

mental Antarctica should be treated separately from those arising in the surrounding islands and Dependencies.

7. A recent map of the whole region indicating the areas claimed by the different powers (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States) is attached as Appendix I.†

8. As early as 1946 the United Kingdom Government realized that it would become necessary to take more positive steps to assert rights of sovereignty in Antarctic areas. In November of that year the United Kingdom expressed to Australia and New Zealand the "earnest hope" that those countries would review their policy with a view to the establishment of permanent bases in the Antarctic. It was pointed out that the Foreign Office Legal Adviser had stated that the necessity of continuity of effective possession and administration was emerging as a new requirement of international law, and that in the future, claims would probably not be upheld on the grounds of discovery, annexation or the application of the "sector principle". (At this point it is of interest to note that on recent maps Argentina has applied the "sector principle" to justify claims of Antarctic territory right up to the South Pole on the basis of claims to the Falkland Islands, the F.I.D. and Graham Land).

9. In the Autumn of 1947 the United Kingdom, anticipating the subsequent Argentine and Chilean activities in the Antarctic, initiated exchanges of views with other Commonwealth countries and expressed willingness to refer the question of Antarctic sovereignties to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for a decision. Australia and New Zealand concurred and Canada also stated "We have no objection to the course of action proposed."

10. The United Kingdom included the offer of recourse to The Hague Court in notes of protest delivered to Argentina and Chile on December 17, 1947. These notes were rejected and the presence of the cruiser "Nigeria" did not serve to discourage the provocative actions of the two countries.

11. The Argentine and Chilean refusal to submit the dispute to The Hague Court probably stems from their realization of the weakness of the legal basis of their claims. Because of this, they are in favour of a solution being reached through the medium of an international conference.

12. The recent establishment by Argentina of a new Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deal with Antarctic and Falkland Islands questions emphasizes the serious nature of the approach to the dispute taken by that country. A further development along these lines was the announcement a short time ago of a Treaty to be signed in the near future between Argentina and Chile to define their respective territories in the Antarctic, and to establish joint action in furthering the interests of the two countries in the area.

III. *Developments in 1948*

13. In March 1948, following the rejection by Argentina and Chile of the United Kingdom protests, members of the United Kingdom Embassy in Washington had discussions with officials of the United States State Department, and at the same