

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
OF SOUTH AFRICA.

No.

37

991

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL
From

S of S
Doms. No. 42. SECRET.

SUBJECT.

RUSSIA
ARCTIC

Soviet decree of 15.4.26. defining the territorial claims of Russia in the Arctic: attitude which Committee of Imperial Conference appointed to consider the subject of British policy in the Antarctic, considers should be adopted.

1927

Creation of permanent settlement at Wrangel Island.

17 January

PREVIOUS PAPERS.

MINUTES.

37/909

? Min. for signature

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S. 701311: Memo on British Policy in Antarctic

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS.

No. 37 / 991

as constituting acquiescence by such Powers in the issue of those instruments and that it was therefore desirable to follow the same course in connection with the Soviet decree. The Report of the Committee was approved by the Imperial Conference on the 19th November.

3. In view of the terms of the Committee's Report it is not proposed to return any reply to M. Bogomoloff's note of the 2nd September.

18th November

4. I take this opportunity of enclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Representative at Moscow, reporting that steps have been taken by the Soviet authorities to create a permanent settlement on Wrangel Island.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Amery

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Dominions No. 42

Secret.

Downing Street,

17 January, 1927.

REC'D. G.G.O.
7 FEB. 1927
37/991

My Lord,

37/909

With reference to my Confidential despatch Dominions No.365 of the 11th August, I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that the Soviet Government subsequently communicated officially to His Majesty's Government in Great Britain the decree of the 15th April, 1926 defining the territorial claims of Russia in the Arctic. A copy of a note from the Soviet Charge d'Affaires is enclosed.

2nd September

2. It was thought desirable that the attitude to be adopted in relation to this decree should be considered by the Committee of the Imperial Conference which had been appointed to consider the subject of British Policy in the Antarctic (see my Secret despatch of the 5th of January). In their Report (E 130) the Committee expressed the opinion that the most satisfactory course would be to take no action. They pointed out that it was advantageous to be able to treat the silence with which the Letters Patent of 1917 relating to the Falkland Islands Dependencies and the Ross Dependency Order in Council of 1923 were received by foreign Powers

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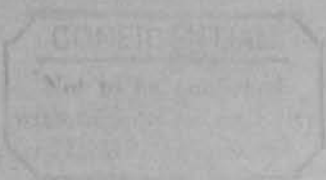
GOVERNOR GENERAL

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF ATHLONE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.
etc., etc., etc.

Copy sent to
For
Minister
Date
SECRET
8 37/991
70/311
J. E. O'Malley
1927
ATHLONE



No. 844

BRITISH MISSION,

Moscow.

18th November, 1926.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that steps have been taken by the Soviet authorities to create a permanent settlement on Wrangel Island. The steamer "Stavropol" made a trip to the island last summer taking fifty Chukchee families as settlers, with a small number of officials including a doctor. The settlers were landed in Rogers Bay with provisions for three years, and, according to the press account, started to build huts for themselves, with a special building^{to} house the first Soviet on Wrangel Island. The "Stavropol" before returning, hoisted the Soviet flag on Herald Island.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) R.E. Hodgson.

The Right Honourable

Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.C., M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.

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BB/2566

M. Bogomoleff, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to state that he is requested by his Government to communicate the following to His Majesty's Government.

In view of the universal tendency manifested from the beginning of this century to regulate the juridic condition of the polar territories, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, after having examined this problem from the point of view regarding that part of the Arctic region bordering upon the Northern coast of the Union, published on the 15th April last a Decree entitled: "Decree declaring the land and the islands situated in the Arctic Ocean as territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics".

In this Decree, all the land and isles situated in the Arctic Ocean within the limits of the sector formed by the meridians encircling the northern shores of the Union, which have been discovered and are discovered in future, and which are not recognised by the Government of the Union as territory of a foreign State at the date of the promulgation of the Decree, are declared the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. These meridians are specified in the Decree, a copy of which is enclosed.

M. Bogomoleff has the honour to request that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will inform His Majesty's Government of the above.

Soviet Union,

2nd September 1926.