

Never before, and never since, have I travel 181000 km in one year. While working for the *Daily Telegraph* in 1969, almost every month brought an overseas tour, beginning in January with an invitation by the South African (Apartheid) Government to report on their scientific achievements and lecture to their senior scientists on science writing for popular understanding. February and March sent me to the USA, to New York, then the 'Cape' and Houston, Texas, to cover the Apollo 9 flight and testing the Lunar Module LM in Earth Orbit. In May I was in Prague to report on the 12th Annual Space Science Conference.

In July I was again in the USA, the 'Cape' and Houston, Texas, for the unforgettable Apollo 11 first landing of men on the Moon. In October I started on another memorable voyage, to the South Pole, 90° South. To get there, I flew by a commercial air line from London to Washington DC, and then onwards by US Military Air Command, as their guest, to the South Pole by way of Christchurch, New Zealand, where a delay of one month occurred. [See Title 188 onwards for details]. I used this interval to visit a British mining enterprise in the York Peninsula in the northernmost part of Queensland, Australia. There and back, nearly 10000 km, see Title 192.

After this sidestep, reported to, but never published in the *Daily Telegraph*, back to Christchurch, where all was ready by then for the flight to the American Base McMurdo on the Antarctic Continent. From there it was only few hours flying to the South Pole, but numerous other flights in the Antarctic followed, to the Byrd Station and many test flights for the new British radar ice-thickness measuring equipment. [See Title 201] I filed numerous reports about my Antarctic voyage to Fleet Street, most of which were published, with one notable exception [see Title 200].

By Christmas I was back in the USA, in Boston, where the American Association for the Advancement of Science was holding its 136th Meeting. I returned to London on 3 January 1970, the end of a veritable *Annus mirabilis*.

Of course much of the year saw me in my office in Fleet street, writing about routine science every day. Here are some of the titles:

Pulsars slowing down
Russian science delays
Russia to double caviar output
Home made atom bomb impossible says UKAEA
British Metrication Forecast—ex Exeter BA
Underwater Kon-Tiki completed [see Title 185]
Defoliants condemned