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African base. It is situated approximately 350 km. from SANAE and was erected with the aid of Belgian aircraft during the recent joint summer expedition. The Borge base enables geologists to explore new areas and makes it possible for research to be undertaken over a far greater area, as less time is wasted in travelling to and from SANAE. At present this base is manned by two geologists, a mechanic and radio operator who will be stationed there until 1970. We also intend erecting a second Parcollhut at Borge base next year, as it may become necessary in case of an emergency.

Planning of the new main base is progressing very well and we hope to have it erected during January-February, 1971. We trust that the Department of Public Works will again erect such strong buildings as those of the first base. The fact that these buildings, which were erected in 1962, and are now 35 feet under snow and ice, still withstand all stresses and strains, goes to show how firm and sturdy they must be. I am sure that you are all with me when I compliment Public Works Department on their first effort to build on ice.

As a result of an inspection and recommendations by Mr. C. J. J. van Rensburg, who visited SANAE with the last relief by the *RSA*, our transport facilities will be greatly improved. An interesting experiment will also be conducted at the Borge base with a Volkswagen fitted with skis in front.

If this experiment proves to be successful, then the toboggans will be replaced by such modified Volkswagens.

With regard to telecommunication, great progress was made during the past year. All telecommunication with Antarctica and the Islands now takes place directly with the Weather Bureau's telecommunication centre in Forum Building and no longer through Jan Smuts. Communication at present is by means of teleprinter and not by Morse code. The new procedure is a great improve-

ment and expedites communication. In this manner data reduction is also expedited. Cosmic rays observations in the Antarctic are processed through a teleprinter tape and immediately fed into a computer under the direction of Prof. P. H. Stoker at the University of Potchefstroom.

Daar is veral een aspek van ons bedrywighede in Antarktika en op die Sub-Antarktiese eilande wat vir my baie belangrik is, en dit is die feit dat ons jaarliks nog heelwat meer aansoeke kry van persone wat op Antarktika of die eilande wil gaan werk, as wat ons nodig het. Vir my is dit 'n duidelike bewys dat daar nog genoeg dryfkrag en deursettingsvermoë by ons Suid-Afrikaners te vinde is om die vreemde en avontuurlike te wil aandurf, ondersoek en trotseer. Hierdie eienskap wat so 'n integrale deel van ons voorgeslagte die Hollanders, Franse en Engelse was, leef dus vandag nog voort in die huidige geslag. Dit stem ons tot dankbaarheid en bewys onteenseglik dat ons, solank hierdie eienskappe nog behoue bly, ons hier aan die Suidpunt van Afrika, sal kan handhaaf.

In conclusion I want to say that our presence in Antarctica is justified not only by political but also by scientific considerations. We were therefore very pleased to note the observations by the Scientific Committee, to the effect that the scientific results obtained during the past number of years, have enabled S.A. Scientists to make a significant contribution to science in general and to knowledge of the Antarctic regions in particular.

From a political point of view, it is most desirable to continue our activities in Antarctica. Generally speaking most of the Treaty members are particularly active and our activities have offered fruitful contact with them, especially with Argentina and of course the Belgians—hence our joint summer expeditions with the latter.

I therefore sincerely trust that we in South Africa will continue and even expand our activities in the Antarctic regions.

Thank you.

## BERGY BITS AND GROWLERS

### LA MONTENARA

Oor die wit vlak waar dit wyd is,  
Lê die berge breed en blink,  
Wyl hul in die aandson skitter  
En jou daarheen naderwink.  
Van waar Krylen soos 'n seekoei  
Tussen skeure opwaarts beur,  
Tot waar Y-berg hoog en puntig  
Hom aan tyd en mens nie steur.  
Troon die pieke van Snokallen  
En spierwit Snokjerringa  
Oor die uitgestrekte landskap  
Van ons skoon Antarktika.  
En hier duskant in die leege,  
Pas by Dassiekop verby,  
Lyk die wêreld soos 'n braakland—  
Lê krewasse ry op ry.  
Links om Leeuwkop loop die roete  
Stadig suidwaarts, stygend, steil,  
Oor die blou ys, oor die krake,  
Na die hoogland myl vir myl.

Wanneer Witberg eers omseil is,  
Lok die nuwe vergesig  
Langs die oewer van die Penck-trog,  
Waar ons nou ons skrede rig.  
Soekend in die staalblou hemel,  
Soos die magtig Matterhorn,  
Reik die piek van Tindeklypa  
Statig bo die horison.  
Ysbedekte hoë tafel  
Tussen spitse: Jekselen—  
Ruwe rotse, wye windtrog;  
Nooit is nog sy kruin oorwin.  
Anderkant die Jutulstraumen—  
Ysriwiev van Ahlmann-streek—  
Strek die ylblou Hermann-berge  
Tot waar wolk en ys verbleek.  
Mag die skoonheid en die vryheid  
Van die bergland wit en wyd,  
Vir ons oog en hart bewaar word  
Tot die eindes van die tyd!

DR. C. F. WAGNER