

**GEHEIM
SECRET**
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

EERSTE MINISTER EN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
PRIME MINISTER AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

1975

RESEARCH
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ONDERWERP.—SUBJECT.

ANTARCTIC RESEARCHES
AND EXPEDITIONS.

Verwante Lêers.
Relative Files.

P.M. 102 / 2 VOL. 12.

RESUBMITTED

Pro. Dabon
22/11
Pende 15/55

RESUBMITTED

Pro. Dabon
Pende 20/3/53
Pende 18/5

RESUBMITTED

Pro. v. Dabon
File 18/8

RESUBMITTED

Pro. Dabon
File

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CLOSED—SEE VOL. 13

van Dabon

**CHILE PLANS AIRFIELD
IN ANTARCTICA**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, FEB. 27

Chile has threatened to build an airfield on Deception Island in the Falkland Islands Dependencies alongside the new Chilean naval Antarctic base at Pendulum Bay, the establishment of which was announced a week ago when the British Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. J. Hankey, protested to the Chilean Government. Señor Tobias Barros, Chilean Defence Minister, said in Santiago on Friday that Chile might establish an air station on Deception Island to be used as a place of call for aircraft flying to the South Pole. He added that the air station might be the beginning of a new South Polar route.

Britain made strong representations in December, 1953, when Argentina threatened to establish an air base on Dundee island in British Antarctica and the Argentine Government subsequently denied categorically any such intention. A Chilean airfield on Deception Island, which is one of the most accessible places in Antarctica, would be even more provocative.

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Vol 12

ICE-FREE ANTARCTIC MOUNTAINS

EXPLORATION THIS YEAR

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MELBOURNE, MARCH 23

The Australian Antarctic expedition's exploration ship Kista Dan, 1,239 tons, reached Melbourne to-day, after a round trip of 12,500 miles, with a party of scientists under Mr. Robert Dovers who had completed a year's tour at the Mawson station, the nearest permanent place of habitation to the South Pole.

Mr. Casey, the Minister for External Affairs, welcomed the men and congratulated their leader on his award of the Polar Medal. Mr. Philip Law, director of the Antarctic Division, who had been on board the Kista Dan since she left Melbourne on January 7 for Mawson, said a further expedition this year would concentrate on exploring the mountain range discovered by Mr. Dovers 150 miles from Mawson which rises to a height of 10,000ft. Mr. Casey has said the range is largely free of ice and offers possibilities for mineral prospecting.

From Heard Island, the Kista Dan sailed 300 miles along the mainland coast, allowing Mr. Law to make brief expeditions ashore. His first foray was into the ice-free Vestfold Hills, where there are unfrozen lakes; the second, into the Larsemann Hills, was quickly rendered abortive by breaking ice; the third was on Lawton Island, in the Prydz Bay area.

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GEHEIM
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F3/44
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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

22 March, 1955.

Dear Mr Forsyth,

In paragraph five of my letter No. F3/44 of the 10th March about Antarctica, I promised to send you copies in their final form of the Applications the United Kingdom Government proposed to submit to the International Court in respect of Argentinian and Chilean encroachments in the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

I now enclose copies of the Applications in their final form prior to printing. The United Kingdom Colonial Office have still to make their final comments on the Applications and it is, therefore, possible that further small modifications and corrections to the text will be necessary, but it is expected that the Applications will be printed very shortly.

I shall let you know when the Applications are formally lodged with the International Court.

Mr Forsyth
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22/3

Yours sincerely,
(For the High Commissioner)
A.W. Inelling.

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

Mr Forsyth
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see later when I
have more time
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22/3

GEHEIM
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F3/44
SECRET



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(for the High Commissioner)

A. W. SNELLING

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

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SECRET

102/2.
FOREIGN OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.
March, 1955.

The Agent for the Government of the United Kingdom
to the Registrar of the International Court of
Justice at The Hague

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Article 40(1) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and Article 32(2) of the Rules of Court and, by direction of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to submit an Application instituting proceedings in the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland against the Republic of Argentina in the following case:- (1)

2. Differences have existed between the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the Republic of Argentina for a number of years concerning pretensions advanced by the Republic in 1925, and at various dates thereafter, to the sovereignty of certain Antarctic and sub-Antarctic territories which belong to the United Kingdom under prior, long standing, and well established legal titles. The territories in dispute between the two countries form part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies consisting of already existing British possessions, which (following on a long series of analogous enactments - see paragraph 13 below) were proclaimed as such and formally placed under the administration of the Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands by Royal Letters Patent of July 21, 1908.

/These

(1) It results from the present Application that the United Kingdom Government accepts the jurisdiction of the Court in respect of the questions hereby submitted to it, and in particular that of the title to sovereignty over the islands and lands of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The present Application does not constitute a submission to the jurisdiction of the Court in any other respect as regards the title to sovereignty over any territory outside the Dependencies.

These Letters Patent, the full text of which is set out in Annex 1 (No. 1) to the present Application, specified as the principal territories included within the Dependencies the territories known as South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands and the Sandwich Islands, and the territory known as Graham Land. There were also other territories such as Coats Land. Further Letters Patent of March 28, 1917, (Annex 1, No. 2), were issued for the purpose of clarifying the extent of the Antarctic mainland together with its coastal archipelagos which were comprised within the designation "territory of Graham Land" used in the earlier Letters Patent. Under the supplemental Letters Patent of 1917, the Dependencies were finally defined to include -

"all islands and territories whatsoever between the 20th degree of West longitude and the 50th degree of West longitude which are situated south of the 50th parallel of South latitude; and all islands and territories whatsoever between the 50th degree West longitude and the 80th degree of West longitude which are situated south of the 58th parallel of South latitude."

The territories of the Dependencies, as so defined in the Letters Patent of 1908 and 1917, which had long been British possessions, have for many years been used and administered by the Falkland Islands Government effectively, openly and, until modern times, without any objection from the Republic of Argentina, which facts are conclusively shown in paragraphs 16 to 25 below. (2)

3. Notwithstanding the United Kingdom's open assumption, and long standing and peaceful exercise of sovereignty over the territories concerned, and the clear and precise delimitation of the Falkland Islands Dependencies in the above-mentioned Letters Patent, the Government of the Republic of Argentina formulated pretensions in 1925 to the South Orkneys, in 1927 to South Georgia as well as to the South Orkneys, and in or about 1937 to all the territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Subsequently, /the Republic

(2) It will be understood that although for reason of convenience the territories to which the present Application relates were constituted Dependencies of the Falkland Islands for administrative purposes, the British title to them is a separate and independent one, which in no way derives from or depends on the title to the Falkland Islands themselves.

the Republic of Argentina, in a notice of claim deposited on Deception Island (South Shetlands) in January, 1942, and in a Note addressed to the United Kingdom Government on February 15, 1943, desired her pretensions in the area south of latitude 60° South as covering all Antarctic lands and dependencies between longitudes 25° and $68^{\circ} 34'$ West. This West only limit was later extended by a decree of September 2, 1946, to longitude 74° West. Thus, the pretensions which Argentina has from time to time formulated to territories in the Falkland Islands Dependencies appear to cover South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as well as the islands and lands situated between 25° and $68^{\circ} 34'$ West and South of latitude 60° South.

4. South of latitude 60° South, the Western limit of Argentina's pretensions, as given in the above mentioned decree of September 2, 1946, is longitude 74° West; whereas the western limit of the Falkland Islands Dependencies is 6° further to the west at longitude 80° West. The United Kingdom's claims in the present Application do not, therefore, relate to the areas of the Falkland Islands Dependencies between longitudes 74° and 80° West, which lie outside the declared limits of Argentina's pretensions. Similarly, the eastern limit of Argentina's pretensions, as stated in Argentina's above-mentioned notice of claim, and diplomatic Note of February 15, 1943, is longitude 25° West, whereas the eastern limit of the Falkland Island Dependencies is 5 degrees further to the East at longitude 20° West. The United Kingdom's complaint in the present Application does not, therefore relate to the areas of the Falkland Islands Dependencies between 25° and 20° West, which lie outside the declared limits of Argentina's pretensions. It follows that the United Kingdom's complaint in the present Application relates to the pretensions of Argentina to the sovereignty of the islands and lands of the Falkland Islands Dependencies which lie between longitudes 25° and $68^{\circ} 34'$ West and to the southwards of latitude 60° South. A map depicting the territories to which the United Kingdom's claims in the present Application relate is attached as Annex 2.

/As this

As this map shows, the principal territories in dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina in the present case are the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, and Graham Land together with its coastal archipelagos. There is also Coats Land, to Vaksel Bay in which the Argentine Government has, during the last few weeks, sent an expedition.

5. The main facts relative to the United Kingdom's titles to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and the territories comprised in it, and to the violation of her sovereignty by the Republic of Argentina are set out in paragraphs 6-33 below.⁽³⁾

The United Kingdom Government considers that the facts stated in the present Application suffice to establish conclusively both the United Kingdom's title to sovereignty and the violation of that sovereignty by the Republic of Argentina. The United Kingdom Government reserves the right, however, to amplify in its pleadings its exposition of the relevant facts and to furnish further proof of both these matters.

Origins of the British Titles. Historic Discoveries
and Acts of Annexation by British Nationals in the
Period 1675-1843

6. The British title to the territories concerned goes back to a number of dates varying from, at latest, 1775, to 1843. The first discovery of any of the islands or lands of the Falkland Islands Dependencies may well have been that of South Georgia in 1675 by the British merchant Anthony de la Roche. This group of islands was re-discovered in 1775 by the great English navigator Captain James Cook, R.N. On January 17 of that year he landed at three places on the island, took possession of it formally in the name of King George III and called it South Georgia in honour of the King.

/7.

(3) The description of the original of the British titles and of their subsequent consolidation by occupation user administration and other means appropriate to the circumstances of the territories, as contained in paragraphs 6-25 and 30-31 here of, are substantially identical with the corresponding passages in the Application which the United Kingdom Government is making concurrently with the present one, complaining of violations of its sovereignty over the same area, on the part of the Republic of Chile.

7. Captain Cook also discovered the South Sandwich Islands in 1775. Sailing eastwards from South Georgia, he sighted first a small group of islands which he called the Clerke Rocks after the name of his lieutenant and then, on January 31, a larger group which he called the Sandwich Land after the First Lord of the British Admiralty of that date.
8. The South Shetland Islands were discovered by the English sea captain William Smith on February 18, 1819. Revisiting the islands in October of the same year, he landed, planted the British flag and formally took possession of the group in the name of King George III, calling it New South Britain - (this was afterwards changed to South Shetlands, named after the Shetland Islands north of Scotland.) A few months later Edward Bransfield, R.N., accompanied by William Smith, proceeded again to the islands and made a survey of the whole group. On January 16, 1820, he landed on the largest island (King George Island) in the centre of the group and took possession formally in the name of King George IV. After a voyage south-westwards between the South Shetlands and Graham Land, to which further reference is made in paragraph 9 below, he returned to the South Shetland Islands. On February 4 he landed on the most easterly island of the group, taking possession formally in the King's name and calling the island Clarence Island in honour of the Duke of Clarence, the brother of the King.
9. The South Orkney Islands (named after another Scottish group) were discovered by the British sealing captain George Powell on December 6, 1821. On the following day he landed on the largest of the islands, took possession of it formally in the name of King George IV and called it Coronation Island in honour of the King's Coronation.
10. Graham Land, the northern extremity of the Antarctic continent, was first discovered on January 30, 1820, by E. Bransfield, R.N., in the course of the voyage of exploration south-westwards from the South Shetlands which was mentioned in paragraph 8 above. He sighted, in hazy weather, the outline of parts of the Antarctic mainland and one or two coastal islands. He named the land Trinity Land in compliment to the Board of Trinity House (the British

institution responsible for pilotage and maritime lights), and two of the coastal islands, Hope Island and Tower Island, respectively. He also traced the outline of the Antarctic mainland and coastal islands, as he had seen them, on the chart which he drew of the South Shetlands and forwarded to the British Admiralty. Soon afterwards, further sightings of the Antarctic peninsula or its coastal islands were reported by British and American sealers, by the Russian navigator Admiral Bellinghausen, and by the French navigator Captain D'Urville, but the first sighting was that of E. Bransfield, R.N. In 1829, Captain H. Foster R.N. in H.M.S. Chanticleer effected a landing on one of the coastal islands, Hoseason Island off West Graham Land, and deposited there a copper cylinder in which was a document taking possession in the name of King George IV. On On February 21, 1832, the British sealing captain, John Biscoe, landed on an island of the Palmer Archipelago, believing it to be part of the mainland, and took possession formally in the name of King William IV, calling the territory Graham Land, by which name the peninsula is known today, in honour of Sir James Graham, then First Lord of the British Admiralty. On January 6, 1843, Captain J.C. Ross R.N., commanding H.M.S. Erebus and H.M.S. Terror, penetrated into a gulf on the eastern side of the peninsula and landed on a coastal island. He named the gulf Erebus and Terror Gulf and the island James Ross Island and took possession of the island together with its "contiguous lands" for the British Crown.

11. The first discoveries of South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and Graham Land were thus all made by British nationals - a fact reflected in the names given to these territories by which they have been known, and have figured in maps and charts, ever since. The same applies to Gcats Land, as to which see paragraph 14 below. Some discoveries of particular parts of these principal groups of territory were made by explorers or seamen of other nationalities; but the initial discoveries of all five principal groups were British. Furthermore, during this early period in Antarctic

history from 1678 to 1843, acts of annexation were performed in the name of the British Crown at places ashore within all the principal groups except the South Sandwich Islands, where, frequently, the local conditions render landing impossible. On the other hand, during this period no acts of annexation were performed in any of the territories concerned on behalf of any other State.

12. The facts stated in paragraphs 6 to 11 above show that from very early dates varying between 1775 and 1843, Great Britain possessed, on the basis of discovery, accompanied by a formal claim in the name of the British Crown, an original root of title to all the territories concerned.

Display of British Sovereignty in or in Regard
to the Falkland Islands Dependencies in the
Period 1843 to July 21, 1908

13. In pursuance of a British Act of Parliament passed in the same year (6 Victoria, Chapter 13 - British and Foreign State Papers, Volume 31, page 1211), Royal Letters Patent were issued on June 23, 1843, making provision for the government of the "Settlements in the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies". (Annex 1 hereto, No. 3). Supplemental Letters Patent were issued on April 28, 1876, making further provision for the government of the "Settlements in the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies". On February 25, 1892, the status of the Falkland Islands was changed from that of a British settlement to that of a Colony, and fresh Letters Patent were accordingly issued converting the Government of the "Settlements in the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies" into the Government of a Crown Colony (British and Foreign State Papers, Volume 84, page 262). Similarly, the Commission issued to the new Governor in November, 1847, (Annex 1 hereto, No. 4), and the ten succeeding Commissions to Governors issued between that date and 1908, were in the form of an appointment covering "the Falkland Islands and their /Dependencies."

Dependencies". Again numerous laws passed by the Falkland Islands Government during the period 1843 - July 21, 1908 were made for "the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies".⁴

The particular territories comprised in the "Dependencies of the Falkland Islands" were not named in the various Letters Patent, Governor's Commissions and laws of the Falkland Islands Government. The Colonial Office Year Book, however, began in 1887 to specify South Georgia as one of the Dependencies. There had been comparatively little whaling and similar activity in the Antarctic in the middle of the nineteenth century but from 1892 onwards whaling, sealing and scientific exploration began to revive. This renewed activity called for a corresponding exercise of State authority in the Antarctic and led very soon to special provision being made by Great Britain for the government of the five principal territories as Dependencies of the Falkland Islands and to their formal constitution as the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

14. The Antarctic revival in the area now in dispute began with the voyage of four Scottish vessels in 1892 to the eastern side of Graham Land and the Weddell Sea for whaling and sealing. In the same year a Norwegian whaling expedition which went to the Weddell Sea, called at the South Orkneys and further Norwegian expeditions in 1893 and 1894 visited the South Shetlands and Graham Land. In 1897 and 1901 respectively Belgian and Swedish scientific expeditions went to the South Shetlands - Graham Land area and in 1902 they were followed by a Scottish scientific expedition under Dr. W.S. Bruce in the S.S. Scotia. Dr. Bruce
/established

4. As regards the nature of the connexion between the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies, see footnote 2 to paragraph 2 above.

established a meteorological station at Laurie Island in the South Orkneys in 1903, the working of which was entrusted to the Argentine meteorological office in the following year. He spent the Antarctic winter of 1903 at Laurie Island and in 1904, after revisiting Laurie Island to land the Argentine meteorologists, he penetrated deep into the Weddell Sea, discovering Coats Land (named after a Scottish supporter of the expedition) which is now the eastern frontier of the Falkland Islands Dependencies on the Antarctic continent.

15. In 1904 the Norwegian whaling expert, Captain Larsen, formed a company in Buenos Aires, the *Compania Argentina de Pesca*, for the purpose of whaling in the Antarctic and established a shore whaling station at South Georgia. In 1905, a Chilean company, the South Georgia Exploration Company, financed by British subjects in Chile, was granted a mining and grazing lease of South Georgia by the Governor of the Falkland Islands and proceeded there, only to find Captain Larsen's *Compania Argentina de Pesca* already in occupation of the best site for a base. Meanwhile, the Captain had applied through the British Legation in Buenos Aires to the British Government in London for a whaling licence for South Georgia. The British Government, learning that another licence had previously been granted by the Governor, despatched H.M.S. *Sappho* to South Georgia to investigate the situation on the spot. The result was that a whaling licence was granted by the Governor to the Argentine company, and the Chilean company then abandoned its project. In the same year, 1905, Norwegian whalers visited South Georgia and the South Shetlands, taking with them the first whale-factory ship employed in the Antarctic. In connexion with this enterprise, the Norwegian Government addressed an inquiry to the British Government concerning the sovereignty of territories in the area between longitude 35° and 80° West and latitudes 45° and 65° South, i.e. in the area covering South Georgia, the South Shetlands, the South Orkneys and the northern

part of Graham Land. The British Government replied that the South Shetlands were not international but were British possessions as were also South Georgia, the South Orkneys and Graham Land (the South Sandwich Islands lie outside the area of the Norwegian inquiry) and that Norwegian whalers should apply to the Governor of the Falkland Islands for any facilities that they might need.

15. In view of these developments, the Falkland Islands Government promulgated a whaling ordinance in 1906 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1906) by which the taking of whales without licence was made unlawful, and a royalty was made payable in respect of each whale caught under licence from that Government. It was further considered desirable, in view of the increasing importance of the five principal territories as whaling and sealing bases, to make specific provision for their government and to put on a more formal basis the legal powers of the Falkland Islands Government with regard to them. Accordingly, on July 21, 1908, as recited in paragraph 2 above, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, the Sandwich Islands and the territory of Graham Land were by Royal Letters Patent formally constituted Dependencies of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and placed under its government. Under these Letters Patent (Annex 1 hereto, No. 1) it was provided that -

- (a) the Governor of the Colony should be the Governor also of the Dependencies and be invested with the same powers of government and legislation in respect of them as he should from time to time possess in the Colony;
- (b) the Executive Council of the Colony should act also as the Executive Council of the Dependencies;
- (c) the Governor should have, and be deemed always to have had, power by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of the Colony, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependencies;
- (d) the Governor should have, and be deemed always to have had, power to make grants and dispositions of land within the Dependencies in the name of the Crown.

/The

The definition of the lands comprised in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, was afterwards amended by Letters Patent of 28 March, 1917, so as to include explicitly all islands and territories situated between longitudes 20° and 50° West, and south of latitude 50° South; and all islands and territories situated between longitudes 50° and 80° West, and south of latitude 58° South. The lines of longitude and latitude laid down in these Letters Patent as defining the territories comprised within the Falkland Islands Dependencies are indicated in red on the map exhibited as Annex 2 of this Application.⁵

Display of British Sovereignty in or in regard to the Dependencies in the Period 21 July 1908-22 September 1938

17. Great Britain's title to the islands and territories of the Dependencies, was thus formally confirmed and defined by the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908 and 1917, but, as has been shown, it did not originate in or depend on these Letters Patent, and had been in existence for many decades previously. This title was now consolidated and maintained by a further effective display and exercise of British sovereignty. In pursuance of the authority contained in the Letters Patent of 1908, a Falkland Islands Ordinance was promulgated in that year under which the Governor in Council was empowered to make laws for the Dependencies, or to declare any law passed for the Colony to be applicable also in the Dependencies so far as might be appropriate to their circumstances. Under this principal Ordinance numerous laws were either made for or made applicable to the Dependencies by the Governor in Council, covering inter alia the administration of civil and criminal justice, marriage, testacy and intestacy etc., and constituting a full and sufficient corpus of laws for those territories, having regard to their particular circumstances.

18. Especially important are the laws made by the Falkland Islands Government for whaling and sealing, which provide convincing proof of the effectiveness of Great Britain's display

/and

5. Reference is again made to footnote 2 to paragraph 2.

and exercise of sovereignty in the Dependencies. In 1908 the whaling Ordinance of 1906 referred to in paragraph 16 above was repealed, and replaced by a new Ordinance. This principal whaling Ordinance of 1908, as amended by later Ordinances, together with the Regulations made under it, established a detailed and comprehensive code of whaling law for the Dependencies, as can be seen from the summary of the whaling laws in force in the Dependencies in 1920 which is contained in the report of an official committee presented to the British Parliament in that year (Command Paper no.657). The relevant extract from this report is annexed to this Application (Annex 1 hereto, No. 5). It shows that one of the chief objects of the legislation was the conservation of stocks by regulating the number and tonnage of whaling vessels, the number of whaling licenses, the number of whales to be taken by each license-holder, by protecting whale calves and by other measures. Analogous, if somewhat less elaborate, laws were introduced in 1909 for the regulation of sealing in the Dependencies. These laws made it unlawful to take seals in the Dependencies without a license, gave authority for the issue of licenses, and provided for the creation of a close season and of seal reserves.

19. The above-mentioned whaling and sealing laws were actively and extensively applied in the Dependencies. For whaling-license purposes, as appears from the summary of laws given in Annex 1, No. 5, the Dependencies were divided into four units - South Georgia, the South Shetlands together with Graham Land, the South Orkneys and South Sandwich Islands.

(1) In the case of South Georgia, the Buenos Aires company mentioned in paragraph 15 above, the Compenia Argentine de Pesca, was granted a lease of 500 acres of land at an annual rent of \$250 for 21 years from 1 January, 1906, and obtained an additional lease of land in 1909. Seven other companies, four Norwegian and three British were granted whaling leases between 1908 and 1911 on terms similar to those given to the Argentine company. Applications for

/further

further leases in South Georgia were refused in order to conserve whale stocks. The whaling companies concerned, in addition to their leases, were required to take out whaling licenses for South Georgia which were renewable annually. In 1910 the Argentine Company took out, in addition, a sealing license, and after that year South Georgia was divided into four areas for sealing purposes, three being let out on license each year and the fourth being left vacant as a seal reserve. An additional place was made into a seal reserve in 1918.

(2) In the case of South Shetlands and Graham Land, a license to take whales in their territorial waters was granted to a Chilean Company in 1907, and a similar license was granted in 1908 to a Newfoundland Company. By the season of 1912-13, there were 12 factory ships and 32 catchers of various companies working in the South Shetlands area, all holding licenses from the Falkland Islands Government. In 1912, a Norwegian company, the Hektor Whaling Company, was granted a 21 years lease of a site on Deception Island for a whaling station but, in the absence of other suitable sites, the remaining companies operated with factory ships moored at Deception Island or, occasionally, at King George Island. From that date, whaling companies operated in the territorial waters of the South Shetlands and Graham Land under license from the Falkland Islands Government every year without interruption, even during the first world war, until 1930, when developments in pelagic whaling led them to conduct their operations on the high seas. Activity in these two territories has been practically confined to whaling, although one sealing license was issued in 1913 with respect to Graham Land.

(3) In the case of the South Orkneys, the first whaling license was granted in 1908 to the Newfoundland Steam Whaling Company. Other companies applied for licenses, and in the 1914-15 season four Norwegian companies were granted licenses. Whaling ceased during the remainder of the first world war, but in 1920 a Norwegian company, the A/S Tønsberg Hvalfangeri, was granted a lease of 500 acres on

/Signy Island

Signy Island for a shore whaling station. A further whaling lease for the South Orkneys was granted in 1925 but by 1930 pelagic whaling had made it unnecessary for whalers to conduct their operations in territorial waters, and applications for licenses ceased. One sealing license was also issued for the South Orkneys in 1913.

(4) In the case of the South Sandwich Islands, where access to the land is extremely difficult, whaling activity has been less frequent. In 1912, six Norwegian companies took out licenses from the Falkland Islands Government, and in 1927 the TBusberg Company applied for and obtained a license. In addition, a sealing license was granted in 1910 for the South Sandwich Islands to the Argentine company, the Compañia Argentina de Pesca.

20. British sovereignty has also been displayed and exercised in the Dependencies through magistrates commissioned by the Falkland Islands Government.

(i) As early as 1809, a resident magistrate was sent to South Georgia, and there has been a British administration in that group continuously since that date. Customs and police officers were added to the magistrate's staff, and in 1912 a post office was established at Grytviken. By 1925, the Government buildings included offices, a wireless station and a marine laboratory in addition to dwelling houses.

(ii) The South Shetlands and Graham Land, as mentioned in paragraph 18 above, have been treated as a single unit for the purpose of the whale fishery, a single license being granted to cover both these territories. The Whaling companies normally made their base first at Deception Island in the South Shetlands. If the season was favourable, they moved southwards through the Bransfield Strait and established a forward base in the Palmer Archipelago either in the Melchior Islands or at Port Lockroy. But Port Foster at Deception Island is the most convenient starting point for operations in the Bransfield Strait and off Graham Land, and it was accordingly made by law a "port of entry" for shipping visiting the area. A

/resident

resident British magistrate was sent to Port Foster every summer season from 1910 to 1930, and this official exercised jurisdiction over all whaling vessels operating in the waters either of the South Shetlands or of Graham Land and its coastal islands. From 1912 to 1930, a post office was maintained by the magistrate at Port Foster.

(iii) At the South Orkneys whaling activity was somewhat less frequent than at South Georgia and the South Shetlands, with the result that the visits of British magistrates were correspondingly less regular. But in 1913 a Customs Officer spent two months in the islands supervising the observance of the whaling laws, while a special Whaling Officer spent about three months there both in 1914 and 1915. Next, the South Georgia magistrate went to Signy Island in 1921 to inspect the site which the Tønsberg Hvalfrangeri Company proposed to lease, and in the following year a Whaling Officer spent three months at Signy to insure that the terms of the lease and the whaling laws were carried out by the company. In the three seasons 1925-6, 1926-7 and 1927-8, a Whaling Officer again spent three months in the South Orkneys. In 1928 the Governor of the Falkland Islands himself visited Signy Island to inspect the area leased to the Tønsberg Hvalfrangeri Company.

(iv) The comparatively slight whaling activity at the almost inaccessible South Sandwich Islands has called for very little exercise of administrative authority at the islands themselves.⁶

21. The cessation of certain facilities and activities after 1930 came about as follows. The introduction between 1925 and 1930 of pelagic whaling, with large whale factory ships enabled the whaling companies to conduct their operations on the high seas without the use of bases ashore or in coastal waters. The result was that after 1930 the companies, in order to avoid payment of the license fees imposed by the Falkland Islands Government, ceased to take out licenses for operating from bases in the various

⁶ Coats Land (see paragraphs 14 and 15 above) is also not discussed here in any further detail, only very recent Argentine action having brought this territory into question (see paragraph 4 above).

Dependencies - (licenses continued to be taken out by the companies with permanent bases in South Georgia). But, although in consequence there was some diminution in the administrative activity of the Falkland Islands Government with regard to the whaling vessels themselves, British State activity in the Dependencies continued in full force and without interruption in the period between 1930 and the outbreak of the second world war. During this period, the Dependencies were extensively visited and surveyed by the vessels of the Discovery Committee, an official body responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. As early as 1917, proposals had been made for a thorough investigation into the economic resources of the Dependencies, and a Committee had been set up to report on the preservation of the whaling industry, the possibilities of developing other industries, and the needs of scientific research. Following the presentation of this Committee's report to the United Kingdom Parliament in 1920, a permanent Committee known as the Discovery Committee was established in 1923 under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The principal function of this Committee under its terms of reference was to conduct research into the economic resources of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions, with special reference to the Falkland Islands Dependencies. But its functions also included coastal surveys and general scientific research into the oceanography, weather and ice conditions and flora and fauna of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions. Between 1925 and 1939 the Committee's Research Ships, Discovery I (one commission), Discovery II (five commissions) and William Scoresby (seven commissions) made very extensive investigations of the Dependencies. Numerous voyages among the principal territories of the Dependencies were made by
these/

these ships on each commission, and detailed surveys were made of their coasts and coastal waters. As a result the Dependencies during this period were covered literally by a network of patrols undertaken by the Discovery Committee. The main focus of the Committee's research was on the natural history of whales, the most important economic resource of the Dependencies, and especially intensive observations were made on the whaling grounds of South Georgia, the South Shetlands and Graham Land. But the Committee also collected very extensive information on the hydrography and biology of the Dependencies, on the navigation and charting of their waters, and on Antarctic ice and ice-navigation. A large and important body of scientific material has been published by the Committee in the 27 volumes of "Discovery Reports", and its research on the natural history of whales is admitted by expert opinion to have made a vital contribution towards the effective solving of the international problem of the conservation of whale fisheries.

22. In addition, a large-scale expedition, the British Graham Land Expedition, visited the southern parts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies in 1934-1937 to make land investigations. Reaching Deception Island late in 1934, the expedition proceeded to Port Lockroy in the Palmer Archipelago in January 1935. Shortly afterwards, a base was established and occupied further south in the Argentine Islands, and from there various sledge and plane journeys were made which threw much fresh light on the geography of the area. In February, 1936, the expedition moved still further to the south to Marguerite Bay and established a base on the Debenham Islands. From there, important sledge journeys were made across

/Graham

Graham Land to the east coast and far southwards into King George VI Sound. Numerous reconnaissance flights were carried out, and the expedition ascertained conclusively for the first time that Graham Land is attached to the Antarctic mainland.

23. Other examples of the display of British sovereignty in or in regard to the Dependencies during the period 21 July, 1908 - 22 September, 1938, are mentioned in the three next succeeding paragraphs of this Application dealing with the recognition of the British claims by Norway, Argentina and Chile. Still further examples could be cited. The facts given in paragraphs 16-22 above and in paragraph 24 below, however, are by themselves sufficient to establish conclusively a continuous and peaceful display of British sovereignty in and in regard to the territories of the Dependencies during the period 21 July, 1908 - 22 September, 1938, which is that reviewed in the present section.

Recognition of the British Claims by Norway,
Argentina and Chile after the Issue of the
Letters Patent of 21 July, 1908

24. The existence of British claims, not only to South Georgia but to other territories in Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions was known in Norway before the formal constitution of the five principal territories as Dependencies of the Falkland Islands by the Letters Patent of 1908.

(1) Norway, as stated in paragraph 15 above, addressed an inquiry to Great Britain in 1905 concerning the sovereignty of the territories situated between 35° and 80° West, and was informed in reply by Great Britain that South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands and Graham

/Land

Land were British possessions. When Norway made a further inquiry in 1907, Great Britain reasserted her claim. Norway neither then nor after the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908 made any protest or reservation against the assertion and exercise of British sovereignty over the Dependencies. At the same time numerous Norwegian whaling companies took out British licenses and otherwise complied with the laws of the Falklands Islands Government. These facts establish by implication Norway's recognition of British sovereignty over the Dependencies in or about 1908. This implication is completely confirmed by the Norwegian Proclamation of 14 January, 1939, in which the western boundary of Norway's own Antarctic claim was defined by a line coinciding with the eastern boundary of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. It was further expressly stated in the Proclamation that the area named the Falkland Islands Dependencies has been brought under Great Britain's dominion in 1908.

(2) The existence of British claims to at least some of the Dependencies was also well known in Argentina before the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908. It has been mentioned above (paragraph 15) that as early as 1906 an Argentine company, the Compania Argentina de Pesca, took out a British lease of land in South Georgia for 21 years. Indeed, it was the then Director of Armaments of the Argentine Ministry of Marine who, in his capacity as technical adviser to the company, visited the British Legation in Buenos Aires to apply for the lease. In the same year Great Britain, in order to remove any possible misconception as to the legal basis on which operation of the meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys had been transferred to
the/

the Argentine Meteorological Office, addressed a note to the Argentine Government emphasising that the islands were a British possession. This reservation of the British sovereignty over the South Orkneys was repeated to Argentina in January 1907. Shortly afterwards, when Chile proposed to Argentina the negotiation of a treaty dividing between the two countries "the islands and the American Antarctic continents", the Argentine Foreign Minister, in rejecting the proposal, said expressly that "Chile ought to know that England claimed all these lands." In 1908, after the issue of the Letters Patent formally constituting the Falkland Islands Dependencies, the Argentine Foreign Minister asked to be informed of the terms of the British "declaration". Accordingly, the British Minister in Buenos Aires in a note of 20 February 1909 transmitted to the Argentine Foreign Minister a copy of the Falkland Islands Gazette containing the text of the Letters Patent. The Argentine Foreign Minister replied in a note of 18 March 1909:

"I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your Note dated the 20th of February last with which you were good enough to forward a publication called 'Falkland Islands Gazette' containing a Decree by which the 'South Orkneys' are declared a dependency of the 'Falkland Islands'.

"While thanking you for this attention, I am happy to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration."

The British Minister, in communicating this reply to the British Foreign Office, commented that he concluded from its terms that "Argentine Government do not dispute the rights of Great Britain over the South Orkneys". A fortiori is it

to/

to be concluded from the terms of her reply that in 1909 Argentina did not dispute the British title to South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Shetlands and Graham Land, which territories were also covered by the communication sent to the Argentine Government but were not mentioned in the Argentine reply.⁷ Three years later, negotiations were begun for the cession by Great Britain to Argentina, of the South Orkneys in return for a Legation site in Buenos Aires and on condition of respecting any existing British whaling rights. By 1914, the final text of a treaty of cession had been agreed between the two countries but, on a change of government in Argentina, the new government declined on financial grounds to complete the transaction. The terms of this draft treaty provide further evidence of Argentina's recognition of the British title to the South Orkneys at this time, notwithstanding the presence of the Argentine meteorological station on Laurie Island. Again, Argentina made no protests or reservations against the issue of the British Letters Patent of 1917. Nor did she make any protests or reservations against the promulgation of British Laws for the Dependencies, nor against the application of those laws to the Argentine company, the Compania Argentina de Pesca, and to other foreign companies. Nor did she make any protests or reservations against the exercise of authority by British magistrates in the several

/territories

7. It seems clear in fact that Argentine interest at that date hardly extended beyond the South Orkneys, where the Argentine meteorological station was situated.

territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and, in particular, in the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land. These facts establish beyond question that at this period Argentina recognised British sovereignty over the Dependencies.

(3) The existence of British claims at least to some of the Dependencies was equally known in Chile, even before the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908. Three years earlier, in 1905, a Chilean company, as stated in paragraph 15 above, applied for a British lease of land in South Georgia from the Falkland Islands Government. In 1907, another Chilean company, the Sociedad Ballenera de Magallanes of Punta Arenas, took out a British whaling license for the South Shetlands and Graham Land. In the same year, when Chile invited Argentina to negotiate a division of "the islands and American Antarctic continents", she was expressly warned by Argentina that "England claimed all these lands". Neither then nor after the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908 or of 1917 did Chile make any protest or reservation against the assertion and exercise of British sovereignty over the Dependencies. She maintained a Consular Officer in the Falkland Islands, but at no time did she make any representations either to the Government of Great Britain or to the Falkland Islands Government in regard to the Letters Patent, or to the promulgation of British laws for the Dependencies, or to the application of those laws to the Chilean company, the Sociedad Ballenera de Magallanes, and to other foreign companies. Nor did she make any protests or reservations against the exercise of authority by British magistrates in the several territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and, in particular, in the South Shetlands and Graham Land. All these facts establish beyond question that at this period Chile recognised British sovereignty over the Dependencies.

25. The facts recited in the three immediately preceding sub-paragraphs show conclusively that, during the years at the beginning of the present century, when Great Britain was confirming and consolidating her ancient titles to the Dependencies, Norway, the State principally interested in Antarctic whaling, and Argentina and Chile, made no reservations in regard to Great Britain's display and exercise of state activity in those territories. They further show that these three States in fact recognised Great Britain's sovereignty over the Dependencies. Nor did any other State during this period make any reservations or enter any protests against the British claims.

Origin and Development of Argentina's Pretensions
to the islands and lands of the Falkland Islands
Dependencies and Attempted Usurpation of British
Sovereignty over these Territories

26. Argentina, as related in paragraph 24(2) above, was left in no doubt by Great Britain that the transfer to the Argentine Meteorological Office in 1903 of the meteorological station previously established on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys by a British expedition did not also involve the transfer to Argentina of the sovereignty either of the South Orkneys group or of Laurie Island itself. Argentina, as was also related in paragraph 24(2), was fully aware in 1908 of the British claims to the several territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and during the first part of the present century showed by her acts that she recognised Great Britain's sovereignty.

27. Notwithstanding this, the Argentine Government in 1925 embarked upon a course of action by which it has progressively, and it would seem deliberately, sought to encroach upon the Falkland Islands Dependencies, with a view to ousting the British Crown from its sovereignty, and to replacing it by a pretended
/Argentine

Argentine sovereignty. In that year, on the erection by Argentina of a wireless station at the observatory on Laurie Island, a Note was addressed to the Argentine Government drawing its attention to the fact that under the relevant International Telegraph Conventions, the call sign would have to be applied for through the British Government. The Argentine Government replied that, with regard to wireless stations constructed on Argentine territory, it would act in accordance with the Conventions. In view of the equivocal nature of this reply, a further Note was addressed to the Argentine Government on April 14, 1926, emphasising Great Britain's undoubted rights to the sovereignty of the islands and pointing out the absence of any previous notice of claim on the part of Argentina. No answer was returned by Argentina and, on the wireless station being put into operation in 1927 without reference to the British Government, the latter learned from the International Telegraph Bureau at Berne that the call signal had been applied for by Argentina in terms implying an assumption of Argentine sovereignty over the South Orkneys. Great Britain having objected to this action in a Note of September 8, 1927, Argentina replied in a Note of January 20, 1928, that she herself laid claim to the South Orkneys on the ground, apart from pretended "inalienable rights", of an alleged first occupation constantly maintained. (This may be contrasted with the Argentine attitude about the South Orkneys in 1909, described in paragraph 24(2) above - and as regards the pretender Argentine "first occupation", see paragraph 44 above). At the same time, however, the Argentine Government in an accompanying memorandum showed itself conscious of the weakness of its position by suggesting the reopening of the negotiations for the exchange of the islands against the grant of a Legation site in Buenos Aires (see paragraph 24(2) above). Meanwhile, the Argentine Government in 1927 had also represented to the

/International

International Postal Bureau at Berne that Argentine territorial jurisdiction extended de jure and de facto over both the South Orkneys and South Georgia. On this statement being contested by Great Britain in an aide-mémoire of December 17, 1927, the Argentine Government replied that, as regards the South Orkneys, it formally reaffirmed its previous claim. Accordingly, Great Britain took steps in 1928 to notify the International Postal Bureau that both the South Orkneys and South Georgia were included in the Falkland Islands Dependencies and were represented in Postal Union matters by the British Postmaster General.

28. On June 1, 1937, the Argentine Ambassador in London drew the attention of the Foreign Office to a statement by the British Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries at the inaugural session of the Whaling Conference, to the effect that the Dependencies were under the jurisdiction of the Falkland Islands Government, and he reserved the rights claimed by Argentina over them. The Ambassador's démarche was the first intimation of an Argentine claim not merely to South Georgia and the South Orkneys but to all the territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The progressive and deliberate character of the Argentine incursion of British rights is thus evident. The British Foreign Secretary, while joining in an agreed statement that the character and purpose of the Whaling Conference had nothing to do with questions of jurisdiction, made an express declaration that the Argentine reservation could not in any way affect British rights to the Falkland Islands Dependencies. That Argentina had now enlarged her pretensions to include all the Dependencies was, however, confirmed by an express reservation to that effect on September 22, 1938, made by the Argentine President when

/promulgating

promulgating Argentina's ratification of the various postal conventions concluded at Cairo on March 20, 1934, which the United Kingdom had signed on behalf of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies.

Rejection of the Argentine Pretensions by the United Kingdom and Continued Display of British Sovereignty

29. The methods (of which some account has just been given) by which Argentina sought between 1925 and 1938 to advance pretensions to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands Dependencies were not those to be expected of a State already having sovereignty, and relying upon prior and well established legal titles. They were rather those of a State seeking gradually to manoeuvre another State out of its possession and rights. Instead of actively displaying and exercising its authority in and in regard to the territories of the Dependencies in accordance with their circumstances, the Argentine Government merely attempted by diplomatic moves to throw doubt upon the existing British titles. Thus, in the first quarter of the present century when the territorial waters of the Dependencies were the base of operations of several whaling companies of different nationalities, Argentina took no measures (as a prudent sovereign would have done, or sought to do) to regulate these activities, or to conserve the stocks of the principal economic resource of the territories concerned. Nor in 1927, although she was a Member of the League of Nations and

/had

had recently formulated pretensions to the South Orkneys and South Georgia, did Argentina take any part in the Whaling Conference convened at Geneva in that year under the auspices of the League, which, if she had had sovereignty over these territories, she might be expected to have done. Nor did she voice any objection to the fact that the United Kingdom took a leading part in that conference in its capacity as the State responsible for the regulation of whaling in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. It was only in 1937 that Argentina first participated in an international whaling conference and contested the United Kingdom's right to represent the whaling interests of the Dependencies. During the whole period up to 1938 Argentine interests in the Dependencies consisted in actual practice of a meteorological station in the South Orkneys, taken over by the permission and at the invitation of the British Government (see paragraphs 14 and 24(2) above), and an Argentine whaling company operating in South Georgia continuously under leases and licenses issued by the British Crown as sovereign of the Dependencies (see paragraphs 15 and 19(1) above). On the other hand, Great Britain during this period, as related in paragraphs 13 - 25 above, displayed and exercised her authority in and in regard to the Dependencies according to their circumstances. During all this period, up to 1938 Great Britain alone undertook the

/responsibilities

responsibilities of sovereignty and performed the functions of a State in and in regard to the several territories of the Dependencies. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that, as indicated above, the British Government rejected all Argentina's pretensions to the territories of the Dependencies and continued to assert its own titles to them.

30. After the outbreak of the second world war, in 1939, the United Kingdom Government was occupied in the North and South Atlantic in dealing with attacks by Axis naval forces on Allied and Neutral sea-borne trade; and in March, 1941, dispatched H.M.S. Queen of Bermuda to the South Shetlands to destroy oil tanks and stocks of oil left on Deception Island by the Hektor Whaling Company, one of the companies holding a lease of land on that island from the British Crown. This measure, which was taken to deny the use of the oil tanks and fuel stocks to Axis raiders, constituted a most significant display and exercise of British sovereignty over the South Shetlands. In January, 1943, another British warship, H.M.S. Carnarvon Castle, was dispatched to the South Orkneys and South Shetlands, to examine the anchorages in those territories for any signs of use by enemy raiders, and to investigate Press reports or purported acts of sovereignty at Deception Island by the Argentine naval transport Primero de Mayo. H.M.S. Carnarvon Castle landed a party at Deception Island in the South Shetlands on 8 January, and there obliterated from the walls of the Hektor Whaling Company's factory the national colours of Argentina, which appeared to have been painted on them recently by the Primero de Mayo, and also removed the Argentine notice of claim mentioned in paragraph 3 above. A writ was at the same time affixed to the building proclaiming that the company's lease had lapsed and that the building was the property of the British Government. The warship then proceeded to the South Orkneys, and on 8 February landed a party on Signy Island, which erected flagstaffs carrying the Union Jack. The following day the vessel called at the meteorological station on

/Laurie Island

Laurie Island and exchanged courtesies with the Argentine staff. Meanwhile the Argentine Government was notified of the visit of H.M.S. Carnarvon Castle to Deception Island, and was informed that the United Kingdom Government had no intention of allowing the British title to the island to be usurped by Argentina. Soon afterwards the Primero de Mayo was reported to be departing again for the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and to have two Chilean naval officers on board. The Republic of Chile having also formulated pretensions to the South Shetlands and Graham Land, the British Ambassador in Santiago made representations to the Chilean Government in regard to these officers. He was informed that they were sailing in the Argentine ship merely as observers, and that the Chilean Government had itself protested against Argentine attempts to establish a claim to Deception Island.^{8.}

31. The United Kingdom Government, in view of the apparent intention of Argentina and Chile to disregard British territorial rights in the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land, dispatched H.M.S. William Scoresby and S.S. Fitzroy to those territories at the end of January, 1944. These ships visited the mainland and coastal islands of Graham Land, Deception Island in the South Shetlands, and Signy Islands in the South Orkneys. A permanent shore base was established at Deception Island and another at Port Lockroy in the Palmer Archipelago off the west coast of Graham Land, meteorological stations being attached to both bases. Further visits were paid by H.M.S. William Scoresby to these two bases in March and, again, in April, 1944. Magistrates were sworn in for the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land, and a special series of postage stamps was issued for the use of British establishments in those

/territories

^{8.} It will be observed that both these States had now started to lay claim to the same British territories (see separate Application respecting Chile) - a circumstance that can hardly fail to reflect adversely both on the motives and the validity of both sets of claims.

territories and in South Georgia. Since 1944 the United Kingdom has maintained a number of British bases in the Dependencies, the following being the bases (either constructed or re-established) in the territories on which Argentina has made encroachments -

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <u>South Orkneys</u> | - | { Sandefjord Bay, Coronation Island (1945)
{ Cape Geddes, Laurie Island (1946)
{ Signy Island (1947) |
| <u>South Shetlands</u> | - | { Port Foster, Deception Island (1944) ⁹ .
{ Admiralty Bay, King George Island (1947)
{ Port Lockroy, Palmer Archipelago (1944)
{ Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula (1945) |
| <u>Graham Land</u> | | { Stonington Island, Marguerite Bay (1946) |
| and its | | { Lerry Island, Debenham Islands (1946) ¹⁰ . |
| <u>Archipelagos</u> | | { Argentine Islands (1947) ¹⁰ .
{ Duse Bay, Trinity Peninsula (1953) |

The United Kingdom Government has sent ships to the South Shetlands - Graham Land area every Antarctic summer since 1944; and all the above bases, with the exception of those in Laurie Island and in the Debenham Islands, have been occupied either continuously or intermittently by British parties. A special organisation, the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, was set up in 1945 to administer these bases, together with three others in the South Orkneys, and to supervise their work. Under its direction extensive surveys and explorations were carried out in the Dependencies, including ground surveys over large stretches of the Graham Land peninsula, and meteorological stations were

/established.

⁹. Headquarters of British Magistrates 1910-1930.

¹⁰. Built and occupied by the British Graham Land Expedition 1935-1937.

established. Sovereignty was also displayed in other ways, for example, by the appointment of magistrates, the issue of postage stamps, and the lodging of protests both locally and through the diplomatic channel against encroachments by Chilean and Argentine parties. Thus, the United Kingdom Government has at all times taken all such steps as were open to it in the circumstances to assert and maintain its title (and see further below, paragraph 34).

Argentina's Persistence in Her Pretensions to the Falkland Islands Dependencies and in her physical encroachments on the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land 11.

32. In 1941 Argentina, which in the period 1925-1938 had put forward mainly paper claims, embarked upon a definite policy of encroachment in the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land. In that year the meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys was manned by Argentine naval personnel, and the opening of a permanent post office in the South Orkneys was announced in Argentina and notified through the International Postal Union. The following year, the naval transport Principe de Mayo was sent to Deception Island in the South Shetlands where, as has already been stated, it painted the Argentine colours on the walls of the Hektor Whaling Company's factory and deposited the notice claiming all lands and dependencies between 25° and 68° 34' West which is mentioned in paragraph 3 above. The ship then

/proceeded

11. As has already been mentioned (paragraphs 3 and 26-28 above), Argentina has made a paper claim to all the territories comprised in the Falkland Islands' Dependencies. She has not however attempted to assert this claim in any overt way with reference to the South Sandwich Islands or South Georgia. These territories are not therefore further mentioned herein, except in the Conclusions.

proceeded to Lambda Island (Melchior Group) in the Palmer Archipelago and erected a flag and beacon there. A year later, the Argentine colours on Deception Island were obliterated by H.M.S. Carnarvon Castle, and the Argentine act of possession was removed (paragraph 30 above). On being so informed, the Argentine Foreign Minister replied that the Argentine Government considered its claims, "inherited from Spain",^{12.} to be justified. In a memorandum of 15 February, 1943, the Argentine Government reaffirmed its pretensions to all Antarctic lands and dependencies south of latitude 60° South and between longitudes 25° and 68° 34' West. It also purported to "protest" against jurisdictional acts carried out by British officials. The United Kingdom Government, in a memorandum of 7 April, 1943, replied reasserting the British titles. Meanwhile, the *Primero de Mayo* was engaged on a second expedition to the Antarctic during which it visited the Melchior Islands and Port Lockroy in the Palmer Archipelago, and Marguerite Bay further to the South. The ship then returned to Deception Island in the South Shetlands, and there repainted the Argentine colours on the walls of the Whale factory. It was after this expedition that the United Kingdom, despite its heavy commitments in the second

/world

12. The territories concerned were barely discovered in Spain's day, and then not by Spain (see paragraphs 6 - 11 above). They were never part of any Spanish dominion.

world war, initiated in 1944 the programme of maintaining British bases in the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land described in paragraph 31 above.

33. In 1947, some 3 years after the renewal of the British programme of bases, the Argentine Government began a course of systematic encroachment on the British territories of the South Shetlands and Graham Land. While continuing its meteorological station at Laurie Island in the South Orkneys, it proceeded to establish, as well as a few emergency huts, the following new Argentine posts.^{13.}

<u>South Shetlands</u> -	(Port Foster, Deception Island (1947) { (Half Moon Island, Livingstone Island (1952) { (Potter Cove, King George Island (1953) { (Harmony Cove, Nelson Island (1954) { (Ardley Peninsula, King George Island (1955)
<u>Graham Land</u> - <u>and its</u> <u>Archipelago</u>	(Gamma Island, Palmer Archipelago (1947) { (Paradise Harbour, Darco Coast (1951) { (Barry Island, Debenham Islands (1951) { (Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula (1951) { (Dundee Island (1952) { (Brielmont Cove (1954) { (Petermann Island (1955)
<u>Coats Land</u> -	(In the neighbourhood of Vahsel Bay (1955)

These posts are all within the Falkland Islands Dependencies and in areas covered by British activity as already described. The very recent establishment of a number of these Argentine posts appears to foreshadow a rapid expansion of the present Argentine encroachments and violations of British sovereignty. Protests against these violations and encroachments have been lodged at various dates by the United Kingdom through the diplomatic channel, and

/locally

^{13.} The United Kingdom Government are still engaged in investigating the most recent Argentine encroachment at Vahsel Bay in Coats Land (see paragraphs 4, 14 and 15 above) where an Argentine post may have been established.

locally by officials of the British Administration in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The Argentine Government has nevertheless persisted in its policy of encroachment, maintaining the above-mentioned posts, and repeatedly manifesting its intention to continue to disregard the United Kingdom's prior and well established legal titles to the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land.

34. In the opinion of the United Kingdom Government, these Argentine acts, taken together and related to the complete absence of any Argentine claim prior to 1925 or 1937, as the case may be, (depending on the territory concerned), and to the previous complete Argentine indifference to, and even recognition of, the British claim, are evidence of a quite recent, deliberate, and considered policy of infiltration on the part of the Argentine Government, directed by creating a semblance or fiction of Argentine sovereignty, and to placing that Government in a position, after a sufficient lapse of time, to argue that any previous British sovereignty had now been replaced or overlaid by Argentine sovereignty. In effect, this is a policy of usurpation.

Limited Relevance in Point of Law of Events after 1925
in the Case of the South Orkneys and after 1937 in the
Case of the South Shetlands and Graham Land.

35. The acts of the Parties after 1925 in the case of the South Orkneys and after 1937, in the case of the South Shetlands and Graham Land are of limited juridical relevance, for two reasons. First, the dispute crystallised when Argentine first asserted her claims, namely in or about 1926 in the case of the South Orkneys, and in or about 1937 in the case of the other two territories; and according to well established principles of law, it is at the date of crystallisation that the rights of the parties are to be adjudged. The subsequent acts of the Argentine Government were clearly undertaken, not

as a genuine manifestation of an existing title, but with a view to trying to create one and in order to improve Argentina's legal position. They are not, therefore, to be taken into consideration (Minquiers and Ecrehos Case I.C.J. Reports, 1953, page 59).

Secondly, even if the United Kingdom had not previously acquired a good title, it undoubtedly displayed and exercised its sovereignty in and in regard to the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land during (at the latest) a period running - in the case of the first named territory - from 21 July, 1908 to 1925 and after; and - in the case of the other two territories - from 21 July, 1908, to 1937 and after. Therefore, quite independently of its earlier titles, the United Kingdom had already in these periods established as against Argentina, an unimpeachable title to the sovereignty of these three territories. Accordingly, Argentina's assertions of title to the South Orkneys in 1925 and thereafter, and to the South Shetlands and Graham Land in 1937 and thereafter, were, and always have been, illegal and invalid (Eastern Greenland Case (1953) Series A/B 55 page 64). Events subsequent to 1925 or 1937, as the case may be, are thus primarily relevant for the purpose of showing that, in face of the Argentine pretensions, the United Kingdom did not abandon, but actively maintained, its titles to the territories in question. This is conclusively demonstrated in paragraphs 26 - 31 above. The United Kingdom, by its continued display of State activity, by protests or counter-measures, which were always prompt and evidence of the exercise of due vigilance, by attempts to settle the dispute through diplomatic negotiations, by actively seeking to bring the dispute to arbitration or judicial settlement (see paragraph 40 below), and by submitting the present Application to the Court, has energetically prosecuted its case, upheld its sovereignty, and maintained its rights and titles.

/The

The Jurisprudence of International Tribunals Negatives
the Argentine Claims and Supports the
United Kingdom's Titles

36. The jurisprudence of international tribunals both negatives the Argentine claims and supports the legal titles of the United Kingdom, more especially the awards and judgments in the following well-known cases -

The Island of Palmas (1928) 2 Reports of International
Arbitral Awards, 831;

Clipperton Island (1931) 2 Reports of International
Arbitral Awards, 1105;

Legal Status of Eastern Greenland (1933) Series A/B 55;
Minquiers and Ecrehos I.C.J. Reports, 1953 p.47.

37. These modern cases of high authority, negative completely any Argentine claim based on alleged historic grounds of title deriving from succession to supposed titles acquired by Spain. Apart from the fact that, on the evidence, no original Spanish titles can be established at all (see footnote to paragraph 32 above), the Island of Palmas Case (page 846) and the Clipperton Island Case (page 1109) clearly show that any such early Spanish titles could not prevail to-day against long continued British display and exercise of sovereignty. Again, even if it were possible to apply the doctrine of geographical contiguity to islands distant some 400 miles, or to a separate continent distant some 500 miles, from Argentine territory, the Island of Palmas Case (pages 854-855, 869 and 870) negatives completely any Argentine claim based on so-called geographical grounds of title, and clearly lays down that they could not prevail against actual display and exercise of sovereignty. It has also been suggested on behalf of Argentina that she never recognised British sovereignty over the Dependencies. Ignoring for present purposes the question whether the recognition of other States is necessary for the acquisition of title, and if so in what circumstances, it suffices here to recall the facts related in paragraph 24 (2)

/above

above, which establish Argentina's acquiescence in and recognition of the British claims to those territories. But in any event the Eastern Greenland Case (page 62) and the Minguiers and Ecrehos Case (page 66) clearly show that any failure by Argentina to recognise the British claims would not have altered the character and effects of the British Letters Patent, or of the other British legislative and administrative acts, as manifestations of British sovereignty.

38. At the same time, the above-mentioned leading cases, on the other hand show conclusively that all recognized juridical grounds strongly support the claims of the United Kingdom, and not those of Argentina. Thus, the Island of Palmas Case (page 870) and the Clipperton Island Case (page 1110) indicate that the British takings of possession described in paragraphs 6 - 11 of the present Application created initial British titles superior to any of Argentina's pretended historical or geographical titles. The Island of Palmas Case (pages 338 - 840 and 867), Eastern Greenland Case (pages 52, 54 and 63) and Minguiers and Ecrehos Case (at page 65) conclusively show that to-day, in case of dispute, the primary test of sovereignty is the actual display and exercise of the functions of a State in and in regard to the disputed territories during the relevant periods. In the present case, it is evident from the facts set out in the present Application that it is the United Kingdom, not Argentina which has displayed and exercised the function of a State in regard to the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land, and especially during the decisive periods immediately preceding the critical dates, that is the period up to 1925 in the case of the South Orkneys, and up to 1937 in the case of the other two territories.

39. The United Kingdom, in its pleadings, will refer with greater particularity to the numerous passages in the four above-mentioned leading cases and in order authorities which support its titles to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Although

/the

the present Application is necessarily preliminary in character, the special circumstances appear to justify drawing attention to the jurisprudence of the four leading cases as an indication of how solid are the legal bases of the British titles and how devoid of any foundation the Argentine pretensions.

Acceptance of the Court's Jurisdiction in the Case

40. The United Kingdom, having regard to the long period during which British sovereignty has been effectively exercised in and in regard to the territories of the Falkland Islands, would be justified in taking strong measures to put an end to Argentina's encroachments on the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land.¹⁴ Firmly believing in the pacific settlement of disputes among nations by judicial procedures and on the basis of law, it has preferred, when negotiations proved fruitless, to seek to have its dispute with the Republic of Argentina regarding these territories submitted to the International Court or other judicial or arbitral tribunal. Thus, in Notes of 17 December, 1947, the United Kingdom Government invited Argentina, and Chile to whom a separate invitation was sent, to challenge the British titles to sovereignty by invoking the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, which the United Kingdom would then accept. Argentina, in a Note of 28 January, 1948, replied to the effect that she was convinced of the unquestionable rights of herself and Chile over the disputed areas,¹⁵ and that it would be wrong for her to appear
/before

14. Forcible action had in fact to be taken in one case (namely at Deception Island in February, 1953), when a particularly flagrant attempt was made to erect an Argentine hut actually within the precincts of the existing (and occupied) British base on that island.

15. This can only increase the dubious character of the Argentine pretensions, since the Argentine and Chilean claims conflict over the most important part of the ground. Both could not be valid even if either were.

before the Court in the position of a State requesting what already belonged to her. The United Kingdom renewed its offer to go before the Court in Notes of 30 April, 1951 and 16 February, 1953, without, however, obtaining a favourable response from the Republic of Argentina. As the continuance of the dispute concerning the sovereignty of territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies necessarily threatens to impair the existing friendly relations between the two countries, the United Kingdom addressed a further Note to Argentina on 21 December, 1954, inviting her jointly with the United Kingdom to refer the dispute to an independent ad hoc arbitral tribunal. On the same date, the United Kingdom addressed an identical Note to Chile. Neither of these countries,¹⁶ however, has thought fit to accept the United Kingdom's proposal, and the Argentine Government has in the meantime sent an expedition to Vahsel Bay in Coats Land - a factor so recent that the United Kingdom Government has not yet had time to investigate it.

41. The United Kingdom, in its Notes of 21 December last, stated that in the event of Argentina (or equally Chile) failing to accept its offer of arbitration, it reserved the right to take such steps as might be open to it to obtain an adjudication of its legal rights. One of the steps open to the United Kingdom is to bring the dispute before the Court by a unilateral Application under Article 40(1) of the Statute and Article 36(2) of the Rules, and, as indicated in paragraph 1 above, it is this procedure which the United Kingdom has elected to adopt.

42. The United Kingdom Government, therefore, declares that it hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Court for the purposes of the case referred to the Court in the present Application - (for the precise scope of this submission, see footnote 1 to paragraph 1 above. The Argentine Government has not, so far as /the

16. While the present Application is of course, formally, quite separate from the concurrent application in respect of Chile, the fact that there are also Chilean pretensions relate to the South Shetlands - Graham Land area, and of equally or even more recent date has a significance that cannot be overlooked. It is a clear case of two rival and incompatible attempts to oust and usurp the legitimate sovereignty of the United Kingdom.

the United Kingdom Government is aware, yet filed any declaration accepting the Court's jurisdiction, either generally under Article 36(2) of the Statute or specially in the present case. The Argentine Government, which has frequently expressed its adherence to the principle of judicial settlement of international disputes, is, however, legally qualified to submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in this case. Consequently, upon notification of the present Application to the Republic of Argentina by the Registrar in accordance with the Rules of Court, the Argentine Government, under the settled jurisprudence of the Court, can take the necessary steps to that end, and thereby cause the Court's jurisdiction in the case to be constituted in respect of both Parties.

43. The United Kingdom Government founds the jurisdiction of the Court on the foregoing considerations and on Article 36(1) of the Court's Statute; and asks that a copy of the present Application be transmitted to the Government of Argentina in accordance with Article 33 of the Rules of the Court, and to all members of the United Nations and other states entitled to appear before the Court, under Article 34 of the said Rules.

44. The attitude of the Argentine Government in this case has compelled the United Kingdom to take the initiative in placing the matter before the Court, and therefore in effect to appear as applicant. The United Kingdom Government nevertheless wishes to make the fullest reservations on the question of the onus of proof of title. It considers that the manifest priority in time of the British possession of the territories, dating back to periods varying between 110 and 130 years ago, and the complete absence during virtually the whole of those periods, until a quite recent date, of any activities of a sovereign character, other than British, in the territories, is indicative of a self-evident British title, which it is for any country challenging that title to rebut.

/The

The Claims of the United Kingdom Government in the Case.

45. The Government of the United Kingdom, in submitting this application to the Court, accordingly claims:-

- (1) that by reason of historic British discoveries of certain territories in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic; by reason of the long-continuous and peaceful display of British sovereignty from the date of those discoveries onwards in, and in regard, to the territories concerned; by reason of the incorporation of these territories in the dominions of the British Crown; by virtue of their formal constitution in the Royal Letters Patent of 1908 and 1917 as the British Possession called the Falkland Islands Dependencies; the United Kingdom possesses, and at all material dates has possessed, the sovereignty over the territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and in particular to the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land;
- (2) that the legal titles of the United Kingdom to the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and in particular to the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land, are, and at all material dates have been, superior to the claims of any other State, and in particular to those of the Republic of Argentina;
- (3) that in consequence, the pretensions of the Republic of Argentina to the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land, and her encroachments and pretended acts of sovereignty in those territories are, under international law, illegal and invalid.

46. The Government of the United Kingdom, therefore, asks the Court to declare -

- (1) that the United Kingdom, as against the Republic of Argentina, possesses, and at all material dates has possessed, valid and subsisting legal titles to the sovereignty over all the territories comprised in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and in particular South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land;
- (2) that the pretensions of the Republic of Argentina to the territories comprised in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and in particular South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land, and her encroachments and pretended acts of sovereignty in or relative to any of those territories are, under international law, illegal and invalid;

- (3) that the Republic of Argentina is bound to respect the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the territories comprised in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and in particular South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land and Coats Land, to cease her pretensions to exercise sovereignty in or relative to those territories and, if called on by the United Kingdom, to withdraw from them all or any Argentine personnel and equipment. .

I have the honour to be, Sir, your
obedient servant

(G.G. FITZMAURICE)

Agent for the Government of
the United Kingdom.

12/3

CAPE TOWN.

16-3-1955

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.Scott Polar Research Institute.

I attach, for your information, a copy of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Committee of Management of the Scott Polar Research Institute and the Audited Accounts of the Institute for the year 1953/54. The documents were received from the Union's High Commissioner, London.

B. G. FOURIE.

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

JvD/DL.

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~~SECRET~~



102/2

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
102/2
CAPE TOWN

MAK 11/3

19 March, 1955.

CAPE TOWN.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1-3-1955

See Mr. Smith

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.
 THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.
 THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

(The following text is faint and partially obscured by a stamp)

**Polar Committee:
 Minutes of Antarctic Place Names Committee.**

2. The United States Antarctic Research Expedition presented to the Committee...
3. The Hon. Mr. Smith has been informed. I attach, for your information, a copy of Polar Committee minute No. P(55)3 of the 4th February, 1955, with annexure, on the abovementioned subject.

(Faint signature)

D. D. FORSTER, M.P.
 DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
 PARLIAMENT SQUARE,
 CAPE TOWN.

B. G. FOURIE,
 SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

File

JvD/MJ

102/2

F3/44



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

10 March, 1955.

Dear Mr Forsyth,

With reference to Mr. Snelling's letter No. F3/44 of the 10th February about foreign encroachment in the Antarctic, I have been asked to let you know that early this year a Chilean party established a base at Pendulum Cove on Deception Island in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. This new base is only five miles from an existing United Kingdom base at Whalers' Bay on the same island. It was formally inaugurated on the 18th February by the Chilean Minister of Defence, who has been visiting the Antarctic.

- 2. The United Kingdom Ambassador, Santiago, has formally protested to the Chilean Government.
- 3. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

Yours sincerely
(for the High Commissioner)
A.W. Snelling.

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

File *M. J. 10/3*
10/3

DET

100/2

F3/44



10 March, 1955.

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Yours sincerely,

A. W. SNELLING
 (for the High Commissioner)

D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
 DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
 PARLIAMENT STREET,
 CAPE TOWN.

DET

F3/44



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Yours sincerely,
 A. W. SNELLING
 (for the High Commissioner)

R. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
 DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
 PARLIAMENT STREET,
 CAPE TOWN.

DET

102/2



F3/44

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

10 March, 1955.

Dear Mr Forsyth,

Paragraph 5 of the memorandum on Antarctica enclosed with Sir John le Rougetel's letter No. F3/44 of the 21st December, 1954, indicated that the United Kingdom Government intended to submit Applications covering Argentine and Chilean encroachments in the Falkland Islands Dependencies to the International Court of Justice about the 1st February if replies had not been received by about the 20th January to their recent notes to Argentine and Chilean Governments.

2. Preparation of the Applications has unfortunately been delayed. Since no replies have been received, and the indications are that when replies are forthcoming they will both be negative, the United Kingdom Government now intend to submit the Applications to the Court as soon as possible before the middle of March.

3. The Applications ask the Court to declare that the United Kingdom possesses legal titles to the sovereignty of the territories of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and that all encroachments are illegal. They set out at some length the bases of United Kingdom claims by virtue of discovery, annexation, occupation, recognition by other Governments, action taken to reject Argentine and Chilean pretensions, etc. No reference is made to the Sector principle (which of course the United Kingdom uphold) since the Applications can be quite suitably based on the above grounds without reference to it.

4. In view of the previously expressed attitudes of the Argentine and Chilean Governments it is in fact unlikely that the case will ever be heard by the Court, but the Applications will of course be circulated to Members of the United Nations in accordance with the Court's normal procedure. The Applications have therefore been given something of the character of manifestos and contain material of a type which would normally be reserved for written memorials submitted at a later stage in the proceedings.

5. Owing to the delay in preparation, the Applications are only now assuming final form and to meet the timetable indicated above must be printed as soon as they are ready. In these circumstances it has not been possible to send out copies of the drafts, but copies of the Applications in their final form will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

6. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

Yours sincerely

(for the High Commissioner)

Att. Inelberg

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

No. Jones

File

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the phrase "Sector principle" and other illegible scribbles.

102/2



F3/44
SECRET

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

10 March, 1955.

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6. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

*Yours sincerely,
(for the High Commissioner)*

D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

A. W. SNELLING

*File the material
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DET



F3/44

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

10 March, 1955.

Dear Mr Gresh,

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*Yours sincerely
(For the High Commissioner)*

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

A. W. SNELLING

WAT
88/2

VERTROULIK.

KAAPSTAD.

22-2-1955

DIE SEKRETARIS VAN VERVOER.
DIE HOOF VAN DIE GENERALE STAF.
DIE PRESIDENT: WETENSKAPLIKE EN NYWERHEIDNAVORSINGSRAAD.

Komitee vir die Poolstreke.

Ter inligting heg ek hierby aan afskrifte van die volgende twee dokumente van die Komitee vir die Poolstreke:-

- (a) P.(55)1. Falkland-eilande-oorsig vir die tydperk 20 Oktober tot 15 November 1954.
- (b) P.(55)2. Australiese Suidpool ekspedisie.

B. G. FOURIE.

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

Bise

Bise

JVD/WJ

FILE IN CAPE TOWN

102/2

Telegraphic Address:
"OPPOSITELY, LESQUARE, LONDON"



SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W. C. 2.

Reference No. 19/88/2

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
**REGISTERED
AIRMAIL**
24-2-1955
RECORDED *Schedule*
PLACED ON FILE.....

17th February, 1955.

*J. M. van Buitzen
C. T. Kloos*

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
14-3-1955 9/17/3
ONTVANG
CAPE TOWN/KAAPSTAD
DEPT. VAN BUITELANDESE SAKE

I send you the only copy received of the
Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Committee of
Management of the Scott Polar Research Institute and
the Audited Accounts of the Institute for the year
1953/4.

C. G. von Weizsäcker
Political Secretary.

f

19/88/2

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
AND THE CONSUL GENERAL
WELLINGTON

AIRMAIL

February, 1955.

17th February, 1955.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

I send you the only copy received of the
Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Committee of
Management of the Scott Polar Research Institute and
the Audited Accounts of the Institute for the year
1953/4.

Sgd. C.F.G. von Hirschberg.

Political Secretary.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
WELLINGTON

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102/2

F3/44



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

10 February, 1955.

Dear Mr Forsyth,

With reference to my letter No. F3/44 of the 4th December, 1954, about Argentine encroachment in the Antarctic, I have been asked to let you know that on the 17th January the Argentine Chief of Naval Operations announced that a new Argentine Antarctic base was being established at 78° South and 39° West. This is in Vahsel Bay at the foot of the Weddell Sea in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The United Kingdom Ambassador in Buenos Aires has formally protested to the Argentine Government.

2. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

Yours sincerely,
A. S. Snelling.

via airtel

Re integrating with

file.

D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

Mr. Jones sent

Forsyth
sent
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1/2

102/2

P3/44
102/2



10 February, 1955.

Dear Mr. Forsyth,

With reference to my letter No. P3/44 of the 4th December, 1954, about Argentine encroachment in the Antarctic, I have been asked to let you know that on the 17th January the Argentine Chief of Naval Operations announced that a new Argentine Antarctic base was being established at 78° South and 39° West. This is in Vahsel Bay at the foot of the Weddell Sea in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The United Kingdom Ambassador, Buenos Aires has formally protested to the Argentine Government.

2. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

A. W. SNELLING

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to [unclear]

D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

File LA 18/2

MM

FX 4.

10 February, 1955.

With reference to my letter No. FX/44 of the 4th December, 1954, about Argentine encroachment in the Antarctic, I have been asked to let you know that on the 17th January the Argentine Chief of Naval Operations announced that a new Argentine Antarctic base was being established at 76° South and 39° West. This is in Vahsel Bay at the foot of the Weddell Sea in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The United Kingdom Ambassador in Buenos Aires has formally protested to the Argentine Government.

2. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

A. W. SNELLING

D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PARLIAMENT STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

MM

73/44

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 RECEIVED
 19-2-1955
 CAPE TOWN

10 February, 1955.

With reference to my letter No. 73/44 of the 4th December, 1954, about Argentine encroachment in the Antarctic, I have been asked to let you know that on the 17th January the Argentine Chief of Naval Operations announced that a new Argentine Antarctic base was being established at 76° South and 59° West. This is in Vahsel Bay at the foot of the Weddell Sea in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The United Kingdom Ambassador in Buenos Aires has formally protested to the Argentine Government.

2. The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

R. W. SNELLING
Mr. Woodhouse
Mr. Hemmings
Mr. Bartholomew

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V. u. i.
Blif
12/2.

Department of External Affairs,
 D. D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
 DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
 PARLIAMENT STREET,
 CAPE TOWN.

MM

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CONFIDENTIAL

P(55)3

Previous Ref: P(54)17

POLAR COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ANTARCTIC PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

I attach for the information of members of the Committee the Minutes of a meeting of the Antarctic Place Names Committee (APC(55) 1st Meeting) held on the 5th January 1955. I can make available the A.P.C. papers referred to in the Minutes should members wish to see them.

If members wish to make any comments on the proposals contained in the Minutes, I should be grateful if they would communicate them to me by the 10th February, after which date concurrence will be assumed.

(Signed) Basil Greenhill
Secretary,
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

File

4. February, 1955.

Item 1. Points arising out of Minutes of last meeting

The Chairman reported that all the recommendations made at the meeting held on March 18, 1954, had been officially approved by the administrative authorities concerned, and the final decisions had been circulated. As a result more than 160 new officially approved place-names were now available, and nearly 200 unwanted names had been rejected. One South Georgia name (Hestesletten or Moraine Plain) had been referred by the Colonial Office to the Magistrate in South Georgia. His comments were still awaited.

The Committee took note of papers APC(54)10, 11, 15 and 23.

Item 2. Meeting of Australian Committee on Antarctic Names (APC(54)16)

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jockel for making available the Australian Committee's papers. He thought that their circulation in this country was most valuable, and would ensure a common policy on Antarctic place-names.

/The Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

APC(55)1st Meeting

ANTARCTIC PLACE-NAMES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting at the Foreign Office
on Wednesday, January 5, 1955, at 2.30 p.m.

Present:-

Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice (Chairman)	Foreign Office
Mr. M. Aurousseau	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Mr. R.A.R. Bent	Colonial Office
Dr. V.E. Fuchs	Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau
Mr. B.J. Greenhill	Commonwealth Relations Office
Mr. G.A. Jockel	Australian Department of External Affairs
Commander Alun Jones	Hydrographic Department, Admiralty
Miss J.E. Thomas	Research Department, Foreign Office
Dr. B.B. Roberts (Secretary)	Research Department, Foreign Office.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. F.H. Corner, New Zealand Department of External Affairs, and Mr. J.M. Wordie, Royal Geographical Society.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, welcomed the new representatives of the Commonwealth Relations Office and Australian Department of External Affairs.

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(APC(54)16)

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jockel for making available the Australian Committee's papers. He thought that their circulation in this country was most valuable, and would ensure a common policy on Antarctic place-names.

/The Secretary

both British and American parties had worked in this area, all the proposals had been discussed and provisionally agreed with the United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names. The introductions to the papers recorded others who had been consulted in their preparation. The proposals themselves were compromises between many conflicting points of view. It had not been possible to satisfy everyone completely, but agreed names were urgently needed.

There was some discussion about the proposed name "The Gullet" in APC(54)20, p.7-8. Commander Jones said that 'Gullet' was a good descriptive term but technical correctness required that a specific name should be added, e.g. "Loubet Gullet", in order to distinguish this feature from others of the same type. In his view it was important to do this when an official name was being given for the first time, even if an abbreviated variation came into common use later.

Dr. Fuchs said that this particular feature was unique in west Graham Land, and that the addition of a specific name would not clarify the locality. The name had arisen naturally and had become well established in local use.

Mr. Bent suggested that, whilst it was generally desirable to propose a compound name, it should be possible to make exceptions. If names were too artificial, they would not be adopted locally. He proposed that "The Gullet" should be treated as an exception. This was agreed.

The Committee recommended that the proposals in APC(54)20-22, as amended by APC(55)1, be accepted.

Item 6. Place-names in King George VI Sound (APC(54)18 and 19)

Dr. Fuchs said that, with one exception, the names of all the members of the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, had been proposed for features either in Marguerite Bay or King George VI Sound; but that of Dr. Roberts, who was a member of that expedition, had been omitted. He proposed that Dr. Roberts' name should now be applied to the ice piedmont in north-eastern Alexander Land. This was agreed.

The Committee recommended that the proposals in APC(54)18 and 19, as amended by APC(55)1, be accepted.

Item 7. Gazetteer of South Georgia (APC(54)24)

The Secretary said that this paper had been prepared at the request of the Governor of the Falkland Islands. It contained all the place-names which had so far been officially accepted in South Georgia.

The Committee took note of paper APC(54)24.

Item 8. Other business

The Secretary asked whether there was any objection to publishing a note in such periodicals as the Norwegian Whaling Gazette, mentioning the Committee and requesting information

/about

about place-names of Norwegian origin in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. This was agreed.

The Committee saw examples of maps in the Falkland Islands Dependencies 1:200,000 D.C.S.601 series, which were now being published by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys. These showed the place-names so far officially accepted.

The Committee took note of paper APC(54)25, which contained a list and index of papers circulated since the Committee was formed.

The Committee asked the Secretary to record in the Minutes their appreciation of the way in which material was prepared by the Secretariat. This greatly facilitated what would otherwise be a very heavy and difficult task for the Committee.

Research Department,
Foreign Office.

January 14, 1955

P M 100/2.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CAPE TOWN.

F3/44.
SECRET.

25 January, 1955.

Dear Mr Forsyth,

Will you please refer to paragraph 2 of my letter No. F3/44 of the 18th August, 1954, about Antarctica, in which it was reported that Ministers had agreed to an increase in United Kingdom activity in the Falkland Island Dependencies?

None of the four interested Commonwealth Governments having indicated any objection to our proposals, we are accordingly proceeding with our plans as outlined in the Memorandum enclosed with this letter.

A copy of the Memorandum has been passed to the Union High Commissioner in London.

Yours sincerely
(for the High Commissioner)
A. W. S. G. [Signature]

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25/1/55*

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25/1/55*

W. G. [Signature]

See [illegible]

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CAPE TOWN.

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

Treasury for the increase in activities described above. Provision is to be made in the 1955-6 Estimates for progressive payments towards the building of the replacement for the JOHN BISCOE as well as for the purchase of the NORSEL. The plans of the new vessel have been prepared.

8. We have as yet made no Press announcement other than that the NORSEL is to assist the JOHN BISCOE. Despite the fact that the news has appeared in the American Press that we are planning to open two new bases this year, we do not propose to make any announcement in the immediate future, since this might stimulate the Argentines to even greater activity in that area.

9. Copies of this message have been communicated to the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

SECRET

ANTARCTICA

Plans for an increase in the scale of United Kingdom activity in the Falkland Island Dependencies are now being put into effect as follows.

2. The NORSEL, a sealing vessel which was used by the Anglo-Norwegian-Swedish Expedition to Queen Maude Land, has been chartered from her Norwegian owners and an option to purchase for use in future seasons is in course of negotiation. She has arrived in London and is expected to sail within a few days.
3. The ship is to be used to set up two new bases in the Falkland Island Dependencies. One of these is to be on Anvers Island, and its purpose is to make a detailed examination of such mineral deposits as there may be there; the second is possibly to be in the Marguerite Bay Area, preferably at the old British Graham Land Expedition base at the Debenham Islands or at Stonington Island.
4. The situation is, however, complicated by the fact that the NORSEL is not a British ship and will be flying the flag of Norway in addition to the appropriate British Ensign as charterer's flag. The Master will be carrying suitable evidence that the vessel is on charter to the Government of the Falkland Island Dependencies, and we hope that a Magistrate will be on board during her Antarctic cruise. But it remains highly desirable that the NORSEL, since she is not a British ship, should not become involved in incidents which might bring her, or her crew, into direct contact with any Argentine Expedition.
5. If, therefore, the Argentines are found to be already in occupation at the Debenham Islands, the NORSEL has been instructed, after the delivery of the appropriate protest by a F.I.D.S. officer, to proceed to Stonington Island and to re-occupy the base installations there. In the unlikely event that the Argentines are in occupation of both places, then it has been suggested that the NORSEL should set up a new base in Neny Fjord or on Neny Island.
6. Instructions have been issued that, except where it is incidental to her main duties of establishing bases, the NORSEL should not be used for the investigation of foreign activities, but that when she has established her bases she may be used, until the end of the Antarctic summer, on survey work inside the Dependencies in accordance with a programme already drawn up.
7. Financial provision has been made by the United Kingdom Treasury for the increase in activities described above. Provision is to be made in the 1955-6 Estimates for progressive payments towards the building of the replacement for the JOHN BISCOE as well as for the purchase of the NORSEL. The plans of the new vessel have been prepared.
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PM 102/2

F3/44.

SECRET.



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A copy of the Memorandum has been passed to the Union High Commissioner in London.

A. W. SNELLING

D.D. FORSYTH, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CAPE TOWN.

of 26/1/55
The original has come to the office.

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GFT

ANTARCTICA

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9. Copies of this message have been communicated to the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.



B.A. 22/1

LEGACION DE LA UNION DE SUD AFRICA

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 REGISTRY
 LEGATION OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
 26-1-1955
 RECORDED
 PLACED ON FILE

GESANTSKAP VAN DIE UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Guido 1530,

BUENOS AIRES, 18th January, 1955.

Mr. Van der Merwe
Mr. Koenig
R27/

CONFIDENTIAL

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

With reference to my confidential despatch No. B.A. 22/1 of 22nd December, 1954, on the subject of Argentine claims to the Antarctic I have to advise you that according to a statement made yesterday by the Argentine Commander of Naval Operations, a new Antarctic base has been opened 1,300 kilometres from the South Pole in the hitherto unexplored region of the Wendell Sea.

The base was opened on the 3rd January, 1955, by the new Argentine ice-breaker General San Martin recently bought from Germany, and is claimed to be the furthest settled point in the Antarctic. The new base has been named "General Belgrano" and is located at 78° South and 39° West within the triangle claimed by Argentina.

It is reported that the base is to consist of several buildings with equipment to be used by a scientific commission sent out by the Argentine Antarctic Institute. Beside routine meteorological work the Institute plans to make observations on cosmic rays with the aid of appliances supplied by the National Atomic Energy Commission.

That are understood to have been identical notes of protest presented by the United States, Great Britain, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, have been received by the Chilean Government, which has requested attention to stand by the claims of the Line.

W.A.T. Sub
MINISTER

Mr. Koenig
W.A.
File

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGATION.

Huerfanos 1175,

SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

No. S.C.10/1/1.

10th January, 1955.

The Secretary for External Affairs,
PRETORIA.

Extension of Territorial Waters to 200 Miles.

I have the honour to inform you that a certain amount of publicity has been given in the local press to statements made by a Dr. G. Scully, Chairman of the Union Whaling Co., to the effect that his company's whaling vessels will appeal for assistance from Royal Naval vessels in the event of molestation by Chilean units. Translations of the cuttings are attached.

All these declarations and counter-declarations have acquired added public interest after the Onassis affair, when Peruvian men-of-war took into charge a fleet of Panamanian whaling ships belonging to the Greco-Argentine, Onassis, in pursuance of the terms of the Lima Declaration subscribed some time ago by Chile, Peru and Ecuador, to the effect that the rights to the exploitation of the "maritime riches" existing in the waters extending up to 200 miles from the coast of the respective countries, were explicitly reserved to the countries in question.

In the case of Chile, this area of "territorial waters" extends 200 miles seaward of all territory claimed by Chile, i.e., it includes Antarctic territory over which the Chilean Government claims sovereignty, viz. that sector of Antarctica lying between 53°W and 90°W of Greenwich.

What are understood to have been identical notes of protest presented by the United States, Great Britain, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, have been rejected by the Chilean Government, which has reaffirmed its intention to stand by the clauses of the Lima Declaration.

Should South African whalers - there seems to be some doubt as to whether they are in fact registered in the Union or London - become involved with Chilean units, particularly in the region of the Antarctic, it would seem that some decision will have to be reached: firstly, as to what extent the Union recognises Chilean and/or Argentine claims to the Antarctic Continent, and secondly, what attitude the Union is to adopt in regard to the recent extension of Chilean, inter alia, territorial waters to 200 miles seaward of the coast.

(Sgd.) A.G. DUNN.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

102/2

Unclassified

P.55(2)

AIRS

Previous Reference: P(54)35

POLAR COMMITTEE

54.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Exploration of King Edward VIII Gulf

The attached copy of a statement issued by the Australian Department of External Affairs on 13th December is circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

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(Signed) Basil Greenhill

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Secretary
Polar Committee

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Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

15th January, 1955.

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sheet undulating and monotonous. They reached the bottom of the Gulf on 4th November, setting out for the base as quickly as possible, visiting Steffanson Bay and William Scoresby Bay en route. By driving the dogs to the limit they reached Mawson on 22nd November, having travelled 165 miles in the last five and a half days. A total distance of 550 miles was covered with an overall average of 13.5 miles per day or 19.5 miles on days travelled.

One and a half hundredweight of geological specimens of widely varying types were collected.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

FR 89

13th December, 1954.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
KING EDWARD VIII GULF EXPLORATION

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, said today that he had received a report from Mr. Dovers, the officer-in-charge of the Australian Antarctic Expedition Base at Mawson, describing a successful exploratory journey to investigate the extension southward of King Edward VIII Gulf, the making of cartographic, magnetic, tidal and weather observations, and the collecting of geological specimens and biological data.

Mr. Dovers, accompanied by Mr. Schwartz, left Mawson on 12th October with two sledges and sixteen dogs with the intention of exploring westward from Mawson as far as the bottom of King Edward Gulf. They travelled Eskimo fashion, killing seals to supplement their rations.

They arrived at Kvarsness on 28th October, finding the Gulf shelf ice. They started into the Gulf on 31st October. They discovered several new mountains but found the surrounding ice-sheet undulating and monotonous. They reached the bottom of the Gulf on 4th November, setting out for the base as quickly as possible, visiting Steffanson Bay and William Scoresby Bay en route. By driving the dogs to the limit they reached Mawson on 22nd November, having travelled 165 miles in the last five and a half days. A total distance of 550 miles was covered with an overall average of 13.5 miles per day or 19.5 miles on days travelled.

One and a half hundredweight of geological specimens of widely varying types were collected.

RESTRICTED

P.(55) 1

Previous Reference

P.(54) 37

THE

POLAR COMMITTEE

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

The attached report, for the period 20th October to 15th November 1954, has been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the information of the members of the Committee.

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(Signed) Basil Greenhill

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Commonwealth Relations Office,

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16th January, 1955.

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Most of the sea visible from Deception Island is now ice free except for isolated icebergs. Port Foster is still eight tenths fast ice but the edge is gradually receding.

At Base

The landing pontoon was re-floated and anchored in position ready for the arrival of the relief vessel. One of the old whaling station buildings was converted into a balloon shed and a telephone installed to connect with Meteorological Office in the main living hut. The living room was re-decorated throughout.

Nature Notes

The first penguins seen on the 25th October, were Gentoos.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

Weather

High winds and heavy drift prevailed over most of the period although some improvement with a number of fine days was reported during November.

/Ice

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY REPORT FOR THE
PERIOD 20TH OCTOBER TO 15TH NOVEMBER, 1954.

Base 'A', Port Lockroy

Weather

Mainly dull and overcast with frequent heavy snow storms. Winds strong to gale force from the north-east to south-west. Temperatures near freezing during October but higher towards the end of the period.

Ice

Generally ice free except for isolated 'bergs and during periods of south-west gales when light pack ice was driven into the harbour from the Bismark Strait.

At Base

Diesel Electric generators and wireless transmitting sets were overhauled, the outside of the living hut creosoted and the floating jetty re-erected ready for the arrival of the R.R.S. "John Biscoe". Ionospheric equipment reported functioning satisfactorily.

Nature Notes

Penguins were reported back at the rookery in full force on the 1st November and terns and skuas gradually returning.

Base 'B', Deception Island

Weather

Persistent low cloud with rain and snow. Fresh winds predominantly from the north-west and temperatures generally above freezing have caused a considerable decrease in the snow level.

Ice

Most of the sea visible from Deception Island is now ice free except for isolated icebergs. Port Foster is still eight tenths fast ice but the edge is gradually receding.

At Base

The landing pontoon was re-floated and anchored in position ready for the arrival of the relief vessel. One of the old whaling station buildings was converted into a balloon shed and a telephone installed to connect with Meteorological Office in the main living hut. The living room was re-decorated throughout.

Nature Notes

The first penguins seen on the 25th October, were Gentoos.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

Weather

High winds and heavy drift prevailed over most of the period although some improvement with a number of fine days was reported during November.

/Ice

Ice

Conditions remained fairly constant with the Bay almost ice free and a line of heavy pack ice some fifteen to twenty miles distance.

At Base

Advantage was taken of the few fine days to repair the roofing felt in the dog kennels and the balloon and emergency huts. The outside of the main hut was creosoted and the window panes and doors re-painted. The main hut has been given a thorough spring cleaning and several rooms re-decorated. The dog spans were moved to a higher ground to keep the dogs clear of the melting streams and extra spans laid down to accommodate the new dogs from Greenland and Labrador. A number of pups born during the period are reported doing well.

Nature Notes

A number of penguin eggs were collected and preserved for winter use. Three Weddell Seals were caught on grounded ice floes and towed back to the Base by dinghy. One Crabeater Seal was shot by the Argentine Base personnel.

Field Work

The sledge party, (Clarke, Brookfield, Kenney and Precious) returned to Base on the 28th October having been in the field 11 days. They left Base on the 18th October for View Point Hut where they were held up by bad weather until the 21st. Then they continued but were again delayed by wind and heavy drift and finally decided to return to Base. No survey work was possible and they only travelled a total distance of 55 miles.

Turner and Mottershead returned to Base on the 2nd November having travelled 190 miles in sixteen days. They went as far south as Cape Obelisk and then turned north again and entered Sydney Herbert Sound reaching Fortress Hill on the 28th October. Numerous points were found there including ammonites, lamellibranch, gasteropods, fossil wood and reptilian vertebra. They returned via Vertex Island where a penguin rookery was visited and some six hundred birds seen. Whale pemmican was fed to the dogs throughout the journey and seemed satisfactory. The dogs pulled well and their average loss of weight was 9½ lbs. The strain gauge apparatus was carried on this journey and satisfactory results obtained.

Base 'F', Argentine Islands

Weather

Generally unsettled with strong winds and high temperatures.

Ice

No appreciable change.

At Base

The meteorological equipment and hydrogen generator was checked and overhauled where necessary. The roofing felt in the living hut is being repaired and the hut wall creosoted. Radio Sonde ascents were maintained daily.

/Base 'G'

Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Weather

Mainly overcast with rain and snow. Winds north-east to westerly, strong to gale force causing heavy drift. Temperatures around freezing during October but rising in November during periods of northerly winds. The wind reached a force of 92 knots during the night of 31st October/1st November and blew away the Stevenson's Screen and several full drums of diesel oil.

Ice

All the fast ice has now disappeared leaving only three tenths brash and floes.

At Base

The 12 volt lighting system was overhauled and the wiring extended to the generator shed and workshop. Experiments are being made with a device for switching the windspeed dial to half scale during high winds.

Nature Notes

Personnel skied to Point Thomas rookery on the 18th October to inspect the emergency depot and noted that the Adelie and Gentoo Penguins were busy nest building. Some 300 Crabeater Seals were seen in the Bay during the last week of October and 25 were shot and stored for later transfer to Hope Bay.

Shipping

The R.R.S. "John Biscoe" arrived at the Base on the morning of the 14th November with the Governor on board: His Excellency went ashore later to make his annual inspection of the station.

Base 'H', Signy Island

At Base

Personnel have been busy over the period clearing the site for the new hut and building a jetty. Seventy Adelie Penguins were ringed at Gourlay Point Rookery and work on Weddell pup skins is progressing satisfactorily. Two litters of husky pups produced over the period are reported to be doing well.

South Georgia (from 22nd September)

Additional weather forecasts were issued to the following ships "Bralanta", "Harpon", "Buenos Aires", "Orwell", "Gauthiod" and "Southern Opal". The new Meteorological Assistant, MacNab, arrived at the station and started duties on the 2nd October. Forecasts were increased to two daily as from the 10th October.

King Penguin Survey

Observations continued on King and Gentoo Penguins, Skuas and Seals and the marine biological programme progressed satisfactorily. A whale catcher delivered mail to the party during the first week of October and again in November. On the last occasion the Administrative Officer visited the party. The sub-survey has been hindered by poor visibility but is now completed.

British South Georgia Expedition

Party made a four day reconnaissance of the approaches to Mount Paget and found the Hamburg Glacier very broken and difficult to cross. Poor weather limited their investigations.

/A party

A party of four were landed from a seal catcher on the 14th November by the eastern part of the Nordenskjold Glacier and they intend to make a full scale attempt on Mount Paget returning to Base after about four weeks.

R.R.S. "John Biscoe"

The vessel reached Stanley late in the night of 3rd November and commenced discharging and loading cargo on the following morning. She was ready to sail for the Dependencies by the 11th and left at 1800 hours local time. She had a rough journey across Drake's Passage but reached Admiralty Bay on the 14th.

All Bases

All Bases are busy preparing annual reports and stores inventories. Meteorological and wireless schedules have been well maintained and personnel are all well except for minor ailments.

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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
PRETORIA.

F3/44.
SECRET.

10/1 continuing

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DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
10-1-1955 8 January, 1955.
RECORDED.....
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Dear Mr Spies,

In continuation of my letter F3/44 of 21st

December, 1954 about the Antarctica I have been asked to

let you know that the Notes have been delivered to the

Argentine and Chilean Governments.

The Union High Commissioner in London has

been informed.

Yours sincerely,
A. W. Inelby

Mr. Spies
M
10/1
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D. SPIES, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
UNION BUILDINGS,
PRETORIA.

F3/44.
SECRET.

8 January, 1955.

Dear Mr Spies,

In continuation of my letter F3/44 of 21st December, 1954 about the Antarctica I have been asked to let you know that the Notes have been delivered to the Argentine and Chilean Governments.

The Union High Commissioner in London has been informed.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. SNELLING

D. SPIES, ESQ.,
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
UNION BUILDINGS,
PRETORIA.

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Copy

P.M. 102/2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA/CAPE-TOWN.

4 JAN 1955

TO: *President: C.S.I.R.*
Secretary for Transport

I attach for your information a copy of a *letter and*
annexure.....No. *63/27*. dated *30/1/54*..... addressed to me
by *the S.A. Embassy in Washington*
..... on the subject of *American interest in the*
Antarctic.....

P. van Rensburg
SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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Copy.

P.M. 102/2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA/CAPE TOWN.

Restricted

3 JAN 1953

TO: *President: C.S.R.*
Secy for Transport

I attach for your information a copy of a *letter*
memo No. *(64) 37* dated *25/11/52* addressed to me
by *the Secretary of the Polar Committee*
..... on the subject of *the Falkland Islands*
..... *to Sanderson's Survey*

Pam Pearson
SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

File

RESTRICTED

, 1954

P(54)37

Previous Reference P(54)33

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

The attached report, for the period 22nd September to 19th October, 1954, has been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the information of the members of the Committee

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(Signed) J.A. Molyneux

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Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

25. November, 1954.

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South and finally back to the base at Pedersen Nunatak. Geological work was carried out at Cape Longing and at Pedersen Nunatak. On the return journey the party occupied View Point Hut for a week to rest the teams. The dogs had lost weight on the journey but soon returned to normal after being fed on seal.

Mottershead, Kenney, Precious and Clarke left the Base on the 25th September to occupy View Point Hut and to hunt seals in Duse Bay. Precious and Clarke returned on the 5th October and reported having killed a number of seals and having stored them above Duse Bay tide crack and at Summit Pass. Mottershead and Kenney returned on the 9th having maintained routine meteorological observations daily, made an astronomical fix and caught a number of seals.

Two parties again set out for Duse Bay on the 18th October; Clarke, Brookfield, Kenney and Precious are to make a short survey journey and Taylor and Mottershead are to try feeding dogs on whale pemmican under field conditions. Taylor has reported that he is making some progress with his frictional work and that the equipment is proving satisfactory.

Kenney has added further detail to the local survey between sledge journeys. A number of seals were caught near the Base during September.

/Base 'F'

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 22nd September to 19th October, 1954

Base 'A', Port Lockroy

North-easterly and south-westerly gales with heavy snow showers and temperatures near freezing persisted over most of the period. Four clear calm sunny days at the end of September were very welcome and enjoyed by all. The pack ice in the Neumayer and Peltier Channels was under constant movement and varied from open water to nine-tenths cover.

The inclement weather mostly limited activities to indoor work and several rooms were painted and redecorated.

The first penguins were seen on the rookery on the 14th October.

Base 'B', Deception Island

The weather was reported as mainly overcast but generally milder but with some precipitation on most days. The belt of open water round the Island has gradually widened but otherwise little change to ice conditions is reported.

Several repair and maintenance jobs were completed including overhauling the boats, outboard motors and sledging equipment.

Cape Pigeons, Terns and Skuas are gradually returning.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

The usual high winds prevailed over most of the period and the Bay was reported as ice free except when northerly winds brought in ice from Antarctic Sound.

The main sledge party (Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standring) returned to the Base on the 6th October having travelled a total distance of 362 miles. They reported that after being held up by gales at Beak Island and at View Point they made very good progress south and finally laid a 1300 pound depot of food and fuel at Pedersen Nunatak. Geological work was carried out at Cape Longing and at Pedersen Nunatak. On the return journey the party occupied View Point Hut for a week to rest the teams. The dogs had lost weight on the journey but soon returned to normal after being fed on seal.

Mottershead, Kenney, Precious and Clarke left the Base on the 25th September to occupy View Point Hut and to hunt seals in Duse Bay. Precious and Clarke returned on the 5th October and reported having killed a number of seals and having stored them above Duse Bay tide crack and at Summit Pass. Mottershead and Kenney returned on the 9th having maintained routine meteorological observations daily, made an astronomical fix and caught a number of seals.

Two parties again set out for Duse Bay on the 18th October; Clarke, Brookfield, Kenney and Precious are to make a short survey journey and Taylor and Mottershead are to try feeding dogs on whale pemmican under field conditions. Taylor has reported that he is making some progress with his frictional work and that the equipment is proving satisfactory.

Kenney has added further detail to the local survey between sledge journeys. A number of seals were caught near the Base during September.

/Base 'F'

Base 'F', Argentine Islands

Periods of warm weather and several gales are reported to have produced a considerable amount of local thawing and the sea ice is now rotten in several areas with open water leads. The ice to the north and west however is still very firm to the limits of visibility.

Routine meteorological observations and Radio Sonde ascents have continued daily.

Many Weddell Seals with pups have been seen which is interesting in view of the few seen last year. Birds are gradually returning to the area.

Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

The weather was generally cloudy with snow, rain, or drift on most days and strong to gale force winds from the north or north-east. Temperatures were high and the snow cover is now soft and slushy. Level fast ice still remains in the Bay and extends from Point Thomas to one mile outside Point Hennequin. The ice in the Bransfield Strait has varied between one tenth and nine-tenths cover of medium pack with isolated tabular and castellated icebergs.

A party camped at Lissick Cove from the 16th to the 19th September and parties from Base have been out from Base on short ski journeys.

A few Weddell seals were seen and some 150 Crab-eater Seals between Le Poing Glacier and the entrance to the Bay. A number of Terns and Skuas have returned and penguins were first observed at Point Thomas rookery on the 14th October.

Base 'H', Signy Island

The sea ice is reported to be still fast around the Island except for a large pool of open water off the south coast; there is pack beyond to the horizon.

Work on Weddell pup skins is progressing and a total of 26 have now been taken. An Elephant Seal and several Gentoo Penguins were seen during September. More penguins had reached Gourlay Point rookery by mid-October and several Elephant Seal pups were seen.

R.R.S. "John Biscoe"

The relief vessel left Southampton on the 4th October and reached St. Vincent on the 13th. She has given her expected times of arrival at Montevideo and Stanley as the 28th October and the 3rd November respectively.

All Bases

Have reported that meteorological and wireless schedules have been well maintained and that personnel are all well.

Surface Mail

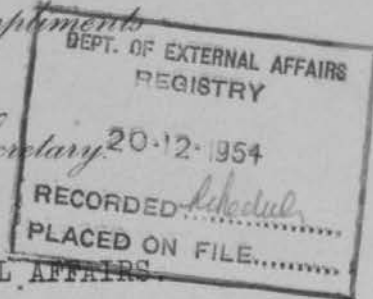
PM 11/22/2
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C.2

AIRS

19/88/2

24th November, 1954.

*With the Compliments
of the
Political Secretary.*



THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

File //

ed by the

Australian Department of External Affairs on 1st
November is circulated for the information of members
of the Committee.

(Signed) J.A. MOLYNEUX
for BASIL GREENHILL,
Secretary,
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

13th November, 1954.

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UnclassifiedP(54)35Previous reference: P(54)30POLAR COMMITTEEAUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONRelief Party for Mawson

The attached copy of a statement issued by the Australian Department of External Affairs on 1st November is circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA.

PR 78.

November 1, 1954.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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The party will sail from Melbourne late in December, under the leadership of Mr. Phillip Law, Director of the Antarctic Division, Department of External Affairs. Mr. Robert Dovers, Officer in Charge at Mawson, will be relieved by Mr. J.M. Bechervaise.

Mr. Casey also announced that the Danish motor vessel "Kista Dan" had been chartered for the voyage, and also for the voyages during the following three summer seasons.

"Kista Dan" was first chartered last summer to relieve the Heard and Macquarie Island parties, and to transport personnel and equipment for setting up the new station at Mawson. The vessel is specially designed for operation in polar waters.

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Following are the 15 men who will comprise the party sailing for Mawson in December:

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Commonwealth Relations Office,
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Restricted

P(54)34

Previous Reference: P(54)33

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

The attached annual report for 1953 has been received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the information of members of the committee.

(Signed) H. Smedley
for Basil Greenhill

Secretary
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

5th November, 1954.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

ANNUAL REPORT 1953

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

FOR 1953

1. DISTRIBUTION OF BASES

The Survey maintained the following Bases during the year:-

Place Name	Base Letter	Geographical Position		Establishment
		Lat. S.	Long. W.	
Port Lockroy, Palmer Archipelago	A	64.50	63.31	5
Deception Island, South Shetlands	B	62.59	60.34	5
Hope Bay, Grahamland	D	63.24	56.59	10
Argentine Islands, Biscoe Archipelago	F	65.15	64.16	5
Admiralty Bay, South Shetlands	G	62.03	58.24	5
Signy Island, South Orkneys	H	60.43	45.36	5

The distribution and staffing of Bases for 1953 was basically the same as in 1952; a sixth man was posted to Deception Island but he had to be returned to Stanley for a minor operation which prevented him from returning to the Dependencies until the 1953/54 summer.

2. PERSONNEL

Base	Name	Age	Appointment
Port Lockroy	W.S.P. Ward	33	Scientific Assistant/ Base Leader
	F.G. Bird	25	General Assistant
	A.H. Martin	27	General Assistant/ Meteorological Observer
	C.G. Collop	28	Wireless Operator Mechanic
	H.J. Robinson	24	Diesel Electric Mechanic
Deception Island	I.W.N. Clarke	27	Meteorological Observer/ Base Leader
	D.J. George	24	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	F.A. Hall	20	Meteorological Assistant
	A.H. Farrant	39	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	B. Taylor	29	Wireless Operator Mechanic

Base	Name	Age	Appointment
Hope Bay	G.W. Marsh	27	Medical Officer/ Base Leader
	A.J. Standring	26	Geologist
	K.V. Blaiklock	25	Surveyor
	D.G. Stratton	26	Assistant Surveyor
	B. Kemp	22	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	J.A. Coley	23	Meteorological Assistant
	G.H. Brookfield	32	Meteorological Observer
	M.F. Tait	29	Meteorological Observer
	K.E.C. Powell	25	Diesel Electric Mechanic
P.W. King	31	Wireless Operator Mechanic	
Argentine Islands	D.A. Barrett	20	Meteorological Observer/Base Leader
	F.L. Johnson	23	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	H. Smith	27	Meteorological Observer
	D.A. Clarke	21	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	W.T. Kelley	32	Wireless Operator Mechanic
Admiralty Bay	R.F. Worswick	25	Meteorological Assistant/Base Leader (Senior Duties)
	R.J. Banks	23	Meteorological Observer
	G.E. Hemmen	27	Meteorological Observer
	B.L. Golborne	23	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	J. Turnbull	33	Wireless Operator Mechanic
Signy Island	A.G. Tritton	21	Meteorological Observer/Base Leader
	R.A. Berry	23	Meteorological Assistant (Senior Duties)
	D. Parsons	20	Meteorological Assistant
	R.J. Tanton	25	Diesel Electric Mechanic
	T.G. Owen	24	Wireless Operator Mechanic

3. WORK AT BASES

(a) Base 'A', Port Lockroy

This Base continued with the Ionospheric programme and made continuous observations throughout the year except for two short breaks of 12 and 18 hours caused by minor faults in the equipment.

The manual equipment was operated at three-hourly intervals until March when the fully automatic equipment supplied through the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research was installed. The equipment made observations every hour and ran continuously with surprisingly little attention. The results followed similar trends to those observed during 1952.

The Auto-Diesel Generators were overhauled by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" engineers during the 1952/53 summer and ran continuously, 24 hours daily, during 1953.

An extension was built to the Base Hut to provide an office and radio room and so allow sufficient space in the original radio/ionospheric room to house the new equipment.

Routine meteorological observations were made at six-hourly intervals.

(b) Base 'B', Deception Island

As in 1952 most of the work at this Base was meteorological. Schedules were maintained in spite of the Base being understaffed; one man was returned to Stanley at the beginning of the year and another was incapacitated for several months during the year by illness. Fifty-nine pilot balloon ascents were completed during the year.

The loft of the main hut was fitted out to accommodate a contingent of Royal Marines during the 1952/53 summer and was again used by the relief contingent during the 1953/54 summer.

Two Surveyors, recruited for service at Hope Bay during 1954, were temporarily posted to Deception Island for the 1953/54 summer. They were provided with equipment and materials by the Director of Colonial Surveys before leaving England and made a complete topographical survey of the Island. Base personnel and Royal Marines assisted them to set up camps at various places on the Island; stores and equipment were moved by a combination of small boats and sledges (both man and dog hauled).

(c) Base 'D', Hope Bay

The year 1953 proved a very full one for this Base. It started with many structural improvements to the Base Hut which greatly increased the warmth and comfort. A second store/emergency hut was erected in order to house more stores under cover than hitherto. In order to provide sufficient seal meat for dog food it was decided to maintain two men and one or two teams of dogs in Duse Bay as often as possible. To make their lot easier a small living hut was erected at View Point as a convenient centre. The hut was prefabricated in Stanley, delivered to Hope Bay by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" and transported to the site by dog sledge. The hut was erected by Base personnel and occupied for considerable periods during the year. Radio and meteorological equipment was provided and observations transmitted thrice daily to Stanley via Hope Bay. The results provided an interesting comparison between the weather on each side of Trinity Peninsula.

Most of the 1953 personnel, including the Base Leader and Surveyors, had already served through 1952, so the work during 1953 was generally a continuation of the work done the previous year.

Sledging

The following journeys were undertaken:-

(i) Local Survey and Geology

Party: Blaiklock, Stratton, Stoneley
(relieved later 1952/53 season)
and Coley
Duration: 28th December, 1952 to
3rd January, 1953 - 7 days
Miles Travelled: 50

The plan was to extend the local Survey and Geology to the Thimble Peak area but little was achieved because of low cloud. Progress was made during the year with the triangulation of the Base area.

(ii) Journeys in Connexion with the erection and occupation of View Point Hut

Party: Blaiklock and Marsh
Duration: 7th to 13th February, 1953 - 7 days
Miles
Travelled: 50

Party: Kemp and Powell
Duration: 7th to 25th February, 1953 - 19 days
Miles
Travelled: 60

Party: Stratton and Coley
Duration: 20th February to 11th March, 1953 - 20 days
Miles
Travelled: 60

Party: Blaiklock and Brookfield
Duration: 7th to 19th March, 1953 - 13 days
Miles
Travelled: 60

Party: Tait and Powell
Duration: 11th to 20th May, 1953 - 10 days
Miles
Travelled 110

Party: Tait and Powell
Duration: 29th May to 13th June, 1953 - 16 days
Miles
Travelled: 60

Party: Tait and Brookfield
Duration: 16th June to 2nd July, 1953 - 17 days
Miles
Travelled: 50

Party: Coley and Kemp
Duration: 20th to 29th July, 1953 - 10 days
Miles Travelled: 25

Party: Marsh and Tait
Duration: 23rd August to 3rd September - 12 days
Miles Travelled: 25

Party: Brookfield and Kemp
Duration: 17th September to 1st October, 1953 -
15 days
Miles Travelled: 30

The hut was erected during the months of May, June and July. The timber and accessories were sledged to the tide crack at the foot of Last Hill by various parties from Base going to collect seal meat. The materials were sledged across Duse Bay to the site by Tait and Powell who also erected the framework and completed the outside boarding. It is interesting to note that the temperature averaged -12° Fahrenheit during these operations. Brookfield and Tait completed the interior of the hut. The site chosen is an excellent one from the sealing point of view as seals have been observed in that area practically all the year round. For meteorological observations the exposure is very good although visibility to the south and south-east is limited because of the height of the cliffs on the northern side of View Point.

(iii) Reconnaissance Overland Route and Depot Laying
Journey to Russell Glacier

Party: Marsh, Blaiklock, Standring and
Stratton
Duration: 24th March to 3rd April, 1953 -
11 days
Miles Travelled: 120

The party travelled by the usual route from Hope Bay to Duse Bay and thence across the sea ice to View Point. A good safe overland route via Broad Valley was then followed to Beehive Nunatak, where the depot was laid, and an easy route found across Russell Glacier.

(iv) Journey to Jason Island

Party: Marsh, Blaiklock, Standring and
Stratton
Duration: 27th April to 2nd May (false start)
and then 4th May to 17th July -
81 days
Miles Travelled: 756 including false start

The object of the journey was for a combined survey and geological party to travel south to the Jason Islands via Cape Longing and the Seal Nunataks. Survey was concerned with the areas:- Robertson and Jason Islands and that part of the mainland coast which

had been obscured by low cloud during the 1947 journey to Marguerite Bay. Geology was to be undertaken as time and circumstances permitted. A 1,200 lb. depot had been placed on Burn Murdoch Nunatak during 1952 and it was planned to take on sufficient food for a 40 day journey from there.

The first start was abortive because bad weather forced the party to lie up at View Point for four days. They returned to Hope Bay for more provisions and made a fresh start on the 4th May. The overland route previously used in April was followed to Beehive Nunatak from where part of the depot was collected, and a considerably shorter route was found across Russell and Victory Glaciers to Pitt Point. The survey of Robertson and Jason Islands was completed but there was insufficient time to complete the survey of the mainland coast. Geological examinations were made at Robertson and Jason Islands and the Seal Nunataks. Jason Island proved to be largely composed of microgranites probably intruded into the Trinity Peninsula sediments. This mid-winter journey of 756 miles was a noteworthy achievement.

(v) Journey to James Ross Island

Support Party:	Tait and King
Duration:	6th to 11th August - 6 days
Miles Travelled:	100
Geological Party:	Coley and Standring
Duration:	6th August to 10th September, 1953 - 36 days
Miles Travelled:	300
Survey Party:	Blaiklock and Stratton
Duration:	6th August to 15th September, 1953 - 41 days
Miles Travelled:	350

The object of the journey was to complete the survey of the southern half of James Ross Island, to make an astronomical fix at Snow Hill Island, to circumnavigate James Ross Island and ascend Mount Haddington. The geological party were to examine Seymour, Snow Hill and Cockburn Island, the Naze and the cliffs north of the Bay by Hidden Lake.

The proposed plan was for the parties to travel together as far as Cape Lachman when the support party would return to Hope Bay and the survey and geological parties work separately.

All the objects of the journey were completed as well as some contouring of the ice cap and visits by the geological party to a number of outcrops on James Ross Island. Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments were studied and a collection of Cretaceous fossils made.

(vi) Combined Depot, Survey and Geological Journey to Cape Longing

Depot Party:	Marsh and Powell
Duration:	3rd to 24th October, 1953 - 22 days
Miles Travelled:	216
Survey Party:	Blaiklock and Stratton
Duration:	3rd to 30th October - 28 days
Miles Travelled:	240
Geological Party:	Standring and Coley
Duration:	3rd to 30th October - 28 days
Miles Travelled:	220

The plan was for a combined party to place a depot in the vicinity of Cape Longing for use on a survey journey to Evan's Inlet in 1954, to make an astronomical fix at Persson Island, to run a traverse up Victory Glacier, to spend a week geologising in the Cape Longing area with a view to throwing more light on the relationship between the Trinity Peninsula series and the mesozoic sediments in the area and to move a depot from Azimuth Hill to a more suitable position at Pitt Point. All these tasks were completed as well as three hourly meteorological observations throughout the journey.

(vii) Survey and Geology of Joinville and adjacent Islands

Party:	Blaiklock, Stratton, Standring and Taylor (new recruit)
Duration:	7th December, 1953 to 3rd February, 1954 - 59 days
Miles Travelled:	210

The plan was for the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" to transport a fully equipped party of four men and two dog teams to Joinville Island to make topographical and geological surveys of the Island and as much as possible of the adjacent Islands.

The party was landed with little trouble and set up base depot camp three miles north-west of Cape Kinnes. A week was spent relaying loads inland and then two journeys were made round the Island during which the majority of the survey and geology was completed, with the exception of the Firth of Tay shore. Most of the rock outcrops on Joinville were visited and the greater part of the Island found to be composed of sediments of the Trinity Peninsula series with some intrusions. On the north-east coast a narrow band of conglomerates similar to the Jurassic conglomerates seen in the northern end of the Peninsula, yielded a few poor plant fossils and were downfaulted against the older sediments.

Regular meteorological observations were maintained during the journey and sea ice observations transmitted to Hope Bay when observed. A number of adult penguins and chicks were weighed at the base depot camp rookery.

Medical Research

The medical officer continued with urinary Vitamin C observations but because of his long absences from Base on sledge journeys there still remains much work to be done on the subject.

Meteorology

Full routine observations and climatological work was carried out throughout the year. A new anemometer tower was erected towards the end of December, 1952 to replace the original one destroyed by the wind during 1952. The new tower withstood frequent hurricane force winds during the year without sustaining damage. Experimental recording wind instruments and a "Dewcell" recorder were installed in March. Work on the instruments took up a considerable amount of time but results, except in the case of the recording volt meter (wind speed) were unsatisfactory because of electrical faults. Snowflake fixation was undertaken whenever possible and 106 pilot balloon ascents were successfully completed.

Nearly all months during the year were characterised by high mean winds. The month of May, which in 1952 was by far the windiest month, proved the opposite in 1953 with calms recorded for nearly one third of the observations. A gust of 128 knots was recorded on the 30th April and over a period of eight hours at the time there was a continuous mean wind of 80 knots. The monthly mean temperatures were roughly comparable with those of 1952, though the lowest minimum temperature of -14 F was considerably higher than the lowest minima for several months of the previous year. Snowfall was heaviest during August and least during July and September.

Ornithology

The first penguins were seen in the rookery to the west of the Base Hut during the last week in September and they returned in full force during the second week in October. The first eggs were found on the 5th November and later approximately 1,400 were collected. The Argentine Base members also collected eggs, but by arrangement between the British Base Leader and the Argentine Commander a limit was set of 1,500 eggs for each Base. It was also agreed that personnel from visiting ships would not be allowed to collect eggs.

Approximately 300 birds were killed for dog food during the year. Some counts and observations were made towards the end of the year. The amount of travelling done this year from this base was highly satisfactory and reflects credit on the base leader and others concerned.

(d) Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The Base was relieved in 1953 on the 7th March and until the "John Biscoe" left again the important work for all concerned was the building of foundations for the proposed new hut on Marina Point.

The main occupation during the year was meteorology. In addition to the normal observational routine, experimental work was carried out on the Gill low pressure hydrogen generator and in connexion with pilot balloon tail ascents. A number of snow flake crystals were fixed and a collection of fifty slides resulted. A total of 119 pilot balloon ascents were made.

Results from the Gill generator were disappointing; what proved to be a dangerous combination of chemicals in attempts to generate hydrogen, resulted in two explosions. The experience gained however led to the perfection of the technique for operation during 1954.

Some bird ringing was undertaken and a number of *Chionis Alba* (Sheathbill), *Catharacta Skua* (Skua) and *Phalacrocorax Atriceps* (Shag) were ringed.

The scheme for H. Smith to obtain fifty seal pup skins failed because of the dearth of pupping Weddells. None were taken but counts were made and they were all sexed when circumstances permitted, that is on all occasions except when they were unapproachable because of rotten sea ice. Seals generally were found to be very scarce in the area for most of the year and it was even found difficult to provide food for the few dogs maintained.

A number of short journeys were made during the year mainly for the purpose of seal hunting and ice observations. The sea froze over very quickly after the departure of the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" and journeys were made to Cape Tuxen on the 4th and 19th April. A three day man-hauling trip was made to Booth Island between the 23rd and 25th April to make ice observations; the Bismark Strait was completely ice free. The most northerly position reached on the trip was Port Charcot, the wintering station of the "Francois" in 1904; a large cairn, beehive in shape, erected on that occasion on the ridge above the small harbour was found to be in excellent condition.

During June and July a number of seal hunting trips were made to the various adjacent islands and on the 27th July from Clayton Hill on Petermann Island open water was observed to have reached the northern end of Hovgaard Island.

A trip was made to the mainland in early September for ice observations. By this time open water had reached as far south as Petermann Island and further journeys were considered impossible.

(e) Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Routine meteorological observations and wireless schedules were maintained throughout the year. Again much time and labour was spent on maintenance and repairs to the Base Hut. A new store shed, prefabricated in Stanley, was erected during the 1952/53 summer.

Personnel found recreation in skiing, occasional trips on the sea ice exercising the dogs and numerous walks around the peninsula and over the Kellar Range. Towards the end of the year a number of trips were made to Point Thomas to collect penguin eggs. Personnel have taken a keen interest in photography and painting.

The Base was visited by the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" during the 1952/53 summer on the 3rd December, 1952 and the 28th February, 27th March and the 13th April, 1953.

(f) Base 'H', Signy Island

As at Admiralty Bay the work at Base mainly centred round the meteorological programme and 79 pilot balloon ascents were successfully completed. Sea ice conditions between Signy and Coronation Island were disappointing and it was only secure between early July and the middle of August. However when the ice was there good use was made of it and several sledge journeys were made to Coronation Island. Rock specimens were collected from all parts visited and a collection made of the metamorphic rocks of Signy Island. On the request of the Scientific Bureau certain data about Weddell Seals were collected, including nose/tail measurements and specimens of teeth, flipper nails and skulls. A short report on the parturition of a Weddell Seal, illustrated by the actual photographs taken, was prepared by Owen. Routine seal counts were made during the year and an ornithological log kept.

(g) South Georgia

South Georgia Expedition

This expedition, organised and led by Duncan Carse, was financed from Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey funds. The four members (D. Carse, Leader, K. Warburton, Medical Officer, A.F. Trendall, Geologist and G. Smillie, Surveyor) together with all their baggage and equipment reached South Georgia on the 10th October. Unfortunately on arrival Warburton was found to be suffering from a duodenal ulcer and although he regained reasonably good health after treatment in Leith Harbour Hospital, was never fit enough to take any part in the sledge journeys. He was returned to England in January, 1954.

During October Carse laid depots with the help of the sealers while Smillie and Trendall geologised in the Dartmouth Point area. The party left Grytviken at the end of October on their main northern journey and reached Cape North and Schieper Bay. Results were only moderately successful because of difficult travel conditions, extremely bad weather and only having three in the party. They returned to Grytviken on the 19th December.

The party started out on their main southern journey on the 12th January, 1954 and returned after 38 days in the field. The weather was very good but the country proved too precipitous for travel and was impassable beyond Drygalski Fjord. Survey results were disappointing but geological results excellent, a great deal of data being collected on the igneous complex of the area. It was established by astronomical fix that Cape Vehsel is some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.S.E. of its charted position with a general tendency to sympathetic movement in the rest of the southern end of the Island. Smillie left South Georgia for England on the 15th March, 1954 but Carse and Trendall stayed on and made a further journey to the Royal Bay/Gold Harbour area. They successfully completed a trigonometrical tie-up between their 1951/52 and 1953/54 survey work and did some additional geology. Carse and Trendall left for England on the 17th April, 1954.

Survey of King Penguins

B. Stonehouse (Biologist) and his assistant N.W. Bonner left Glasgow for South Georgia on the 29th August, 1953 in the

"Polar Maid" and arrived at South Georgia on the 10th October. On arrival Bonner reported sick and on the 13th it was found necessary to remove a perforated gangrenous appendix with localised peritonitis present.

Bonner made steady progress towards recovery but had to be left behind at Leith Harbour Hospital for another three weeks when Stonehouse moved to the Bay of Isles on the 29th October taking with him a temporary assistant locally engaged. Their hut was erected in Ample Bay and biological studies started almost immediately. Gentoo and King Penguin embryos were collected and despatched to the Scientific Bureau. King Penguins were marked and behaviour studies started. Plankton runs made along the shore produced interesting results. A detailed map of the area was completed and a general map of the Bay of Isles well in hand by the end of December. A weather log was kept and observations taken daily.

The party is to remain at the Bay of Isles until early 1955.

4. HEALTH AND MORALE

As in 1952 the health of Survey personnel was very good except for minor ailments and the case reported in my Confidential telegram No. 115 FIDEP of the 3rd September, 1953. Morale appears to have been particularly high at all Bases during 1953. The death of A.H. Farrant reported in my telegram No. 149 FIDEP of the 18th November, 1953 had a depressing effect on Base B for a time but this soon disappeared when new personnel arrived.

5. THE RELIEF OF BASES

First Southern Voyage

The S.V. "John Biscoe" left Port Stanley on the 24th November and returned on the 17th December, 1952 after relieving Bases D, B, G and H in that order and visiting Grytviken and Leith Harbour at South Georgia. Practically no ice was seen during the voyage.

Second Southern Voyage

The S.V. "John Biscoe" left Stanley for her second voyage on the 13th January, 1953 but unfortunately ran aground at Darwin, where she had called to load provisions, and sustained serious damage to her rudder and steering gear. The engineers were able to make temporary repairs on the spot and the vessel was then able to return to Stanley for further examination. It was found necessary to send her to Montevideo for dry-docking and repairs before she sailed south again. Further temporary repairs were made in Stanley to make her sufficiently seaworthy for the 1,000 mile journey. All cargo was unloaded and she left on the 22nd January. Repairs were put in hand immediately on arrival in Montevideo. Repairs were completed very quickly and the vessel returned to Stanley for re-loading. She finally sailed for the Dependencies on the 25th February. All Bases and South Georgia were visited and the annual relief completed. Heavy pack ice was encountered between Port Lockroy and the Argentine Islands and at one time the vessel was beset off Doumer Island for four days. Wide detours had to be made after leaving Hope Bay for Signy Island to avoid heavy consolidated pack. She was again beset on the 3rd April for 18 hours off Bridgeman Island. The ship returned to Port Stanley on the 24th April.

During the voyage over a week was spent at the Argentine Islands laying the foundations for the new Base Hut. The main building at Admiralty Bay was in such a state of disrepair that part of it had to be pulled down and re-erected on new foundations.

This voyage, first delayed by the mishap at Darwin and then by difficult ice conditions, was the last of the season and the vessel sailed for the United Kingdom on the 11th May and arrived at Southampton on the 11th June.

On her return it became known that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to approve the redesignation of the Survey Vessel as Royal Research Ship. The R.R.S. "John Biscoe" was also invited to take part in the Coronation Royal Naval Review and work on painting the hull started almost immediately. She was ready just in time and took up her position next to the Canadian Ice Breaker Dibernville; a fitting climax to a trying but successful season.

The annual refit and loading was completed by the 1st October when she left Southampton for the 1953/54 annual relief of Bases. The R.R.S. "John Biscoe" left on her first southern voyage on the 9th November and relieved all Bases except the Argentine Islands. Light pack ice was encountered on the way to Admiralty Bay within a radius of 20 miles of North Foreland and Cape Melville and heavy pack on the way to Deception Island from Castle Rock to within one mile of the Bellows. Port Foster was still fast ice and Whalers Bay about three tenths pack ice. The Base Mechanic Arthur Farrant died on the 17th November, the eve of the vessel's arrival at Deception Island, and was buried on the 22nd November. The inquest and burial service were conducted by Captain Johnston.

Because of ice conditions H.M.S. Nereide was unable to reach Deception Island to land a contingent of Royal Marines; consequently the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" had to rendezvous with her off Cape Melville to transfer the men and their baggage for onward transport to Deception Island via Admiralty Bay. The Marines were landed early on the 30th November before the vessel sailed for Port Lockroy where she arrived late the same evening. Light pack ice and brash was encountered on the passage.

All stores were discharged by the 2nd December and the vessel left for Hope Bay. This Base was relieved and a survey and geological party together with their dogs and equipment transported across to Joinville Island. The "John Biscoe" finally sailed for Signy Island on the 7th December.

Numerous large grounded icebergs were seen between Hope and Bransfield Islands and along the northern coast of D'Urville Island. Many areas of pack ice were avoided on passage towards Signy by detours to the northward. Signy Island was reached on the 9th and cleared by the 11th December when course was set for South Georgia where on arrival bunker fuel, fresh water and gas oil in drums were loaded.

The vessel cleared South Georgia on the 15th December and was instructed to set course for Dundee Island, to investigate an Argentine Base there. The passage was made in foul weather conditions and course had to be altered continuously northwards to avoid pack ice. Active Sound was found to be completely covered with thick fast ice but a party was landed on the

North-west extremity of Dundee Island and walked some two to three miles to the Argentine Base, which was found to be occupied by three men. A written protest was handed to the leader but he nervously refused this saying his was only a sub-Base and the Commander was stationed at Hope Bay. The British party then returned to the R.R.S. "John Biscoe"; the vessel called at Hope Bay for mail and sailed to Stanley arriving on the 23rd December.

6. METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

See Annual Report for 1953 which follows under separate cover.

7. HEADQUARTERS AND REAR BASE:

F.K. Elliott	Secretary
J.R. Green	Assistant Secretary (Stores Section)
Miss R.M. Gurd	Chief Clerk (Personal Assistant to Governor)
Miss P.M. Northwood	General Clerk
Miss C. Rowlands	Stores Clerk
J.B. Browning	Storekeeper
Mrs. F. Roberts	Office Assistant (Rear Base)

Staff Housing

The Secretary's house was completed and occupied from the 6th December, 1953. Another house was purchased towards the end of the year which has been extensively modernised and repaired and will soon be occupied by the Senior Meteorological Assistant. A prefabricated bungalow purchased in the United Kingdom, arrived by F.I.C. Charter Vessel in December and is being erected for the Assistant Secretary.

Recruitment

The new salary scales, by which the Duty Allowance was consolidated in the salary, look more attractive and were introduced in time for the 1953 recruiting season. More applicants resulted especially for General Assistant, Meteorological Observer, Diesel Electric Mechanic and Wireless Operator Mechanic vacancies. Choice of applicants had been very restricted for the previous two or three years but this increase in the number of applicants has resulted in a marked improvement in the type of persons selected.

Polar Medals

Some forty-five F.I.D.S. and ex F.I.D.S. personnel attended Investitures at Buckingham Palace during October and received the Polar Medal from Her Majesty the Queen.

8. HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY

The practice of carrying a Royal Naval Survey Unit on the R.R.S. "John Biscoe" was discontinued at the end of the 1951/52 season. However the Master and Officers of the vessel continued to make observations and sights in the Dependencies as opportunity offered and much of the information required by the Hydrographer (your Savingram No.2 Colony of the 8th January, 1953, refers) was collected during the 1952/53 and 1953/54 seasons.

9. SCIENTIFIC BUREAU

As from the 1st April, 1953 the Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau became an integral part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

General

The Bureau provided information on request to a number of individuals and government departments including the Foreign Office, N.I.O., Admiralty and the Ministry of Defence.

B. Stonehouse and his assistant N. Bonner worked at the Bureau planning their expedition to South Georgia from the 1st July until their departure. The Emperor Penguin and chick brought from Marguerite Bay by Stonehouse in 1949 and later set up for exhibition at the Festival of Britain was presented to the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Examples of F.I.D.S. field survey sheets and various pieces of equipment were lent to the Scientific Museum from April to the 17th January, 1954 for showing at the Exhibition of Navigation.

Dr. R.V. Hesketh, recruited by Rear Base as Scientific Officer for the geophysical programme at the Argentine Islands, was attached to the Bureau from the 16th November. Dr. Fuchs is to arrange for Hesketh to attend various Departments and Institutions for instructions on the maintenance and operation of the various equipments. R.J.F. Taylor was attached to the Bureau from July until his departure for the Dependencies in October, preparing for his studies on dog haulage, nutrition and physiology. He visited various firms and organisations in connexion with the design and manufacture of a special winch for control testing of frictional resistance values for different sledge runner materials over the various snow and ice surfaces met in the Antarctic.

Retained Personnel and their work

Dr. W.J.L. Sladen continued his studies of the Adelie penguin through 1953 working under Dr. Lack at Oxford. Sladen's film, "The Life History of the Adelie Penguin" was shown to the Zoological Society of London and at the International Film Festival and was very well received. He has designed an improved type of ring for use on the Giant Skua and penguins and, working in conjunction with Dr. Fuchs and Secretary, F.I.D.S., has produced a bird ringing scheme suitable for application in the Dependencies.

R.M. Laws completed his service with the Survey at the end of September and his work has since been published in four separate F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports entitled "The Elephant Seal". He was granted a Cambridge Ph.D. for his work. A large collection of Elephant Seal skulls collected by Laws were presented to the British Museum; Miss King of the Zoological Department is to write a paper on the morphology of these skulls.

R.J. Adie also finished his work with the Survey at the end of September and his work is to be published in six separate F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports entitled "The Petrology of Grahamland". He was also granted a Cambridge Ph.D. for this work.

R. Stoneley returned to the United Kingdom from the Dependencies in early 1953 and was retained by the Bureau until the 7th October to complete a detailed report on his geological work. In the course of his laboratory work he discovered a number of foraminifera in the sediments from West James Ross Island. These were submitted to a specialist as they may provide additional evidence regarding the age of the sediments.

A. Mansfield was retained during 1953 for work on the Weddell Seal and to write a paper on South Georgia meteorology.

Other Scientific Work and Specimens

Professor Tilley of the Department of Minerology and Petrology agreed to his staff making 150 rock slides from the materials collected from King George Island; Dr. W. Campbell is to study them and the British Museum (Natural History) to make the analysis.

The United Kingdom Government Chemist undertook to examine 14 water samples derived from surface snow and snow taken from 12 inches below the surface at Hope Bay.

Some 7,000 geological specimens were tested with a geiger counter without any significant result.

A small specimen of an apparently very rich copper ore collected in 1916 from below Copper Peak on Wiencke Island is to be assayed.

Typical collections of rocks from Hope Bay and Marguerite Bay areas were deposited in the Department of Minerology and Petrology at Cambridge together with detailed information about them. Over 700 rock slides from the same source were also incorporated into the Department's collection.

Publications

The following F.I.D.S. Scientific Reports were published during the year:-

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Organisation and Methods | V.E. Fuchs, M.A.,
Ph.D. |
| 2. A new Method of Age Determination
in Mammals with Special Reference
to the Elephant Seal | R.M. Laws, M.A. |
| 3. The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod
Fauna of Grahamland | L.F. Spath, D.Sc.,
F.R.S. |
| 4. Lower Cretaceous Gastropoda,
Lamellibranchia and Annelida
from Alexander I Land | L.R. Cox, M.A.,
Sc.D., F.R.S. |
| 5. Fossil Penguins from the
Mid-Tertiary of Seymour Island | B.J. Marples, M.A.
M.Sc. |
| 6. The Emperor Penguin
I. Breeding, Behaviour and
Development | Bernard Stonehouse |
| 7. The Geology of South Georgia I | A.F. Trendall,
B.Sc., Ph.D. |

8. The Elephant Seal
I. Growth and Age R.M. Laws, M.A.
9. New Evidence of Sea-Level
Changes in the Falkland Islands R.J. Adie, B.Sc.,
Ph.D.
10. The Emperor Penguin
II. Embryology T.W. Glenister,
M.B., B.S.

The number of copies sold up to the end of December was between 70 and 80 copies of each report.

A number of articles written by F.I.D.S. and ex F.I.D.S. personnel were published in various journals including the "Polar Record" and "Nature".

Lectures

Lectures were given in various parts of the British Isles as follows:-

<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Lectures</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sladen	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	3	Oxford
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	4	London area
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	1	Birmingham
	Adelie Penguins and Geographical	1	Wellington
	Zoological	1	London
	Geographical	1	Oxford
	Ornithological	2	Belfast
	"	1	London
	"	1	Oxford
Scadding	Geographical	1	Isle of Wight
Adie	"	1	Cambridge
	Geological	1	Cambridge
Stonehouse	Geographical	5	London
Andrew	"	2	London
Spivey	"	25	Birmingham district
	"	12	Walsall, Staffs
	"	127	London area
	"	13	Nottingham

<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Lectures</u>	<u>Place</u>
Spivey	Geographical	15	Woking area
	"	14	Carshalton, Surrey
Fuchs	"	1	Cambridge
	"	1	London
Unwin	"	8	South West England

10. LAND SURVEY

The two surveyors recruited for service at Hope Bay during 1954 and 1955 were sent on a short course of instruction under Mr. Stephenson (ex British Grahamland Expedition) at the Imperial College Summer School at Sellwood before being posted South. They were given training on making an astronomical fix and instruction in survey field methods used in polar regions. They also visited the Scientific Bureau and read the surveyors' reports relevant to Hope Bay area. Maps and information on this area were obtained for them from the Directorate of Colonial Surveys and copies of the relative trigonometrical scheme for Deception Island obtained from the Hydrographic Office.

K. Gooden (ex F.I.D.S.) was employed by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys for eight weeks in sorting out survey data from D. Mason's (ex F.I.D.S.) 1947 survey notes, also setting out the information so that it can be used by the Americans in connexion with Ronne's air photographic material. This was done in order to honour the agreement signed between Ronne and Pierce-Butler (ex F.I.D.S.) in 1947. The information now provided on the map sheets and in the notes was in response to a direct statement from the Americans of their needs. It is hoped that the provision of this information may induce them to provide us with a set of their air photographs which would be extremely useful to the Directorate of Colonial Surveys and for other purposes.

On the 26th November Dr. Fuchs attended a meeting at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys at which all available Dependencies cartographical material was examined and its value assessed. Decisions on the map production programme were taken. In the first place the Directorate of Colonial Surveys will complete the compilation of the whole 1/200,000 series and the production of new 1/500,000 sheets for the Marguerite Bay - Alexander Land area.

Dr. Fuchs provided new names, descriptions of features etc., to Dr. Roberts, Secretary of the Place Names Committee and together they worked through some hundreds of names, to which the Americans had agreed, for presentation to the Committee.

11. HUSKY DOGS

A comprehensive set of instructions on the care and maintenance of sledge dogs was added to Operational Instructions at the beginning of 1953.

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Towards the end of 1952, Dr. Fuchs was asked to approach various bodies in the United Kingdom with a view to designing a dog record card system for use in the Dependencies. Suitable cards were printed and supplied to the Bases during the 1952/53 season together with instructions and the necessary steel number and letter stamps and blank brass collar tags. The scheme is now well established and is working smoothly.

Breeding results improved considerably during 1953 and the total strength of huskies held is now in the region of 90 animals.

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South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C.2

26th October, 1954.

With the Compliments
DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
of the 24. 1954
Political Secretary
RECORDED

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The attached report for the period 26th August -
21st September 1954 has been received from the Governor
of the Falkland Islands and is circulated for the
information of members of the Committee.

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(Signed) H. Smedley
for Basil Greenhill

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Secretary
Polar Committee

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Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street,

25th October, 1954.

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area.

A party of four, Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standring left
Base on the 2nd September to carry the Cape Longing Depot further
south. They were laid up for three days at Beak Island by heavy
snowfalls and four days at View Point by gales. They then
reprovisioned and were reported to be 38 miles south of Cape
Longing on the 18th September but still experiencing many days of
high winds although snow surfaces were good.

Powell and Lewis were at Duse Bay between the 10th and 16th
September hunting seals.

Local survey work continued on the few fine days as well as
a number of short dog training runs to Summit Pass to depot stores

Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The weather remained cold but settled and the sea ice firm
until the end of August. This was followed by a series of fresh

/north-easterly

Restricted

P(54)22 33.

Previous Reference: P(54)28

Polar Committee

Falkland Islands Dependencios Survey

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(Signed) H. Smedley

for Basil Greenhill

Secretary
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street,

25th October, 1954.

A party of four, Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standing left Base on the 2nd September to carry the Cape Longing Depot further south. They were laid up for three days at Bank Island by heavy snowfalls and four days at View Point by gales. They then reprovisioned and were reported to be 38 miles south of Cape Longing on the 18th September but still experiencing many days of high winds although snow surfaces were good.

Powell and Lewis were at Duse Bay between the 10th and 16th September hunting seals.

Local survey work continued on the few fine days as well as a number of short dog training runs to Summit Pass to depot stores.

Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The weather remained cold but settled and the sea ice firm until the end of August. This was followed by a series of fresh

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FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Report for the period 26th August - 21st September, 1954

Base 'A', Port Lockroy

The weather was mainly overcast with alternate north-easterly and south-westerly gales giving temperature variations between freezing point and 0° Fahrenheit. The pack ice in the Channels varied with the winds from open water to nine-tenths cover. All the fast ice in the Bay was dispersed except for a small area to the north and east of the Island.

Outside activities were limited because of the inclement weather but a number of indoor jobs were completed including engine overhauls and repainting the kitchen. All equipment including the ionospheric recorder was reported to be functioning satisfactorily.

Base 'B', Deception Island

The weather continued mostly cold and unpleasant until mid-September when there was some improvement. The fast ice around the Island broke up during the first week in September and the patches of open water in Whaler's Bay gradually increased in size. A wide stretch of open water was reported stretching to the north running east/west to the limit of visibility. The pack ice to the south and round Livingstone Island is reported to be gradually thinning out.

A number of jobs were completed in and around the Base Hut and several ski trips made for ice observations.

Base 'D', Hope Bay

Heavy snowfalls, gales and drifts prevailed over most of the period with some slight improvement towards the end. Most of the Bay remained covered with fast ice in spite of the numerous gales and high temperatures. Antarctic Sound was reported nine-tenths close pack.

Precious and Kenney returned to Base on the 25th August having completed a survey reconnaissance of the Duse Bay area. They visited View Point and caught three seals there.

A party of four, Turner, Taylor, Leppard and Standring left Base on the 2nd September to carry the Cape Longing Depot further south. They were laid up for three days at Beak Island by heavy snowfalls and four days at View Point by gales. They then reprovisioned and were reported to be 38 miles south of Cape Longing on the 18th September but still experiencing many days of high winds although snow surfaces were good.

Powell and Lewis were at Duse Bay between the 10th and 16th September hunting seals.

Local survey work continued on the few fine days as well as a number of short dog training runs to Summit Pass to depot stores.

Base 'F', Argentine Islands

The weather remained cold but settled and the sea ice firm until the end of August. This was followed by a series of fresh

/north-easterly

north-easterly winds and temperatures just above freezing which produced numerous melt pools on the sea-ice and made several areas unsafe for travel. A number of open water leads appeared to the north of the Lemaire Channel.

The first Weddell pups were seen on the 13th September at Shelter and Three Little Pigs Islands.

Daily Radio Sonde ascents were maintained.

Base 'G', Admiralty Bay

Unpleasant weather prevailed over most of the period with rain, snow or drift on all days but three. The ice in Bransfield Strait was dispersed by the strong northerly winds leaving isolated icebergs only but the Bay ice remained level and fast.

The Hut was reported to be badly drifted over and much time was spent digging out windows and doors and a snow tunnel from the back door. Personnel completed a number of jobs indoors including making drawers and tool racks for the engine shed and painting the workshop.

Approximately a hundred Crabeater Seals in the rough proportion of two males to one female were observed on the 9th September on ice hummocks between Le Poing and the entrance to the Bay and in Ezeurra Inlet. A few pairs of Weddell Seals were seen on the sea ice but none with pups. Four seals were killed and sledged back to the Base for food.

Base 'H', Signy Island

The weather remained reasonably good over most of the period.

The work on Weddell seals commenced towards the end of August and some fifty seals were marked and eighteen pup skins collected for treatment.

South Georgia

The Administrative Officer reported that meteorological routines were unchanged and that the office had been re-decorated.

Stenshouse reported satisfactory progress with his biological work and that he has started the new season's work on Skua Gulls and Gentoo Penguins and a detailed inland survey from Rainbow Bay. The first Elephant Seal bull hauled out mid-September.

All Bases

Reported satisfactory accomplishment of wireless and meteorological schedules. Personnel are all well.

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Previous reference: P(54)29

POLAR COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. M. BECHERVAISE AS
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH
STATION AT MAWSON

... The attached copy of a statement issued by the Australian Department of External Affairs on 30th August is circulated for the information of members of the Committee.

(Signed) H. Smedley

for Basil Greenhill
Secretary
Polar Committee

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street.

17 September, 1954.

into the interior of the island and reached an altitude of 5,500 feet, the highest point yet attained, but after 18 days was forced down by a protracted blizzard.

Since his return to Australia from Heard Island, Mr. Bechervaise has been engaged in planning and preparatory work with the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs.

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DEPARTMENTAL OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA.

PR 68.

August 30, 1954.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

New Leader for Mawson

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, announced tonight that Mr. John Maystone Bechervaise, aged 44, of Geelong, has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition base at Mawson, on the Antarctic mainland.

He will leave with the relief expedition in late December and will take over the base from Mr. Robert Dovers.

Mr. Bechervaise led the mountaineering expedition which made the first ascent of Federation Peak, in Tasmania, in 1949. He has also taken exploring parties to Rodondo Island in Bass Strait, to Central Australia, and to the Recherche Archipelago, in Western Australia. As writer and photographer for the Australian Geographical Society, he has travelled extensively in the remoter parts of Australia, the Pacific Islands and in New Zealand.

As an educationist, Mr. Bechervaise was invited by the Rev. F. W. Rowland to be the first Warden of the House of Guilds at Geelong College. The House of Guilds soon passed its experimental stages and is still an integral part of the college. For nearly ten years Mr. Bechervaise was absent in Europe studying at the University of London and teaching at St. George's, Harpenden.

During 1953 Mr. Bechervaise was officer-in-charge at Heard Island base. While there he led an attempt to climb Big Ben, the island's unscaled mountain. The party penetrated into the interior of the island and reached an altitude of 5,500 feet, the highest point yet attained, but after 18 days was forced down by a protracted blizzard.

Since his return to Australia from Heard Island, Mr. Bechervaise has been engaged in planning and preparatory work with the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs.
