**THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE**

NEW COUNTRY—Since December, 1956, Indonesia, which gained independence from the Netherlands in 1949, has experienced a series of bloodless coups which have established semi-independent administrations in many of the republic’s outlying islands.

As a result of this crisis, the government of Prime Minister Sjastramadjoeno resigned in March and President Sukarno proclaimed a state of war and siege.

Since that time the President has been attempting to establish a new form of government. His plan provides for a cabinet, representing all parties, including the Communists, and a National Council which would advise the cabinet.

However, the new cabinet of experts does not represent all parties, and the Council, established in June to represent such groups as workers, peasants, intellectuals, religious groups, youth, women, police and the armed forces, is composed largely of the President’s supporters.

REFORM—In 1956 an all-party parliamentary committee was set up in Australia to review the Constitution. There are six Governor members and six Opposition members of the committee under the chairmanship of the Attorney-General. The committee has met in several state capitals and expects to complete its work this year. The chairman said earlier this year that a referendum as required by the Constitution would be taken in 1958 for a thorough revision of the Constitution. Among matters discussed before the committee have been inter-state trade, jurisdiction in labour disputes, the creation of new states, and fisheries and territorial waters. The present Constitution went into effect on January 1, 1901.

NEW CAPITAL—Early in 1957 the State of Gains sold an area of about 600 square miles for the new capital of Brazil. The new city will be called Brasilia.

The area sold represents about one-quarter of the area to be acquired eventually for the capital and its surrounding federal district.

Dr. Kubitschek, the President of Brazil, said that the new airport at Brasilia would be opened in a few weeks and the new presidential palace would be inaugurated early in 1958.

HIGHEST LAKE—In February, 1957, Peru and Bolivia signed an agreement on a project to harness the waters of Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest lake.

Besides provisions for a survey of hydroelectric and irrigation possibilities, the agreement provided for a road connecting La Paz, capital of Bolivia, and Desaguadero in Peru and for the construction of pipelines to connect Bolivian oil fields with Peruvian ports.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY—Fifty years ago, on September 26, 1907, the Dominion of New Zealand was created by an Act of Parliament at Westminster.

This was 40 years after the passage of the British North America Act, since that time New Zealand’s part in the history of imperial and Commonwealth relations has closely paralleled that of Canada.

Today, like Canada, New Zealand has the status of a sovereign and independent nation within the Commonwealth.

A new Governor General was appointed for New Zealand on January 2, 1957. He is Lord Cobham (formerly the Hon. Charles Lyttelton).

Lord Cobham’s grandfather played an important part in founding Canterbury Province and the port of Lyttelton was named after him.

The position of Governor General in New Zealand corresponds to that held by the Hon. Vincent Massey in Canada.

KING’S AFRICAN RIFLES—The East African forces, comprising six battalions of the King’s African Rifles, were handed back to the East African Government on July 1, 1957.

Control of these forces had been vested in the British War Office since 1939. The Commander-in-Chief is now responsible to the Governor of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Mauritius and the Seychelles and to the British Resident in Zanzibar.

Four of the battalions are stationed in Kenya, one in Uganda and one in Tanganyika, with a company in Mauritius. The existence of a GHQ with a Commander-in-Chief ensures that the forces will continue to be interterritorial.

TRANSFER—In April, 1957, the British naval base at Simonstown in the Union of South Africa was transferred to the South African Navy. The base had been under the Royal Navy for 143 years.

The South African Navy recently acquired the Fraymant, a British wartime destroyer afterwards converted into a fast anti-submarine frigate.

The Navy now has 16 modern warships and by 1963 is expected to have 35. These ships will have command of five million square miles of water around the South African coast in times of peace.

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION—Four Commonwealth countries are jointly sponsoring a cost of about a million dollars a 2,000-mile Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The Commonwealth countries are the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa.

The expedition will leave Hobart Bay on the Weddell Sea early in November, 1957. It is expected to arrive at McMurdo Sound on the Ross Sea in February, 1958. Dr. William Fuchs is the leader of the expedition and Sir Edmund Hillary is the leader of the New Zealand party.

Preparations have been under way since November, 1955, and the main party arrived in the Weddell Sea in January, 1957.

Besides participating in this expedition, which will cooperate with the International Geophysical Year, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are among the twelve countries contributing through other expeditions to Antarctica in IGY activities.

Two other nations will have comparable expeditions in the Antarctic, the United States of America and the USSR.

The purposes of all this activity in the Antarctic are to find clues to conditions that caused the ice ages to find out what caused their gradual recession; to arrive at estimates on the melting rate of the ice age; and to discover the character of the land that lies under the ice cap.

The total area being investigated is about six million square miles.