

SECRET

Australia Station Intelligence Summary



DATE OF ISSUE.....-1 JUN 1955.....

*Naval Intelligence Division
Navy Office
Melbourne*

1. The Australia Station Intelligence Summary is "SECRET," and its recipients are responsible for the security of the information contained therein.

2. Internal circulation is to be "BY HAND" of Officer only. A Transit List is contained in the back cover.

3. When not in use the Australia Station Intelligence Summary is to be kept under lock and key.

SECRET.

C O N T E N T S.

Page.

<u>SECTION I.</u>	<u>R.A.N. and OTHER COMMONWEALTH NAVIES.</u>	
	Royal Australian Navy	1
	Royal New Zealand Navy	7
<u>SECTION II.</u>	<u>NAVAL (AND OTHER ARMED FORCES) INTELLIGENCE, INCLUDING TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.</u>	
	U.S.S.R.	8
	Japan	8
	Communist China	10
	Nationalist China	11
	Thailand	12
	India	13
	Indonesia	14
	U.S.A.	15
<u>SECTION III.</u>	<u>POLITICAL, POLITICO-MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE.</u>	
	Terminology to describe "Iron Curtain" countries.	18
	U.S.S.R.	18
	Japan	20
	Communist China	20
	North Vietnam	21
	South Vietnam	23
	India	24
	Burma	24
	Pakistan	25
	Indonesia	26

/ over

SECRET.

SECRET.

(11)

C O N T E N T S. (Contd.)

Page.

SECTION IV.

AUSTRALIA STATION INTELLIGENCE.

Depth Charge, Success Bank, Cockburn Sound.	29
Pearling Industry - Use of Aqualung Equipment.	29
Harbour Siltage and Beach Erosion	31
Iron Ore in South Australia	31
COR's O.F.I. Port Adelaide	32
Whyalla Salt Production	33
Nairne (S.A.) Pyrites	34
Port Adelaide Acid Plant	34
Construction of Floating Crane at Mort's Dock and Engineering Co.	35
Trade with U.S.S.R.	35
Dutch New Guinea	36
New Guinea	36
Portuguese Timor	37
New Hebrides	38
New Caledonia	39
Norfolk Is.	39
British Solomon Islands	40
Shipping Information	40

SECTION V.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Notes on Burma	44
Treatment by Chinese Communists of British P.O.W's in Korea	50
Russia's War on Islam.	54

SECRET.

SECRET

S E C T I O N I.

R.A.N. AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH NAVIES.

(a) Royal Australian Navy.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY.

During May SYDNEY has been in New Zealand waters, visiting Auckland, Bay of Islands, Wellington and Port Lyttelton. On 29th May she sailed for Westernport en route for Sydney, where she is due on 5th June.

H.M.A.S. VENGEANCE.

On 16th June VENGEANCE will sail from Sydney for the United Kingdom. En route she will call at Melbourne, Fremantle, Singapore, Colombo, Aden, Malta, and will arrive at Portsmouth on 5th August.

H.M.A.S. ANZAC's Visit to Noumea, New Caledonia.

ANZAC arrived at Noumea from Brisbane on 24th April, and on berthing at the Grand Quai was met by the Australian Consul, Dr. J. Cumpston. Shortly after her arrival an armed guard of two officers and 42 ratings was landed to participate in an Anzac Day service. This day had added significance in the eyes of the local French people as it was also the "Journée des Déportés", the day on which they remember those who were deported or "displaced" during the 1939-45 war. The Acting-Governor and Secretary-General of the Colony (N. Marc Biros), the British Consul (Mr. Hickson),

SECRET

the Commandant of the French Forces in the Pacific (Colonel Maurice Fray) and a detachment of the local French Commandoes also took part in the ceremony.

On the following day the Commanding Officer, accompanied by the Australian Consul, paid official calls on the local notables. The Acting-Governor, who spoke fluent English, proved to be a very pleasant personality with an easy manner, and is apparently respected on all sides. Colonel Fray, who speaks very little English, is also very popular locally and appears to wield a great deal of power. Capitaine de Fregate Georges Masson, the Commandant de la Marine, who speaks moderate English, is a very cheerful character but gave the impression of being rather ineffective and excitable. M. Laroque, the Mayor of Noumea, is a quiet but strong character.

Apparently, the local custom is to have the midday meal at about 1130, and from 12 noon until 1330 all shops close and everyone indulges in a siesta. The Commanding Officer was at a loss to understand the reason for it, especially in April when the climate is pleasant and by no means oppressive. However, it is apparently a custom which nothing will break. It was concluded that perhaps "la sieste" may be a reason for the very common make-up in families of middle-aged couples who have one or more children aged 18 to 21, and then almost invariably at least another aged one to four years.

On 25th April the Commanding Officer visited Dr. R.C. Bedell, the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, who explained the working of the Commission and the trials and tribulations of workings for six separate governments.

ANZAC's Ship's Company was treated to several trips around New Caledonia during the visit. On 27th April sixty ratings were given a very sumptuous luncheon following a tour of the southern part of the island. Some sporting fixtures were also held, but the only sports meeting at which ANZAC's Company had any measure of success was at a special race meeting held in their honour on the first afternoon of the visit.

Parties of school children visited ANZAC each morning and altogether 2,400 toured the ship. On 30th April the ship was opened to the public, but only a comparatively small number went on board. The popular pastime appeared to be for the locals to take a stroll in the moonlight and look at the ship from the quay. This seemed to satisfy their curiosity.

ANZAC's visit concluded on 1st May and the ship arrived back in Sydney, calling at Brisbane en route, on 6th May.

H.M.A.D.T. EMU - Visit to Dili, Portuguese Timor.

H.M.A. Diesel Tug EMU, with the Naval Officer-in-Charge, North West Australian Area embarked, sailed from Darwin on 13th April for a good-will visit to Dili.

Approaching the Timor mainland, EMU passed the picturesque Jaco Island, low-lying with attractive, shady trees and inviting beaches. At the beginning of the wet season, deer, congregating in great numbers, swim in the channel which separates the island from the mainland. But owing to the complete absence of water on Jaco Island they return to the mainland in the dry season. There are supposed to be many interesting fossils on this island, remote from civilization.

EMU arrived at Dili on 15th April, and the Commanding Officer called on the Governor, Senor De Rosa Serpa, who offered a cordial reception and accepted with alacrity an invitation for himself and a few of his senior officers and their wives to board EMU the following day for a trip to the island of Kamping.

The Governor's party of twelve arrived at 1030 and EMU set sail for Kamping, 14 miles from Dili. On passage a beautifully coloured dolphin, similar to the ones caught on the Kon Tiki expedition, was landed. The trip was enjoyed by all, in spite of the primitive lunch of tinned bully beef and Australian tinned salmon, accompanied by thick bread, butter and beer. Although the facilities aboard EMU were not in keeping with the normal standards of diplomatic entertainment the Governor appeared to enjoy himself immensely.

On the following day the N.O.I.C. and EMU's Company were invited for a day's excursion to the small garrison town of Maubisse, 70 miles inland from Dili. The trip was over steep, rugged

country, crossing many water-courses, rounding hairpin bends and negotiating many steep grades. The scenery was beautiful, and for miles the road passed through avenues of attractive trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Particularly attractive were the roses which lined the road. The native population appeared particularly courteous and without exception saluted or bowed to the party as it passed. There were several stops on the way at small roadside houses and Army Garrison messes. Coffee laced with Portuguese cognac was liberally dispensed and, peculiarly enough, there were no after effects.

Finally, a shallow valley was reached and in its centre was a hill on which was perched what might have been a fairy castle in a childrens' book. The approach road was lined with white-washed concrete walls, and, on reaching the summit, the party entered into a real fairy-land in the enclosed patio of the house. In this patio there were roses, dahlias, orange and lemon trees laden with fruit, peach trees in blossom and coffee trees with their masses of red berries. The greatest attraction here was the cool air, a welcome change after the humid, tropical conditions at sea level.

On 19th April the N.C.I.C., the Commanding Officer of EMU and the Australian Consul were invited to dinner at the Governor's Palace, a fine old stone building on a commanding position on the hill at the back of Dili. During this dinner the Governor expressed a wish to visit Melbourne for the Olympic Games.

the National Bulk Carriers 35,000-ton tanker, S.S. "Commonwealth", which was so named as a compliment to H.M.A.S. COMMONWEALTH. At the launching ceremony the N.O.I.C. presented the Manager of the National Bulk Carriers Ship-building Yard with a highly polished wooden casket containing the ship's crest of H.M.A.S. COMMONWEALTH.

(a) Royal New Zealand Navy.

New First Naval Member.

Rear-Admiral J.E.H. McBeath D.S.O., D.S.C. assumed the duties of First Naval Member and Chief of the New Zealand Naval Staff from Commodore Sir Charles Madden R.N. on 1st May.

After spending a most enjoyable four days at Dili, EMU sailed for Darwin on 20th April, arriving on 23rd.

Survey Ships.

WARREGO, in company with her tenders WARREEN and BROLGA, arrived off Percy Islands in the Great Barrier Reef on 26th May to commence a survey in that area. BARCOO will sail from Sydney on 6th June for Percy Islands and, on arrival, will take over the survey. WARREGO will then sail for the Gulf of Carpentaria.

H.M.A.S. SWAN.

SWAN, at present being refitted in Sydney, is being converted for use as a Cadet Training Ship. She is due to commission in October, and after a brief work-up will embark Cadets in early January, 1956.

Pearling Patrol, Darwin Area.

H.M.A. Diesel Tug EMU will be relieving FREMANTLE on the pearling patrol in the Arafura Sea on 3rd June. EMU will remain on patrol until 18th June, when SHOALHAVEN will arrive in Darwin. The Japanese pearling fleet arrived off Bathurst Island on 26th May.

H.M.A.S. COMMONWEALTH.

On 18th March the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Kure, Japan, attended the launching of

S E C T I O N II.NAVAL (AND OTHER ARMED FORCES) INTELLIGENCE,
INCLUDING TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.U.S.S.R.Soviet Floating Dock Sections En Route for Far East.

Two of the Soviet floating dock sections sighted by QUEENBOROUGH and reported in the previous issue of A.S.I.S. have now passed through Singapore en route to Petropavlovsk from Odessa.

This is the fourth floating dock towed to the Soviet Far East in the last five years. Previous tows have been undertaken in 1951, 1953 and 1954, all to Vladivostok.

...oOo...

JAPAN.Defence Budget.

The total Defence Budget for the fiscal year 1955 will be 132.7 billion Yen. (800 Yen equals £1A). This total will include 86.8 billions for Japanese Forces, 38 billions contribution to U.S. Forces and 8 billion for rental of property required by the U.S. Forces. (4 billions of this will be used to buy land for the extension of six airfields to take jet aircraft).

Increases in Japan's naval forces in 1955 are expected to be 8,200 tons of naval

shipping (from 67,000 to 75,200 tons), 33 naval aircraft (from 42 to 75). No figure is given for any personnel increase in the Navy.

Under the present 6-year programme, Japanese Naval Forces should reach the following figures by 1960:-

A Fleet of 120,700 tons.
179 aircraft (including Jets)
33,600 personnel.

Aircraft for the Maritime Self-Defence Force.

It has now been disclosed that the aircraft which Japan will receive from the United States for her Maritime Self-Defence Force will be PV-2 twin-engines anti-submarine types, four Grumman Goose and 2 Catalinas.

When these deliveries are completed (June 1955) the Order of Battle of the MSDF Air Wing will be:-

PV-2	17
TBM (Avenger)	10
Grumman Goose	4
PBY (Catalina)	2
S.51 Helicopter	3
S.55	4
H.47	2
SNJ (Harvard)	12
	<u>54</u>

All of these aircraft are piston-engined.

COMMUNIST CHINA.Cruiser ex "CHUNGKING".

An unconfirmed report claims that the name of the cruiser "C HUNGKING" has been changed to "PEI CHING" (PEKING). This is considered to be a more likely name than "HUANG HO", which was previously reported to be her name in the Chinese Communist Navy.

Possible Rocket Ship.

On 17th and 19th April four ships fitted with what appeared to be rocket rails were sighted at Woosung.

The ships were identical, and similar to a U.S. P.C. Length was estimated to be about 50 ft. shorter than a Flower Class Frigate (i.e. 150 feet). The fo'c'stle had had solid bulwarks built around it about four feet in height, and a deck may have been built across the bulwarks but this was not certain. No capstan or other deck fittings could be seen and source believes it was a protection from the rocket blast.

The four rails were mounted in pairs abreast each other. One pair was just abaft the bulwarks of the fo'c'stle, and the second pair just for'd of the bridge. Each rail was about 20 ft. long and 4 ft. wide, mounted on a tripod about 4 ft. high. A taut canvas cover was over each rail, making it impossible to see any details.

On the quarterdeck two guns of about 12-pounder size were mounted.

....00o....

NATIONALIST CHINA.

Naval Command Organisation.

Since the fall of the Tachen - Nanchi-shan Islands, the Tachen Naval Command has naturally been disbanded.

It is probable that the defence of Matsu and Quemoy Islands is now divided between a Northern and Southern Naval Command, the Matsu Group being in the Northern Command using Keelung as its main base, where Destroyer Escorts are based. Quemoy, and possibly Ockseu Island, would be in the Southern Command, using Tsoying as its main base, where the three operational destroyers are based.

Naval Expansion.

The first batch (16) of the 100 LCVP's under construction in Formosa has been accepted by the Chinese Nationalist Navy.

In addition, 6 more LCU's (LCT's) have been added to the C.N.N., probably from American sources and an LST is to be transferred to the C.N.N., perhaps as a replacement for the one sunk at the Tachen Islands in January.

It is reliably reported that two more

destroyer crews are being trained in order to take over two destroyers. Two destroyers are expected to be loaned to the C.N.N. by U.S.A.; the delivery date is probably some time at the end of this year.

Nationalist-laid Minefields.

A Nationalist press release of 6th May announced that defensive minefields have been laid in territorial waters of all Nationalist-held islands.

It is believed that the Nationalists obtained stocks of ex-Japanese contact mines of their retreat to Formosa in 1949. Practically all the Formosa Straits is mineable water and mining the waters round Matsu and Quemoy Islands and of the West Formosan coast would be a logical defensive step. Mining around Quemoy and Matsu could make it awkward for shipping entering Amoy and Foochow.

THAILAND.

Airfields.

The following is a review of the status of airfields in Thailand.

Don Muang. Thailand's international airport at Bangkok and the Thai Air Force's main base is now one of the best airfields in S.E. Asia, with an 8,700 foot concrete runway capable of supporting medium bomber operations. The runway is being extended to 9,845 feet. Supporting military and

civil facilities are very good.

Ta Khli, a war-time airfield 100 miles north of Bangkok is being developed into an important R.T.A.F. base. The runway is being extended to 9,845 feet and is suitable for jet light bombers and fighter aircraft.

Nakhon Ratchasimi, an R.T.A.F. Training School, 130 miles N.E. of Bangkok, is receiving significant attention. It is already suitable for jet fighter aircraft and further improvements are being made.

Kate Kathiem has a 5,040 foot runway and fuel storage tanks are under construction.

There are 34 usable airfields in Thailand, of which 18 have operational capabilities as follows:-

Medium Bombers	1
Jet Light Bombers	2
Jet Fighters	4
Piston-engined Fighters	11

.....

INDIA.

Military Training.

Thirty-four military training camps, designed to train a "citizen army" of half a million men within five years, were opened on

2nd May 1955.

The Indian Government hopes to train 10,000 volunteers annually. The camps will give basic training to batches of volunteers between the ages of 18 and 40 for a period of one month.

Aircraft for Indian Air Force.

The Folland Gnat is still under consideration by the IAF as a possible replacement for Vampires and Ouragans. An evaluation team which visited Europe last year, has recommended Canberras as a replacement for Liberators. 30 Canberras would be necessary.

The Indian Government are to place orders for four S.55 helicopters and four light helicopters to replace Dakotas on supply and patrol duty on the North East Frontier.

...oOo...

INDONESIA.

Major-General Bambang Sugeng has resigned from his post as Chief of Staff of the Army. Colonel Z Lubis, his deputy, is temporarily bearing the responsibility of this post and carrying out the daily management of the Army, pending government appointment of a new army Chief of Staff.

Sugeng's resignation has been threatened and withdrawn many times since the dismissal from his post of Simatupang, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, by the Defence Minister at the close of 1953.

Air Force Transport Command Service to South East Moluccas.

The Indonesian Air Force Transport Command is to open military air communications to the South East Moluccas. It is planned that there will be two flights each month, with calls at Tanimbar, Kai and Aroe Islands.

...oOo...

U.S.A.Gas Turbines in the U.S. Navy.

The following are some recent developments in the use of gas turbines in the U.S.N.:-

Diesel engines in the destroyer MILLS will soon be replaced by two gas turbines purchased in the U.K. from Rolls Royce. It is expected that with gas turbines the propulsion plant weight will be reduced by 15% whilst delivering 67% more horsepower. The work is being undertaken in Boston Naval Shipyard at the ship is expected to be ready before the end of this year.

When the diesel engine of a 40 foot Air-Sea Rescue Boat was replaced by a small gas turbine, the weight of the power plant dropped from 5,300 lbs. to 1,100 lbs, and the speed of the boat was increased from about 18 knots to about 35 knots.

As a result of successful trials with a gas

turbine installed in an LCVP, ten additional boats are to be fitted with gas turbines and will be tested under operational conditions

New U.S.N. Patrol Seaplane.

P5M-2 Marlin patrol seaplanes, which are said to be one of the most efficient A/S patrol and submarine killer units, are soon to go into operational service in shore-based U.S. Navy patrol squadrons. Recently, one of these seaplanes successfully carried out a number of trial refuelling at sea operations in which refuelling was done from a submarine-oiler under way.

Minesweeping by U.S. Navy Helicopters.

The U.S. Department of Navy announced recently that PIASECKI helicopters have been used successfully in carrying out minesweeping operations with standard equipment for sweeping moored mines.

U.S. Navy Airborne Radar Laboratory.

The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory at Washington, D.C. has instrumented an R5D 4-engine Douglas aircraft as an airborne radar and radio wave propagation laboratory. The flying laboratory was designed to permit study of a wide variety of problems in two fields of general interest to the radio engineer; radar target properties and radio wave propagation.

Four radar sets are mounted in nacelles beneath the plane's wing. A 15-foot mast housing

instruments for meteorological observations can be raised and lowered above the fuselage in flight. The plane's cabin contains four radar consoles, plus necessary control equipment, and high-speed motion picture cameras for recording data obtained during experimental flights. In addition to a normal plane crew of three, the plane will accommodate up to eight scientists.

In the field of radar target properties, the airborne laboratory may be used to determine the radar reflecting or back-scattering properties either to individual objects, such as ships and planes, or of extensive-area targets, such as ground, sea, or precipitation. In the radio wave propagation field, it may be used as one terminal of a one-way radio transmission line for the investigation of radio ducts and of atmospheric scattering of radio waves. Supplementary data for these studies will be obtained with the meteorological instruments.

S E C T I O N III.EXTERNAL POLITICAL, POLITICO-MILITARY
AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE.TERMINOLOGY TO DESCRIBE "IRON CURTAIN" COUNTRIES.

It has now been decided officially to use the following designations to describe countries behind the "Iron Curtain":-

SOVIET BLOC - Comprising the Soviet Union and her European satellites (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, and the Soviet Zone of Germany).

SINO-SOVIET BLOC. - Comprising the Soviet Bloc plus the People's Republic of China, North Korea, Tibet, Mongolia, and Northern Vietnam.

...oOo...

U.S.S.R.Soviet Bloc Purchases of Merchant Shipping and New Construction.

There has been a marked increase in the merchant tonnage acquired by the U.S.S.R. from Western countries, and in the tonnage ordered for future delivery. During 1954, a new State-controlled organisation, "Sudoimport", was created to deal with purchases of ships from

abroad.

The number and tonnages of new ships purchased by the Soviet Bloc from all Western sources in the years 1951-54 were as follows:-

	<u>Vessels.</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>
1951	58	52,632
1952	65	64,849
1953	48	51,578
1954	70	102,982

The balance of uncompleted orders in Western yards which were placed prior to 1954 amounted to 37,000 gross tons; new orders placed during 1954 call for a further 528,000 gross tons to be delivered between 1955 and 1957. There are some marked differences in the distribution of orders among Western countries:-

	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955/1957</u>
Finland	50%	25%
NATO	44%	58%
Sweden	5%	5%
Japan	1%	12%

In their discussions with negotiators, the Soviet has emphasised interest in cargo vessels of 5,000 to 10,000 G.R.T. with speeds of between 16 and 18 knots. Attempts have been made to place large orders for tankers, but owing to the Paris Group Controls, none have been accepted.

...oOo...

JAPAN.Aircraft Production.

The revival of the aircraft industry in Japan has so far fallen short of the ambitious production schedules envisaged by official planners.

All aircraft produced to date (with one exception) are of Japanese design, but until sufficient finance is available, future manufacturing activity is likely to concentrate on the assembly and partial manufacture of aircraft under license from foreign countries.

Steady progress will be made, however, but in the light of current results, the December 1954 programme of 200 jet fighters and 180 jet trainers by 1957 together with a number of miscellaneous aircraft appears too ambitious.

The first T26B trainer built entirely in Japan was test flown by a U.S. pilot in December 1954.

.....

COMMUNIST CHINA.Airfield construction in South and East China.

Major construction work is reported to be in progress at Chiung Shan (Hoichow 20°02' N, 110°20' E) on Hainan Island.

The "Hong Kong Times" (a Chinese Nationalist newspaper) reports that the reconstruction of a modern airfield in the Chusan Islands has been completed. It is not clear whether this report refers to Taishan (30° 17' N, 122° 09' E) or Tinghai (30° N, 122° 07' E). There is believed to have been some development in this area - most probably at Taishan.

Unusual Oil Loading Activity at Shanghai.

An informant who visited Shanghai from 20th April to 4th May reported that the various oil installations on the river side appeared to be quiet, but that at almost every oil wharf oil barges were being loaded with drums. It is thought that these drums were full, although this could not be determined.

He had never seen so many oil barges in Shanghai before and stated that, as far as could be determined, all movement of cargo appeared to be out-going.

It is possible that these barges may be transporting fuel by inshore routes to Chekiang and Fukien airports.

....oOo....

NORTH VIETNAM.

National Assembly.

The fourth session of the North Vietnam National Assembly which was held recently dealt mainly with the implementation of the Geneva

Agreement, agrarian reform, development of the economy and ways of strengthening the Government's authority. Deputies allegedly representing South Vietnam were present.

The National Assembly, which has now become the legislature of Northern Vietnam, has never been more than a shadow organisation. It is likely that the Vietminh will hold regular sessions to give their regime a more stable and representative character.

Port of Haiphong.

Haiphong was transferred to North Vietnam on 12th May. This will give the Vietminh an important port which will make direct shipments from Russia and her European satellites possible. It will also make available to the Chinese Communists a port nearer to the South Western China interior than any port in China proper.

Before departure the French dredged the bar to 15-18 feet, but silting averages about 8 inches per month, with a minimum depth of 9 feet. A prime requirement will be a suitable dredger to maintain the depth; the only dredger remaining in Vietminh hands is an old bucket type unsuitable for work on the bar.

Depths of water alongside the berths vary from 7 feet 6 ins. to 18 feet. The facilities available to the Vietminh and the unlimited labour pool suggest that the port will be able to handle a great deal more than the 4,500 tons per day previously estimated.

Three graving docks, (1 Naval and 2 Commercial) will fall to the Vietminh but all pumping equipment has been removed from them. Four slipways, (2 Naval, 1 Army and 1 Commercial) are also available. Rails and cradles have been removed.

...oOo...

SOUTH VIETNAM.

Internal Situation.

From a very confused situation in which his position was threatened, Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem has emerged to lead a re-formed Government which should suit most parties.

Bao Dai who is still living on the French Riviera, remains Head of State for the present at least.

The Binh Xuyen, a sect which added to the recent confusion by challenging the authority of Diem in Saigon, has been driven from the city and is in scattered groups in the surrounding countryside. The other sects, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao, have been sitting on the fence during the disturbances, but press reports now suggest that the latter group have begun to defy the authority of the Government in South West Vietnam and fighting has again broken out.

...oOo...

BURMA.Appointment of Services Attache.

A/Commander A.W. Salisbury, R.A.N. has been appointed Australian Services Attache, Burma.

...oOo...

INDIA.Soviet Aid for New Steel Plant.

An agreement has been signed between India and the Soviet Union for setting up, with Soviet capital and technical assistance, an integrated iron and steel plant with an initial capacity of one million tons of ingot steel. Provision has been made for capacity to be expanded to one million tons of rolled products a year.

The cost, including site development, housing and other facilities, is estimated at Rs 1,000 million. The whole plant, which is to be located in the Bhilai region of Madhya Pradesh, in Central India, is to be commissioned by the end of 1959. Equipment supplied by the Soviet Union is to be paid for in twelve annual instalments, interest on the amount outstanding each year being charged at $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

...oOo...

PAKISTAN.Indo-Pakistani Relations.

On 7th May a group of Pakistan border police apparently opened fire on a working party at Nekowal who were working under a small Indian military escort. Twelve personnel, including an officer, were killed. India's claim to have evidence of atrocities committed against the dead and wounded, and the Hindu Communal Party is reported to be organising demonstrations in protest against Pakistan.

A United Nations Observer Team is investigating the incident, which may have unfortunate effects upon Indo-Pakistan relations. There is a possibility that Mohammed Ali's projected visit to New Delhi to discuss Kashmir may be cancelled due to the prevailing atmosphere and in view of the ill-health of Ghulam Mohammed, the Governor-General.

Afghan-Pakistani Relations.

Following anti-Pakistan demonstrations at Kabul, the Pakistan Government has demanded that an "amende honorable" be made by the Afghan Government. Pakistan has also announced its intention to close all Missions in Kabul and Karachi and to apply an economic blockade on Afghanistan if this demand is not met.

It appears that Pakistan's main objective is to obtain replacement of the present Afghan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and reports from Kabul indicate that the King of Afghanistan

is attempting to replace the Prime Minister by Shah Mahmud.

Afghanistan is now mobilising forces and calling up tribal levies, but rumours that war is imminent and that Russia will intervene in that event are believed to have been spread by Soviet agents. However, there is a possibility that if Afghanistan fails to comply with Pakistan's demands, Pakistan may exert such pressure that Afghanistan will be stimulated to violent action against Pakistan.

...oOo...

INDONESIA.

Changes in Security Council.

The Security Council, which deals with internal security measures in Indonesia, has been reorganised. The Deputy Premier Zainul Arifin, is now the first Vice-Chairman, and the Defence Minister, Iwa Kusumasumantri, has become Second Vice-Chairman. The Finance Member, Ong Eng Die, has been added to the list of members.

These changes have given the Security Council an increased bias towards the Left, since both the Defence and Finance Ministers are believed to have pro-Communist sympathies.

There is now an increased danger that the Government may be persuaded to accept Communist proposals such as the arming of the Communist-dominated ex-guerrilla's association, PERBEPSI, to

operate against dissident Islamic groups in Java, Sumatra and the Celebes.

As one of the Security Council's duties is to supervise security arrangements in connection with the General Elections, now scheduled for December, the reorganisation also increases the danger that this supervision may be exercised in a manner advantageous to Leftist groups.

Visit of Indonesian Prime Minister to Communist China.

The Indonesian Prime Minister, Ali Sastroamidjojo, arrived in Canton on 26th May on a visit to Communist China. The visit follows an invitation from Chou En-Lai.

Establishment of a Philippine Consulate at Manado (Celebes).

The Philippine Government have established a Consulate at Manado (Celebes), Mr. Leon T. Garcia having received the appointment of Consul.

There is an ethnological link between the Filipinos and those residents of Manado (250,000 out of a total population of 1,250,000) who are styled Minahassese and who also embrace Christianity.

"Liberation of West Irian Corps"

The "Liberation of West Irian Corps" is now known as the "West Irian Liberation Army" (B.P.I.B.)

The organisation is reported to have a membership of 72,502. A month ago it was 6,812. Although the accuracy of these figures is open to some doubt, it is thought they may well reflect the measure of official support which the organisation enjoys.

The B.P.I.B. has members from all layers of the population and is divided into central, region, sub-region, district, sub-district and peleton commands. It is reported that branches of the B.P.I.B. will be set up in Djakarta and Bandung. It has its headquarters at Negera Palace, in Central Java.

President Soekarno received a delegation of the West Irian Liberation Army on 7th April and showed his appreciation of their efforts.

All members, most of whom consist of students, ex-fighters in the revolution, ex-mariners who have had experience in West Irian waters, workers and thousands of youths who felt themselves responsible for the country's safety, have pledged their preparedness to fight any enemy planning to overthrow the Republic by armed force. Quite a number of Indonesians appear to believe that the Dutch intend to make use of Dutch New Guinea as a launching platform of the recapture of Indonesia.

...oOo...

S E C T I O N IV.AUSTRALIA STATION INTELLIGENCE.DEPTH CHARGE - SUCCESS BANK, COCKBURN SOUND.

On 2nd April one of the dredges operated by the H.A.M. Company discovered a depth charge lodged in the suction pipe. The charge was primed with the firing pistol set at 100 feet. Officers from H.M.A.S. "LEEUWIN" removed the charge and the pistol and the charge was disposed of by dumping. The finding of this charge was reported to the Naval Board by signal but efforts to trace the history of the pistol have been unsuccessful. The firing mechanism was later tested at the R.A.N. Armament Depot, Byford, and functioned at a setting of 62 feet.

Needless to say, the dredging company were dubious about continuing operations in the area. At the present time a novel form of sweep is being carried out through the whole of the Success and Parmelia Bank Channels. Aqua Surveys Ltd. are using a diver with "aqua-lung" equipment who is being towed underwater by a work boat to make a visual examination of the ocean bed. The diver is strapped to what is literally a "submarine bedstead" which has been fitted with vertical and horizontal fins to control direction and depth. It is hoped that this method of search will prove effective.

PEARLING INDUSTRY - USE OF AQUALUNG EQUIPMENT.

The owners of M.V. "VILLARET" are at

present organising a new venture in conjunction with Aqua Surveys Ltd., (See preceding item). This project is skin diving for pearl shell in the Onslow area. At the present time two of the Company's divers are in Broome to instruct pearl-ers there in the use of aqua-lung equipment which it is hoped will prove to be more effective than conventional type diving dress. It is hoped that free swimming divers unencumbered with heavy suits, weights etc., will be able to gather more shell in less time and with less expenditure of energy.

The "Villaret" has had a varied career since the formation of the Vigilant Trading Company to transport bananas and other perishables between Carnarvon and Fremantle which failed mainly because of mechanical breakdowns. Later (1948) the owners attempted to dredge for pearl shell in the Onslow area but were forced out by the fall in the world price of shell. Since then the ship has been variously engaged in the crayfishing and schnapper fishing industries and at the present time is a processing ship for the crayfishing fleet in the Cervantes area.

Aqua Surveys Ltd., is a very recently formed company composed mainly of young and enthusiastic skin divers who are endeavouring to turn their hobby into a business - so far with moderate success. It is of interest to note that they were participants in the successful dive on 6th March when Mr. Gordon McLean of the Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. set a new Australian skin dive record of 250 feet.

HARBOUR SILTAGE AND BEACH EROSION.

The University of W.A., in conjunction with the Public Works Department, have recently completed the building of equipment to carry out research on the problems of harbour siltage and beach erosion. The machine has been built at the University Engineering School, and is fitted with a forty foot oscillating blade to simulate wave, drift, and current conditions. Siltage of Bunbury Harbour, which has been a major problem at the port, will be the subject of the first investigation with the equipment and a concrete model of the breakwater and moles area has been built. Siltage and weather records over the past 50 years have been studied in order to ensure accuracy.

Beach erosion at the metropolitan beach of Cottesloe will next be investigated. Later subjects may be the dredged channels of Parmelia and Success banks if siltage becomes evident.

IRON ORE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Following the failure of the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. to agree to the building of a steel works at Whyalla in the near future, due to its committed expansion in N.S.W., the South Australian Government has stepped up its exploration programme for iron ore deposits outside the B.H.P. leases in S.A. Encouraging deposits have been found North of Iron Knob just below the surface and in some places they have been proved to a depth of 120 ft. The quality of the ore found is more than 60% equal to the high-grade ore which the B.H.P. is removing

at Iron Knob at the rate of nearly 3m. tons a year, and some shows a percentage of manganese. If additional deposits are found in the adjacent area it could mean that millions of tons of ore would be available to the State. The ore could be mined by open-cut methods at a cost comparable with the B.H.P.

If sufficient quantities of ore are proved (the Director of Mines is of the opinion that the figure would have to be at least 20m. tons) overseas capital would be readily forthcoming for investment in a steelworks at Whyalla on a progressive basis, and already the Government has been approached by overseas interests in this respect. This would also place an entirely new complexion on any future discussions with the B.H.P.

If any such steelworks were built they would probably be at Fitzgerald Bay (previously known as Backy's Bay) located 16 miles further up Spencer Gulf from Whyalla. It is here that the S.A. Government tentatively selected the site for its proposed atomic pile.

A new steelworks would possibly receive the support also of the Federal Government as it is most important from a defence point of view when it is considered that the Australian steel industry is concentrated on the eastern seaboard in N.S.W. and is exposed to attack,

C.O.R.'s OIL FUEL INSTALLATION, PORT ADELAIDE RIVER.

Commonwealth Oil Refinery Ltd., who will

distribute Kwinana products in South Australia, are constructing a new steel storage tank for furnace oil on their property at Largs North, on the Western side of the Port Adelaide River. Measuring 45 ft. x 120 ft., it will hold 12,500 tons and it is expected to be ready to receive oil in about three months time. It will be connected by a pipeline to the C.O.R. T-head jetty.

Foundations have already been laid for a 5,000-ton tank to hold distillate but this will not be completed until the end of the year.

WHYALLA SALT PRODUCTION.

The Broken Hill Pty. Co, Ltd. completed its salt harvest at Whyalla last month with a production of 5,250 tons from a five acre crystalliser. The salt is produced by pumping sea water over a 5-acre paddock and allowing evaporation to take place. A hard crust of salt approximately 8 inches thick forms and this is harvested by a special plough and transferred to a continuous travelling loading machine thence into trucks for delivery to the Blast Furnace Wharf for shipment.

The production rate of 1,000 tons per acre of crystallizer achieved at Whyalla compares more than favourably with any other known similar undertaking in the world. The final product is about 98% sodium chloride.

More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total Australia production of salt is obtained from South Australia and $\frac{3}{4}$ of this is produced from the sea in this manner or

from natural lakes.

NAIRNE (S.A.) PYRITES.

Nairne Pyrites Ltd., the Company that will quarry the pyrite ore from the surrounding hills at Nairne, is now almost ready to commence operations. The series of giant crushers, conveyor belts and storage bins are completed and the flotation and treatment plant which will turn out the finished product - pyrites concentrate - will be ready in about four months time.

A spur line from the main Adelaide-Murray Bridge line has been constructed to a special siding where the ore will be loaded from motor vehicles into rail trucks for transportation to Port Adelaide.

PORT ADELAIDE ACID PLANT.

The main section of the plant is in position. This houses the three large 60 ft. high brick roasters that are encased in aluminium. They will cook the finely ground pyrites to give off sulphur dioxide gas which will be treated to form sulphuric acid.

The converter and cleaning and absorber towers, and associated plant is well under way.

The plant will be the largest single unit sulphuric acid factory in the Southern Hemisphere when completed.

CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING CRANE AT MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO.

A floating crane named FALCON of 60 tons capacity, ordered by the Darling Island Stevedoring & Lighterage Co. Ltd. of Sydney, has been completed by Mort's Dock and Engineering Co.

The crane is mounted on an all-steel pontoon 91 ft. x 45 ft. with a depth of 9 ft. 6 ins., and the legs, which are of variable angle, are 105 feet in length. Safe working load is 60 tons (75 tons tested) and maximum angle of the legs allows a lift 60 ft. from the bow.

Steam for the two engines which operate the cables is obtained from a boiler housed aft. Steam-driven capstans are installed enabling the crane to secure partly by her own power. The craft is not power-driven and has to be moved by means of tugs and has been constructed for use in Port Jackson to unload heavy cargo from merchant ships not equipped with heavy lift derricks.

FALCON has been built to take the place of a similar unit named HAWK, of wood construction, which has served Sydney for many years and will be scrapped.

TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.

During the first eight months of the current financial year the value of exports from Australia to the U.S.S.R. was £153,000 only, as compared with £20,890,000 for the same period during the previous financial year.

The decline in Australia's export trade to the Soviet is due in part to the suspension by the Soviet of diplomatic relations with Australia following upon the defection of Vladimir Petrov, of the Soviet Embassy.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

Reports indicating possibility of Indonesian Invasion.

The Prime Minister of the Netherlands has publicly stated that two Dutch organisations in the Netherlands have received information from reliable sources indicating that Indonesia has made plans for an invasion of the Vogelkoop Peninsula.

NEW GUINEA.

Sighting of possible Submarine off Emirau Island.

Several natives on Emirau Island (1°34' S, 150°20' E) report having sighted at 0300 7th May, at a distance 50 yards from their canoe, an object 4 feet high and 2 feet wide proceeding at a speed of 5 knots. There was a full moon at the time and the object changed course and dived.

At 0700 the object was sighted by five other natives, who state that it was proceeding on the surface at a speed of 7 knots.

It is considered possible that the object sighted was the snort of a submarine. This is not the first time a submarine has been sighted off Emirau Island, which might well attract 'outside'

interest, as on it there are situated two bomber strips and three fighter strips built during the War and which are still in a fair-to-good condition.

PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

Oil Exploration.

An oil seepage of about 160 gallons per month occurs on the South Coast of Portuguese Timor at Aliambata.

Following upon a recent strike of oil in Portuguese East Africa by a party of French geologists, six of these are now on a visit to Portuguese Timor to carry out search for oil in the Aliambata area. There appears to exist a belief that a previous "strike" in the district was deliberately sealed off, and the French geologists are investigating this matter.

Manganese and Gold.

Deposits of manganese and gold are known to exist in various parts of Portuguese Timor, but prospecting is now encouraged by the authorities. They seem suspicious of foreign capital and the funds provided by the Portuguese Government are probably inadequate for effective development of the Territory.

Dili Airfield.

The present condition of the Dili airfield used by Dakotas and similar aircraft, is

such that it can be used only in the dry season. (This does not apply to the airfield at Bacau, 70 miles distant).

Consular Representation.

At present there are three Consuls at Dili, representing respectively Australia, Nationalist China and Indonesia.

NEW HEBRIDES.

Unusual Incidents.

Two belated reports received deal with unusual incidents in the New Hebrides.

The first report states that early in January a Maewo Island native saw on the beach on the West coast of that island three men of European appearance. He states that they were clothed in Khaki drill uniforms, with long trousers and soft boots. Each was carrying a rifle and wore a green cap suspended on the back of the neck; and each carried a ruck-sack on the back. The footmarks of two of the men were later seen by six other natives to whom the presence of the strangers had been reported.

The second report states that during the middle of January natives of Toga Island sighted a vessel which from the description they gave might have been a submarine.

In regard to the first report it was known that Japanese fishing vessels had been operating in the area. If the men sighted were, in fact, Europ-

ean, a possible explanation is that they may have been members of the crew of some yacht or other small craft undertaking a cruise of the Pacific.

NEW CALEDONIA.

French Naval Attache to Australia.

The Australian Consulate in Noumea advises that Capitaine de Fregate Masson, Commandant of the French Naval Forces in New Caledonia, has been appointed Temporary Naval Attache to the French Embassy in Australia and to the French Legation in New Zealand. Commander Masson will reside at Noumea.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Proposed Whaling Station.

Members of the Byron Bay Whaling Company and a representative of the New South Wales Premier's Department recently visited Norfolk Island to investigate the possibility of setting up a Whaling Station on the Island.

They formed the conclusion that there was every possibility of the venture materialising within eighteen months. It is proposed to send a few Norfolk Island men to Byron Bay for a refresher course and instruction in the new techniques of whaling.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.Appointment of High Commissioner, Western Pacific.

Sir Robert Stanley, K.B.E., C.M.G., High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, whose headquarters are at Honiara, Guadalcanal, will shortly be succeeded by Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E., who until recently was Chief Secretary, Britian Guiana and who has had service in the Gold Coast, Palestine and Cyrenacea.

SHIPPING INFORMATION.New Vessel for Western Australian Government Shipping Service.

In addition to the "KOOJARA", now undergoing construction, the W.A. Government Shipping Service has decided to order a further vessel, which will be built by Denny Bros. Ltd.

She will be of about 3,000 tons gross ; length, 325 feet ; speed 13 knots. Her cargo capacity of 2,000 tons will include 20,000 cubic feet of refrigerated space. Accommodation will be provided for 70 passengers. 'Tween deck space will provide room for 450 cattle.

To reduce tidal restrictions, the ship is being designed with a maximum loaded draft of 17 feet and with quick trimming facilities to suit local conditions.

PROPOSED SALE OF VITI.

The Tasman Steam Ship Company's 701-ton freighter "VITI" is to be offered for sale. This was announced recently by Mr. H.S. Orr, who was appointed receiver by the debenture-holders last year. He said that it was not a forced sale and he would continue to operate the "VITI" until an acceptable bid was received.

Built and engined in 1940 at a cost of £69,000 by the Taikoo Dock and Engineering Company, of Hong Kong, the "VITI" was intended to be run by the Fijian Government as a yacht for Vice-Regal and other duties. The war intervened and she was requisitioned by the Navy. She was returned to the Fijian Government after the war and was sold to the Tasman Steam Ship Company in 1948. Since then she has traded to Fiji, Australia and the New Zealand coast.

Shaw, Savill Line Vessel "CRETIC".

The twin-screw motor vessel "CRETIC", built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Limited, Wallsend on Tyne, will enter the England, Australia, New Zealand trade when commissioned later in the year.

"CRETIC" has a length overall of 512 feet, and between perpendiculars 481 feet, and a moulded breadth of 69 feet. Her loaded draft is 30 ft. 3 in. and deadweight tonnage 10,750. She has a service speed of 17 knots. Refrigerated space will be approximately 300,000 cubic feet, dry cargo space about 340,000 c. ft.

There are six holds, four of which have lower and main 'tween decks, with lockers at the sides of Nos. 3 and 4 'tween decks for chilled meat cargo.

The vessel is fitted with derricks to give lifts of up to 70 tons, and all hatches are fitted with McGragor hatch covers.

The propelling engine is a Wallsend-Doxford type diesel of the balanced type, single-acting, airless injection, reversing, with six cylinders each 670 mm. and with a combined stroke of 2,320 m., using heavy fuel.

ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP CO's. M.V. "MARRA".

M.V. "MARRA" (1,396 tons gross), the third and last of the Adelaide Steamship Company's new vessels to come to Australia within 8 months, arrived at Port Adelaide on 12th March. The other two were the "MALTARA" (20th August, 1954) and "MINKARA" (29th November, 1954). For the present the "MARRA" will remain on the Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane run carrying general cargo.

She was built in Scotland by the Ardrossan Dockyard Ltd., is 233 ft. long (overall), breadth 39 ft. and has a loaded draft of 16' 10". Deadweight tonnage is 1,403. Eight electric winches for the 5-ton derricks serve the three hatches and the holds have a capacity of 75,850 cubic feet, for general cargo. Her service speed is 10.5 knots.

Messageries Maritimes France - Australia Service.

Messageries Maritimes have re-established their France-Australia service.

The vessels which will be engaged in this service are "IRAOUADDY" (which has already arrived), "GANGE", "EUPHRATE" and "GODAVERY". They are of recent construction, are of 6,500 tons (approx) and have a speed of 16-17 knots.

S E C T I O N V.SPECIAL ARTICLES.NOTES ON BURMA.Government.

Burma is governed by the Anti-Fascist Peoples Freedom League, which swept the polls in late 1951, in the first and only elections held since the winning of independence in 1948.

The Union Parliament is headed by the President, who is elected by both Chambers for five years and can only be re-elected once. The provisional President made way for Dr. Ba U in March 1952. The Chamber of Nationalities (consisting of 125 members, representatives of the Centre, Shan, Kachin, Karen and Chin States) and the Chamber of Deputies (with 250 members) are both elected for four years. The latter elects the Prime Minister, who is Mr. U Nu.

The Policy followed by the Government is one of moderate socialism. U Nu's ten-year plan for land nationalisation is aimed at gradual co-operative utilization of the soil. Oil fields and the Bawdin lead mine are now jointly controlled by the Government and their previous owners.

Since the winning of independence the Government has had to wage war on many internal fronts, fighting the Karens, Kuomintang troops and separatist Muslim movements.

K.M.T.

The K.M.T. troops, remnants of the 93rd Division of the 26th Chinese Nationalist Army, which was driven out of Yunnan early in 1950 by the Communist forces, were until 1952 content to engage in a lucrative opium traffic. However, under the leadership of General Li Mi they began raiding activities along the Northern Burma, and Thai-Burmese frontier. In March 1953 the matter was brought before the United Nations, and as a result a four-power committee was set up to evacuate the Nationalist troops, estimated as between 6,000-12,000. The three stages of evacuation were completed by May 1954, when General Li Mi announced the formal dissolution of his 'command' in Burma. About 6,500 troops and their dependents were evacuated, that is about 50-60% of the fighting core. The matter is still before the United Nations and the Burmese Government is at the moment engaging the remaining K.M.T. forces in the Mong-Ton area. One fruitful result of these skirmishes has been the bringing together of the two long-standing enemies, Thailand and Burma, in border-control commissions.

Karens.

The Karens, a minority group of two to three million, have been fighting for independence since 1947. The original Burmese Constitution set up the "Karenni" state, a semi-autonomous region, on the Salween River (near the Thai border) and recognised the influence of the Karens in the adjacent areas, to be called Kawthulay. In 1957 the constitution amended the name "Karenni" to

to "Kayah" state, and a separate "Karen" state emerged out of the Kawthulay area in September, 1952. This Karen state, a strip of territory 300 miles by 45 miles along the Thai border, was not able to function properly till June 1953 because of insurgent activity of the Karen National Defence Organisation, the armed wing of the Karens, which, since January 1949, has been in open conflict with the Government. The Karen National Union, which is communist-inspired, dominates the Delta Karens, the rebel faction of which now numbers about 1,000. The Union has formed the Peoples Liberation Army there. The five thousand rebel Karens in the east work in with the K.M.T. from time to time. There has, however, been no co-operation between the Karens in West Kawthulay (Delta) and in East Kawthulay since 1951. The influence of the Kawthulay Governing Board, the highest council in the theoretically-united Karen movement, is limited to the hill Karens alone.

The Government has also had trouble with the Muslims in Arakan, who originally trickled over the border from Bengal. During the war seeds of the future separatist movement were sown when the state was virtually split in two - the Japanese occupying the southern Buddhist area, and the British the Northern Muslim one.

Communist Organisations:

There are about twenty-four Communist organisations in the country, the most powerful and best organised being the Burma Communist Party (White Flag Communists). Its chief rivals for the allegiance of the left wing element is

the Communist Party (Burma), who are known as the Red Flag Communists.

Foreign Policy.

In foreign relations Burma has steered a middle course, antagonising neither West nor East. However, Communist China has gained some influence by frequent visits of cultural missions, and may wield some power by the recently signed two-year rice deal, which provides for the exchange of 200,000 tons of Burmese rice a year in return for Chinese industrial equipment and consumer goods. Burma will probably have a rice surplus of 2,250,000 tons this year.

Naval Forces.

Command Organisation.

The organisation of the Naval Command is at present very centralised but a revision of the system is planned. Naval Commands at Akyab, Bassien, Mandalay and Rangoon come under the direct command of the Chief of the Naval Staff, who is in turn responsible to the Minister of Defence, U Ba Swe, for administrative matters, and to the Supreme Commander, General Ne Win, for organisational matters. Ships are based at all of the above ports and at Moulmein and Mergui. U.B.S. Mayu is operated as an independent command directly under the Chief of the Naval Staff.

Capabilities.

The Burmese Navy is not a fighting force,

but it is capable of giving support to the Army and of undertaking minor inshore patrol work. This is due to a shortage of ships, finance and manpower to inadequate repair facilities and low efficiency.

Ships.

The Burmese have one frigate, U.B.S. MAYU, which is non-operational, eight river gunboats, all of which are operational, 3 landing craft gunboats (medium) and fourteen motor gunboats (four of which are harbour defence launches, and ten of which are Y.P.type American coastguard launches). Personnel strength consists of 131 officers and cadets, and 1,720 ratings.

Bases.

The main naval base is established at Rangoon, which is the only major port in Burma. Other bases are at Akyab, Moulmein, Bassein, and Mandalay, while Yandoon, Danubya, Einme and Wakima are also used as minor bases.

At Rangoon, which is the only port provided with alongside berthage and servicing facilities for ocean-going ships, there are three dockyards, the Government, Dalla and Naval dockyards, as well as Burma's sole graving dock. The Monkey Point Naval Base is established here and there is adequate commercial wharfage.

Secondary ports exist at Moulmein, Akyab, Mergui, Bassein, Tavoy and Kyaukpyu, which are important from the point of view of coastal trade only. They have piers suitable for shallow-draught coastal vessels, but main cargoes are lightered to and from ships anchored off the port. Cargo-handling appliances and installations and facilities for repair, bunkering and supply are very limited.

Training.

Despite the fact that the British Services Mission was dispersed by December 1953, the influence of the Royal Navy is still predominant, not only because many of the officers are still on the active list, but also because many of the officers and some ratings are being trained in the United Kingdom now.

New Construction.

Two 163' gunboats are being built in the Government Dockyard, Rangoon, at present. These are the largest ships ever constructed in Burma. In addition, five Y.P. and two P.R. vessels are being built in the United Kingdom (to be completed in late 1955 and early 1956) and twelve 80' patrol vessels (six of which were to have been completed in August 1954) are being built in Holland. These were to have been for the use of senior officers in coastal districts. The Burmese have also made enquiries about the surplus minesweepers, which Australia offered for sale in mid-1954.

Army.

The Burmese Army is made up of 65,000 men, but 44 Infantry battalions could be mobilised.

Officers who were trained by the British Services Mission and those undergoing courses in Australia, the United Kingdom, U.S.A. and India are improving the efficiency of the Army.

Plans are afoot for the introduction of

compulsory military training by 1956.

There is a Military Police Force of 12,000 men who assist the Army in maintaining security.

Air Force.

The Air Force, consisting of 40 aircraft only, would be of little use against a foreign Power, but it is useful in supporting the Army against the insurgents.

There are 1,247 men in the Burmese Air Force.

The air bases are at Meiktila (300 miles N. of Rangoon), Hmawbi (30 miles N. of Rangoon), and Mingaladon (17 miles N. of Rangoon).

TREATMENT BY CHINESE COMMUNISTS OF BRITISH P.O.W's IN KOREA.

The United Kingdom Ministry of Defence recently issued a booklet containing the story of 978 British prisoners-of-war, "the first British troops to be held captive by a Communist Country", who were held between 1950 and 1953 in prison camps run by Chinese and North Koreans.

The booklet says that 'it gradually became clear that the Chinese aimed to convert at least a minority of prisoners to Communism and then to use this minority to undermine the confidence of the remainder, thus rendering them in turn susceptible to Communist indoctrination.

This aim was embodied in what the Chinese called their "Lenient Policy" towards prisoners of war. It was based on the lie that the war in Korea was one of American aggression and part of the conspiracy of the capitalist world against peace. The Chinese claimed that all United Nations prisoners taking part in this unjust war were war criminals, and that if they were captured their captors had the right to kill them'.

The 'leniency' consisted in not summarily executing prisoners who, so ran the argument, were only working men who had been duped and misled by their reactionary rulers, but in giving them an opportunity to repent of their crimes and learn the 'truth' - which meant accepting Communism. If a prisoner saw the 'truth' and accepted Communist doctrines then his life became easier. He received extra cigarettes, better food, medical attention and other privileges. In return he had to assist his captors and become a Communist propagandist by signing "peace" petitions and by trying, in his letters home, to induce his relatives to accept Communism. On the other hand it was held that, since the 'truth' must be obvious once the veils of 'capitalist propaganda' had been removed, a prisoner who refused to see the light must be acting from malice. 'He was therefore a criminal, outside the protection of the "Lenient Policy", and the treatment he received in consequence was his own responsibility.

At first the Communists relied mainly upon compulsory political lectures and discussions as the basic means of indoctrination. When the campaign was at its height these lasted for

as long as six to eight hours a day. In mid-1952 the Chinese substituted voluntary study groups augmented by personal interviews. 'If a prisoner proved unco-operative, thereby showing a "hostile" attitude, he was usually condemned to a period of solitary confinement under very bad conditions, and invited to confess to imaginary crimes'.

Not only were food and medical treatment withheld from 'reactionaries' but physical torture was used where considered necessary. This included beating, solitary confinement in small cages, and a number of more complicated methods. 'A favourite trick was to bind a prisoner hand and foot with a rope passed over a beam, fixed as a hangman's noose round his neck. He was then hoisted up on his toes and the other end of the noose rope was tied to his ankles. The prisoner was told that if he slipped or bent his knees he would be committing suicide and that his captors could not be held responsible as his life was in his own hands.....the prisoner who broke down under Chinese torture - and there were many who did not - had to write a "confession" of crimes which he, and the Chinese, knew he had never committed. On the basis of this, he could be tried and sentenced, though usually he was merely told that the trial had been held, and that the sentence had been this or that punishment.

Although 'until the last few weeks of the war, independent visitors and organizations such as the International Red Cross were barred by the Chinese from the prison-camps facilities were readily arranged for visits by Communist and Communist sympathisers'. The five Commonwealth

visitors who were allowed to visit the camps took part in Communist propaganda activities. At the same time Communists and their sympathisers in the United Kingdom directed a campaign 'at relatives of the men in the war theatre, in a systematic drive to exploit their fears and hopes and doubts and thus draw them into the "peace" campaign through "front organizations", Communist-inspired demonstrations and "peace" petitions'. Opportunities for this campaign were provided by the desire of relatives to obtain information about prisoners. 'It was not until December, 1951 - that the Chinese agreed to exchange lists of prisoners. It was only a short time before then that they allowed prisoners in their hands to write their first letters home. In the first phase of the Chinese intervention in Korea, therefore, relatives (and even the United Nations Command) were dependent upon information about prisoners supplied through such Communist channels as the 'London Daily Worker'".

Summing up the results of the Communist methods of indoctrination the booklet says 'Officers and senior NCO's (who made up about 12 per cent of the total of British soldiers captured by the Chinese) remained almost completely unaffected by Communist propaganda and were segregated from the remainder, while among the junior NCO's and other ranks some two-thirds remained virtually unaffected. Of the remainder, most absorbed sufficient indoctrination to be classed as Communist sympathisers but have most likely responded to the influence of normal home life. A small minority - about forty altogether - returned home convinced Communists. But some had Communist

leanings or affiliations before they went to Korea.

RUSSIA'S WAR ON ISLAM.

A recent issue of the "Contemporary Review" contained an interesting article on the above subject written by a contributor, Sayed el-Hashimi. A condensed version of the article is appended :-

"Faced with the strengthening of the Islamic front brought about by closer relations between Turkey, Pakistan and the Moslem World, confronted by a rise in power of Moslem elements within the borders of the U.S.S.R. itself, the Kremlin has now changed its tune and in recent months has been proclaiming the irreconcilability of Islam and Communism, and Muslims are being labelled as reactionaries. Whereas, formerly, Moslems were exhorted to rebuild their religious life in the Soviet Union without fear, the accent is now upon the allegation that Islam is pro-capitalistic, anachronistic, and primitive.

Refugees escaping across the Afghan and Persian borders report that the Turkomans, Tajiks and Uzbeks of Central Asia are experiencing a new revival of Islamic religious and social thought, as a reaction against a generation of sterile communism.

Present Soviet policy seems clearly to be aimed at the crushing of the Islamic community within the Soviet Union (numbering some 40 millions living mostly in Soviet Central Asia) before it feels too strongly the impact of increased Islamic

solidarity upon her borders. There is, too, considerable alarm being currently manifested by Communist writers on the Islamic theory of Jihad - Holy War. Some of the attacks on Islam are penned by Soviet Muslims at the behest of the Russians, but by deliberately making their allegations ridiculous in the extreme they have the secretly-desired affect of producing a derisive reaction from the Moslem readership.

In one of the Soviet Central Asian Republics the entire population of one area stopped work to attend the three-days Bairam festival which the "reactionary Mullahs" were celebrating. The collective farm accountants, also in the "plot", falsified the pay sheets to make it appear that three whole days had in fact been worked by the villagers.

The Muslim World outside the U.S.S.R. appears now to becoming aware of the lot of its co-religionists within the U.S.S.R. If the reactionary movement grows in strength, it will considerably embarrass Moscow, as Soviet Central Asia is vital to the Soviet economy, as here there is concentrated the bulk of the nation's oil, while there are also vast tracts of food-producing land, millions of cattle, and an increasing number of factories".