

SECRET

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FALKLAND Is. ST. HELENA, TRISTAN da CUNHA

FILE PERIOD

FILE PERIOD: 1954-1956

PART
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PART

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FILE TITLE

PROPOSALS for a COMMONWEALTH
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

FILE NUMBER

FST



64/37/01

64/37/01

FILE NUMBER

FST

INDEX HEADINGS

ANTARCTIC

EXPEDITIONS

UNITED KINGDOM

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Return by (24/12/2009)

7707667 (Ms Susanna van der Watt)

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C.O.R.II.

- 113 U.K. High Comm S.A./CRO — TEL 141 — 12.5.55 —
 Durban report re South African participation
 in expedition
- 114 U.K. High Comm N.Z./CRO — TEL 200 — 14.5.55 —
 Dept of External Affairs expect public committee to
 be set up. — U.K. rep might arrange to arrive
 after 28th May.
- 115 U.K. High Comm N.Z./CRO — TEL 201 — 14.5.55 —
 Trans summary of reply received from
 N.Z. government.
- 116 Falkland Is. — Saving 17. Dep. — 5.5.55 —
 grateful for clarification of Para 17(c) of 91.
- 117 C.R.L. Perry. —————
 Minutes of 6th meeting of Committee of Management
 held on Tuesday 6th May '55.
- 118 F.I. DEPS. Sat. 16. 6am. ————— 19 MAY 1955
- 119 LT. R. Taylor R.A.V.C. ————— 15.5.55
 Wishes to become a member of the expedition
- 119 should be sent to Admiral Perry at 64
 Victoria St
 to Honem
 19
 5
- 120 To Admiral Perry — w/1(19) ————— 19.5.55

121

CONFIDENTIAL
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Minutes of a meeting held in the Conference Room,
2 Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, S.W.1.
at 10.30.am. on Thursday 12th May 1955.

PRESENT.

Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
Sir Edwin Herbert
Mr. G.P.Pirie-Gordon
Mr. W.D.C.Wiggins
Professor F. Debenham
Sqd/Ldr. W.E.Hampton
Mr. G.de Q.Robin
Professor E.H.Read
Dr. E.Hindle
Mr. L.Brooks
General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Mr. J.L.Wordie
Mr. L.P.Mirwan
Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Day
Sir Raymond Priestley
Dr. V.E.Fuchs

ALSO ATTENDED.

Air Commodore W.E.Culton (Air Ministry)
Mr. W.O.Sloman (Colonial Office)
Mr. M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
Mr. C.G.Johnstone (Aemp, Chatteris & Co.)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM

Sir Miles Clifford
Sir Edward Bullard
The Rt.Rev.The Bishop of Portsmouth
Dr. G.C.L.Bertram

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed to by those present.

PROGRESS OF PLANNING.

2. The Chairman made a brief report on the general progress of planning for the Expedition and gave information on the subjects mentioned in the following paragraphs:

3. Office Accommodation. The new offices at 64 Victoria Street are now in use as the Headquarters of the Expedition.

4. Formation of the Company. The Articles of Association for the Formation of the Company have been drawn up and approved by the Committee of Management. It is expected that within the next three weeks the Expedition will become a legal entity, thus making it possible for contracts to be concluded and signed. As soon as the Company comes into being the members

of the Committee of Management will be asked to sign a £5 guaranty and will become Directors. Members of the General Committee will then be invited to join the Company as Shareholders.

COMMONWEALTH AID.

5. Australia. Dr. Fuchs said that he had had discussions with a representative of the Australian Government and it was hoped that Australia might make a small financial contribution to the Expedition. He visualised something in the region of £10,000 but nothing had been promised, and there was also hope of some material assistance. Professor Debenham said that he was a personal friend of Sir Douglas Mawson and, at the request of the Committee, agreed to contact him in a private capacity with a view to boosting Australian interest in the Expedition.

6. New Zealand. The New Zealand Government had expressed interest in the Expedition and it was hoped that they might ultimately contribute £50,000 but nothing definite had so far materialised. At the request of the Committee of Management the Commonwealth Relations Office had sent a telegram to the High Commissioner asking him to press the Government to nominate an organization with which we can treat officially. As soon as this is in train it is hoped that Sir Miles Clifford, representing the Committee of Management, will go to New Zealand to establish a liaison with those concerned.

7. South Africa. An article appeared in the 'Times' last week quoting the Minister of External Affairs as being interested in this Expedition. At the request of the Committee of Management the Commonwealth Relations Office had followed this up with a telegram to our High Commissioner in South Africa asking him to find out to what extent, if any, the South African Government would be prepared to support the enterprise.

B.B.C. OFFER.

8. The Chairman said that certain practical difficulties had arisen over the financial offer made by the B.B.C. There is likely to be some conflict between their interests and the sale of feature and picture rights to the Press. Sir Miles Clifford, Dr. Fuchs and the Secretary had had a meeting with B.B.C. representatives and it was hoped that these matters would be resolved in the near future.

9. The suggestion that a press representative should accompany the Expedition was also under consideration and it had been suggested that Mr. George Lowe, who is already an accepted member, should undertake the publicity side. He would write the despatches and be responsible for still and cine-photography. The Committee felt that before they could agree to this proposal his competence as a photographer should be confirmed for if we found ourselves under contract to a film company, they would expect pictures and film to be of a high order.

LITERARY RIGHTS.

10. The Chairman reported that Messrs. Cassells' offer for the book rights had been accepted. Literary rights have also been negotiated in several foreign countries and the contracts will be signed as soon as the Expedition is a legal body.

SHIPPING.

11. At the last meeting of the Committee of Management, on the advice of Mr. Glen, it was decided to make a firm offer of £215 per day for the 'THERON' to carry the Advance Party this year. The Main Party's requirements next year could be met either by the 'KISTA DAN' (which is at present under charter to the Australian Government) or, the 'MAGGA DAN' which is now building. The latter is a much larger ship and would be more expensive to charter, but as there is a possibility that the International Geophysical Year may wish to join forces with the Expedition to ship their equipment to Antarctica, the 'MAGGA DAN' would be capable of looking after the needs of both Organizations. In the latter event the I.G.Y. would have to share the cost of charter.

12. After discussion it was agreed:-

- a) to ask the I.G.Y. for a firm answer as to whether or not they wished to operate in conjunction with the Expedition. (If they do it will necessitate chartering the 'MAGGA DAN' for which we have first refusal until 1st June 1955.)
- b) If the I.G.Y. are not interested in a joint project then we should approach the Australian Government with the suggestion that they release the 'KISTA DAN' to the Expedition and charter the 'MAGGA DAN' instead. It is known that they are interested in this ship owing to her superior passenger accommodation.

AIRCRAFT.

13. The Chairman outlined the needs of the Expedition as follows:-

1955. - 2 Austers.

1956. - 1 Auster and 1 other at the Weddell Sea.
1 Auster and 1 other at the Ross Sea.

The Austers will be supplied by the Air Ministry who are also providing the necessary personnel to man and maintain them. As regards the "other type" to be used, the Chairman stated that there are three possibilities - Otters, Beavers or the Norwegian aircraft Wideroe. Otters were best suited to the needs of the Expedition but none are available from R.A.F. sources.

14. There is a possibility that the R.C.A.F. may have Otters to spare and if so they might be prepared to lend two to the R.A.F. for use on the

Expedition. The whole question had been discussed in detail by the Committee of Management as a result of which the Commonwealth Relations Office agreed to send a telegram to the High Commissioner in Canada asking his advice on the method of approach to the Canadian Government. If no assistance is forthcoming from Canada, the Committee of Management would consider the purchase of Wideroe aircraft, on which very satisfactory reports have been received from the Air Attache in Norway. It was felt that great caution was needed before we commit ourselves to this machine but it was agreed that further enquiries on its capabilities should be pursued.

15. It was hoped that it would not be necessary to purchase aircraft and no allowance for this eventuality had been made in the draft Budget Estimate for the Expedition. Dr. Fuchs was asked if he still proposed to abandon an aircraft en route but he said that he now envisaged bringing the 'plane right through with the ground party and it would of course be most useful to them for reconnaissance purposes.

16. It was hoped that Squadron Leader John Lewis would shortly be released by the Air Ministry to give full time service to air preparations for the Expedition. In an effort to expedite this matter the Chairman agreed to send a personal request for speedy action to the Secretary of State for Air.

17. Some discussion then took place regarding the problems of flight across Antarctica, communications between ground and air, height performance etc. It was agreed that these items should be examined in detail.

FINANCE.

18. Copies of the draft Budget Estimate were tabled and Mr. Pirie-Gordon said that the total rough estimate of £350,000 is arrived at by making some rather large assumptions:

- a) that aircraft will be provided free,
- b) that shipping costs will be kept down to £158,000.
- c) In the Schedules marked 'EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES' and 'SALARIES AND ADMINISTRATION' it was hoped that the figures given would be a reasonable estimate but there was an element of uncertainty as the cost of these items in New Zealand is not yet known.
- d) It is not possible to estimate the value of scientific equipment we shall be given or lent, nor the apportionment of this between the United Kingdom and New Zealand Bases.
- e) The problem of what should be insured and for how long is under discussion.

19. Mr. Pirie-Gordon also spoke about income but this again is difficult to estimate at this stage. Known income from donations and advance royalties on

the book is about £123,000. Income under negotiation is possibly £90,000 making a total of £213,000. This leaves about £150,000 still to be raised from the City and public subscription.

20. Sir Edwin Herbert then spoke about the public appeal. It was necessary to decide who should sponsor it and when it should be made. He was hoping to enlist the support of the Governor of the Bank of England in the first place and suggested that a public appeal might appropriately be made in the autumn.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

21. Professor Read said that at the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee members had been invited to send Dr. Fuchs details of their suggestions as to what could be accomplished in their various particular fields of interest. Dr. Fuchs then gave a brief report on the proposed scientific programme as follows:

- a) Meteorology. The sort of work to be done would depend largely on the qualifications of the senior Meteorologist and it is apparent that a considerable amount of money will be needed to provide the instruments for this branch of the work. We hope to receive help in kind.
- b) Geology. As regards the Vahsel Bay area the programme cannot be planned in detail because nothing is known of the conditions, but it is potentially a critical point - particularly should the Party find exposed mountain areas. Dr. Fuchs hoped to take a geologist who understands petro-fabrics and also glaciology. At the other end the opportunities for geological work are great and survey and geology can go hand in hand.
- c) Survey. The Party will carry out the normal type of polar survey by means of compass traverse controlled by astronomical fixes. The various flights should also provide assistance in the form of air photographs.
- d) Glaciology. This programme could be divided into:
 - i. Work around the Base and on local journeys up to 100 miles.
 - ii. Work during the crossing itself.Under (i) there would be studies of the ice-shelf, while (i) and (ii) would both include studies of accretion, ablation, temperature variation with depth and density measurement. Dr. Fuchs added that he would attempt to obtain a light engine driven boring machine.
- e) Seismic Sounding. Mr. Robin spoke about the problems involved in getting energy into the ice and sending back an echo without creating too much disturbance on the surface. He recommended that the Expedition should take mechanical boring equipment, but this means extra weight and may not be practical.

- f) Gravimetric Traverse. The Party might reasonably carry out a gravimetric traverse between the Base and the Depot from Vahsel Bay. This is roughly a distance of 300 miles and the necessary levelling would take time though it has been found that it would not need to be as accurate as the work of the British North Greenland Expedition. An assessment of its value in relation to the rest of the programme is necessary.
- g) Physiology. This subject may play a larger part in the work of the Expedition than had been expected. The results of the observations of the British North Greenland Expedition were still being worked out and, when these are available, it will be possible to formulate an exact programme. It is essential that the physiologist with the Expedition should be provided with reasonable equipment and opportunity to do his work adequately.
- h) Biology. Dr. Hindle asked whether biological observations were included in the programme. Dr. Fuchs said that it was unlikely that there would be much material available at the Vahsel Bay end but there would be opportunities for this work at McMurdo Sound and he hoped that a biologist would be included in that Party. He had not yet tackled the problem of personnel for this but the future New Zealand Committee would no doubt arrange for it.

22. Mr. Wordie pointed out that if the I.G.Y. carry out a scientific programme in these areas it would relieve us of a considerable amount of work, but Dr. Fuchs said that as it was not yet certain that they would be there, it was necessary for the Expedition to plan on doing everything possible. He would of course ensure that observations were not duplicated and, assuming that the I.G.Y. do appear on the scene, the upper air work could be handed over.

PERSONNEL SELECTION.

23. Selection of personnel is proceeding, the main requirement at the moment being for technicians. Mr. David Stratton has already taken up his duties as Stores Officer and stores lists were being compiled. Mr. David Pratt has been appointed Transport Officer and will be in charge of all engines, vehicles, fuels and lubricants. It is hoped that Sqdn/Ldr John Lewis will shortly join the staff to deal with preparations for air support.

24. Dr. Fuchs said that he envisaged the Main Party for the trans-continental crossing as follows:

Leader
1 Geologist
2 Physicists
2 Meteorologists
1 Doctor-physiologist
1 Glaciologist
1 Surveyor
1 Assistant Surveyor
1 Photographer
1 Engineer
1 Radio Operator
1 Pilot
1 Aircraft Mechanic

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

25. The next meeting of the General Committee will be held on Thursday 15th September 1955 at 11.am.



C.R.L. Barry.

SECRETARY

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Distribution:

All Members of the General Committee
Commonwealth Relations Office (4)
Colonial Office (2)
C.G. Johnstone Esq. (Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris & Co.)
H.E. The Governor, Falkland Islands.

CONFIDENTIAL

MED 44/16/01

118

Saving

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS
(DEPENDENCIES)

Date 19 May, 1955.

No. 16 Saving CONFIDENTIAL

Your savingram 17 Dependencies.

Phrase in question was the expression
of a point of view and there is no question of an
International Geophysical Year station being a
F.I.D.S. commitment.

SECRET.

DRAFT

FILE No. MED 44/16/51

TELEGRAM

SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may, if necessary, be entered here.

C. D. 18
R. 18 MAY
D. 18

Mr. Shuman 18
Mr. atene
Mr.
Mr.
Sir

Addressed to :-
Falkland Islands (Dependence) 16

Number

Repeated to :-

Savingsrams only.

Your reference.

Serial No.

Time and date

19 MAY 1955 hours
195

Perm. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Minister of State
Secretary of State

Medium :-

En clair or

Code

Cypher

Urgency classification :-

Nil

Reply urgently required

Priority

Immediate

Emergency

Security classification :-

Unclassified

Restricted

Confidential

Secret

Top Secret

Guard

(116) ———— 4 Jom Savingsrams 17 Dependence

Phrase in question was ~~parly~~
the espusion of a point of view
or there is no question of I.G.Y station
being a FIDS commitment

Secur.

Distribution :-

Further action :-

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Committee of Management held at 64 Victoria St S.W.1. on Friday 6th May 1955

PRESENT:

Sir John Bessor (Chairman)
Gen Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Mr. J. J. Wordie
Mr. G. P. Pirie-Gordon
Mr. A. R. Glen
Sir Miles Clifford
Dr. V. E. Fuchs

ALSO ATTENDED

Mr. D. M. Cleary (Commonwealth Relations Office)
The Hon. R. F. Hope (Commonwealth Relations Office)
Mr. W. O. Sloman (Colonial Office)
Mr. E. West (Colonial Office)
Mr. C. G. Johnstone (Kemp, Chatteris & Co.)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Sir Edwin Herbert
Professor H. I. Read

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Management held on 15th April were agreed to by those present.

1. B.B.C. OFFER

It was evident from the interview between Sir Edwin Herbert and Sir Ian Jacob of the B.B.C., that certain difficulties existed on the practical side of the matter. A meeting on a lower level was therefore arranged between Sir Miles Clifford, Dr. Fuchs, the Secretary, and representatives of the B.B.C. headed by Mr. Pelletier. There was a discussion regarding communications with the Antarctic and the possibility of a B.B.C. representative accompanying the Expedition. The likely effect of broadcasting on newspaper articles was also considered. As a result of this meeting the B.B.C. said that they would make another financial offer in about 10 days time.

As regards television it was agreed that a further meeting on similar lines should be held in the near future to discuss the practical requirements of this medium.

2. NEWSPAPER OFFERS

Mr. Greenfield attended this part of the meeting and the Chairman invited him to comment on the relation between broadcasting and newspaper feature rights. He said he thought that most newspapers would lose interest but it might not conflict with the views of the 'Times' or the Sunday Press. A list was then circulated showing the offers already made by the Press.

Dr. Fuchs said that he could not afford to have Press representatives on the trans-continental journey, but would be prepared for one member of his team to handle all publicity matters. Mr. George Lowe appeared to be a suitable person.

It was agreed that:

- a) Mr. Greenfield should inform the 'Daily Mail' (who had offered £25,000) that it was not possible for their representative to accompany the crossing Party, and that he should find out whether they would accept Mr. Lowe's material.
- b) Sir Miles Clifford should see the 'Times' to ascertain whether their offer would be prejudiced by any arrangement made with the B.B.C.
- c) We should await the combined offer for Sound broadcasting and television, from the B.B.C.
- d) No action should be taken before the receipt of firm offers from the B.B.C., the 'Times' and the 'Daily Mail'.

When the above information is available the Committee of Management will be able to assess the respective merits and make the necessary decisions.

3. FINANCE.

Mr. Pirie-Gordon gave a brief resume of the present financial situation. A first instalment of £25,000 of the Government Grant of £100,000 has now been received. A detailed Budget Estimate covering the expenses of the Expedition was being prepared.

4. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

The Chairman asked for suggestions or amendments to the proof copy of the Articles of Association which had been circulated to the Committee. Dr. Fuchs proposed an amendment to para 3 (b) to bring it more into line with the scientific aims of the Expedition.

Mr. Cleary raised the point as to whether a representative of the Commonwealth Relations Office should be made a member of the proposed Company, and possibly of the Committee of Management also. After some discussion it was agreed that a permissive clause should be inserted giving the Secretary of State power to nominate a member if he so desired.

The Committee then adopted the proposed Articles of Association subject to the amendments stated above.

5. RELATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

a) Australia Mr. Cleary said that although we could not expect financial assistance from Australia they had shown considerable interest in the venture. Dr. Fuchs and the Secretary had had a detailed discussion at the Commonwealth Relations Office with a representative of the Australian Government which had proved useful. Sir James Marshall-Cornwall suggested that Sir Thomas White, who is an Australian and a member of the Royal Geographical Society, might be interested. The Chairman agreed to write a letter to Sir Thomas setting out the aims and needs of the Expedition.

b) New Zealand. No reply had been received from New Zealand regarding their participation in the Expedition. In view of the cables already sent it was decided that it would not be tactful to press

ACTION
THE
CHAIRMAN

ACTION
MR.
CLEARY.

the matter at the moment. Mr. Cleary suggested that it would be useful to ask the New Zealand Government to nominate an Organization in New Zealand with which the Expedition could establish official contact. The Committee agreed to this proposal and Mr. Cleary was asked to act accordingly.

c) South Africa. Sir James Marshall-Cornwall said that he had seen an article in that day's edition of the 'Times' stating that South Africa would be interested in taking part in the Expedition. Dr. Fuchs said that a welcome contribution from that country would be meteorological equipment and men. The Committee decided that after reading the article the matter should be taken up with the High Commissioner for South Africa.

6.

SHIPPING

The Secretary stated that he, Dr. Fuchs and our shipping Agents, the Westralian Farmers Ltd., had had a long discussion with Mr. Lauritzen, whose firm is building the 'MAGGA DAN'. Mr. Lauritzen showed interest in the Expedition's desire to charter this vessel for 1956/57 and has now returned to Denmark to talk to his firm about the terms of charter. It is hoped that these will be known within the next fortnight.

Dr. Fuchs said that the 'KISTA DAN' could be used next year instead of the 'MAGGA DAN' on the grounds of economy, but she is a smaller ship. She is at present committed to the Australian Government but it is possible that they might be willing to exchange her for the 'MAGGA DAN'. A major problem in such a manoeuvre lies in the uncertainty of the plans of the International Geophysical Year. If they wished to sail with the Expedition then the 'MAGGA DAN' is the only vessel large enough to accommodate both Parties. At present the plans of the Expedition are being framed on the assumption that the International Geophysical Year would not participate. After discussion it was decided that a letter should be written to the International Geophysical Year setting out the problem from our angle and requesting a definite reply by 28th May.

ACTION
THE
SECRETARY.

ACTION
THE
SECRETARY &
MR. GLEN.

No reply has been received from the owners of the 'THERON' regarding the proposal to charter this vessel for the Advance Party. As this matter now needs action it was decided that the Secretary and Mr. Glen should arrange with the Westralian Farmers to press 'THERON'S' owners for an answer.

7.

AIRCRAFT

Squadron Leader John Lewis was called to the meeting and the Chairman invited him to remark on the general characteristics of the Norwegian aircraft 'WIDEROE'. It appeared that this 'plane had the same general characteristics as the 'BEAVER' but is fabric covered.

ACTION
MR
CLEARY

Mr. Cleary proposed that he should approach the High Commissioner for Canada for advice on how to set about obtaining two 'OTTERS' it having been decided that this type of aircraft was best suited for the needs of the Expedition.

8.

OTHER BUSINESS.

ACTION
MR
WORDIE

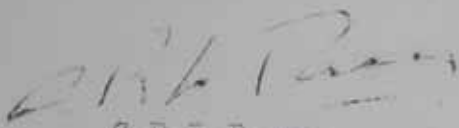
a) Relief for Dr. Fuchs. The relief of Dr. Fuchs from his F.I.D.S. duties has become a matter of urgency. Mr. Wordie mentioned the names of several suitable successors and said he would press the matter.

b) Stores Officer. Mr. David Stratton who has recently joined the Expedition as Stores Officer, was introduced to the Committee.

9.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Committee of Management will be held at No. 64 Victoria Street, S.W.1. at 2.30 pm. on Thursday 2nd June 1955.

The Meeting adjourned at 12.43 pm.



C.R.L. Parry.

SECRETARY

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

DISTRIBUTION:

All Members of the General Committee
Commonwealth Relations Office (4)
Colonial Office (2)
C.G. Johnstone Esq. (Kemp, Chatteris & Co.)
H.E. The Governor, Falkland Islands
Minute Book
Office Files

FIDS 16/123.

44/16/01

116 HSS/1

5th May, 1955.



From: The Governor of the Falkland Islands
and its Dependencies.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

CONFIDENTIAL

SAVINGRAM No. 17 Dependencies.

(91) Minutes of Meeting of Committee of
Management of Trans-Antarctic Expedition of the
10th March, 1955. Paragraph 17(C).

I should be grateful for clarification
of the phrase "the International Geophysical Year
Party should be a F.I.D.S. commitment" since
this Party would share a ship with the Trans-Antarctic
Expedition and come under the leadership of Dr. Fuchs.

GOVERNOR.

Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office

FROM: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW ZEALAND
RPTD: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA (ACTING)
 (SAVING)
 D: Wellington 13.18 hours 14th May, 1955
 R: 06.12 hours 14th May, 1955

CYPHER

No. 201

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed Commonwealth Relations Office No. 201, repeated U.K. High Commissioner in Canberra No. 23 Saving.

(114) My immediately preceding telegram.

TRANS ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Main points in letter are

1. New Zealand Government will contribute £50,000 towards expedition.
2. Public committee will be established in New Zealand to co-operate with United Kingdom body and organise New Zealand participation. It will also launch an appeal for funds. Membership not yet decided.
3. One of objects of participation is to establish proof of New Zealand's continuing interest in Ross Dependency. New Zealand Government therefore wish base to be established in Dependency as primarily a New Zealand enterprise. Consequently proposal that New Zealand body should be subsidiary of United Kingdom organisation (your No. 267 paragraph 2) is not entirely satisfactory.
4. Visit of representative of United Kingdom organisation to work out allocation of responsibility and establish proper liaison arrangements will be very valuable.
5. New Zealand Government give notice that it may eventually be necessary to reconsider terms of 1923 Order in Council vesting administration of Dependency in Governor-General.

Copy to:-

D.II

C.R.O.	Mr. Baritrop
Foreign Office	Mr. Man
Colonial Office	Mr. Morris
Treasury	Mr. Drake
	Tel. Sec. (9)

Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office 114

FROM: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW ZEALAND

RPTD: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA
(ACTING) (SAVING)

D: Wellington 13.18 hours, 14th May, 1955
R: 06.12 hours, 14th May, 1955

CYPHER

No. 200 CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed Commonwealth Relations Office No. 200
repeated U.K. High Commissioner in Canberra No. 22 Saving.

Your No. 375.

TRANS ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

(115) My immediately following telegram contains summary
of reply now received from New Zealand Government. Text
by bag.

2. Department of External Affairs advise that they expect
public committee to be set up during next week and that
United Kingdom representative might arrange to arrive here
any time after say 28th May.

Copy to:-

D.II.

C.R.O.
Foreign Office
Colonial Office
Treasury

Mr. Barltrop
Mr. Man
Mr. Morris
Mr. Drake
Tel. Sec. (9)

ALLOTT ED TO WESTERN AND UNITED NATIONS DEPT.

Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office 113

FROM: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SOUTH AFRICA

D: Cape Town 14.40 hours 12th May 1955
R: 15.31 hours 12th May 1955

CYPHER

No. 141 CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 175.

ANTARCTICA

Mr. Louw's statement on this subject passed practically unnoticed in South African Press but I understand Times report to be substantially accurate. Verification must await Hansard.

2. We understand from Forsyth that after Union Government's decision (reported in my Telegram No. 350 of 1954) not to participate in trans-Antarctic Expedition, he continued to canvass proposal that Union should take part and enlisted support of Chief Meteorologist. Further approach was made to Mr. Louw, who reconsidered whole matter. He took it to Cabinet and secured on morning of 4th May their support for participation. Department of External Affairs did not know of this decision until after his announcement.
3. Forsyth believes that Mr. Louw's remarks about South Africa's claims do not foreshadow anything new. Our back papers are in Pretoria but I understand that Union Government asked United Kingdom Government in 1946 whether there would be any advantage in their "staking claim" in area immediately south of Cape of Good Hope but received no reply and dropped the idea. Subsequently, in reply to your telegram D.157 of 24th July 1948 about United States plan for international trusteeship, Union Government approached a number of Governments concerned with Antarctic to put them on notice that South Africa had an "interest" in the area. Mr. Louw discussed this matter with representatives of other Governments concerned during meeting of United Nations that year. Department of External Affairs have no record of what took place beyond general indication that the outcome was satisfactory to the Union. Forsyth's understanding is that Mr. Louw is not putting forward a geographical claim but regards participation in expedition as helping to support Union Government contention that they have "interest" in the area.
4. I have written to Mr. Louw in sense of paragraph 2 of your telegram and asked him whether we should be right in understanding his references to South Africa's claims in this sense, or whether there is more to it.

Copy to:-

D. II

Colonial Office
Foreign Office

Mr. W.A. Morris
Mr. Man
Mr. Tickell

ALLOTTED TO WESTERN AND UNITED NATIONS DEPT.