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but, before I do so, could I recall the story of the fashionable young lady who attended a function such as this though her interest in coming was more to show off her new clothes than in what the speaker had to say. After the function was over she managed to get an introduction to the speaker. 'Oh', she said, 'What a wonderful talk you gave. I think it was absolutely superfluous. I do hope it will be published.' The speaker was a little taken aback but recovered quickly and said 'Thank you, my dear, if its published at all, it will be posthumously.' 'Oh good', she replied, 'I do hope thats soon'.

To return to management aspects I should emphasize first that the call for a South African scientific effort in Antarctic has come at a time when South African science is already hard pressed. Quite apart from a general shortage of scientifically trained and experienced personnel, the general increase in international scientific activity has already placed on our shoulders considerably increased responsibility. South Africa, surrounded on three sides by ocean and by large developing (to use the presently accepted phraseology) areas to the north, provides the only land mass for scientific observations representative of a portion of the earth's surface totally out of proportion to our scientific manpower - and yet, for the study of many transient features of our environment, it is an area from which data must be available for the proper understanding of the phenomena on a global scale. Our magnetic conjugacy with Europe has accentuated this problem. During the past years greatly increased burdens have as a result been placed on the Government Departments involved in the disciplines concerned, e.g. those responsible for the Weather Bureau, the Magnetic Observatory, etc. on the Universities and on the CSIR. Thus, whatever effort is diverted to Antarctic research must be particularly appropriately and well applied.

The South African Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research now recognises various criteria for Antarctic programmes. In particular it is considered most desirable that any programme conducted in Antarctica should be conducted by an organisation that is itself conducting an effective and substantial programme of a closely related nature in South Africa. Secondly, to make optimum use of limited resources, mutually interdependent programmes would appear to be desirable, the upper atmosphere physics programme embracing at least three disciplines is a good example; and finally, the Committee is endeavouring to secure some degree of stability and continuity in the various programmes by seeking for each programme a University, Government department or research organisation with an existing research activity or at least a capacity for such an activity, with whom some formal long-term basis of collaboration can be established.

We hope to alleviate the heavy load at present placed on

programme co-ordinators, or directors as we now call them, who themselves have other prior fulltime duties to perform, by the appointment of fulltime assistants to the programme directors in the various disciplines. Here we are faced with the problem of continuity of appointment in the light of the present practice whereby the Antarctic programme is financed on a five year basis. One possibility which is being examined is that an interested University actively participating in Antarctic research should itself accept the long-term responsibility for such an appointment, whilst recognising that expenses incurred during the period for which Antarctic funds are available would in fact be met by the fund. In one particular case negotiations are already in an advanced stage. We hope to extend the principle to other disciplines. We recognise fully the important role of the programme directors in the formulation and supervision of their programmes and we hope that by this means their continued participation in Antarctic research will be possible and much of the tedium removed.

We have also endeavoured to ease the lot of the Universities Departments in particular, who are participating in Antarctic research by simplifying certain managerial aspects. It is proposed for example, that funds will be provided, in lump sums bi-annually, thereby simplifying financial procedures. The Universities themselves will be responsible for the finding of their expedition personnel and their remuneration, though obviously the Department of Transport must be responsible for final testing and acceptance of expedition members, and for uniformity, for the determination of salary. In this latter regard, basic salaries, the principle of three year appointments, where necessary, for expedition members, and leave arrangements on return have been agreed.

En nou - ons hartlike gelukwense aan almal wat die ekspedisies meegemaak het. Die lede van die ekspedisie het, danksy hulle avontuurges, die ongerief en gevare verbonde aan verblyf in Antarktika op die koop toe aanvaar, en die wetenskaplikes moes die frustrasie verduur wat onvermydelik daarmee gepaard gaan wanneer waarnemings onder uiters moeilike omstandighede gemaak moet word. Iedereen wat in die bevordering van Antarktiese navorsing belang stel, het die hoogste agting vir die bydrae wat hierdie betreklike klein groepie manne gelewer het.

U Antarktiese Vereniging, meneer die President, moet ook geluk gewens word. Dit is 'n verfrissende gedagte dat so 'n organisasie op vrywillige grondslag gestig is deur mense wat in Antarktika en Antarktiese navorsing belang stel is 'n tyd dat aktiewe deelname aan die bedrywighede van geleerde genootskappe nie altyd met die groei van die wetenskaplike en tegniese gemeenskap tred hou nie en likmaatskap van sulke genootskappe dikwels meer op persoonlike voordeel as op die ontwikkeling van die wetenskap en die tegnologie toegespits is. Daarom is dit vir my 'n besondere voorreg om vandaan juis die gas van u Vereniging te kan wees.

Opmerking :

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging is in 1961 gestig om die nasionale poging in Antarktika deur ons eie Suid-Afrikaanse ekspedisies te bevorder en onder die aandag van die algemene publiek te bring. Dit geskied hoofsaaklik deur openbare lesings, filmvertonings en die 'Antarktiese Bulletin'. Lg. publikasie word nie net aan lede en biblioteke voorsien nie, maar het ook 'n oorsese distribusielys.

Beskermhare van die vereniging is Dr. S.M. Naudé, President van die W.N.N.R., Prof. Stanley Jackson, vise-kanselier Universiteit Witwatersrand en Mnr. Danie Joubert, Sekretaris, Departement Vervoer.

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