

D 035

171/10

SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARCTIC
EXPEDITION



D.O.

6385

INDEX HEADINGS

Antarctic

35 171
without small
with 1/49 volume
at 8722



DATE

23 July 1930

CLOSED UNTIL



High Commissioner,
Union

CIRCULATION:—

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Asst. U.S. of S.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State

SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION,
1930-32.

Tr. copy letter from Capt. E.E. Mills Joyce, A.M. with enclosures relating to - and requests D.O. views on the matter prior to its being placed before the Union Govt.

FOR ACTION:—

- Mr.
- Conf. Clerks
- Registry

Connected Papers

MINUTES. WITHIN

✓
 20-19 keeper (40) x.o. 4. hoo 1930 ✓
 1000 (orig and vol) not mine - 11 Dec 30
 Copy volume small 0 copy above to 1 name to
 For Keeper [Signature]
 P.C. 100 copy 11 Dec 30 ✓

Mr. Andrews came to see me in June²
with a letter from Lady Bailey who
had asked for the H.C.'s opinion on a
letter from Capt Mills Joyce asking for
subscription to the South African Antarctic
Expedition 1930-32". It was clear
from the letter that Capt Mills Joyce's
idea was to lead an expedition to
that part of the Antarctic Continent which
lies directly to the south of South Africa
with a view to taking possession of it
for the Union.

Mr. Andrews said
that the H.C.'s Office had been asking
of them proposals and asked whether the
Polar Club knew anything of Capt Mills
Joyce's scheme.

I told Mr. Andrews that I had
made enquiries about Capt Mills Joyce
but that we had certainly never heard
of any such scheme & that I felt
fairly sure that it would ~~not~~^{not} be
countenanced by the Union Govt. We
had only recently had some telegraphic
corres. with the Union about this sector
the upshot of which had been that the
Union Govt. virtually disclaimed interest
and

3
agreed that in the event of the
Norwegians proceeding to explore
the sector and annex territory in it
no grounds existed for contesting
their claim. Since that date the
Norwegians had made a partial
exploration of the sector and had
discovered surveyed a certain
amount of new territory in it.
Although no official claims based
on their discoveries had yet been
put forward by the Norwegian Govt
they were expected, and in
view of the attitude we had taken
up, with the concurrence of the
Union Govt, it seemed out of the
question to do otherwise than acquiesce.
Capt Mills Joyce was in fact a
year or two too late. Had he
come on the scene earlier the Union
Govt might have been prepared to back
Linn; but however that the sector
had become a centre of Norwegian
activity they could hardly agree to
a rival expedition attempting to annex
territory in it for South Africa.

I gave Mr. Andrews a copy of
the tele. comm. with the Union & later
ascertained from Admt. Douglas that
there was a note in the Army records that
Capt Mills Joyce had served in a minor
capacity with Shackleton. He was
not known personally either
to the Army or to the Royal Geographical
Society & is not therefore a
man of much standing. This info.
I passed on to Mr. Andrews who said
that he would suggest to the H.C.
that the matter shd. be taken up with
the Union Govt.

It appears that in the result that
a short time elapsed Capt Mills Joyce has
furnished somewhat fuller particulars
of his proposals with the result that Mr
Andrews has been asked for our official
views before writing to the Union. This
places us in some difficulty for while
we would of course be quite prepared
to express our views to the H.C. or to
Genl. Hertzog unofficially as above, we
cannot commit ourselves to any official
expression of views without consulting the

the interested Depts which in
turn involves reference to the Polar
Committee. I have explained
accordingly to Mr. Andrews, after
speaking to Mr. Dixon, and have
suggested to him that the best
course would be

(1) for the comm. to
refer to the Polar Committee at
a special meeting early in Sept.

(2) for the question to be
subsequently discussed, if the Union
representatives were agreeable, at
the time of the Imp. Confer. which
will consider the position in the
Antarctic.

Mr. Andrews, who shares our
view that the proposal ought to be
squeezed (in any case Sept. M.T. is
too late for the 1930-31 season), agreed
that the delay involved in (1) was
immaterial and it was left that
he would not expect any expression
of views until the matter had been
~~considered~~ discussed by the Polar Com. early in Sept.
(2) could be considered in the light of such
discussion.

W. H. H. S. S. S.
5/8

Minutes of 30th meeting of Polar Committee
14 Oct 1930 attached. See Item 2 as
kept Miles Joyce's scheme.

Subsequent developments are explained in
my letter to Mr. Leape of today's date
(Himself's letter) enclosing draft of letter
to the Union and explanatory memorandum.

Wait a day or two for reply

TR Hutchins
4/11 atn

Mr. Leape has telephoned concurrence
in the draft letter & memo.

? Now write to HCU accordingly
LF action as on draft

TR Hutchins
5/11

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Telegraphic Address:—
"SITELY, WESTRAND, LONDON"

No. 12/1125.

SECRET.



SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
73 STRAND, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
LONDON, W.C.2

21st November, 1930.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 6385/1 of the 11th instant, the High Commissioner had directed me to express his appreciation for the return of the documents relative to Captain E. E. Mills Joyce's Antarctic Expedition, and for the memorandum of the interdepartmental Polar Committee, whose views on the subject are also much appreciated.

The matter has now been submitted to the Union Government for its consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. T. Andrews

Political Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

Sir H. Balthusa Lie E. Hertzog

Capt Mills Joyce's scheme for a
South African Expedition to the Antarctic

FO agree to our writing to the Union as
in drafts L with. The matter is now of
some urgency as I understand that the
H.C. will probably wish to discuss the question
before Genl Hertzog leaves for S. Africa on
the 14th Nov.

A. Chalmers

(I have not referred to the UK

Imp. Confe Memo since on revision

5/11

I am afraid that it does not adequately
bring out the hints given to the Norwegians
by Mr Wingfield & the effect of these hints on
the activities of the 'Norvegia' Expedition).

Edw/11

ms

8.11.30

Mr Leape FO concurs



DRAFT.

Amid 2

// November, 1930.

THE SECRETARY,
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Secret.

10 NOV 1930

Sir,

With reference to the Political Secretary's letter of the 23rd July regarding the scheme of Capt. A.E. Mills Joyce for a South African Antarctic Expedition 1930-32, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Thomas to request you to inform the High Commissioner that, by arrangement with Mr. Andrews, copies of the correspondence relating to Capt. Mills Joyce's proposals were referred for consideration to the Polar Committee, which, as the High Commissioner is aware, is an interdepartmental Committee appointed to advise His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on Polar questions.

2. The matter has now been examined by the Polar Committee and I am to enclose, for the information of the High Commissioner, a copy of a secret memorandum giving the views of the Committee on the proposals.

3.

*McLachlan 5/11
Sir H Battersby S
Lal Harding 8/11/30*

*Memos (all below)
orig encl Mills 23 July*

*Copy letter and memo and
letter of 23 July with encl
to Mr Leape Fo Do 2
Fo copy Do 3
and to P.D.
and return. kjs*

3. Mr. Thomas associates himself with the views expressed in the memorandum and is grateful to the High Commissioner for his courtesy in bringing the proposals to notice and in affording the Polar Committee the opportunity of examining them.

ⁿ I am, etc.

4. The enclosures to Mr. Andrews' letter under reference are returned, as requested.

(sgd) H. R. Lamb.



Mr. Leaps FO claims

11

Secret.

MEMORANDUM.

Capt. E.E. Mills Joyce's scheme for a South African Antarctic Expedition, 1930-32.

t
Kisbuck 5/11
Sullivan 8
P. Harding
8/11/32
xmc.

The Polar Committee have now examined the correspondence relating to this scheme which has been supplied to them by the courtesy of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa.

The Committee observed that it was the aim of Capt. Mills Joyce to collect funds by public subscription for the organisation of an expedition to the Antarctic continent, comprehensively equipped both for exploration and scientific research. It appeared from page 2 of the Prospectus that it was proposed to "make the Expedition a purely South African one in the hope that the South African flag will one day be unfurled over those lands lying immediately south of her continent", and that, apart from those directly interested in Arctic or Antarctic products, subscriptions to this end were being invited exclusively from South Africans and those with predominant interests in South Africa. The Committee noted, however, that His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa had not yet been approached on the matter.

No further details were given of the exploratory work proposed to be undertaken but it seemed clear from the paragraph quoted above that it was the intention of

Capt.

Capt. Mills Joyce to concentrate on that sector of the Antarctic continent which lies between Enderby Land and Coats Land (longitude 45° E westwards to approximately 15° W) with a view to occupying territory in that sector and claiming it for the Union of South Africa.

In this connection the Committee recalled the telegraphic correspondence regarding this sector which had taken place between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa less than a year ago (Secret telegram to Union Government No.127 of the 30th November, 1929, and secret telegram from the Union Government No.170 of the 5th December, 1929). In view of this correspondence, H.M. Minister at Oslo had hinted to the Norwegian Government in December last that no objection would be raised in the event of the "Norvegia" Expedition proceeding to occupy territory in the sector between Enderby Land and Coats Land, and shortly afterwards the "Norvegia" had turned her attention to this sector and had discovered and claimed for the Norwegian crown some 200 miles of coast line, stretching from Longitude 8° 30' West to the boundary of Coats Land. No claims based on the discoveries of the "Norvegia" Expedition, which was to continue its exploratory work in the Antarctic during the season 1930-31, had yet been formally advanced by the Norwegian Government but the

achievements

to attend
to in

achievements of the Expedition had been hailed with satisfaction in Norway and formal claims were doubtless to be anticipated.

In view of these developments, the Committee felt that the Norwegian Government would have a legitimate grievance if a rival expedition were now to enter the sector with a view to claiming territory in it for the Union of South Africa. In view of the attitude adopted in December, 1929, by His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa and the hints subsequently thrown out by His Majesty's Minister at Oslo that this sector was open to them, the Norwegian Government might not unreasonably regard it as a breach of faith if, when they had proceeded to act on these hints and to transfer their activities from a sector which was claimed for Australia to a sector in which they were given to understand there was no British interest, they were to be shadowed by an expedition designed to secure new territory for the British Commonwealth. The friendly cooperation of the Norwegian Government in the Antarctic was of great and increasing importance to His Majesty's Governments, particularly in the sphere of whaling administration, and the Committee felt that any action which might lend colour to the view that Norway had not been treated fairly, and that it was the aim of the British Commonwealth to shut her out of the Antarctic continent,

was strongly to be deprecated. In these circumstances, they felt sure that His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa would agree that the despatch of an exploratory expedition to this sector was to be discouraged.

Finally, the Committee expressed the view that, while in their opinion ~~it would be preferable that no~~ *the present time was not appropriate for the visit of any* expedition, whether official or private, ~~should be permitted to visit the sector at the present time,~~ there would not be the same objection to the visit of a purely private and scientific expedition which would, in no way, concern itself with territorial claims. They felt, however, that if Capt. Mills Joyce's proposals were to be modified to this extent he would find it difficult to obtain adequate financial support and an expedition inadequately equipped would be of little value from the scientific point of view, while its objects would always be open to misconstruction.

DOMINIONS OFFICE.

November, 1930.

16 position Klim. Collic was quite satisfied but, rather than that he He should rely on his account of the conversation, he asked that we should reply

officially to South Africa House and give them our views in writing.

If we did so, he felt sure that we should

hear nothing more of the matter.

This is rather a nuisance,

but I think that there would be no harm in replying as in

draft letter and memorandum Hewitt (which I have not yet shown to Bateson).

Do you agree?

Yours ever

Oct 21 1930

Mr Price

I enclose a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the U.K. Polar Committee. You will see that Sir H. Bateson undertook to see Mr. Te Wahi and explain to him the position with regard to Item 2. (P 11)

Mr. Andrews spoke here about this yesterday. Mr. Te Wahi, I said, was v. busy & not familiar with the subject. He thought it best that Sir H. Bateson should see Mr. Collic, the Union repre. on the Imp. Conf. Polar Questions Committee. The latter had sent for the papers and, unless steps were taken to explain the position to him, might raise the matter in the Imp. Conf. Com. which we agreed was to be suppressed.

The Polar Question Com. meets tomorrow at 5.0 pm to discuss the Antarctic and it would be a great help if Sir H. Bateson is just then to see Mr. Collic before then.

R. Chelmsford
21/10

The ^{30/15} ~~29th~~ meeting of the Polar Committee was held at 2 Whitehall Gardens at 6 p.m. on the 14th of October. Sir H. Batterbee was in the Chair, and the following were also present:-

Admiral Douglas
 Major Casey
 Mr. Crabb
 Mr. Leeper
 Mr. Fitzmaurice
 Mr. Darnley
 Mr. Borley
 Mr. Moss Blundell
 Mr. Collins
 Mr. Tait
 Mr. Clutterbuck.

The Committee also had the advantage of the attendance of Sir Sidney Harmer, who was present at the Chairman's request.

1. Regulation of Whaling.

The Chairman said that the Discovery Committee had recently issued a warning as to the effect of the growth of Antarctic whaling on the future of the whaling industry, together with a note as to possible measures for the preservation of the industry. Copies of both these documents had been circulated to members. At the Chairman's request Mr. Darnley explained that the Discovery Committee

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was not an administrative body but a scientific body whose principal duty was investigation into whales and whaling. In the course of its work it had collected a great deal of information with regard to the whaling position, and there appeared to be no doubt that the growth of Antarctic whaling was such that there was grave danger of the depletion of the stock of whales. In these circumstances, the Committee had thought it right to lay before the Secretary of State a warning which it might be found advisable to publish. The Committee had also prepared suggestions for the limitation of whaling and for conserving the stock of whales. These suggestions they were, of course, in a position to consider only from the scientific standpoint, and he hoped that the Polar Committee would deal with the administrative and diplomatic aspects. So far as the Discovery Committee were concerned, their view was that the danger to the whaling industry was so considerable that it was necessary to explore all possible means for conserving the stock of whales.

Sir Sidney Harmer said that within recent years the centre of whaling activities had shifted to the Antarctic. In 1925, 66% of the world's whaling was done in Antarctic waters; by 1928-29 this proportion had risen to 86.6%. In other words, the whaling that was carried on in other parts of the world was practically negligible. He reminded the Committee that there had been a revolution in whaling as a result of the increasing use of floating factories. These vessels, since they were not dependent on shore stations, were subject to no licensing restrictions, and Governments had no control over them. When first introduced

introduced they had been of comparatively small size - about fifteen hundred tons or thereabouts - but the growth of the industry was so enormous that it was now quite a normal occurrence for vessels of twenty-two thousand tons to be built. There had, in consequence, been an enormous increase in the catch of whales, as was illustrated by the following figures of the amount of whale oil obtained in the Falkland Island Dependencies:

- 1926-27 500,000 barrels (1 barrel = 1 ton)
- 1928-29 1,000,000 barrels
- 1929-30 1,500,000 barrels.

The figures for the whole of the Antarctic in the season 1929-30 was 2,500,000 barrels. It seemed quite clear that the stock of whales was not sufficiently large to stand depletion at that rate, and he left sure that history would repeat itself. The history of whaling in other parts of the world showed that, while the industry had started well and enjoyed a considerable measure of prosperity, it always killed itself by exterminating the stock. This would be bound to happen in the Antarctic unless some measure of control was evolved.

The Chairman thanked Sir Sidney for his statement which, he said, had brought home to the Committee the serious position with which they were faced. He suggested that the Committee might now consider the detailed proposals put forward by the Discovery Committee.

Mr. Darnley, in explaining these proposals, said that it must be remembered that Great Britain was not the largest partner in the whaling industry. Norway's share

share in the industry was greater than ours, she supplied nearly all the skilled personnel, and it was axiomatic that nothing could be attempted without her co-operation. Whaling was also carried on in some measure by France, the United States, Portugal, Japan and several Dominions. Of these countries, Japan was the most active, but her activities had, so far, been confined to the Pacific and had not yet extended to the Antarctic. He recalled that experts from all these foreign countries and also from Germany had recently met in Berlin at the invitation of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations. Observers from Canada and South Africa were present at the meeting. As a result of the discussions in Berlin, a draft Convention for the Regulation of Whaling had been approved for submission to the Economic Committee. This draft convention enunciated certain elementary principles and was to be welcomed as the first step in international action. It had been quite clear, however, from the discussions in Berlin that the delegates were not then prepared to consider any measures for the limitation of whaling. He and Mr. Borley had done their best to press for the universal adoption of the licensing system, but they could obtain no support either from the Norwegian representative or from the delegates of any other country. The Norwegian delegate had shown himself personally in sympathy with the idea, but had said that public opinion in Norway would not admit of its adoption and he was afraid that other countries might be in the same position. This was not the only difficulty,

as one always had to remember that there might be little object in reaching agreement with the countries chiefly interested if the door were to be left open to other maritime Powers to enter the whaling field. Impinging on this question were the attitude of the Argentine Government to the Falkland Islands in the South Orkneys and the interest lately taken by the United States in the Antarctic.

Mr. Borley said that he entirely agreed with Sir Sidney Harmer that the whaling industry was in serious danger. Unfortunately, however, they had to face the fact that the great bulk of the whaling community was not only not convinced, but was sceptical of the necessity for restrictive measures. In his opinion, of the three measures suggested by the Discovery Committee, the first, viz., the spread of the licensing system, was far the best. It provided a direct system of control and one could forecast approximately the result. Although whale catchers varied in size and type, one could, for ordinary purposes, take their catching power as constant - i.e., the fewer the vessels, the smaller the catch. If, therefore, the number of vessels could be restricted by licences, there was no doubt that it would be possible to control whaling satisfactorily. It might be argued that no foreign Governments would support such a proposal, but was it clear that they would support any other measure of restriction? He felt that their lack of support was due to the fact that public opinion had not yet been educated to the danger, and not because they preferred one measure to another. With regard to the

second

second method, namely, the establishment of close seasons, this undoubtedly presented certain attractions, but he was afraid that it would not in practice be effective. It had to be remembered that seasons in the Antarctic differed very much, and the result of establishing a close season would be very indeterminate. It would also be an essential condition of applying this method of restriction that vessels should only be permitted to whale in one area. If, for instance, vessels were able to leave one field for another as soon as the season in that field had finished, the only result would be for the second field to be more intensively whaled. The third measure, the establishment of reserved areas, he had considered very carefully, but he had felt bound to pronounce against it. This measure would have the advantage of reducing the interference with the industry to a minimum, but there were both practical and theoretical objections. In the first place, it would require, if it was to be effective, the concurrence and co-operation of the entire whaling industry. Policing would be impossible, and it was only by agreement with the whaling industry that the measure could be worked. On the other hand, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to convince the whaling industry at the present time that any such measures were required, and he was afraid that nothing short of at least one very bad season in the Antarctic would bring the industry to its senses. Secondly, the fact remained that we had very little information about the regions in question, and he thought it uncertain

that

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that we should succeed in recruiting existing whaling grounds from such an area. In his considered view, therefore, while all three measures presented difficulties, he felt strongly that, if it were politic to move at all at the present moment, the movement should be in the direction of extending the licensing system.

In reply to Mr. Leeper, it was explained that the draft convention prepared by the Berlin Conference had been approved by the Economic Committee with some alterations, and had been submitted by them to the Council who had now directed that it should be circulated to Governments for observations, the intention being doubtless that if the replies of Governments were favourable, a diplomatic conference should be held to negotiate a convention.

Mr. Leeper then enquired whether it would be in order for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to make, in reply to the enquiries of the League of Nations, the suggestions put forward by the Discovery Committee. He was not clear how far the provisions of the convention fell short of what was desired.

Sir Sidney Harmer, in reply, said that in his view the convention, while desirable in itself as encouraging international interest, was entirely useless from the point of view of the protection of whales. It enunciated certain principles which were of some value and had protected certain species of whales. These, however, did not form any substantial portion of the Antarctic catch, and he felt that the effect of the convention would be practically negligible.

Mr.

Mr. Darnley agreed and, in reply to Mr. Crabb who enquired whether, if we were to put forward the measures suggested by the Discovery Committee, we would not, in view of the attitude of delegates as revealed at the Berlin Conference, be prejudicing the chances of the draft convention being accepted, said that it was not proposed that these suggestions should be put forward immediately. All that could be done at present was that the position should be explained to Dominion Governments in order that we might assure ourselves that we would have their sympathy if and when we were able to make a move in the matter. It was clear that there would be little use in moving without Norwegian co-operation and, in the first instance, we should have to do what we could to bring about a change of heart in Norway.

Sir Sidney Harmer said that, so far as he was concerned, he would accept any risk there might be of prejudicing the draft convention, since he felt that its provisions did not constitute much of an advance. In reply to Mr. Borley he said that he was very much disappointed that the third measure proposed, namely, the establishment of a reserved area had not commended itself to him. He felt that the licence system, while theoretically admirable, would in practice give rise to very great difficulties. How were licences to be allocated? Would not all maritime countries demand a share and not only those countries

at

at present engaged in whaling, and so on and so forth? He felt strongly that the third measure offered the best prospects of success, and now was the time to undertake it; if we let this chance slip, it might be gone for ever. At the moment, the area suggested by the Discovery Committee was hardly known or visited by whaling vessels, and the proposal therefore might be accepted the more readily. The area would, however, be bound to be explored in the near future and very great difficulties would then present themselves. He urged strongly, therefore, that the third measure should be further examined.

Mr. Borley, in reply, said that he would only mention two points. In the first place, he would ask how the third measure could be enforced; and, secondly, there would be nothing in it to prevent illimitable extension of whaling in other areas and, as soon as those areas were exhausted, irresistible pressure for entry into the reserved area.

Mr. Darnley intervened and said that he did not think that any useful purpose could be served by discussing in detail the merits of the different suggestions at this stage. All that was required was that the Dominions should be informed of the position and that we endeavour to secure that we should have their sympathetic support if and when the time came to put any of these suggestions forward.

The Committee agreed that the question should be brought to the notice of the Dominion Governments during the discussions of the Polar Question Committee of the Imperial Conference, and that copies of the

"Warning"

"Warning" and the "Note" prepared by the Discovery Committee should be circulated to the Polar Question Committee, subject to further examination by Mr. Darnley and the Secretary.

2. Proposals by Captain Mills Joyce for an Antarctic Expedition.

The Chairman said that it would be remembered that Captain Mills Joyce had attempted to secure the sympathy of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in a scheme for the scientific exploration of the area of the Antarctic Continent immediately south of the Union. The High Commissioner had consulted the Dominions Office on the matter and copies of the relevant correspondence had been circulated to members.

It was recalled that Captain Mills Joyce had served not only with Shackleton, but also with Sir D. Mawson in 1911-14, and had done particularly well with the latter expedition. After some discussion the Committee agreed that, while there could be no objection to a purely scientific expedition visiting the area in question, annexation of territory in the sector would be out of the question, in view of the fact -

(1) that it had been hinted to the Norwegian Government within the last year that there was no objection to their occupying the sector;

(2) that this action was taken after correspondence with the Union Government who had virtually disclaimed interest in the sector;

(3) that, as a result, the sector had been partially explored by the s.s. "Norwegia" which had surveyed and claimed

for

for the Norwegian Crown two stretches of territory in it.

The Chairman undertook to see the High Commissioner and explain the position to him personally.

3. Argentine claim to the Southern Orkneys.

The Chairman said that, while no decision on policy was required, he thought that the Polar Question Committee of the Imperial Conference should be informed of the position in case the question of the Argentine claim should again become acute; he had accordingly arranged with the Foreign Office, Admiralty and Colonial Office that an explanatory statement on the subject should be made to the Polar Question Committee.

4. The Secretary said that the Colonial Office had raised a question on which they desired the advice of the Polar Committee. A suggestion had been made, and was now being considered by a Committee of the Imperial Conference, that certain territory should be ceded to France in return for a suitable quid pro quo. The Colonial Office were now considering the question of what quid pro quo should be demanded. It had occurred to them that some territory in the Antarctic might be suitable and they had invited the Polar Question Committee to state in order of preference the French territory in the Antarctic to which they attached the greatest value. After some discussion, the Committee decided to put forward Kerguelen and Adélie Land. The Committee was not, however, prepared to place these territories in order of preference, since this, they felt, could only be done after consultation with Dominion Governments. It was assumed, however,

however, that if the suggestion was pursued, the necessary consultation with Dominion Governments would take place in the appropriate Committee of the Imperial Conference.

DOMINIONS OFFICE,

16th October, 1930.

Telephone: REGENT 6760.
Telegraphic Address:—
"SITELY, WESTRAND, LONDON."



30
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
73 Strand, LONDON, W.C.2

11th October, 1930.

13 OCT 1930

No. 12/1125.

*Attach
I have explained the
position to Mr. Andrews
by telephone RC 14/10*

Dear Clutterbuck,

Of a batch of papers awaiting my attention when I returned from Geneva, was one in connection with my communication to you of the 23rd July last in regard to the proposal of Captain Mills Joyce to undertake a South African Antarctic Expedition.

You will very probably recollect that you stated the matter was to be given consideration by the Polar Committee some time last month and I shall be very glad to know, therefore, if you have any further information on the subject.

With kind regards,

H. T. Andrews

P. A. Clutterbuck, Esq.,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

POLAR COMMISSION

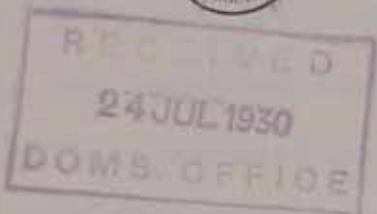
23rd July 1930, from the 31

More: RECENT 6760.
Telegraphic Address:—
OPPOSITE, WESTRAN, LONDON."

Copy of a letter dated
Political Secretary
Mr. Under Sec



SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.2



23rd July, 1930.

Sir,

I have been directed by the High Commissioner to submit for your perusal a copy of a letter dated 23rd June from Captain Ernest E. Mills Joyce A.M., together with enclosures relating to a proposal to undertake a South African Antarctic Expedition 1930 - 1932 for which he is now attempting to secure support.

Your attention is drawn to the final paragraph of Captain Joyce's letter, in which he states his desire to secure the support of Lady Bailey, and as a precedent condition thereto, he advises that Lady Bailey's attitude will be influenced by the High Commissioner's opinion of the enterprise.

From the terms of Captain Joyce's letter and his prospectus it will be seen that his proposals entirely emanate from himself, and although he expresses the desire
in ...

The Under Secretary of State,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

D 27945-30 HJ

27966-1

✓
32

in paragraph three of the prospectus to make the expedition purely a South African one, I am to state that the Union Government has not yet been approached in the matter.

The High Commissioner is aware of the communications D.13635/29 of the 30th November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, which passed between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Union Government on the subject of Antarctic exploration, and in the circumstances he feels you would be glad to be aware of the present proposals of Captain Joyce.

1/6019
in circ
& Norwegian
Antarctic

At the same time it would be very much appreciated if you would be good enough to favour the High Commissioner with your views on the matter, prior to the whole matter being placed before the Union Government.

Will you kindly return the enclosures in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. T. Andrews

Political Secretary.

Confidential.

P O L A R C O M M I T T E E .

Copy of a letter dated the 23rd July, 1930,
from the Political Secretary to the High
Commissioner for the Union of S. Africa
to the Under Secretary of State, Dominions Office.

23rd July, 1930.

Sir,

I have been directed by the High Commissioner to submit for your perusal a copy of a letter dated 23rd June from Captain Ernest E. Mills Joyce A.M., together with enclosures relating to a proposal to undertake a South African Antarctic Expedition 1930 - 1932 for which he is now attempting to secure support.

Your attention is drawn to the final paragraph of Captain Joyce's letter, in which he states his desire to secure the support of Lady Bailey, and as a precedent condition thereto, he advises that Lady Bailey's attitude will be influenced by the High Commissioner's opinion of the enterprise.

From the terms of Captain Joyce's letter and prospectus it will be seen that his proposal emanate from himself, and although he expresses

in paragraph three of the prospectus to make the expedition purely a South African one, I am to state that the Union Government has not yet been approached in the matter.

The High Commissioner is aware of the communications D.13635/29 of the 30th November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, which passed between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Union Government on the subject of Antarctic exploration, and in the circumstances he feels you would be glad to be aware of the present proposals of Captain Joyce.

At the same time it would be very much appreciated if you would be good enough to favour the High Commissioner with your views on the matter, prior to the whole matter being placed before the Union Government.

Will you kindly return the enclosures in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) H. T. ANDREWS

Political Secretary.

THE PROPOSED
SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
1930 - 1932.

PROSPECTUS.

DESCRIPTION.

Captain Joyce is organising an Expedition for the purpose of exploring the South African Quadrant of the Antarctic, and in particular those regions directly south of South Africa, lying between Enderby Land and Coats Land. In doing so, he is not acting entirely upon his own initiative. A few years ago when he was in South Africa he was approached by several scientists and the possibility of a purely South African Antarctic Expedition was discussed. In fact Capt. Joyce delivered a lecture in the course of which he set forth in detail the costs of fitting out such an expedition. Professor Goddard of the Stellenbosch University was particularly interested and was contemplating the launching of such an Expedition when he was transferred to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

ANTARCTIC.

The urgent necessity for some such Expedition becomes apparent when one considers that the eyes of most Nations appear to be centred on this vast continent. New Zealand for example has taken into its jurisdiction the Ross Sea Quadrant. The Falkland Islands Government claim all the lands south of those Islands. The American Government will undoubtedly make certain claims following an investigation of the Byrd Expedition. The interest of the Norwegian Government is well known. Every year the Norwegians take millions of pounds out of the Antarctic in the form of whale oil and bye-products. Since 1901 approximately fifty million pounds sterling have been won from the Antarctic Seas. This is in itself a sufficient answer to those who regard such expeditions as a waste both of time and money and a peril to human life.

SOUTH AFRICA.

37

It is proposed to make the Expedition a purely South African one in the hope that the South African flag will one day be unfurled over those lands lying immediately south of her continent. To this end, apart from those people or corporation who have direct interest in the products of the Antarctic or Arctic, subscriptions are being invited exclusively from South Africans, and those with predominant interests in South Africa. In the furtherance of this object also the ships home base will be Cape Town, while the Personnel, Scientists, etc., will be, as far as it is possible to make them, exclusively South African.

OBJECTS.

The main objects of the Expedition will be:-

1) To ascertain the position and extent of the mineral and similar deposits already known to exist in Antarctica and which are specifically mentioned in the scientific reports of Bruce, Scott, Shackleton, Mawson. Gold has already been found in these continents, and it is not improbable that at some future date the world will find it is compelled to look in this direction for its supplies of gold, since well known sources are already recognised to be failing. Apart from minerals, however, there are untold possibilities of other wealth. For instance a coal bearing area of 25,000 square miles has already been delimited.

2) Thoroughly to investigate the whaling question, and to trace the migrations of those whales which have an economic value.

3) To explore all Islands and Lands for the guana and phosphates which are already known to exist.

4) To carry out a complete oceanographical survey.

PROGRAMME.

Capt. Joyce proposes to purchase a suitable vessel from Job Brothers of Newfoundland, as they are universally recognised as the most expert Builders of

38

Craft for Arctic and Antarctic Exploration. The ship will be fitted out with the latest wireless scientific instruments, sounding appliances drilling gear etc., The Officers and crew will be specially selected and will comprise men who have been away on similar expeditions and have been well tried. Certain members of the crew will be selected because of their special knowledge of seals. It is proposed to establish a suitable base from which trips will be made for the purpose of discovering such lands and islands which may exist but which are as yet uncharted. In selecting this base care will be taken to permit the scientists to carry out prolonged and extensive investigations as to minerals etc. A high power wireless installation will be erected, to keep the expedition in constant touch with South Africa. It is proposed to stock the living quarters for the scientists with stores to last for at least two years. Hitherto the scientists Members of similar expeditions have been compelled to make hurried and cursory investigations while in transit and, consequently, up to the present only superficial knowledge of the real mineral resources of these vast continents has been gained.

SUMMARY.

To summarise the objects of the Expeditions, the investigations will include:

a) SCIENTIFIC

- 1) Meteorological - the Antarctic is recognised as the home of the Blizzard.
- 2) Geographical.
- 3) Physical - Aurora Australia, Magnetism, Gravity, etc.
- 4) Geological.
- 5) Biological, Palaeontological.

b) COMMERCIAL.

- 1) Whaling.
- 2) Sealing.
- 3) Minerals.
- 4) Guano.
- 5) Phosphates.
- 6) Egg Production etc.

SUBSCRIBERS.

The undertaking is not a commercial one, and subscribers cannot look for direct profit from the venture. Indirect profit, however, will undoubtedly accrue from the mineral exploitation. In this respect the South African Government will be specially requested to give subscribers to the Expedition preference when the possibilities of commercial development have been made plain.

COPY.

Oxford Mansion,
Oxford Circus,
W. 1.

23rd June, 1930.

C. de Water Esq.,
The High Commissioner,
The Union of South Africa,
Africa House,
Trafalgar Square, W. C. 2.

Sir,

The most striking example of the economic value of Antarctic exploration is to be found in the development of the Whale fisheries. There is little doubt that in the era of reconstruction upon which we are now entering, the demand for whale oil, edible whale meat, and other products of the fishery, is getting greater than in the past. New Companies are being formed and ships up to 30,000 tons are taking part in the attack on the Antarctic - over £9,000,000 sterling was won this season on Whale Oil.

The scientific programme of my Expedition is not without its economic application, especially in the domain of meteorology in relation to agriculture over the Southern Continents. It is well known that great droughts, excessive rains, unusual frosts, heat waves, and failures or reversals of planetary winds, are intimately related not only to simultaneous, but also to antecedent meteorological conditions in places far removed from the regions affected.

Scanty and incomplete though our information from the Antarctic areas has been, yet it has formed the ground-work and the starting point of useful research. Only a fringe of the subject has been touched upon. Such bizarre investigations do not appeal to the "practical" man, who is

however, quite willing to take advantage of scientific research when it produces such outstanding practical advances as the telephone, wireless, aeroplanes, radium, antiseptics, antiloxins, and X.Rays.

No one can tell the moment when the results of Antarctic research may suddenly become of vital importance in elucidating some problem that may arise bearing on public well-being, and it is most important that the work, which has been the outstanding feature of geographical interest in the present century, should be followed up and extended in these days. A year's meteorological observation south of South Africa will be very valuable in filling one of the most serious gaps in Antarctic meteorology.

What might one find in such an enormous area? I must admit that this great frozen unknown continent has captured my imagination, but I am not alone in my enthusiasm. It is surprising, when once one has been associated with the hardships of Polar Exploration, how it appeals.

I have been frequently asked why there is such a large area in the world that still remains unexplored? And others will ask - What is the use of bothering with it at all? What is there that could be of value to the world? To me the answer to the latter question is obvious, and yet I always find myself hard put to it to answer convincingly. It has always seemed to me that science is the loser so long as there remains a large unexplored area left in the world.

The Arctic was besieged by Explorers and Travellers 400 years before the North Pole was reached by Peary. More than 1,000 men lost their lives in their investigation of that region.

Great Britain opened up a new chapter in Antarctic Exploration when in 1902 Scott took the Discovery South. Since then over 20 expeditions have been investigating those regions. The one part that requires looking into is South of South Africa - Geologists, Zoologists, Meteorologists, Physicists etc. all with their separate or overlapping problems, share the ambition to wrest the secrets from their hiding place. They guess, if they do not know, what import the concealed knowledge may have for man and his well being.

42
END

The revolution brought about by mechanical transport will not be the least important feature of the Expedition. Three aeroplanes will be carried on the Expedition. One will be a big monoplane similar to the one that Admiral Byrd carried on his expedition. It will have three engines and the wing spread will be seventy-two feet. It will contain all the latest improvements - made as a result of the Byrd Expedition. Then there will be two smaller planes similar to the plane Lady Bailey used on her great flight to Africa. All of these planes will be equipped with the interchangeable landing gear, so that they can fly from the water with pontoons, from the snow with skis or from land with wheels.

For long we have been accustomed to imagine the Explorer as a man who plods his weary way over the ice-fields, dragging sledges after him. With these laborious and perilous methods are associated triumphs, and the tragedies, of the past. Now they are being supplanted by special engined tractors and aeroplanes. With them probably lies the future of Polar Exploration.

The immediate position regarding my Expedition is that if I can obtain the active support of Lady Bailey, it will be easily possible to obtain the requisite funds from people associated with South Africa, and her attitude will be governed by your opinion of the whole enterprise. I therefore trust, Sir, that that opinion will be favourable to a project which I conceive to be one of premier importance to the Union of South Africa in particular, and to the whole world in general.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Ernest E. Mills Joyce.

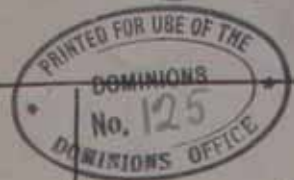
REGISTERED
FEB 1931

171

6385

2

F.P.D. 1/3



CLOSED UNTIL

High Com. r.
Union

DATE

25 Feb. 1931



REGULATION:

Tact

SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Scheme of Capt. E.E. Mills Joyce.

States that the question has been duly submitted to the Union Govt., who have come to the conclusion after due consideration, that it would be inadvisable to give any governmental support to Capt. Joyce's scheme.

- st. U.S. of S.
- ermt. U.S. of S.
- arly. U.S. of S.
- ecretary of State
- R ACTION:—
- Mr.
- Conf. Clerks
- Registry

Connected Papers

MINUTES.

Satisfactory

? copy to Mr Leaper FO Do2 } ref on
FO conf Do3 } "

to P.D.

and note for Polar Committee

Noted
RC 3/3

W. L. ...

16at
2/3/31

2/3

H. J. B.

3. iii. 31

etc

Both to Mr Leaper (no) Do2 } 70 MAR 1931
70 Do3

11 TEMPLE BAR 4488.
(7 LINES)
Graphic Address:—
25, WESTRAND, LONDON."

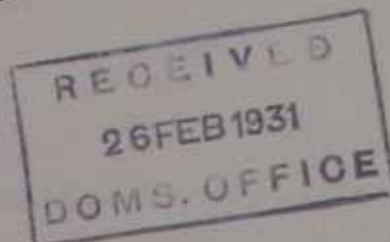


SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
73, STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.2

2
END

ET.

P.S. 12/1125



40

Sir,

With further reference to your letter No. 6385/1 of the 11th November in regard to the scheme of Captain E. E. Mills Joyce for a South African Antarctic Expedition, I am directed by the High Commissioner to state for the information of Mr. Secretary Thomas that as advised in my communication of 21st November last the matter was duly submitted to the Union Government and that a reply has now come to hand that after due consideration the Minister of External Affairs has come to the conclusion that it would, under the circumstances, be inadvisable to give any governmental support to Captain Joyce's scheme.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. T. Andrews

Political Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

The important point at the moment is the suggestion that £200,000 can be raised to organise an air expedition, and the implication that it will come from U.K. sources. This may react on the proposal that the Government should support an expedition by Mr. Rymill to Grahamland in the same season costing from £7,000 to £8,000. As this proposal is expected to come before the Polar Committee about the 18th of January, early information on the financial interests backing Captain Joyce would be useful, and I submit drafts for conson. to Mr. Andrews and Mr. Liesching.

Mr. Hinks (R. G. S.) to whom I have since spoken, does not think much of Capt Joyce or his £200,000, but in view of previous interest of the Union Post, we can hardly say as much.

JHG 8.1.34.

ELW 9/1/34.

Mr. Boyd Shannon.

You inquired concerning Evening Standard report (issue of January 6) of arrangements being made by Captain Joyce for a Polar Expedition and, particularly, the statement that Joyce was being financed to the tune of £200,000.

I am told by an old friend (formerly Editor, Standard and now of the Express) that there is a nought too many on that total and that the sum ought to have been printed as "220,000". I understand that Lord Wakefield is putting up the money and that it is possible some kind of announcement to that effect may be made. I believe Wakefield is interested in oil - whence the financing of Amy Johnson.

(Sd.) A. Ridgway.

9.1.34.

We are much obliged to Mr Ridgway for this useful information.

We cannot correct the figure in our letters without revealing the source of our info, & in any case the actual figure does not ~~to~~ affect the point of them.

But Sir H. Butterbee will be interested to see.

W.H. 10.1.34

My letter of 9.1.34. went to Mr Leitch by air mail or I would have added a P.S. But I think I had better let him know of this further if I can (Mr Leitch has no objection). I have told Mr

Lord Wakefield
as oil manufacturing
interests
(A.R.)

Indicus verbally.

ROR

11/1/34

Seen with interest.

As proposed

H. & S.

12. 1. 36

Mr Andrews, S.O — 12.1.34 - attached

Received 1/minutes on
draft.
Incl. 16/1.

yu Shannon 15/1
Mr. Wiseman 15/1/p

6385/3

For Air Mail of 16th January.

~~Secret~~

Mr. E. Whiskard
Mr. Whiskard

Sir H. Batterbee.
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

JAN 16 1934

Downing Street.

16 January, 1934.

Qto. for Mr. Wiseman

My dear Liesching,

With reference to my

letter No. 6385/3 of the 9th January

I write to let you know that we have

been told confidentially that the

sum of money mentioned in the

"Evening Standard" report of Captain

Mills Joyce's proposal for an

expedition to the Antarctic next

August was printed with a nought

too many, and should have been

£20,000 instead of £200,000.

We understand that it is

possible that Lord Wakefield may

put up the money. This information

is quite confidential but I am letting

you know in order that you may not

trouble

DRAFT.

LIESCHING, ESQ.

(below)

From the Admiralty 12.1.34.

Further action

copy to F.O.
C.O. 003
A.M.
Admiralty

cont. ref LF of

9 Jan

reptic to Mr. Shannon for Lia C'ltree

Printing

5-271 (signed) R. A. WISEMAN

6

trouble yourself with superfluous enquiries. At the same time, of course, if there is any South African interest in the scheme we shall be glad to hear of it.

I have told Andrews verbally
Yours ever,
what is the position
& I enclose a copy
of his reply to
my letter.

(Signed) R. A. WISEMAN

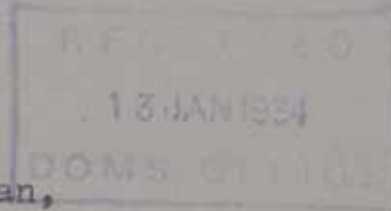
One: WHITEHALL 4488.
(7 LINES)
Telegraphic Address:—
OPPOSITELY, LESQUARE, LONDON."



7
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W. C. 2

12th January, 1934.

12/1125.



My dear Wiseman,

This is to acknowledge your letter No. 6385/3 of January 9th regarding the reported Captain Joyce's air expedition to the Antarctic, and to say that except for the newscutting itself, we had no information in this Office on the matter.

I have taken the opportunity, however, following upon our conversation yesterday, to bring the news to the notice of the Union Government, together with the confidential information as to the figure which it is understood has been made available for the expedition.

Yours sincerely,

H. J. Andrews

Attach & send on.

R. A. Wiseman, Esq.,
Dominions Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

Mr Boyd Shannon,

Your inquiries concerning Wells

Standard report (issue of January 6)
of arrangements being made by
Captain Joyce for a total expenditure
& particularly that Capt. the statement
that Joyce was being financed to the
tune of £200,000.

I am told by an old friend (formerly
Editor, Standard & now of the Express) that
there is a rough two many on that total
& that the sum "ought to have been
printed as £20,000". I understand

that Lord Wakefield is putting up
the money & that it is possible some
kind of arrangement to that effect may
be made. I believe Wakefield is interested
in oil - whence the financing of any of them.

Ated July
9.1.34

Shannon 9/1
Wiseman 9/1

For Air Mail 9 Jan

6385/3

Whelan?
Whelan?

Secret

Downing Street,

H. Batterbee. *JP*
Min. U.S. of S.
Secy. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Air mail paper
of 5/9

January, 1934.

Qto. for Mr. Wiseman.

DRAFT *conson* (6019C/4)

My dear Liesching,
with refer to your letter No D 778/33
of the 19th Dec,
I enclose

LIESCHING, ESQ., C.M.G.

(1) An extract from the "Evening

Standard" of the 6th

January about a proposed air

expedition to the Antarctic

in August 1934 led by

Captain Mills Joyce.

(2) A copy of a letter to Andrews

asking if he has any

information.

3. Prints of the 1930-1

correspondence mentioned

in 2.

We shall be grateful for

any information on the subject of

this expedition that may come to

your notice, but, as we have said

to Andrews, we are not at present
disposed to take it too seriously.

(Signed) R. A. WISEMAN

6.1.34 ✓

my
Andrews 9.1.34

my comp dft to sent
to 23.7.30 ✓

mit
mit of minutes of 30th meeting
of Polar C.tee.

H.G. 11.11.30

print *haus* on-7
print 25.1.34

H.G.
Further action
print

LF action on
comp. dft.

Printing

Boya Shannon 9/11

6385/3.

~~Mr. Wiseman 9/11~~

Downing Street,

~~Mr. Whitehead~~
~~Mr. Whitehead~~

Mr. H. Batterbee.

9 January, 1934.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Partly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

~~Mr. Wiseman~~
Cto. for Sir H. Batterbee.

My dear Andrews,

2 DRAFT. *amv*

I enclose an extract from

T. ANDREWS, ESQ.

Saturday's "Evening Standard"

reporting that Captain Mills Joyce

is planning to take a £200,000

air expedition to the Antarctic

next August.

6.1.34
13 ✓

You may remember that in

1930 he came forward with a proposal

to take a South African expedition

to the sector of the Antarctic

which lies to the south of South

Africa, and that after consideration

by the Polar Committee here, and by

the Union Government, the latter

concluded that in all the circumstances

it was inadvisable to give

Further action

~~copy to Mr. Liesding
in comp. dft.
copy
copy with copy incl ✓
copy comp dft as sent
LS F.O. 003/12 on 12
copy with copy comp dft
+ melli. to A.M. 003
Admny~~

Printing

governmental

12
governmental support to the scheme.

(see correspondence ending with
your official letter No.P.S.12/1125
of the 25th February 1931).

6385/2

In the "Evening Standard"
report there is no suggestion of any
particular South African interest
in the new scheme, but all the same
it is possible that as there was such
an interest in the previous scheme
you may have heard something about it.

If you have, and could give us any
information which would be helpful
to the Polar Committee we should be
most grateful. In particular I am
wondering whom he has found to put up

£200,000 : Until we know this, we
are not disposed to take this
report too seriously.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) R. A. WISEMAN

14
END

~~60~~

The Evening Standard
6.1.34

Polar Air Bid by British Explorer

THE "Evening Standard" understands that Captain Ernest Miles Joyce, the well-known Polar explorer who accompanied Scott and Shackleton on expeditions, is organising a £200,000 air expedition to the Antarctic, which it is planned is to leave in August.

The object of the expedition, which is to include several scientists, is to investigate the commercial possibilities of the land discovered by Scott, Ross, and Shackleton.

Captain Joyce explained to-day that it was found necessary to organise the expedition in view of the activities of Admiral Byrd and Ellsworth, whose combined expeditions to the Antarctic now in progress cost £360,000. He added:

"We consider that Byrd and Ellsworth are not leading the expeditions for fun and that they probably are there for commercial reasons.

"Our expedition will have three airplanes."