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AUSTRALIANS PLAN ANTARCTIC JOURNEY

Statement by the Department of External Affairs

The Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs has drawn up plans for a major antarctic journey next summer.

The object will be to carry out seismic ice depth measurements for a distance of 850 miles inland from Wilkes Station to link up the work of the Australians in 1961 with other seismic work carried out by the Russians at Vostok station.

The expedition will be led by Robert Thompson, of New Zealand, officer-in-charge at Wilkes Station, who will be accompanied by Alastair Batty, glaciologist of Chatswood, N.S.W.; Donald Walker, geophysicist, of Mosman Park, N.S.W.; Daniel Foster, weather technician, of Londonville, Ohio, U.S.A.; Neville Collins, senior diesel mechanic, of Inala, Queensland and Desmond Evans, driver-mechanic, of Yallourn, Victoria.