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REPORT OF THE AWARD COMMITTEE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARTIC MEDAL

1. Appointment and Duties of the First Award Committee

The First Award Committee for the South African Antarctic Medal was appointed by the National Executive Committee (N.E.C.) on 18th November, 1963. Professor K. van der Walt was appointed convener, Dr. J. J. Taljaard and Mr. I. H. Lloyd members and Mrs. C. M. Taljaard, secretary. This Committee was requested to draft the constitution of the Award Committee, to formulate the conditions of award of the Medal, to prepare a guide for assessing the qualifications and merits of candidates for the Medal and to elect the first recipient of the Medal.

2. Meetings of the Award Committee

The Committee met on 5th, 11th and 22nd January, 1964, and consulted several people in person and by correspondence in connection with the preparation of the guide for merit assessment, as well as for the purpose of selecting the first recipient of the Medal.

3. Constitution of the Award Committee

- (i) *Membership*
The members of the Award Committee are elected annually by the N.E.C. from its own members. The Committee shall be constituted as follows:
(a) Convener; (b) two members and (c) the Secretary of the N.E.C. who shall act as secretary but shall have no voting power.
- (ii) *Voting*
Each member shall have one vote and the award will be given to the nominee receiving the majority vote, but if voting is equal the Convener shall have the casting vote.
- (iii) *Referees*
The award committee will have the power to call in the aid of referees.

4. Conditions for Awarding the Medal

The South African Antarctic Medal is awarded by the South African Antarctic Association to a person who has been chosen by the Award Committee. One medal will be available each year but need not necessarily be awarded annually. More than one medal may be awarded during the same year on condition that no award was made during a previous year or years.

5. Nomination of Candidates

Any member of the South African Antarctic Association is entitled to nominate a candidate or candidates for consideration by the Award Committee. Such nomination(s) should be submitted in written form, together with as comprehensive a motivation as possible. The Award Committee may, after considering the motivation, approach the Nominator for further information or alternatively, gather information from other sources.

6. Release of the Name of the Recipient

Immediately after making its final decision the Award Committee shall inform the N.E.C. in writing of the name of the Recipient. The N.E.C. shall then, on behalf of the South African Antarctic Association, inform the Recipient and invite him to

accept the award. Immediately after receiving a favourable reply the President of the N.E.C. will release the name of the Recipient to the Press and Radio.

7. Award Qualifications

The South African Antarctic Medal may be awarded to any person who, according to the judgment of the Award Committee, has made an outstanding contribution towards the South African effort in Antarctica and/or the sub-Antarctic Islands on which South African stations are maintained.

8. Guide for Merit Assessment

When assessing the merits of a candidate the Award Committee will be entitled to use any information whatsoever which, in their judgment, will contribute significantly to the assessment of a candidate's merits. As a guide the following points, which should receive priority consideration, are listed. They are arranged roughly in the descending order of importance:

- (i) *Courage*. This implies the mental qualities of enterprise and perseverance in the fulfilment of tasks, as well as physical acts of bravery, such as the saving of stores or equipment from destruction which are of vital importance to the survival of life or the continuation of an expedition's programmes. (The saving of life is catered for by other medals already in existence.)
- (ii) *Scientific Achievement*. This includes the quality as well as the volume of scientific work done on Antarctica or the sub-Antarctic Islands. Publication of work is an essential requisite. The scientific standard as well as the manner of presentation will be taken into consideration.
- (iii) *Leadership*. The term leadership will not of necessity apply only to the official leader of a team or expedition. It will be judged according to the following leadership qualities: Capability, exemplary conduct, self-possession, consideration, helpfulness, determination, patience.
- (iv) *Sustained interest*. The interest shown in the scientific programme, its successful completion and the eventual publication of the facts and findings.
- (v) *Supporting role*. The role which is played by a person leading to the successful completion of the task of the expedition. This includes, e.g. the ordering and assembling of equipment, the shipment of stores, the maintenance of instruments, transport facilities, radio communication, health, etc.
- (vi) *Comradeship*. The cheering comradeship and assistance during conditions of isolation and stress.
- (vii) *Publicity in South Africa*. The fostering of interest in Antarctic exploration and research and of the need for the continuation and expansion of well organised programmes in Antarctica and on the sub-Islands on which South African stations are maintained.

9. Amendments

If the necessity arises for the above rules of procedure to be amended, they shall be amended only with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the N.E.C.