

question, however, was hardly encouraging for the preservationists. On 22 May, Royal Society President P. M. S. Blackett led a delegation to meet with British Defense Minister Denis Healy and discuss the case. Healy, who had considered the Royal Society memorandum on Aldabra, provided a formal reply that he authorized be made public.

He declared that no decision had yet been made by the government on whether the defense facilities would be established at Aldabra, but that a decision would be taken within a year.

He acknowledged the "importance of the scientific issues at stake," and pledged that these would be given careful consideration. He added, however, that "this does not mean that, when all other relevant factors are brought into the balance, the scientific considerations will necessarily be held to be decisive."

In the event that an airfield and harbor are built on the island, he said that scientific bodies concerned would be continuously consulted, that defense authorities would seek to insure that changes in the ecosystem of the island were minimized, and that assistance would be given to those carrying out programs of research.

After giving this cold comfort he concluded the report by noting that use of other islands in the Indian Ocean had been considered "but it had proved necessary for compelling reasons to rule them out."

This is where the matter stands. What happens in the next year will depend in large measure on decisions made on Britain's role East of Suez, a subject of intense political interest in Britain at the moment. As of now, Britain is planning a series of island staging areas in the Indian Ocean as way stations between Europe and the Far East. With British withdrawal from Aden scheduled for next year, the Indian Ocean stations, and particularly Aldabra, look increasingly attractive.

East of Suez strategy is, however, far from settled. The recent cancellation of the Anglo-French Variable Geometry (AFVG) project after French withdrawal will deprive Britain of an aircraft which was expected to use Aldabra in the mid 1970's. The British plan to buy a number of the versatile American swing-wing F-111's, but economic and political considerations make it highly unlikely that the RAF-anticipated requirements East of Suez

can be fully met with the American planes.

Considerable pressure on the Labour government is being exerted from within the Labour party to scale down its commitments East of Suez in the coming decade, and the outcome of this debate will no doubt affect the decision on Aldabra.

As for the United States, an airfield and supporting facilities on a strategically useful island with no political problems is presumably desirable from the standpoint of those responsible for U.S. global planning. Facilities on the island would be shared by the United States and United Kingdom. The United States would share in the cost of establishing the station, and opponents of the development of the island speculate the United States has been applying dollar pressure in favor of the establishment of the defense facilities.

In the United States, both the National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution have indicated deep concern over the future of Aldabra. A statement issued by the office of the president of the National Academy, 10 August, said, "The Academy and the Royal Society have urged their governments to exert every effort to eliminate this threat of incalculable damage to one of the world's unique resources for scientific investigations." Two Smithsonian staff members are now on Aldabra with a Royal Society Expedition. They joined the party by invitation of the Royal Society. The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) told *Science* in a telephone interview 11 August that the final decision on the placement of an air base on the island will rest with the British. No date has been set for the decision. The DOD said wildlife on Aldabra will be taken into consideration. If Aldabra is not selected as the site of the joint U.S.-U.K. defense base, at least three other sites have been listed by the DOD as possible alternates. Under a joint agreement signed by the two countries 30 December 1966, the Chagos Archipelago, Farquhar Island, and Ile des Roches were named as sites that would be available for use by either party. All are located in the Indian Ocean.

The Aldabra issue has aroused scientists in Britain more than any recent attempt to preserve an ecosystem. The preservationists now are trying not only to save Aldabra, as the Galapagos were spared, but to drive home the

point that there is no established mechanism by which the scientific community is consulted when such government decisions affecting science are made. So, as important as an Aldabra preserved is to science, even more is at stake than whether the atoll in the 1970's is to be the home of the flightless rail or the F-111.—JOHN WALSH

APPOINTMENTS



Emanuel R. Piore

Emanuel R. Piore, vice president and chief scientist of International Business Machines Corporation, to treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences. He succeeds the late **Lloyd Berkner**. . . .

Haig H. Najarian, associate professor of biology, University of Maine, to chairman of the newly organized Division of Science and Mathematics at the University. . . . **Clarence Allen**, director of the Seismological Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, to acting chairman of the Institute's Division of Geological Sciences, and **Don L. Anderson**, associate professor of geophysics, to director of the Seismological Laboratory at the institute. . . . **James G. Sites**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, George Washington University, to chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the university. . . . **Paul H. Thomas**, associate professor of physiology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, to associate dean of the college. . . . **Robert G. Langdon**, professor of physiological chemistry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, to chairman of the department of biochemistry, University of Florida College of Medicine. . . . **J. Ward Greenwood**, head of the International Affairs, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, to Washington representative of the National Research Council. . . . **Nunzio Tralli**, chairman of the department of physics, C. W. Post College of Long Island University, to director of the Division of Science at the college. . . . **Robert M. Gordon**, assistant director of computer facilities and information services, University of California, Irvine, to director of computer facilities and information services at the uni-

versity. . . . **George W. Ware**, Ohio State University, to head of the department of entomology, University of Arizona. He succeeds **L. A. Carruth**, who will devote full time to teaching and research. . . . **Frank D. Anderson**, associate professor of anatomy, New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, to chairman of the department of anatomy, Marquette University School of Medicine. . . . **Walter S. Guthmann**, professor of chemistry, Roosevelt University, to chairman of the chemistry department at the university. . . . **Eugene Galanter**, chairman of the department of psychology, University of Washington, to professor of psychology, Columbia University. . . . **John B. Poole**, senior parasitologist, Insect Control and Research, Inc., Baltimore, to research parasitologist, Division of Veterinary Research, Food and Drug Administration. . . . **Paul D. Zimskind**, assistant professor of urology, Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, to head of the department of urology at the college. . . . **Ray E. Brown**, director of the graduate program of hospital administration, Duke University, to executive vice president of Affiliated Hospitals Center, Boston. . . . **Joseph R. DiPalma**, chairman of the department of pharmacology, Hahnemann Medical College, to acting dean of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia. . . . **William J. Bouwsma**, chairman of the department of history, University of California, Berkeley, to vice chancellor for academic affairs on the Berkeley campus. . . . **Jose E. Medina**, assistant dean, University of Maryland, to associate dean, College of Dentistry, University of Florida. . . . **Neil Y. Chiamori**, section chief of thyroid tests, Bio-Science Laboratories, Los Angeles, to director, clinical research and analysis, Division of Biometrics Institute, Tucson. . . . **Strother H. Walker**, associate professor of biostatistics, University of Colorado, to head of the newly established division of biostatistics and epidemiology, University of Colorado Medical School. . . . **F. W. Spiers**, to head of the newly formed British Committee on Radiation Units and Measurements, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex. The new committee replaces the former British Committee on Radiological Units. . . . **Kenneth R. Heimlich**, pharmaceutical development section head, Menley & James Laboratories, to director, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and

Development, Smith Kline & French Laboratories. . . . **J. Myron Johnson**, deputy director of the Laboratory of Psychological Studies, Stevens Institute of Technology, to director of the laboratory. . . . **Gerald M. Meredith**, Western Washington State College, to evaluation and alumni liaison officer for the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West, University of Hawaii. . . . **Roger W. Heyns**, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, to member of the National Science Board. . . . **C. Thorpe Ray**, chief of medicine, University of Missouri Medical Center, to director of graduate and postgraduate medical education, Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation, New Orleans. . . . **Maurice M. Osborne**, executive director of Student Health Service, Stanford University, to director of student health services, Tufts University Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine in Boston. . . . **Herbert S. Gutowsky**, professor of chemistry, University of Illinois, to head of the department of chemistry and chemical engineering, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at the university. . . . **Martha L. Lepow**, assistant professor of pediatrics, Western Reserve University School of Medicine, to associate professor of pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine and acting head of pediatrics at McCook Hospital. . . . **Eugene A. Davidson**, professor of biochemistry, Duke University Medical Center, to chairman of the department of biological chemistry, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. . . . **Albert W. Jache**, senior research associate of the chemicals research group, Olin Research Center, Connecticut, to chairman of the chemistry department, Marquette University. . . . **M. Judah Folkman**, associate in medicine, Harvard, to professor of surgery, Harvard University, chief of the General Surgical Services, Children's Hospital Medical Center, and head of the Harvard Medical School's Department of Surgery at the hospital. . . . **Daniel Brower**, professor of psychology, Montclair State College, New Jersey, to chairman of a newly established Department of Psychology at the college. . . . **Frederick F. Ling**, faculty member of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, to chairman of the Department of Mechanics at the institute. . . . **Richard K. Lashof**, professor of mathematics, University of Chicago, to chairman of the Department of Mathematics at the university. . . .

Charles J. Lewis, vice president for research and nutrition, Kent Feeds, Inc., Iowa, to head of the Animal Science Department, South Dakota State University. . . . **David Tilson**, assistant chief, Office of Program Planning, NIH, to chief of the Health Research Facilities Branch of the Division of Research Facilities and Resources, NIH. He succeeds **Francis L. Schmehl** who has become Director of Research Services, University of Nebraska. . . . **Carlton C. Hunt**, chairman of the department of physiology, Yale University School of Medicine, to head of the department of physiology and biophysics, Washington University School of Medicine. . . . **John Wotiz**, chairman of the chemistry department, Marshall University, to chairman of the chemistry department, Southern Illinois University. . . . **Robert W. Blake**, head of the Department of Defense Systems Feasibility Study, National Bureau of Standards, to chief of the newly established Building Systems Section, Building Research Division, National Bureau of Standards. . . . **James M. Parks**, supervisor of geology and geochemistry research, Union Oil Company of California, to director of the Marine Science Center, Lehigh University. . . . **David R. Hawkins**, professor of psychiatry, University of North Carolina, to chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Virginia.

RECENT DEATHS

Edgar Cummings, 93; retired head of the department of geology, Indiana University; 31 July.

Ira B. Cushing, 56; research chemist, Abbott Laboratories, Chicago; 30 June.

Chester F. Koda, 44; chief microbiologist of Vick Divisions Research, Richardson-Merrell, Inc., and director and former editor of *Proceedings*, the Society of Industrial Microbiologists magazine; 23 May.

Arthur Koehler, 82; former scientist, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison; 16 July.

Joseph H. Kraus, 69; key figure in development of science fairs; 2 August.

Richard Kuhn, 66; managing director of the Max Planck Society and Nobel laureate; 2 August.

Luis F. Thomen, 54; medical liaison officer of the World Health Organization and twice Dominion Ambassador to the U.S.; 10 July.