

A. UNITED KINGDOM. — Civil Aviation. - Results of Air Corporations, April-September 1948. - Direct Purchase of Aircraft from Manufacturers. - Sir Miles Thomas appointed Chairman of B.O.A.C. - Mr. Booth becomes Managing Director of B.S.A.A.

Provisional operating results of the three British State-owned air corporations for the 6 months April-September 1948, published by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Dec. 20, showed a combined deficit of £3,991,000, representing an average loss of £8 12s. per passenger, compared with a total deficit of £4,690,000, or £11 14s. per passenger, in April-September 1947.

Operating revenue totalled £11,822,000 (£9,383,000 in April-Sept., 1947) and operating expenditure £15,442,000 (£13,656,000), resulting in a loss on operations alone of £3,620,000 (£4,273,000). The volume of operations, however, increased from 48,000,000 capacity ton-miles flown in April-September 1947 to 68,300,000 (42 per cent), whilst costs fell from 68.28d. per capacity ton-mile to 54.22d. (21 per cent) and the total deficit per capacity ton-mile flown from 23.5d. to 14d. (38 per cent). The results of the individual Corporations are summarized below, with corresponding figures for April-September 1947 in parentheses, except that in the case of B.S.A.A., where exact figures of revenue and expenditure are not available for that period, the figures given are 50 per cent of the full year's total; only operating statistics are for the actual 6 months' period.

British Overseas Airways: Operating revenue £7,544,000 (£6,037,000); operating expenditure £9,898,000 (£8,827,000); operating deficit £2,354,000 (£2,790,000); non-operating expenditure £330,000 (£374,000); total deficit £2,684,000 (£3,164,000). Operating expenditure per capacity ton-mile flown 53.25d. (70.34d.); capacity ton-miles flown 44,600,000 (30,100,000); revenue load ton-miles flown 28,100,000 (£1,400,000); overall load factor 63.0 per cent (71.2). Number of employees 20,869 (23,088).

British European Airways: Operating revenue, Continental £2,181,000 (£1,570,000), Internal £979,000 (£733,000); operating expenditure, Continental £2,324,000 (£2,011,000), Internal £1,707,000 (£1,579,000); operating deficit, Continental £143,000 (£441,000), Internal £720,000 (£846,000); non-operating expenditure £26,000 (£28,000); total deficit (exclusive of provision for losses on subsidiary and associated companies) £897,000 (£1,315,000). Operating expenditure per capacity ton-mile, Continental 57.41d. (75.12d.), Internal 69.33d. (80.53d.); capacity ton-miles flown, Continental 9,700,000 (6,400,000), Internal 5,900,000 (4,700,000); revenue load ton-miles flown, Continental 6,500,000 (4,300,000), Internal 3,300,000 (2,700,000); overall load factor, Continental 66.6 per cent (66.2), Internal 56.1 per cent (56.6). Average number of employees 7,385 (7,315).

British South American Airways: Operating revenue £1,118,000 (£1,043,000); operating expenditure £1,513,000 (£1,239,000); operating deficit £395,000 (£196,000); non-operating expenditure £15,000 (£15,000); total deficit £410,000 (£211,000). Operating expenditure per capacity ton-mile flown 44.77d. (44.07d.); capacity ton-miles flown 8,100,000 (6,700,000); revenue load ton-miles flown 4,500,000 (4,100,000); overall load factor 55.9 (61.2). Average number of employees 1,695 (1,150).

A statement from 10, Downing Street, on Jan. 10 announced that the Government had decided to alter the procedure for ordering aircraft for the State-owned air Corporations, and that the latter would in future be allowed to order planes direct from manufacturers instead of through the Ministry of Supply, which had hitherto acted as agents either for the Ministry of Civil Aviation or for the Corporations. In view, however, of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Supply for aircraft development, which was largely financed from public funds, development work would remain under the general control of that Ministry, machinery having been set up for agreeing upon the stage in the development of an aircraft at which the Corporations may themselves place a production contract; "every endeavour", it was stated, was being made "to ensure the closest collaboration in development work between the Corporations, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Supply, and the aircraft manufacturers." The Government's decision, which was welcomed by spokesmen of B.O.A.C., B.E.A.C., and B.S.A.A., followed recommendations made by a small group of businessmen, the appointment of which had been announced by Lord Nathan (then Minister of Civil Aviation) in the House of Lords on Jan. 1, 1948, and which comprised Mr. J. Hanbury-Williams (chairman of Courtauld's and a governor of the Bank of England), Sir Rowland Smith (managing director of the Ford Motor Co), and Mr. G. Wansbrough (a director of A. Reyrolle & Co., Ltd., and a governor of the Bank of England).

The Ministry of Civil Aviation announced on Jan. 17 that Sir Harold Hartley (70) would resign from the chairmanship of B.O.A.C. as from the expiration of his term of office on June 30 next, and that Sir Miles Thomas, deputy chairman of the Corporation, would succeed him as chairman, being himself

succeeded as deputy chairman by Mr. Whitney Straight, who would continue to be the Corporation's chief executive.

Sir Miles Thomas (51), formerly vice-chairman and managing director of Morris Motors and its subsidiary companies, became deputy chairman of B.O.A.C. in 1948. He will remain a director of the Colonial Development Corporation, and also retain the chairmanship of the Southern Rhodesian Government's Development Co-ordinating Commission. In a press statement on Jan. 17, Sir Miles (who left the same day on a tour of Africa) stated that as a result of the reorganization of B.O.A.C., which would be continued during his absence, the pattern of administrative control had taken shape and precise terms of reference for the duties of each of the Corporation's executives had been formulated, thus avoiding overlapping of responsibilities; that there was to be a 20 per cent reduction in the overhead expenses of the main office sections of the Corporation; that the dollar payroll staff of B.O.A.C. was being reduced from 1,000 to less than 600 by March; and that there would likewise be a reduction by 1,000 of local staff in the Far East and Middle East.

On Jan. 7 it had been announced that the position of Chief Executive of B.S.A.A., which had been vacant since the death of Air-Commodore H. G. Brackley (drowned on Nov. 15, 1948, whilst bathing at Rio de Janeiro during a tour of the Corporation's South American stations), would be combined with that of chairman, and that Mr. J. W. Booth, the Corporation's chairman, had accordingly been appointed managing director as from Jan. 1.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Manchester Guardian - Financial Times) (Prev. rep. Airline Results, 9670 A; Corporations' Boards, 9544 G; 9202 C; Aircraft Purchase 9419 A; 9099 A)

B. RUMANIA - UNITED STATES. — Mutual Recall of Diplomatic Officials.

The U.S. State Dept. announced on Dec. 11 that Mme. Anna Pauker the Rumanian Foreign Minister had in a Note on Dec. 7, requested the immediate recall of Colonel John R. Lovell, the U.S. Military Attaché in Bucharest, and Mr. Henry P. Leverich, a Counsellor at the U.S. Legation, "in view of facts revealed during the trial of a group of plotters, spies, and saboteurs which took place from Oct. 27 to Nov. 2." It was also announced in Washington that the U.S. Minister in Bucharest had replied on Dec. 10 that "while, in conformity with usual international practice, the American Government is acceding to this request and arranging for the early departure from Rumania of these two officers, it rejects as ridiculous and entirely contrary to facts the grounds on which the Rumanian Government presumes to base its request for their recall," and that the State Dept. had at the same time asked the Rumanian Government to recall as soon as possible M. Preoteasa, Minister-Counsellor, and M. Alex Lazareanu, Counsellor at the Rumanian Legation in Washington.

A Bucharest announcement of Jan. 7 stated that whilst the two Rumanian diplomats had meanwhile left the U.S.A., the Rumanian Government had protested against the State Dept.'s request for their recall, and alleged that Colonel Lovell and Mr. Leverich had "made use of their position as diplomats to interfere in the internal affairs of Rumania" by employing Rumanian citizens "for the purpose of creating espionage and sabotage groups."—(New York Times - New York Herald Tribune - Rumanian Legation, London)

C. ANTARCTICA. — Anglo-Argentine-Chilean Agreement on Movement of Warships.

The Foreign Office in London announced on Jan. 18 that "being anxious to avoid any misunderstanding in Antarctica which might affect the friendly relations between the United Kingdom, Argentina, and Chile," the three Governments had agreed that, in present circumstances, there was no need to send warships south of latitude 60 deg. during the 1948-49 Antarctic season, except for routine movements such as had been customary for a number of years. A Buenos Aires statement of the same date said that the agreement was the result of conversations initiated in London by Dr. Bramuglia, with President Peron's authorization, to avoid naval demonstrations.

All continental Antarctica, and the greater part of the Falkland Dependencies, lie south of latitude 60 deg., but not, however, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. (Times - Manchester Guardian - South American Journal) (Prev. rep. 9358 C; 9133 A; Dr. Bramuglia, London Visit, 9613 C)

D. UNITED NATIONS. — Genocide Convention.

In addition to the 16 nations mentioned in 9699 A, another four—Egypt, Haiti, Liberia, and Uruguay—signed the convention for the prevention of genocide on Dec. 11, making a total of 20. Under the convention, ratification by 20 countries is required to bring it into force.—(New York Times) (Prev. rep. 9699 A)

A. KASHMIR. — Plebiscite under U. India and Kashmir. — on Cease-Fire Agreement.

Details of the proposed plebiscite in Kashmir Commission and accepted released simultaneously Success on Jan. 6. The adopted by the U.N. Co

(1) The question of the will be decided through the plebiscite.

(2) The plebiscite will be in consultation with the Indian and State armed for to the security of the Sta

(3) (a) The U.N. Secret Commission, nominate a personality of high international confidence. He will be formation of Kashmir.

(b) The Plebiscite Administration the powers he conducting the plebiscite and the plebiscite.

(c) The Plebiscite Administration such assistants and observ

(4) (a) After the implementation's resolution of August satisfied that peaceful con the Commission and the in consultation with the G Indian and State armed for to the security of the Sta

(b) As regards the territory of Aug. 13, 1948, the final dis will be determined by the trator in consultation with t

(5) All civil and military principal political elements o with the Plebiscite Administr holding of the plebiscite.

(6) (a) All citizens of the s disturbances will be free to citizens. For the purpose of appointed two Commissions and the other of nominees operate under the direction Governments of India and P of Kashmir, will collaborat putting this provision into e

(6) All persons (other than 1947, have entered it for other to leave the State.

(7) All authorities in Kashmir with the Plebiscite Administration coercion, intimidation, bribery voters in the plebiscite; legitimate political activity of the State regardless of expressing their views and and that there shall be free travel in the State, includ

(c) that all political prisoners shall be accorded adequate no victimization.

(8) The Plebiscite Administration mission problems on which I mission may at its discretion to carry out on its behalf a has been entrusted.

(9) At the conclusion of the shall report the result to the of Kashmir. The Commission Council whether the plebiscite

(10) Upon the signature of the foregoing proposals will in Part 3 of the Commission The Plebiscite Administration consultations."

The cease-fire in Kashmir Jan. 1 and had been s Indian and Pakistan for Pakistan military conferen the Indian Army was

(C.-in-C.), Lt.-Gen. Srina and Maj.-Gen. Kalwant the Pakistan Army by G and Brigadier Sher Khan The conference, officially atmosphere of 'give and order of Jan. 1 and ma two Governments in regar