

In spite of the very generous travel allowance which I received from the *Daily Telegraph* during the 10 years I was a member of its staff, I would never have been able to visit and report from all the major Commonwealth countries, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa, had I not benefited from many generous invitations, including travel expenses and air fares. My great tour to Antarctica and the South Pole was a present from the USA, but my frequent visits to the USA to report space science were to a large extent paid for by the *Daily Telegraph*.

Invitations often came by chance, as either an industrial concern, like Hughes Aircraft of Los Angeles, or a country like South Africa for example, decided that their scientific image in England needed to be improved for a variety of reasons, of which of course I was never informed. All Commonwealth countries had diplomatic representation in London, the High Commissions, and these included Scientific Attachés whom I knew well.

They had formed a Luncheon Club, and I was once invited to address them. My subject was "The Comparable Task of Science Attachés and of Science Correspondents". Both had to watch for new scientific developments, report them in a language understandable to non-scientists and to transmit these news as speedily as possible. The reports of the Attachés were often pigeonholed and forgotten, I was told, and I could vouch for the fact that the stories of the Science Correspondents suffered a similar fate. I think I proved my case of great similarity between these two professions.

It was therefore not difficult to suggest to the Attachés that a visit to their country would be welcomed by my Editor, which was perfectly true. The prestige of my Newspaper was second only to that of *The Times*, and frequently its Science Correspondent, Pearce Wright and I worked closely together to obtain invitations. Then, when abroad, for example at the French rocket launching station at Kourou in French Guiana, where we shared accommodation, we quite naturally compared our reports before filing. Both newspapers benefited, and we never scooped each other.

For me, a special relationship developed with the Science Attachés of the then West German Federal Republic: Hans Mohrhauer, Carsten Salander and Ulrich Däunert. As long as funds were available, we planned together the annual visits to Germany and jointly chose the participants. This arrangement was welcomed by all, the newly founded West German Republic, whose scientists were anxious to re-establish relations with their British colleagues, who in turn, would read about German research from our reports in British Newspapers. [See Title 168]