

Bellagio report and details of START are available from the IGBP Secretariat, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Box 50005, S-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.

MACQUARIE ISLAND KING PENGUINS KILLED BY 'SUSTAINED DISTURBANCE'. The death in May 1990 of several thousand king penguins on a Macquarie Island breeding colony, apparently in a stampede, has been ascribed by a Tasmanian Government report to a 'major, sustained disturbance'. Issued by the Minister for Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, the report noted that the proximity of a large aircraft flying at low altitude was consistent with the disturbance. An earlier Royal Australian Air Force enquiry had concluded that a flight around the island by an RAAF Hercules aircraft on 30 May was not responsible for the stampede. Airdrop flights to the island were suspended pending discussions on new brief-

ing arrangements, and the government report outlined new guidelines governing where and when aircraft can fly in relation to seabird breeding colonies. (Source: *ANARE News* September 1990: 24.)

CHILEAN AIR DISASTER INVOLVES ANTARCTIC TOURISTS. On 19 February 1991 a BAe-146 Lan Chile aircraft, chartered to Society Expeditions Cruises Inc of Seattle, WA, overshot the end of the runway at Puerto Williams, Navarino Island, crashing into the Beagle Channel. Nineteen of the 65 passengers were killed. En route from Santiago and Punta Arenas, the passengers formed the second of two contingents assembling in Puerto Williams for an 11-day voyage to Antarctic Peninsula in the cruise ship *MV Society Explorer*. Chilean helicopters and naval boats took part in rescue operations. (Source: *USA Today* 21 February 1991.)

Obituary

Rear Adml THOMAS DANIEL DAVIES USN (Ret), who died aged 76 on 21 January 1991, was a renowned United States Navy pilot and navigator, much-decorated for feats in war and peace, and a recognized authority on Peary's Arctic journeys. After distinguished service in World War II he established a world long-distance record with a non-stop flight from Sydney, Australia to Columbus, Ohio, a record that stood for 16 years. In 1946-47 he flew with Operation *Highjump* in Antarctica, in the course of which he invented a sky compass for navigation near the magnetic poles, and designed and tested the first set of skis for tricycle gear aircraft. His last naval appointment was as Chief Oceanographer in charge of Research and Development.

Retiring in 1971, he served for seven years as Assistant Director of the Arms Control Agency, then established the Navigation Foundation, to promote and develop celestial navigation. In his capacity of Foundation President he was approached in 1989 by the National Geographic Society to study the controversy surrounding Peary's North Pole journey of 1909. Using photogrammetric analysis of photographs taken close to the Pole, from sun angles he deduced that Peary had been within five miles of the Pole before turning back.

His findings, presented at a special lecture to the Institution of Civil Engineers in London in October 1990, were welcomed by those who had long believed in Peary's integrity: others questioned the validity of the analysis, and Davies himself was quick to recognize that the controversy would continue.

JOHN ALAN GULLAND, who died in June 1990 aged 63, was a mathematician and fisheries biologist who combined his interests in modelling stocks of fishes and marine mammals. Educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, he spent 15 years in the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft. In 1963 he became one of four scientists brought in to advise the International Whaling Commission on the future of whaling, and from 1964 to 1986 he was a permanent adviser to the Commission. Meanwhile he worked in the Fisheries Department of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, retiring in 1984 as head of the Marine Resources Service at the Fisheries and Environment Division. In retirement he was elected FRS, and became a senior research fellow at Imperial College, London. His advice was sought by the Canadian Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.