

become due; the sum is to be placed in a special account in a way similar to that proposed by the Sinclair Committee, where interest will not be payable. The Corporation's debt of about £9 million, arising from projects abandoned by the Corporation, would also be placed in this account. Towards these two liabilities the Corporation would pay to the Exchequer 60 per cent of its net annual profits in excess of £250,000. The Government proposed to review these arrangements in three years time in the light of experience gained.

In future loan transactions, the period over which repayments to the Exchequer would be made would conform generally to that of the capital repayments which the Corporation would be receiving from third parties. For investments in shares, the Corporation would generally draw long-term advances for a 40-year period, and for this type of investment only the Corporation would not be required to service the Exchequer advances during the first seven years. Mr. Macleod said he was satisfied that these arrangements would be of real assistance to the Corporation and that they largely followed the recommendations of the Sinclair Committee. The Government had been unable to accept the recommendation that part of the advances should be converted to an equity share-holding in the Corporation, as this would have amounted to a subsidy over which there would not be full Government or Parliamentary control. In reply to questions, Mr. Macleod said that while the Corporation could bring to fruition projects it may have started in newly independent countries, its main effort should be made in starting new projects in the Colonies where the need was very great.

A Radio Telescope for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

A FULLY steerable radio telescope is to be built at a site near Crowthorne, Berkshire, by the Ministry of Works for the Radio Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It is expected to be completed and in operation towards the end of 1963 at an estimated overall cost of £250,000, including buildings, equipment and site services. The instrument, which will have a parabolic aerial about 80 ft. in diameter, will have high accuracy and a faster tracking speed than the 250-ft. radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, an essential requirement for following Earth satellites and determining orbital data. It will be used to receive weak signals from distant space vehicles transmitting at ultra-high frequencies. In the field of radio astronomy, an application of the telescope will be a study of radio noise from the Sun, including sudden increases in radio emission which are related to disruption in short-wave communications. Also of interest is the radio noise from planets. The telescope will be valuable in extending investigations of the properties of the upper and lower atmospheres which are important in both terrestrial and space communications. This feature will assume even greater significance in the next few years, when satellites for communications, as well as for research purposes, are likely to come into use. In considering this project, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was advised by the following sub-committee: Sir Bernard Lovell (University of Manchester), Prof. Martin Ryle (University of Cambridge) and Dr. J. S. Hey (Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern).

Committee on Hydrological Research

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on April 18 asking for the creation of an organization to conduct basic research into the conservation and utilization of water supplies in Britain, Mr. D. Freeth, the Parliamentary Secretary for Science, said that the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a Committee on Hydrological Research, under the chairmanship of Dr. B. K. Blount: "to survey and assess current research relevant to water conservation in the United Kingdom; to identify needs for further research; to allocate priorities and to determine where research should be done and to co-ordinate the work as necessary". The Committee has already held its first meeting and the Ministries of Agriculture and Local Government, as well as other bodies, are co-operating fully.

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Dr. B. K. Blount (*chairman*), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. E. C. Childs (Agricultural Research Council); Dr. H. L. Penman (Agricultural Research Council); Mr. E. A. C. Johnson (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food); Mr. J. K. Wilson (Department of Agriculture for Scotland); J. E. Munro (Department of Health for Scotland); Mr. R. F. Wood (Forestry Commission Research Station); Mr. C. H. Spens (Ministry of Housing and Local Government); Mr. A. C. Boulton (Surface Water Survey, Ministry of Housing and Local Government); Mr. P. J. Meede (Meteorological Office); Dr. E. B. Worthington (Nature Conservancy); Prof. M. V. Laurie (Department of Forestry, University of Oxford); Mr. P. O. Wolf (Department of Civil Engineering, Imperial College, University of London); Mr. N. A. F. Pountree (Institution of Water Engineers); Mr. M. Nixon (River Boards Association); Dr. R. C. Allen (Water Research Association); Dr. S. Buchan (Geological Survey and Museum); Mr. F. H. Allen (Hydraulics Research Station); Dr. B. A. Southgate (Water Pollution Research Laboratory).

Malaria Eradication Campaign

IN replying on an adjournment debate on the United Kingdom's contribution to the malaria eradication campaign on April 26, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Miss E. Pitt, said that the United Kingdom contributes already in four ways: through the regular budget of the World Health Organization; through the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; through the United Nations Technical Assistance Fund; and through the grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, the total expenditure under which for the purpose during the past twelve years was £760,000. In 1961 the contribution from the Malaria Eradication Special Account was about one-third of all that expended by the World Health Organization on malaria eradication, and amounted to 5.7 million dollars. The regular budget contributed 714,000 dollars, and the extended programme of technical assistance 639,000 dollars. The Special Malaria Fund of the Pan-American Health Organization contributed 3 million dollars and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund 8 million dollars, making a total of nearly 19 million dollars.

The Malaria Eradication Special Account was established in 1955 on the initiative of about 25 countries, but at the start the major Powers were opposed to the financing of such a scheme by soliciting