed and given laying meal.

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From information supplied by the official of the Department of Transport who had been stationed on the island, it would seem, on first sight, that the population is far too small to warrant the establishment of an oil industry there.

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD APRIL, 1951, TO CONSIDER
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARION ISLAND

A meeting of representatives of Union Government Departments concerned with Marion Island was convened on the 3rd April, 1951, to consider ways and means of developing the island.

2. It was stated at the outset that the Minister of Transport was interested in the development and wishes to encourage married men and families to live on the island so that the Department could draw on the older and more mature personnel for duty there. Proper married quarters would therefore have to be constructed.

3. An official of the Department of Transport who had been stationed there, described his personal experiences of the weather and living conditions. He made special mention of the following:

- (a) There are at present 7 buildings on the island built of wood and specially designed to withstand the windy weather. At present 8 persons can be accommodated. There is a good landing stage, but no boat.
- (b) The island is situated 1,200 miles S.S.E. of Port Elizabeth and is on latitude 47°.
- (c) Climate: Very windy with gusts sometimes 100 m.p.h. Average rainfall 93 inches per year. Hardly any evaporation, consequently extremely wet. Average sunshine in summer 7 hours a day, in winter 1 hour a day. Coldest day was 23.8°F. Icebergs are occasionally seen. The cold winds make living conditions unpleasant.
- (d) Topography: Snow-covered central peak, 3,890 feet. Surface of island covered with layer of soggy vegetation with no soil to speak of, making it difficult to walk about. Island surrounded by floating kelp.
- (e) It is the intention to instal a hydro-electric plant and waterborne sewerage later in the year.
- (f) There is plenty of good clean drinking water on the island and no flies.

4. Relief Periods: It was considered that twelve-monthly reliefs to the island would be reasonable.

5. Accommodation: It was considered that as a first step, two detached bungalows to accommodate two families should be erected. The buildings must be detached on account of fire hazard.

6. Medical Services: It was agreed that a doctor should be stationed on the island if women were to live there. The doctor could assist with routine meteorological work in his spare time.

SECRET

P(51)14

Previous Reference P(51)10

*Dear Adells
Please send
copies to E.A.
as before
10/7*

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Polar Committee

Marion Island

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Commonwealth Relations Office,

July, 1951.

Maudheim in principle, but would probably find it difficult to justify a United Kingdom contribution in money or material, as they are at present putting considerable effort into meteorological arrangements in the Falkland Islands and its dependencies which would suffer if resources were diverted to Maudheim.

I cannot find that the question has been considered by the Swedish or Norwegian Governments, or that it has at any time been suggested to other powers that the Station might be continued as an international one with participation from outside the Expedition.

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6. Medical Services: It was agreed that a doctor should be stationed on the island if women were to live there. The doctor could assist with routine meteorological work in his spare time.



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

Whitehall 2323

Ext. 1

Your reference :

Please quote in reply :

F 2870/35

DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W.1

16th August, 1951.

Dear Hewitson,

In your letter 19/88/2 of 19th June you asked if there were any likelihood of the temporary Weather Station set up at Maudheim by the Norwegian - British - Swedish Antarctic Expedition being continued on a permanent basis. We also discussed the matter on the telephone when I promised to make some further enquiries. I am sorry to have taken so long to do so, but the people concerned have proved rather elusive.

The position seems to be that the National Committees are not anxious to continue the Maudheim Station partly because of administrative difficulties and partly because they feel that the work produced by the Station should be first analysed before a decision were taken to continue it. The party at Maudheim is due to be relieved in January 1952, and if it were to be replaced quite a lot of money would have to be spent on new buildings and material, and a new team would have to be sent. I understand that the evaluation of the work already done at Maudheim would take perhaps two years.

From the Antarctic Expedition's view, the continuance or the re-establishment of the post would be a practical proposition but the cost would rule it out at any rate for the time being. The attitude of the Meteorological Office here is that they would be willing to support the idea of a permanent Station at Maudheim

T. HEWITSON, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

T.H.

4. Relief Parties: It was considered that twelve monthly reliefs to the island would be reasonable.

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6. Medical Services: It was agreed that a doctor should be stationed on the island if women were to live there. The doctor could assist with routine meteorological work in his spare time.

19/88/2

AIRMAIL

Confidential

20th August, 1951.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

With reference to your minute P.M. 102/2 of the 29th May, 1951, we are now informed that, in regard to the question of a continuance or otherwise of the temporary weather Station set up at Maudheim by the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, the position appears to be that the National Committees are not anxious to continue the Station, partly because of administrative difficulties and partly because they feel that the work produced by the Station should first be analysed before a decision to continue its activities is taken. The party at Maudheim is due to be relieved in January, 1952, and if it were to be replaced quite a lot of money would have to be spent on new buildings and material, while a new team would have to be sent. It is understood that the evaluation of the work already done at Maudheim would take perhaps two years.

From the point of view of the Antarctic Expedition, the continuance or re-establishment of the Station would be a practical proposition, but the cost would rule this out, at any rate for the time being. The attitude of the Meteorological Office here is that they would be willing to support the idea of a permanent Station at Maudheim in principle, but would probably find it difficult to justify a United Kingdom contribution in money or material as they are at present putting considerable effort into meteorological arrangements in the Falkland Islands and its dependencies which would suffer if resources were diverted to Maudheim.

It does not appear that the question has been considered by the Swedish or Norwegian Governments, or that it has at any time been suggested to other Powers that the Station might be continued as an international one with participation from outside the Expedition.

A. L. W. DE VILLIERS.

Political Secretary.

Adv/AG

File



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

Whitehall 2223

Ext. :

Your reference :

Please quote in reply: F.2872/25A

DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W. 1

20th September, 1951.

De Villiers

The Central Office of Information have made a short Technicolor film on the Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition called "THE WHITE CONTINENT". I have arranged for a private showing of the film to take place at 3 p.m. on Thursday, the 4th October, in the C.O.I. cinema at Norgeby House, 83 Baker Street, W.1.

I hope you will be able to spare the time to see the film and to bring with you anyone else in South Africa House who might like to see it. Perhaps you could give me a ring in confirmation and let me know how many seats I should reserve?

y - 1 - 5
A.H. Reed

(A.H. REED)

A.L.W. de VILLIERS, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

P.S. Perhaps I should add that the film runs for about 20 minutes.

B.H. To...

A. L. W. DE VILLIERS.

Political Secretary.

ADV/AG

Wick

19/88/2

25th September, 1951.

ICE

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W.I

Dear Reed,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 20th. Hamilton and I are looking forward to seeing the showing of "The White Continent" on Thursday, 4th October at 3 p.m. and will be grateful if you could reserve two seats for us.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) (A. L. W. de Villiers)

A. H. Reed, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

Adv/AG

BAF 3/10
Noted
P.W. 26/9

A.L.W. de VILLIERS, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

P.S. Perhaps I should add that the film runs for about 20 minutes.

BAF 10/10
Noted

A. L. W. DE VILLIERS.

Political Secretary.

Adv/AG

Wile

The Inspector-General of Overseas
Services of the National Geographical
Institute.

The Director of the Institute for
Terrestrial Physics, or his
representative.

One member elected from the National
Natural History Museum.

One of the members of the Scientific
Commission selected because of his
particular qualifications, and
elected by the aforesaid Commission.

An official of the Economic Affairs
Directorate of the Ministry for
Overseas France.

Article 9: The Director of the Office for Overseas Scientific
Research is instructed to carry out the present
decree which will be published in the "Journal
Officiel de la Republique Francaise".

Paris. 2nd August 1951.

For the Minister and on his authority

Chargé de Mission

Jacques Ponchelet.

Geology and Physical Geography:

- P. Fallot Member of the Institute, Professor of Geology in the College de France.
L. Lutand Professor of Physical Geography in the Faculty of Science in the Sorbonne.
L. Furon Deputy Director of the Geological Laboratory of the Museum.

Terrestrial Physics:

- M. Coulomb Professor at the Sorbonne, Director of the Institute of Terrestrial Physics.
Rev. Father Lejay Head of the National Radioelectricity Laboratory, French Bureau of the Ionosphere.

Botony:

- Prof. H. Heim Member of the Institute, Director of the National Natural History Museum.

Zoology:

The Director of the Scientific Institute in Madagascar.

Budxer:

Deputy Director of the Colonial Fisheries Laboratory at the National Natural History Museum;

and three members selected because of their particular qualifications:-

Captain Loranchet - Hydrography
Lt.-Col. Milon - Ornithology
P. Tchernia - Scientific Adviser to the Naval Staff (Oceanography).

Article 6: The Commission will meet on the summons of its President, or, when he is absent or in cases of difficulty, at the summons of the Vice-President.

Article 7: The work of the Scientific Commission for French southern and antarctic territories is prepared by a permanent study commission for French southern and antarctic territories which has been directed to study in detail methods of application or the carrying out of decisions, or measures proposed by the Scientific Commission for French southern and antarctic territories.

Article 8: The permanent study commission for French southern and antarctic territories will comprise seven members, viz:-

The Director of the Office for Overseas Scientific Research, or his representative.
The Scientific Adviser for French southern or antarctic territories, or one member of the Section for French southern and antarctic territories.

Article 4: The Commission will direct the scientific activities of permanent establishments in French southern and antarctic territories. On their return to France members of scientific teams will report to the President of the Commission on work carried out and results obtained.

At the discretion of the President, the work and studies will be submitted for the examination of the Higher Council for Overseas Scientific and Technical Research.

Article 5: The Scientific Commission for French southern and antarctic territories will comprise 21 members, viz:-

1. Five members representing the Ministry for Overseas France:-
The Director of the Office for Overseas Scientific Research. (President)
The High Commissioner for French southern and antarctic territories when this post has been set up, and until then, the Head of the Mission in southern territories. (Vice-President)

The Director of Economic Affairs and Planning, or his representative.

The Director of Political Affairs, or his representative.

The Scientific Adviser for French southern and antarctic territories.

2. Five representatives from Ministerial Departments or Services interested in scientific research, in development and in increasing the wealth of French southern and antarctic territories:-

The representative from the Directorate for Oceanic Asia in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Engineer General in charge of the Naval Hydrographic Service, or his representative.

The Inspector General, Director of Overseas Geographic Services in the National Geographic Institute, or his representative.

The Head of the Signals and Coding Section of the Combined General Staff of the Armed Forces, or his representative.

The Inspector General in charge of Overseas Meteorological Services, or his representative.

3. Eight members representing the various scientific controlling bodies of the permanent establishments carrying out research in French southern and antarctic territories:-

Geology and Physical Geography:

MINISTRY FOR OVERSEAS FRANCE
CREATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR
FRENCH SOUTHERN AND ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES.

The Minister for Overseas France,

Pursuant to Statute No. 550 of the 11th October, 1943, announcing the setting up of a Colonial Scientific Research Office, ratified by the order of the 24th November, 1944.

Pursuant to the Statute of the 30th April, 1946, concerning the establishment, the financing and the execution of plans relating to the equipment and development of territories within the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Overseas France.

Pursuant to the Ministerial Decree of the 24th September, 1947, announcing the creation of a Higher Council for Overseas Scientific and Technical Research.

Pursuant to the report No. KER/F/1708 of the 20th June, 1951, from the Head of Mission in Southern Territories,

Decrees:-

Article 1: Under the supreme authority of the Minister for Overseas France a scientific commission for French southern and antarctic territories is to be set up within the framework of the activities of the office for Overseas Scientific Research.

Article 2: This Commission will study all scientific questions in French southern and antarctic territories.

It is specifically charged:-

To direct research and study towards the possibilities of increasing the wealth of these territories.

To establish, in this connection, a general programme of work and study.

To propose the measures to be taken and the work to be carried out to realise this programme.

To determine the total financial provision necessary to realize this programme.

Article 3: The Commission will advise on and control the use of the credits provided in the budget for Overseas Scientific Research under the heading of the Programme of Scientific and Economic study in French southern and antarctic territories.

Article 4:

RESTRICTED

P(51) 19

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under comp. slip d'd
12.11.51.

POLAR COMMITTEE

A.G. 12/11

F.

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR FRENCH SOUTHERN
AND ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES

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1947,

951,

The attached paper contains a translation of the text of a decree of the Ministry for Overseas France published on August 30th. It is circulated for the information of the Committee.

(Signed) M. ALLEN

for A. H. REED

Secretary,
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,

Downing Street.

10th November 1951.

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To determine the total financial provision necessary to realize this programme.

Article 3: The Commission will advise on and control the use of the credits provided in the budget for Overseas Scientific Research under the heading of the Programme of Scientific and Economic study in French southern and antarctic territories.

Article 4:

The new shore party consists of:-

Lieutenant de Vaisseau Michel Barré, Leader
Enseigne de Vaisseau Bertrand Isbert, Hydrographer
Jean Bouquin, Physicist
Jean Condron, Medical Officer
Raoul Despres, Technician
René Dova, Technician
Jacques Dubois, Technician
Roger Kirschner, Technician.
Pierre-Noël Mayaud, Magnetician
Paul Ferrand, Geodesist
André Prudhomme, Meteorologist
Robert Le Guinio, Meteorologist
Paul Rataeu, Technician
Claudius Tisserand, Technician.

In addition to the relief party, Francois Tabuteau and Georges Schwartz remained in Adellie Land for a second winter. Fritz Loewe, who had been Australian observer in the "Commandant Charcot" in 1949-50, joined the shore party as glaciologist for the winter of 1951.

THE FRENCH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1949-51

On 20 January 1950, landing operations were started on Cap de Margerie at "Port-Martin" (named after the second-in-command of the expedition, who died during the outward voyage) in lat. $66^{\circ}46'S.$, long. $141^{\circ}20'E.$, about 40 miles west of the hut occupied by Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition of 1911-14. High winds delayed the landing operations, but in five working days some 250 tons of stores, which included two Weasels and prefabricated huts, were landed. On 9 February the "Commandant Charcot", after laying depots at Pointe Géologie and at Cape Denison, began the homeward voyage. Some difficulty was experienced in finding a way northwards through the pack, but Hobart was reached on 23 February. The vessel later visited Heard Island, Iles de Kerguelen, Ile Saint-Paul and Ile Amsterdam, and finally reached Brest on 10 June 1950.

In addition to routine meteorological observations, the wintering party (listed in P(51)11) did magnetic and glaciological work. Zoological observations were made at an Emperor Penguin rookery discovered near the base. A large-scale sledging programme was also undertaken. Before the winter set in a depot was laid by the Weasels at a point some 80 km. west of Port-Martin, in preparation for the spring journeys. Between 4 and 11 June 1950 a sledging party made a winter journey to the eastern boundary of Adélie Land in long. $142^{\circ}E.$ At the end of October 1950, a survey team of three men made a spring sledging journey 100 km. eastwards over the sea ice, and a second three-man survey team sledged some 70 km. westwards over the sea ice. Between 9 December 1950 and 19 January 1951 the main sledge journey to the western boundary of Terre Adélie in long. $136^{\circ}E.$ was made. Meanwhile between 9 and 22 December, a party of four in one of the Weasels travelled to the eastern boundary of Adélie Land, and beyond to the former Australian base hut at Cape Denison.

On 3 October 1950 the "Commandant Charcot", again commanded by Capitaine de Vaisseau Douguet, left Brest on her third antarctic voyage. Calls were made at Algiers, Djibouti, Diego Suarez, Fremantle and Hobart. On 28 December the vessel left Hobart. Open pack was encountered on 2 January 1951 in lat. $65^{\circ}40'S.$, long. $140^{\circ}E.$ No difficulty was experienced in the ice and by midnight on 4 January the vessel had reached lat. $66^{\circ}59'S.$, long. $145^{\circ}E.$, near the tongue of Mertz Glacier. Commonwealth Bay was found to be free of ice, but Port-Martin was still frozen, and the vessel was unable to anchor there until 9 January.

High winds delayed the landing operations, but by 17 January the stores, including two more Weasels and additional prefabricated huts, were landed and the new wintering party had taken over the base. In the following week the "Commandant Charcot" made hydrographic observations off Port-Martin, and on 27 January began a reconnaissance westwards along the coast. Close pack was encountered in long. $138^{\circ}50'E.$, and the vessel followed the ice edge northwards to lat. $65^{\circ}30'S.$, long. $133^{\circ}20'E.$, and then returned to Port-Martin.

The "Commandant Charcot" finally left Port-Martin on 6 February 1951. Calls were made at Macquarie Island and Campbell Island, and Hobart was reached on 20 February. The return voyage to France was made by way of the Panama Canal.

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for External Affairs under
comp. slip d/d 27.11.51.

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Previous References. P(49)7, P(49)18, P(51)3 and
P(51)11.

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POLAR COMMITTEE

French Antarctic Expedition 1949-51

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The attached paper, prepared by Dr. B.B. Roberts
is circulated for the information of the Committee.

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(Signed) M. E. ALLEN
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Secretary,
Polar Committee.

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6 February 1951. Calls were made at Macquarie Island and
Campbell Island, and Hobart was reached on 20 February. The
return voyage to France was made by way of the Panama Canal.

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requires widespread aerial reconnaissance. For this type of work the use of helicopters gives promise of being of exceptional value.

Hydrography and Oceanography

The Hydrographic Service has been working at a number of locations in the Eastern Arctic. In the Beaufort Sea the Defence Research Board expedition led by Mr. T.H. Manning in the Cansolim II has defined the limits of the continental shelf from Demarcation Point to Prince Alfred Cape. In 1950 Dr. M.J. Dunbar in the Calanus completed his investigations in Ungava Bay, and in 1951 he extended his work to Frobisher Bay. The C.G.S. C.D. Howe has been collecting information on harbours by means of photography from the helicopter and sounding from a special launch.

Zoology

The barren land caribou survey has been completed. Consideration is being given to an investigation of the present status of musk-ox.

Glaciology

In 1948 Mr. Walter Wood of the Arctic Institute of North America established a field station in the St. Elias Range mainly for glaciological work. The station was reoccupied in 1949 but in 1950 the Institute's resources were concentrated in Mr. P.D. Baird's expedition to the ice cap in central Baffin Island. Work at the St. Elias station was resumed in 1951.

Medical Research

Much information of value is being obtained through the increased medical facilities and this is indicating the most promising fields for research. The physiological investigations carried out under the direction of Dr. Malcolm Brown of Queen's University have continued. Particular attention is being paid to parasitology and to the virology of northern influenza epidemics.

Arctic Research Advisory Committee

October 1951.

TRANSPORTATION

Air transportation in the Arctic has continued to play an important part. A noteworthy feature has been the increasing use of helicopters, though these have met with a number of accidents during the past summer. There have also been marked developments in other forms of transportation. The Mackenzie Highway now provides an all-weather road to Great Slave Lake and is making Hay River an important settlement. In the Yukon many miles of new road have been built.

Most freight is still handled by water. The U.S. Navy Sea Supply Mission supplies the joint weather station programme in the Arctic Archipelago. In the Eastern Arctic most of the northern posts are served by the C.D. Howe, while the Hudson's Bay Company, with the Rupertsland, the Fort Garry and the Fort Charles, have concentrated more on Hudson Bay, Hudson Straits, and James Bay. The Government icebreaker C.G.S. McLean is being used to an increasing extent for delivering supplies in Hudson Bay and Straits, particularly where ice conditions are difficult. In the Western Arctic the H.B.C. vessel Fort Hearne has been joined by a new vessel the Nechelik to replace the Nigalik.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

During the past two years there have again been a large number of scientific investigations in the field. The majority were direct activities of Government departments, others were private parties, many sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America. This scientific work has been too widespread and varied for individual treatment in a paper of this scope, and can only be described in the most general terms.

Mapping

Tri-camera photographic coverage of the Canadian north is now virtually complete and is leading to striking revisions in new editions of map sheets. Shoran is being used on an increasing scale for control.

Entomological Research

The many entomological parties in the north during the past few summers are providing a great deal of information on the abundance and distribution of insects, and particularly of biting flies. Experiments in methods of control have been continued and spraying with insecticides has led to marked relief from the attacks of biting flies at certain localities.

Geophysics

The programmes of magnetic, ionospheric and cosmic ray research continue to provide important data. A seismic observatory has been established at Resolute Bay, and should be particularly valuable in determining the epicentres of earthquakes in northern regions.

Geology

Most of the work of the Geological Survey of Canada has been concentrated in the Yukon and the Yellowknife area. Investigations have also been carried out in Cornwallis Island and Baffin Island. It has become increasingly apparent that effective planning and execution of future geological mapping in the Precambrian areas

/requires

hospital treatment is provided as quickly as can be arranged, in this way removing a major source of infection. Every effort is being made to educate the Indians and Eskimo in preventative measures.

The native population will be eligible for old age pensions under recent legislation. These pensions should be as successful in providing for the welfare of the old people as the family allowances are proving for the children.

Provisional figures in the recent census indicate that there has been a normal increase in the Eskimo population.

EDUCATION

It is too early to expect benefit from the expanded educational programme. There are however promising indications. The Eskimo proved to be unusually willing pupils and a number of children are making rapid progress in reading and writing in English.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

There has been a recovery in the price of white fox fur, which had fallen very low in 1949. This has been of some benefit to the Eskimo but the disadvantages of an economy based so largely on a single commodity of widely fluctuating value are obvious. The new activities in the north will in time provide employment for part of the native population. The administration is attempting to broaden the basis of their economy by fostering handicrafts, conserving game resources and, by the educational programme, preparing them to play an important part in the greater development of the country which seems imminent.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The past two years have seen an increasing number of prospecting parties north of the tree line. The most significant developments may possibly be the iron ore reported in Ungava Bay, the exploration particularly for nickel in the barrens north of Churchill and, despite the low price of gold, the continuing activity in and to the north of the Yellowknife area. In the Yukon the expansion of the silver-lead properties in the Mayo district is the most striking of a number of developments. Extensive diamond drilling, started near Pine Point on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, is supporting the belief that sufficient lead-zinc ore will be found to warrant a very substantial mining operation.

The search for oil is extending north from Alberta and during the past summer wildcat wells have been drilled west of Great Slave Lake. Prospecting for oil has not yet been carried out in the Western Arctic but it can only be a matter of time before this geologically favourable area is explored.

WEATHER STATIONS

In 1950 the fifth weather station in the joint Canada/U.S. programme was established at Alert on the north coast of Ellesmere Island. In addition to the meteorological and related work carried out at these stations they have on occasion provided facilities for other scientists to pursue studies in the area.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CANADIAN NORTH DURING 1950 AND 1951

INTRODUCTION

Two summaries of activities in the Canadian north have been prepared by the Arctic Research Advisory Committee. One was written towards the end of 1948 and covered the recent years up to that time. The other, a year later, dealt with events in 1949. The present paper brings the series up to the present time by summarizing activities during 1950 and 1951.

In the first paper attention was drawn to the increased rate of development in the north following the Second World War. Before this time the greater part of the Canadian Arctic was almost completely isolated for most of the year, and such changes as took place were extremely gradual. Since the war the whole Canadian north has become much more closely associated with the rest of the country, and the influence of events in the settled areas of Canada is quickly felt throughout the north. It appears likely that development will proceed far more rapidly than was considered possible before the war, or even during the immediate post-war years.

ADMINISTRATION

The membership of the Northwest Territories Council has been increased, and it now includes three elected members from the Mackenzie District. The seat of government in the Yukon Territory is being moved from Dawson City to Whitehorse as soon as suitable buildings have been erected. The Dominions Election Act has been amended to include Eskimo in the Dominion franchise. In Ottawa the administration of the north has been centralized under the Northern Administration Division of the Department of Resources and Development. Within this division there are five sections dealing with Arctic Services, Development Services, Public Services, Education and Welfare Services, and Conservation and Management Services.

The new vessel built for the annual Eastern Arctic Patrol, the C.G.S. C.D. Howe, carried out her first northern voyage in the summer of 1950. The second voyage was completed this summer three weeks ahead of schedule after delivering over 1500 tons of freight to various northern settlements. For the first time for many years the Patrol included Craig Harbour, Ellesmere Island, where an R.C.M.P. detachment has been re-established. The helicopter carried on board the C.D. Howe proved its value in assisting navigation and extending the scientific work of the Patrol.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The increased medical services in the north and the provision of additional facilities at short notice made possible by air transportation appear to be proving successful in limiting the spread of epidemics, which are themselves often the result of air transport. Tuberculosis is of course the most serious and widespread disease. X-ray surveys have demonstrated the magnitude of the problem and

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SECRET

Previous References P.(49) 22 and P.(48) 36

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A.G.
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POLAR COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES IN THE CANADIAN NORTH

The attached paper on Activities in the Canadian North during 1950 and 1951 has been prepared by the Arctic Research Advisory Committee of Canada. It is circulated for the information of the Committee by courtesy of the Canadian member.

Signed M.E. ALLEN

for A.H. REED

Secretary
Polar Committee.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET.

November, 1951.

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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W.1

Whitehall 2323

Ext.:

Your reference :

Please quote in reply: F.2872/13.

29 November, 1951.

Dear Hewitson,

In Reed's absence in Paris, I am writing with reference to his letter F.2872/13 of June 12th concerning the transfer of the administration of French sub-Antarctic and Antarctic territories from Madagascar to Paris.

The United Kingdom Embassy in Paris have now reported that this transfer of administration has already taken place even though the draft law authorizing it has not yet been discussed by the National Assembly. The transfer will clearly facilitate the work of such bodies as the Scientific Commission for French Southern and Antarctic Territories, which is the subject of Polar Committee paper P.(51)19 of 10th November.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. Allen

T. HEWITSON, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

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AIRMAIL

3rd December, 1951.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Polar Committee

With reference to my minute of the 20th June, in which mention was made of the draft law tabled in the French National Assembly on the 7th May, which will transfer the administration of all French sub-Antarctic and Antarctic territories from Madagascar to Paris, we learn that this transfer of administration has already taken place, even though the draft law authorising it has not yet been discussed by the National Assembly.

The transfer will clearly facilitate the work of such bodies as the Scientific Commission for French Southern and Antarctic Territories, which is the subject of Polar Committee paper P.(51)19 of the 10th November, copies of which were forwarded to you on the 12th November.

A. L. W. DE VILLIERS.

Acting Political Secretary.

Adv/AG

... and extending the scientific work of the Patrol.

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hospital/

14. Nearly 50 miscellaneous proposals for names on the west coast of Graham Land are in various stages of draft. A number of these involve corrections to existing names, the errors having come to light in the course of discussions with the United States Advisory Committee during the past year. Others have arisen in the course of discussions with Mr. Stephenson of the British Graham Land Expedition who surveyed much of this coast.

15. It is unfortunate that circumstances make it impossible to avoid bringing a very large number of the papers described above to a conclusion more or less simultaneously. The "juggling" of the proposed new names from one area to another, the necessity for agreeing them provisionally with the Americans, and the fact that proposals cannot be circulated to the Committee without accompanying maps (a number of which are not yet available), precludes the more desirable procedure of completing and circulating the proposals for one area at a time.

(Signed) B.B. Roberts,

Secretary, Antarctic Place-names
Committee.

7 November 1951.

by the Committee.

10. Two papers covering proposals resulting from Mr. McNeile's survey of the north-west coast of Graham Land between Cape Roquemaurel and Cape Kater have been completed and are being circulated to the Committee with the relevant map sheets this week. This work has been completed in consultation with Mr. McNeile.

11. Proposals on the east coast of Graham Land between Lats. 68°S. and 75°S. still require further discussion with the United States Advisory Committee on the basis of the Ronne-Butler Agreement (circulated to the Committee as APC(49)7, 6 December 1949). A great advance has already been made and there is every hope that complete agreement will be reached in the fairly near future. Of the 136 proposals for names on this coast, 90 are already agreed provisionally with the Americans and the remainder should now present little difficulty. A year ago less than 20 were agreed.

12. Papers covering proposals on Signy and Coronation Islands (South Orkneys) cannot be circulated to the Committee until 1:100,000 compilations on the correct sheet lines are available to show the positions of the features. Proposals for more than 100 names are, however, in an advanced draft stage.

13. Detailed discussion of names on King George Island (South Shetlands) could not be started until 1:100,000 compilations were available to work on. These were received on 7 November 1951. Source material for names prior to F.I.D.S. has, in the meantime, been collected together. Unfortunately, Mr. Jefford's appointment with F.I.D.S. terminated rather abruptly. It had been hoped that permission would be given for him to work on names in the area which he surveyed as was the case with Messrs. Brown and Blaiklock.

F.I.D.S. were considered, and a detailed study was made of the reports, the relevant maps and the available photographs of the Second French Antarctic Expedition, 1908-10, the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, the United States Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-41, and the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition, 1946-48. In consultation with Mr. Stephenson, the surveyor of the British Graham Land Expedition, it proved possible to identify nearly all of the features previously named and to prepare descriptions of the localities, notes on the history and the reasons for identification of each name. It was also agreed, in consultation with Dr. Fuchs, that more than 50 new names will be required for descriptive and scientific purposes, and Mr. Brown described the features requiring new names. The completion of this work awaits receipt from the Directorate of Colonial Surveys of Mr. Brown's 1:200,000 compilations transferred to the correct sheet lines and also further discussion with Dr. Fuchs on the new names to be proposed both in Mr. Brown's area, and in his own which lies further to the south. Mr. Blaiklock assisted with the work on the names in the northern part of Marguerite Bay. The relevant reports, maps and photographs of the four expeditions mentioned above were studied and, in consultation with Mr. Stephenson, about 50 existing named features have been identified and described. In addition, Mr. Blaiklock has described about 30 features which will require new names. The completion of this work also awaits receipt of 1:200,000 compilations from the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, and further discussion with Dr. Fuchs on the new names to be proposed. Meanwhile, all these provisional recommendations are being discussed with the Americans to ensure ultimate agreement.

9. In certain other areas, draft papers for the Committee are also in varying stages of preparation. These papers follow the six categories of names set out in APC(48)2 and later approved

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4. The Americans have also given an assurance that a new series of 1:1,000,000 U.S. Air Force maps, which is at present being checked for names by the U.S. Board, will, when published, demonstrate the wide agreement of British and American officially accepted names, for they have agreed to omit all names that are still in dispute except Palmer Land (Graham Land on British maps).
5. This situation marks an entirely new approach to the problem which should ensure the use of uniform names in both countries if it can be continued.

Co-operation with Norway.

6. Following informal preliminary discussions between the Secretary of the Committee and the Director of Norsk Polarinstitutt about coast names which overlapped the international boundary between the Falkland Islands Dependencies and Dronning Maud Land, official proposals to re-adjust the limits of these coasts were forwarded by the Foreign Office to the Norwegian Government. The proposed adjustments have now been agreed by all concerned.

Research for papers in preparation.

7. A further considerable number of publications and manuscripts relating to the Falkland Islands Dependencies, including works by Argentines, Chileans, Norwegians and Russians, have been traced. The information about place-names, their histories, synonyms and linguistic equivalents, have in the past year been extracted from more than 50 of these.

8. Early in 1951, the Governor of the Falkland Islands agreed to the extended appointment of two more F.I.D.S. surveyors - Messrs. Brown and Blaiklock - to work on place-names. Mr. Brown worked in the Foreign Office Research Department on the names in the southern part of Marguerite Bay, to the south of Stonington Island, and in King George VI Sound, as far south as about Lat. 71°S. All the existing names given by expeditions other than