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# Foreword

History is strewn with the remnants of treaties broken on the altar of self-interest of nations. The Antarctic Treaty, on the other hand, has not only remained intact, but has grown to encompass entirely new fields and has increased its membership manifold. This, I believe, bears testimony to devotion, to duty and to an overwhelming ideal.

Hardships, disappointments and frustrations are swept aside as goals are achieved by negotiation and consensus, as scientific programmes are successfully concluded, and as those who provide the logistics and infrastructure for that harsh environment once again bring a team safely home.

On this significant anniversary, the Government and people of South Africa pay homage to all those who gave so much of themselves to assure that the name of our country was always held high in a forum where excellence is the norm. To the loved ones who stayed behind for long, lonely months, and even for years, our heartfelt thanks; we know that those who can do little more than wait and pray carry the heaviest load.

The recent confirmation that South Africa is to renew its base on the Southern Continent and that funds will continue to be made available to do important research gives all those who are at present responsible for honouring the terms of the Antarctic Treaty the necessary assurance that the next 30 years will also be successful.



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**Director-General**