

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

GEHEIM
SECRET

GEHEIM
SECRET

1979

Research.

102 / 2 / 8

Vol. 1.

Begin. 6/4/56.

ONDERWERP--SUBJECT.

Eindig. 18/6/59.

Request for Inscription of Antarctica
on Agenda of United Nations
General Assembly.

Vorwante Leers.
Relative Files.

Mr. J. v. Palsen
(C. 7.) 574.

CLOSED--SEE VOL
GESLUIT--KYK DEEL II

RESUBMITTED

- ① Typies 8/9.
- ② Handwritten.
- ③ ~~Dispositie~~ 12/9.
- ④ File.
- ① Fiches 5/10.
- ② Handwritten 7. 5710.

102 / 2 / 8 / ca 1

102/2/8

MENIGE LAND HET AL 'N KLEIM

Indië Wil V.V.O. die Voog oor Suidpoolstreek Maak

NEW YORK.

DIE „koue oorlog“ oor die Suidpoolstreek is al langer aan die gang as alle ideologiese geskille tussen die Ooste en die Weste. Indië se voorstel dat die Algemene Vergadering van die Verenigde Voike dié aangeleentheid vanjaar bespreek, skep die moontlikheid van een van die interessantste besprekinge in die elfjarige bestaan van die V.V.O.

Die Indiese regering het nog nie besonderhede oor sy voorstel verstreëk nie, maar daar is aanduidinge dat hy dink aan die voogdy van die Verenigde Voike oor die 6.000.000 vierkante myl van ewigdurende ys en sneeu.

Hierdie voorstel word met gemengde gevoelens ontvang. Sommige regerings verwelkom dit, maar Argentinië en Chili, wat op sekere dele aanspraak maak, het

reeds ooreengekom op gesamentlike teenstand.

Die Verenigde State stel besonder baie belang in die toekoma van die Suidpoolstreek en het in 1946 voorgestel dat die vasteland internasionaal beheer moet word. Feitlik al die belanghebbende regerings het dié moontlikheid verwerp.

Hoewel die streek teenswoordig nie juis van strategiese of ander belang is nie, kan dit 'n besonderse rol in die toekoms speel.

Vrae soos dié word gestel: Is beheer oor die Suidpoolstreek noodsaaklik vir 'n wêreldoorlog? sal lugverkeer oor die Suidpool vaste lug- en weerbasisse daar vereis? Is daar minerale (bv. uraan) wat ekonomies ontgin kan word?

Die Verenigde State maak geen aanspraak nie, maar erken ook geen ander s'n nie.

Rusland het duidelik te kenne gegee dat hy nie oor die hooftesien wil wees indien die Suidpoolstreek verdeel word nie. Al geskiedeniskundige belang wat hy by die gebied het, is dat 'n Russiese ontdekker 135 jaar gelede met die eerstes daar was.

Brittanje beskou hom sedert 1773 as 'n Suidpoolmoondheid. In die jaar het kapt. James Cook om die vasteland gevaar, sonder om land te sien, maar naby genoeg om vas te stel dat die mense van sy tyd nie daar kon woon nie.

In die begin van hierdie eeu het Brittanje, Frankryk, Noorweë, Australië en Nieu-Seeland hul gesag oor dele van die Suidpoolstreek afgekondig. Duitsland, Japan, Suid-Afrika en België het ook al besondere belangstelling getoon.

Sedertdien het soveel lande al stukke van die Suidpoolstreek „gevat“ dat dit nou feitlik onmoontlik is om lewens in daardie geweste op 'n stukkie onopgeëiste ys voet aan wal te sit. (Sapa—United Press.)

19/2/56

Bêre

102/2/3
102/2/1

SECRET.

CAPE TOWN.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS

7 MAR 1956

MENIGE LAND BET AL'S KLEIN

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

Inscription of the Question of Antarctica
on the Provisional Agenda of the Eleventh
Session of the United Nations General
Assembly.

I have to inform you that on the 17th February, 1956, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed the following request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations:-

"Under instructions from the Government of India I have the honour to refer to rule 13(e) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to request you kindly to include the following item on the provisional agenda of the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly:

'The question of Antarctica'.

An explanatory memorandum relating to the above item will follow in due course."

In connection with the above I enclose, for your information, copies of two minutes, dated 20th February and 21st February, 1956, received from the Counsellor of the Union's Embassy in Washington and from the Union's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, respectively.

B. SPIES.

ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

File
14 Feb
2/3

CTAB/DVH

the Indian Government in proposing the item. He was to mention Australia's claim to sovereignty and her past and present activities in the area.

The Australian High Commission in London reported to Canberra on 20th February the United Kingdom's position in the matter, as follows:-

- (a) the United Kingdom had no information other than a report from New York that Lal had said that inscription of the item was his own idea, and that New Delhi had agreed,
- (b) that Lal had said that he did not know what would be covered in the explanatory memorandum,
- (c) that U.K. officials nevertheless suspected that the proposal might have come from Krishna Menon in New Delhi,
- (d) the U.K. had not decided what to do, but their officials were pleased to learn that Australian representatives in New Delhi would be making enquiries;
- (e) they wondered whether, in the course of these enquiries, Australia would ask the Indians whether they intended to show Australia and the other Commonwealth countries with interests in the Antarctic the explanatory memorandum before it was submitted to the United Nations.

Received on 10th March, 1956, under cover of
letter 2/4/51, undated, from Australian
High Commission (on file 102/2)

COPY/JT

SECRET.

ANTARCTICA

- (b) Indian decision to put the "Antarctic question" on the U.N. General Assembly Agenda.

The request by the Indian Permanent Delegation to the United Nations that this "question" be placed on the provisional agenda of the Assembly's eleventh session was reported to Canberra by the Australian Permanent Delegate (Dr. Walker) on 17th February.

On learning from a press correspondent of India's action, Dr. Walker telephoned the Indian Permanent Delegate (Mr. Lal) at his home and asked for information, and in particular whether there had been any consultation between the Indian and Australian Governments.

Lal said that he did not know, but that the time-table to which the Indians had been working would have permitted the Australian High Commissioner in New Delhi to be informed in advance. He said that he had had no authority to consult anyone in New York, and claimed that his action in putting in his letter to the Secretary-General without consultation was in accordance with standard practice. He said that India's action was purely a procedural one, and that no substantial proposal had been made.

Dr. Walker replied that it was "substantial" procedure to list a question affecting our territory and those of other Commonwealth countries, and he referred to Australia's responsibilities, and to Mr. Casey's long standing personal interest in Antarctica.

Lal seemed surprised to learn about Australia's territory and the permanent Australian base at Mawson. He thought that India was participating in a UNESCO expedition. He said that there would be time for consultation between the Indian and Australian Governments regarding any substantive proposals and promised, in response to Dr. Walker's pressure, that he would see to it that Dr. Walker received from him a copy of the Indian explanatory memorandum when it was submitted to the Secretary-General. Lal said that he would report this conversation to his Government by air mail.

*File
Lal
17/3*

Dr. Walker's telegram added that he had checked with the United Kingdom, United States and New Zealand, "who were as astonished as we were ourselves". In view of Sir Pierson Dixon's absence at the time, he reported, the United Kingdom delegation had not protested to Lal, although they were incensed.

In response to press enquiries Dr. Walker told journalists that he had been in touch with Lal, but that any comment would have to come from Mr. Casey.

Three days later (20th February) the Australian Government instructed its High Commissioner in New Delhi (Mr. P.R. Heydon) to seek background information from the Indian Government. In particular he was asked (a) to draw the latter's attention to the direct Australian interest in any discussion on the Antarctic, and (b) to endeavour to ascertain by discreet enquiry the reasons and motives of

102/2/8

FILE ... TOWN.



REF.11/96.

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REGISTERED
20-3-1956
RECORDED Schodde
PLACED ON FILE

PERMANENTE AFVAARDIGING VAN DIE
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA NA DIE VERENIGDE VOLKERE
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, N.Y.

14th March, 1956.



THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PRETORIA.

ANTARCTICA.

As far as the Delegation is aware there have been no new developments on this question, the Indian memorandum which presumably will explain the Indians' request for inclusion of this question in the provisional agenda for the Eleventh Session of the General Assembly not yet having been circulated.

The Department will however, no doubt be interested at the following exchange which took place between the Secretary-General and a member of the Press at a recent Press Conference:-

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, you said that you were going farther south than you have ever been before. I know that you have been to Australia. That means that you have to go so far south that you would come to Antarctica. You know that Argentina and Chile are claiming part of Antarctica. It is also claimed by the United Kingdom. You also know that France has taken Amsterdam Island away from Madagascar and opened a special office in Paris which they call the French Antarctica.

May I ask you about the Indian proposal. I do not know whether or not it has reached you yet. Would that be under Mr. Benjamin Cohen? I do not know the Charter. There are no people down there. Does the Charter state that there must be people there?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have not seen the explanatory note on the Indian request for the inclusion of this item on the agenda so I cannot say what is in that proposal. I just do not know. I have received no oral explanations. So far, I am just waiting.

The other thing is that trusteeship is over people and not over a territory. It does follow that unless you volunteer to be the population, we will have nobody to rule.

QUESTION: There are populations down there. The French have put quite a few people down there, and there are people in the Chilean part of it.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Yes, but they are French citizens and Chilean citizens. Therefore, from that point of view, their passport question is quite easily solved.

QUESTION: Does that mean that they have nothing to do with the Trusteeship Council?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have not gone into the details, but I fail to see how the trusteeship formula can be applied to a territory of that kind.

Base
27-28/3

J. A. M. Schodde
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

No. 94/L-67



MEMORANDUM

Con fecha 20 de Febrero en curso, el Representante Permanente de la India ante las Naciones Unidas hizo entrega al Secretario General de una Nota por la que su Gobierno solicita la inclusión en el Temario Provisional de la próxima Asamblea General del Asunto de la Antártica, a fin de que se considere la posibilidad de colocar la totalidad de este continente bajo fideicomiso del mencionado organismo internacional.

2.- El 21 de Febrero, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores dió instrucciones al Representante Permanente ante las Naciones Unidas con el objeto de hacer presente al Secretario General nuestra más firme oposición a la propuesta de India, por referirse a territorios que incluyen el sector antártico en el cual nuestro país ejerce indiscutibles derechos de soberanía. Como es del conocimiento del Ilustrado Gobierno de la Unión Sudafricana, los límites de la Antártica Chilena son los meridianos 53 y 90 Oeste de Greenwich. En ese mismo sentido se instruyó al Encargado de Negocios de Chile en India.

Cape Town, 14 de Marzo de 1956.-



Al Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la
Unión Sud Africana,
Cape Town.-

102/2/8.

No. 94/L-67



DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 REGISTRY
 14 MAR
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Cape Town, 14 de Marzo de 1956.-



Al Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la
 Unión Sud Africana,
Cape Town.-

LEGACIÓN DE CHILE

No. 94/L67.



TRANSLATION.

MEMORANDUM.

1.- On the 20th February this year, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations delivered a Note to the Secretary-General in which his Government applied for the inclusion in the Provisional Agenda of the next General Assembly, the subject of the Antarctic, in order that the possibility of placing the whole of this continent under the Trusteeship of the aforementioned International Organization might be considered.

2.- On the 21st February, the Ministry of External Affairs gave instructions to the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations with the object of presenting to the Secretary-General our firmest opposition to the proposal of India, referring to territories which include the Antarctic Sector over which our country exercises unquestionable rights of sovereignty. It is common knowledge to the South African Government that the boundaries of Chilean Antarctica are meridians 55° and 90° West of Greenwich. The Chargé d'Affaires for Chile in India has received his instructions accordingly.

Cape Town, 14th March, 1956.



The Department of External Affairs,
Mark's Buildings,
Parliament Street,
Cape Town.

THE ACTING SECRETARY.

The Chilean Chargé d'Affaires left this memorandum with me yesterday.

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The Union no doubt was also interested in Antarctic and his Government would like to know what our attitude was to the Indian proposal.

I told him that I would bring his memorandum to your notice. That we were aware of the Indian proposal but had not yet formulated our final attitude. We would advise him as soon as we could but the United Nations Session was still a long way off. We were however very interested to learn what the Chilean attitude was.

In regard to the boundaries of the Chilean Antarctica mentioned in his memorandum I told him that I presumed that was merely mentioned in passing and that he should not presume that we either accepted or rejected the boundaries claimed as the extent of the Chilean claims was not a matter which needed consideration in connection with the Indian proposal.

102/2/8

THE ACTING SECRETARY.

The Chilean Chargé d'Affaires left this memorandum with me yesterday.

He said that as we knew Chile and the Argentine being two countries on the seaboard in the Southern hemisphere had a lively interest in the Antarctic. He understood that all the Latin American countries would oppose the Indian proposal to place the Antarctic under United Nations trusteeship.

The Union no doubt was also interested in Antarctic and his Government would like to know what our attitude was to the Indian proposal.

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Mr. Jones,
Passed to the Minister
for direction.
AS
19/3/56

RESUBMITTED
Recd 3/4/56.
File.



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7

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③ Mr. Jones
As at ② / see
M
25/3

①
The Minister

I suggest that in acknowledging the Chilean note we say that the Union's attitude towards the Indian proposal will be determined near the time of the next U. N. Assembly meeting.

Since the question of sovereignty over certain sectors of Antarctica is in dispute between the U. K. & Chile & Argentina, I think we should add the rider set out in the last paragraph of Mr Jones' note of 19/3. Do you agree, please?

R.J. 15.3.56

②
Adj. Sec:
I approve, but? support that it be made clear to the Chilean Secy that we are definitely interested in Antarctica - Secy's letter in 1948 as per back on 17.1.56

7

ACTING SECRETARY.

102/2/8

The Chilean Charge d'Affaires left his memorandum with me yesterday.

He said that as we had said and the respective being two countries on the west coast of CAPE TOWN. He said that had a lively interest in the subject. 21 MAR 1956 that all the Latin American countries would accept the Indian THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK.

The Union of South Africa was also interested in Antarctic and his INSCRIPTION OF THE QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA was on the Provisional Agenda of the Eleventh to the Twelfth Session.

I told him that I would bring his memorandum to your notice. With reference to your minute No. 11/96 of 21st February, 1956, I should be glad if you would CONSIDER THE POSITION AND REPORT REGULARLY in his as soon regard to any developments which may take place. as we could but the United Nations Session was still a long way off. We were however very interested to learn what the Chilean attitude was.

D. SPIES.

In regard to the boundaries of the Chilean Antarctica mentioned in his memorandum I told him that I presumed that was merely mentioned ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS that we either accepted or rejected the boundaries of Antarctica. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, OTTAWA. consideration in connection with the Indian proposal. THE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, WASHINGTON. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LONDON.

I suggest that in acknowledging the Chilean memorandum you should refer to the Chilean attitude towards the Indian proposal and to the fact that the line of the next U.N. Assembly meeting.

D. SPIES.

F. J. de

ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

JVD/DVH

Handwritten notes:
I suggest that in acknowledging the Chilean memorandum you should refer to the Chilean attitude towards the Indian proposal and to the fact that the line of the next U.N. Assembly meeting.
We are definitely interested in the subject.
I have seen the Chilean memorandum and I think we should refer to it in the next paragraph of the Indian proposal.

MEMORANDUM.

The Union Government is aware of the fact that India has asked that the question of the Antarctic be placed on the agenda of the United Nations for the next session of the Assembly.

The Union Government is definitely interested in the Antarctic and made known that interest as far back as 1948. It will therefore take a lively interest in any proposals concerning the Antarctic. The Union is not yet aware of the full implications of India's proposal and has therefore not yet formulated its attitude in regard thereto. As soon as it is in a position to do so the Chilean Government will be advised.

The Union has noted with interest the attitude of the Chilean Government towards India's proposal.

This memorandum is intended to deal only with the question of India's request that the question of the Antarctic be inscribed on the agenda of the next meeting of the United Nations Assembly. No recognition of the boundaries claimed by any country in the Antarctic is recognised hereby.

CAPE TOWN,

29th March, 1956.

ACTING SECRETARY FOR GENERAL AFFAIRS.

MEMORANDUM.

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CAPE TOWN,

29th March, 1956.

F

*Forwarded to Chilean
Chambre d'Affaires
Bulwer 29/3/56*

GENERAL SECRETARY

are several countries claiming sovereignty over parts of Antarctica on grounds of discovery, occupation, geographic proximity, we note that no country has hitherto argued that the whole continent belongs to it. The Government of India have also noted that some claims are recognised by certain States and not by others. We are not wishing to censure any one or take sides in this matter. However, in the interests of peace and international development and cooperation, a debate in the United Nations would be helpful. For the present, India is only asking for this item to be put on the provisional agenda. Before any subsequent developments, Government of India will keep in touch with and consult interested parties.

4. I am therefore directed by the Government of India to assure the Government of New Zealand that our move in the United Nations is in no way against your interests.

Indian Action on Antarctica

Yours faithfully

We have obtained from the New Zealand Government a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Wellington by the Indian High Commissioner there. It is significant in its attempt to reassure the New Zealand Government about the Indian attitude towards the Antarctic question at the United Nations for the sake of its arguments.

(Sgd) N. KESAVAN
First Secretary (Commercial)

Copies to London and New York.

A. N. SINGH
COUNSELLOR IN CHARGE

Handwritten notes:
Mr. J. P. [unclear]
Agreed to you
to the [unclear]
File
17/4

... matters are left to drift without some general international guidance they may contain seeds of major conflicts in the future. The Government of India are, therefore, trying to avoid dangerous developments and are thinking in terms of the atomic age which will probably govern many of these considerations in future.

3. A general debate in the United Nations will provide opportunities for clarification as well as for constructive work. It is not our purpose that the debate should be made against any country or the support of any rival claimant. While India is fully aware that these

/ are essential [unclear]

COPY

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
INDIA IN NEW ZEALAND
(COMMERCIAL SECTION)

SECRET

No. S/NZ/26

49 Willis Street,
WELLINGTON.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

It has come to the notice of the Government of India that the Government of New Zealand have felt some concern over India's attitude on the question of Antarctica. This may have been due to a request made by the Government of India to place the item "The Question of Antarctica" on the provisional agenda of the United Nations.

2. I am directed by the Government of India to bring to the notice of the Government of New Zealand the following points which would explain the motives behind our approach to have this question brought before the United Nations.

- M. J. G.*
- (i) Although Antarctica is an uninhabited Continent, the danger of this area becoming field for international conflict exists. In an atomic age, this would be disastrous. Further, the Government of India have reason to believe that very harmful effects on the climate of the world may result as atomic experiments and explosions take place in these regions.
 - (ii) On the other hand, there is immense opportunity for much constructive work in meteorology and research in cosmic rays in Antarctica. The Government of New Zealand are already aware that during the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 thirty expeditions from various countries would be exploring this region under the general auspices of the UNESCO. Meanwhile, individual countries have already organised voyages of exploration in this region. There has never been an international effort of this magnitude in this area in the past.
 - (iii) The question relating to Antarctica will therefore become increasingly important in future and if matters are left to drift without some general international guidance they may contain seeds of major conflicts in the future. The Government of India are, therefore, trying to avoid dangerous developments and are thinking in terms of the atomic age which will probably govern many of these considerations in future.

3. A general debate in the United Nations will provide opportunities for clarification as well as for constructive work. It is not our purpose that the debate should be made against any country or for the support of any rival claimant. While India is fully aware that there

/ are several countries

43/44.

Embassy of the Union of South Africa,
WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

6th April, 1956.

SECRET.THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CAPE TOWN.Indian Action on Antarctica.

We have obtained from the New Zealand Embassy a copy of a letter addressed earlier this month to the Department of External Affairs in Wellington by the Indian High Commissioner's Office there. It is significant at once for its attempt to reassure the New Zealand Government about the Indian action in raising the Antarctic question at the United Nations and for the naiveté of its arguments.

Copies to London and New York.

A.M. HAMILTON.

COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY.

Mr. Jaffer 18/4
Original has gone
to the Minister.
as
17/4
File

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GENERAL SECRET

are several countries claiming sovereignty over parts of Antarctica on grounds of discovery, occupation, geographic proximity, we note that no country has hitherto argued that the whole continent belongs to it. The Government of India have also noted that some claims are recognised by certain States and not by others. We are not wishing to censure any one or take sides in this matter. However, in the interests of peace and international development and cooperation, a debate in the United Nations would be helpful. For the present, India is only asking for this item to be put on the provisional agenda. Before any subsequent developments, Government of India will keep in touch with and consult interested parties.

4. I am therefore directed by the Government of India to assure the Government of New Zealand that our move in the United Nations is in no way against your interests.

Yours faithfully

Indian Action on Antarctica

We have obtained from the New Zealand Government a copy of a letter addressed (Sd/-) N. KRISHAVAN, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the New Zealand High Commissioner, Wellington, dated 12/12/55, in which the Government of India has expressed its concern for its attempt to secure the Antarctic continent for its attempt to secure the Antarctic continent about the Indian action in placing the Antarctic question at the United Nations and for the survival of its arguments.

Forwarded to London and New York.

Secretary of State

see March
The Indian side

Sd/-
A/4/15

10-3-56

File

COPY

SECRET

are several countries OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR of Antarctica SECRET
on grounds of discovery. INDIA IN NEW ZEALAND In proximity, we note
that no country has discovered the whole continent belongs
to it. The Government of India have stated that some claims
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No.S/NZ/26

49 Willis Street,
WELLINGTON.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
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no way against your interests.

It has come to the notice of the Government of India that the
Government of New Zealand have felt some concern over India's attitude
on the question of Antarctica. This may have been due to a request
made by the Government of India to place the item "The Question of
Antarctica" on the provisional agenda of the United Nations.

2. I am directed by the Government of India to bring to the notice
of the Government of New Zealand the following points which would
explain the motives behind our approach to have this question brought
before the United Nations.

- (i) Although Antarctica is an uninhabited Continent, the danger of this area becoming field for international conflict exists. In an atomic age, this would be disastrous. Further, the Government of India have reason to believe that very harmful effects on the climate of the world may result as atomic experiments and explosions take place in these regions.
- (ii) On the other hand, there is immense opportunity for much constructive work in meteorology and research in cosmic rays in Antarctica. The Government of New Zealand are already aware that during the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 thirty expeditions from various countries would be exploring this region under the general auspices of the UNESCO. Meanwhile, individual countries have already organised voyages of exploration in this region. There has never been an international effort of this magnitude in this area in the past.
- (iii) The question relating to Antarctica will therefore become increasingly important in future and if matters are left to drift without some general international guidance they may contain seeds of major conflicts in the future. The Government of India are, therefore, trying to avoid dangerous developments and are thinking in terms of the atomic age which will probably govern many of these considerations in future.

3. A general debate in the United Nations will provide opportunities for clarification as well as for constructive work. It is not our purpose that the debate should be made against any country or for the support of any rival claimant. While India is fully aware that there

/ are several countries



43/44
EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
AMBASSADE VAN DIE UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA
WASHINGTON 8. D. C.

AIR BAG

6th April, 1956

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REGISTRY
11-4-1956
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SECRET

GEHEIM
SECRET

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CAPE TOWN

Indian Action on Antarctica

encl.

We have obtained from the New Zealand Embassy a copy of a letter addressed earlier this month to the Department of External Affairs in Wellington by the Indian High Commissioner's Office there. It is significant at once for its attempt to reassure the New Zealand Government about the Indian action in raising the Antarctic question at the United Nations and for the naiveté of its arguments.

Copies to London and New York.

See Minister
Ten insae asl.
17/4

Amthamilton
Counsellor of Embassy

File

Secretary
18/4/56
Mr. Innes
19/4

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/ are several countries .

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SECRET

MINISTER-RAAD:

Ek het die saak omtrent die Indiese voorstel om die Suidpool-vraagstuk op die agenda van die V.V.O. te plaas met mnr Price-Jones van die Statebondskantoor bespreek.

Volgens mnr Price-Jones het die Britte nog geen vordering gemaak om die Indiërs te oorreed om die voorstel te laat vaar nie. Sir Pierson Dixon is besig om mnr Krishna Menon in New York te be-arbei en die Britse Hoë Kommissaris in New Delhi probeer nog om die Indiese owerhede daar te oortuig dat dit beter sal wees as hulle hul voorstel terug-trek. Die Britte hoop nog dat hulle suksesvol sal wees maar die Indiërs het nog niks gesê of gedoen wat hierdie "hoop" enige grond kan gee nie. Hulle probeer nou ook om inligting in te win omtrent die verklarende memorandum wat die Indiërs moet sirkuleer as die Suidpool-vraagstuk op die agenda van die V.V.O. bly. Op die oomblik blyk dit dat die memorandum nog net in konsepvorm opgestel is en dat die Indiërs nog steeds na redes soek om die vraagstuk in die V.V.O. te laat bespreek. Volgens 'n uitlating van mnr Nehru wat by verlede Sondag in New Delhi gemaak het (sien asseblief uitknipsel hierby) blyk dit dat die Indiërs nie van hulle voorstel sal afsien nie. Die Britte het die indruk gekry dat Nehru en Menon nog klou aan die idee dat daar moontlik moeilikheid in die Suidpoolstreek kan ontstaan wat deur die moontlike gebruik van die waterstofbom met toetse of andersinds nadelige gevolg kan hê. Dis een rede wat die Indiërs aanvoer waarom hulle wil hê dat die saak in die V.V.O. bespreek moet word.

Mnr Price-Jones sê ook dat die Britte nou in die "doldrums" is omtrent hulle besprekings met die Indiërs. Hulle het al daaraan gedink om aan te neem dat die saak uiteindelik tog op die agenda van die V.V.O. sal bly en derhalwe nou daaroor te dink watter houding hulle dan sal inneem. As hulle die verklarende memorandum van die Indiërs in die hande kan kry, sal hulle ook beter instaat wees om te besluit watter stappe om te doen om die bespreking in die V.V.O. in die regte rigting te probeer stuur. Maar intussen doen hulle nog hulle uiterste om die Indiërs te oorreed om af te sien van hulle voorstel.

Mnr Price-Jones het belowe om my op hoogte te hou oor verwikkelings omtrent die saak.

J. J. Becker.

Londen,
17 April 1956.

MINISTER-RAAD:

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Mnr Price-Jones het belowe om my op hoogte te hou oor verwikkelings omtrent die saak.

J. J. Becker.

Londen,
17 April 1956.

GEHEIM
SECRET



CAPE TOWN

KANTOOR VAN DIE HOË KOMMISSARIS VIR DIE
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

Verw: 19/88/2

24-4-1956

RECORDED.....
PLACED ON FILE.....

19 April 1956.

GEHEIM

DIE SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

Die Suidpool

Sal u asseblief verwys na diensbrief nr 43/44 wat deur ons Ambassade in Washington op 30 Maart aan u gerig is. Volgens die laaste paragraaf van die diensbrief blyk dit dat die Ambassade se segsman ietwat optimisties was omtrent die moontlikheid om die Indiërs te oorreed om hulle voorstel om die Suidpool-vraagstuk op dié agenda van die V.V.O. te plaas, terug te trek.

Ons het by die Statebondskantoor navraag gedoen omtrent hierdie saak. U sal in die bygaande afskrif van 'n memorandum wat opgestel is na 'n bespreking met 'n amptenaar van die Statebondskantoor, sien dat die Britte nie te hoopvol is ~~oer~~ hulle besprekings met die Indiërs nie.

Enige verdere inligting wat ons omtrent hierdie saak mag kry, sal aan u gestuur word.

Afskrif na Washington, en New York.

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Minister-Raad.

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Mr Price-Jones het belowe om my op hoogte te hou oor verwikkelings omtrent die saak.

J. J. Becker.

Londen,
17 April 1956.

desirable at the time of the Prime Ministers' Meeting in June to try to persuade Nehru not to pursue the matter. Speaight stressed that this suggestion had not yet been put to Ministers and that what Foreign Office officials had in mind were discussions outside the regular meetings of Prime Ministers. An alternative suggestion is to try to get the Indians to postpone the item until after the end of the present International Geophysical Year. It could be pointed out that international co-operation in the Antarctic is working extremely well under the umbrella of the International Geophysical Year and there is, therefore, no need for a discussion at this time. If these plans failed, however, the next line of defence might be to try to persuade the Indians to limit discussion in the General Assembly to the scientific aspects of the Antarctic. It was apparent that no one at the meeting was very hopeful that any of these tactics would succeed. It was also clear that the Foreign Office dismissed the possibility of defeating the inscription of the item if the Indians decided to go ahead. They thought, however, that considerable support could be mustered among the Latin Americans to get the item side-tracked in the General Assembly into a non-political committee.

(Sdg.) G.G. Riddell

CANADA HOUSE.

4. Corner of New Zealand House said the feeling among officials in Wellington is that it had been a mistake to link the problem of Soviet activities in Antarctica with the question of existing territorial disputes in the area since this had understandably scared the Americans off. He thought that in any future discussions with the Americans it was essential to keep the two questions quite separate. He even doubted that it was wise to press the Americans for a clear statement of their Antarctic policy. They could hardly do this without laying a claim to a sector of the Antarctic and it was quite unrealistic to expect them to be content with the sector to which no other country has yet made a claim. In Corner's view any enunciation of American claims will create a commotion among the Latin Americans, ensure that the Indians will insist in discussing their item at the General Assembly in a political context and make it likely that the U.S.S.R. will decide to remain in the bases they are at present occupying in connection with their International Geophysical Year activities. In addition it seems a mistake to press the Americans to rush into what might well turn out to be an ill-considered Antarctic policy.

5. The second part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Indian initiative in requesting that an item on Antarctica be inscribed on the agenda of the next session of the General Assembly. When we were asked for Canadian views, we said that our information was that these had not yet been formulated but that officials in Ottawa were seeking with an open mind to achieve as deep an understanding as possible of the motives behind the Indian move. It was apparent that no one at the meeting, apart from ourselves, was very interested in finding out what these motives are and Snelling even remarked that in the United Kingdom view it is a waste of time to speculate on what the Indian motives might be. Speaight did volunteer, however, that the Foreign Office believe the Indian initiative is prompted purely by Krishna Menon's desire to have an item on which he can make eloquent speeches, particularly now that the South African items are unlikely to provide the same opportunity as they used to. As an indication of the context in which the Indians will probably wish to discuss the item in the General Assembly, Speaight mentioned that when the Foreign Secretary was in New Delhi in March, Nehru referred to the danger of the cold war spreading to the Antarctic.

6. In answer to our enquiries concerning the reasons behind the United Kingdom's opposition to the inscription of the item we were given various explanations such as "the fear of the unknown", objections to "the United Nations meddling in other people's affairs" and the evidence of Western disunity which a discussion in the General Assembly would reveal. We gathered that in the light of the recent rebuff in Washington, this public evidence of disunity is what is worrying the Foreign Office most since it will provide the U.S.S.R. with a good opportunity for mischief making.

7. With the exception of ourselves, those who attended the meeting were exclusively interested in discussing tactics to prevent the question being raised in the United Nations or, if this failed, at least to ensure that the discussion is rendered as harmless as possible. Speaight said they would like to persuade the Indians to drop the whole question and the thinking among officials in the Foreign Office is that it would be

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA. (Duplicate)

NUMBERED LETTER.

TO: THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA, CANADA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 737

FROM: THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR CANADA, LONDON.

April 27, 1956.

File No. AR.86/3

Your Letter Bo.454 of April 9.

ANTARCTICA.

We read with interest the views contained in your letter under reference and the paper attached to it and are grateful for sending these to us before the meeting called by the Commonwealth Relations Office.

2. The meeting was held on April 24 under the chairmanship of Snelling, an Assistant Under-Secretary in the C.R.O., and was attended by Speaight, the responsible Assistant Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office, and by representatives of the "old" Commonwealth Missions in London. Minutes of the meeting are being prepared by the C.R.O. Meanwhile the following brief outline of the discussion may be helpful.

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3. Speaight began by saying that since the last Commonwealth meeting on March 12 the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa had received the State Department's reply to the representations which they had made concerning the need to form a common front to face increased Soviet activities in the Antarctic. It was clear from the tone of Speaight's remarks that the Foreign Office are annoyed not only by the contents of the State Department's reply but also by the way in which it was presented. The four Commonwealth Ambassadors had called jointly on Mr. Dulles and had left with his memoranda which outlined in identical terms their general approach to Antarctic problems and stressed the need for joint consultation. It was, therefore, something of a rebuff, to say the least, for a desk officer in the State Department to hand the reply to each Commonwealth Mission in Washington on a different day. To make matters worse the reply, which was in the form of a memorandum, stated, among other things, that in the State Department's view Antarctic questions could be discussed more appropriately on a bilateral basis. According to Speaight the State Department's memorandum is quite unsatisfactory, gives no indication whatever of the policy the United States proposes to follow in the Antarctic, and seems to ignore completely the fact that the initiative to hold consultations concerning Soviet activities in the Antarctic was originally made by the State Department.

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FILE NO CAPE TOWN.



DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PERMANENTE AFVAARDIGING VAN DIE
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA NA DIE VERENIGDE VOLKERE
DELEGATION OF THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, N.Y.

REF. 11/96

3rd May, 1956

Secret

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CAPE TOWN.

Air Minister

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Mr. Joubert
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ANTARCTICA

The Australian Ambassador informed me yesterday that the Indian representative at the United Nations had shown him the draft explanatory memorandum which has been prepared in endorsement of the Indian proposal that the question of Antarctica should be discussed at the forthcoming General Assembly. The memorandum, which barely fills one page, refers to the importance of Antarctica from the strategic, economic and geophysical viewpoints, notes that the region may become an important air transport route, that it probably contains mineral resources, and is a centre for whaling and other fisheries activities. Any actions which disturb the climatic balance of the Antarctic region could have far reaching international effects. The International Geographical Year activities which will reach their maximum in 1957 afford evidence of international interest in the region. The memorandum expresses the hope that States will be willing to agree that activities in Antarctica shall be directed towards peaceful uses and that they should "to this end harmonise their actions" (Charter language). It is suggested that the General Assembly should call on States to make a declaration of intention of peaceful purposes and to agree not to use Antarctica for any activities likely to cause international tension. The Secretary-General might be instructed to follow closely the scientific work of the International Geographical Year and upon its completion to prepare a bibliography.

Mr. Lall told the Australian Ambassador ^{that} the memorandum has still to be approved by New Delhi and the above summary is based only on the Ambassador's reading of it and his subsequent discussion. The memorandum has been prepared by Mr. Lall and was stated to be in line with conversations he had had with Mr. Krishna Menon.

Mr. Lall enquired of the Australian Ambassador whether Australia would be likely to have any objection to the draft. The Ambassador replied that Australia hoped that India would not proceed with the matter at all since there is no tension or difficulty arising out of the I.G.Y. activities. Mr. Lall added that Argentina and Chile would not object to India raising the matter in terms of the draft memorandum and he thought it should be dealt with in either the Political or the Ad Hoc Committee of the Assembly. The Australian Ambassador asked that there be consultations between the Australian and Indian Governments before the draft was approved. It is Mr. Lall's intention also to show the draft to Sir Leslie Munro of New Zealand and Sir Pierson Dixon of the United Kingdom.

Copies to London, Washington and Ottawa.

D. B. B.
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

CAPE TOWN

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Antarctic, a region covering about six million square miles of territory, has considerable strategic, climatic and geo-physical significance for the world as a whole. With the development of rapid communications, the area might shortly come to have further practical significance, for example as a short air route for civilian planes flying in the southern hemisphere. The mineral wealth of the land mass is believed to be considerable and its coastal waters contain important whaling stations and fisheries.

The growing interest in the Antarctica is manifesting itself in the fact that a number of recent expeditions sent by various nations have been or are at work in the area. These activities will be intensified in the course of the International Geo-Physical Year, commencing July 1957 and in the preparations preceding it. One typical consequence will be that the number of observation posts in this area will be more than doubled by 1957.

Modern science is likely to reveal many possibilities for the peaceful utilization of a region hitherto regarded as unproductive. At the same time the influence of the Antarctica on climatic and related conditions throughout the world, while obviously considerable, requires further study. Any disturbance of the equilibrium of natural forces in this area might lead to incalculable consequences for the world as a whole involving the deterioration of the conditions for human and other forms of animal and plant life. In view of these facts and bearing in mind the size of the area, its international importance and the growing interest in it, the Government of India consider that in order to strengthen universal peace it would be appropriate and timely for all nations to agree and to affirm that the area will be utilized entirely for peaceful purposes and for the general welfare. All nations should agree further to harmonise their actions to this end and to ensure also that no activities in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

The Government of India accordingly suggests that the General Assembly of the United Nations should call upon all States to agree to and affirm the peaceful utilisation of the Antarctica for the general welfare and in particular to agree that the area shall not be used in any manner that would promote an increase of world tensions, or extend to this area the influence and effects of existing tensions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE
STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20520

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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Copies to Washington and London.

RESUBMITTED
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Stevenson
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
 UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
 5TH FLOOR - 405 EAST 42ND STREET
 NEW YORK 17, N.Y.
 17 AUG 1956
 TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 3-1100
 15TH FLOOR 665 MADISON AVENUE
 PLACED ON FILE NEW YORK 21, N.Y.
 TELEPHONE 3-1700

REF. 11/96

8th August 1956

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 PRETORIA.

ANTARCTICA

... With reference to our minute 11/96 of 3rd May, 1956, I attach the draft explanatory memorandum on the Antarctica item in the form in which it was showed by Mr. Lall to certain representatives here. Mr. Lall at the same time explained that the document still had no official status and remained subject to final approval by New Delhi.

It will be seen that the contents are basically those reported on in Mr. Sole's previous despatch. A discussion with the British has indicated, moreover, that they have not made much further progress with their efforts to persuade India to withdraw the item. At the moment they are counting heads in New York in an attempt to forecast how the vote on inscription would fare, although they have not taken a final decision on the wisdom of opposing inscription themselves. Their first objective remains an effort to persuade India to withdraw the item by pointing out to them, inter alia, how large a body of opinion they would have against them in the Assembly.

It is the view of this Mission that inscription cannot be avoided, even though the vote may with luck be close. Moreover, it may be fully expected that the discussion will take a political turn and that the best that can be hoped for is a resolution framed in general terms, expressing the hope that activities in Antarctica will be directed to peaceful uses. In our judgment it is important in the circumstances that we should prepare ourselves to make a statement on the Union's interest in the area and that our position will be adversely affected if we allow the occasion to go by without doing so.

In the meantime it would assist the British in their calculations if we could inform them on our preliminary intentions on the question of inscription and I should be glad if you could confirm that we will probably vote against it.

Copies to Washington and London.

RESUBMITTED
 H.A.T. 6/11/56

J. A. Theron
 DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

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verdwyn. Wat ook al die vorm van die bespreking in die Verenigde Nasies mag wees, lyk dit of dit 'n ongesonde uitwerking mag hê op die kanse van die bevriende lande wat vandag sektors in die gebied eis en op die kanse van die Unie om in die toekoms eise van sy eie te laat geld. Aangesien verder die Statebond en die Verenigde State verdeeld is ten opsigte van 'n Antarktikabeleid, kan bespreking van die kwessie in die Verenigde Nasies die Weste in groot verleentheid bring.

9. Graag verneem ek of ons die Britse Permanente Afvaardiging in New York kan meedeel dat, soos sake nou staan, ons beleid sou wees om saam met die ander Westerse lande teen die inskrywing van die item op die Agenda te stem.

The Commission would be glad to hear from you regarding the above matters. It is important that we should have your views on these matters as soon as possible. The Commission will be holding a meeting in London on the 15th of the month and it is important that we should have your views on these matters as soon as possible. The Commission will be holding a meeting in London on the 15th of the month and it is important that we should have your views on these matters as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Wat dit betref, sal u onthou dat die Verenigde State in 1948 die opinie uitgespreek het dat 'n einde aan die internasionale grabbeling na grond in hierdie gebied gemaak kan word deur die instelling van Verenigde Nasies voogdyskap oor die gebied. Ander lande, onder meer die Unie en die Verenigde Koninkryk was egter die sienswyse toegedaan dat kontrole deur die Verenigde Volkere tot Russiese inmenging sou lei.

Later in 1948 was daar sekere aanduidings dat die Verenigde State 'n nuwe voorstel vir die internasionale beheer van die Suidpoolstreek aan die ander belanghebbende moondhede sou voorlê. Die Unie het sy belange in die Suidpoolstreek aan die betrokke lande verduidelik, maar die Verenigde Koninkryk en die Verenigde State het die Unie se eise om deel aan die voorgestelde internasionale regime te hê, geweier op grond daarvan dat die Sowjet-Unie dan ook op insluiting mog aandring.

Aangesien Noorweë, Frankryk en Chili nie bereid was om enige beperkings op hulle „soewereiniteit“ oor dele van Antarktika prys te gee nie, het die Amerikaners blykbaar besluit om nie met hulle voorstel verder te gaan nie.

8. Indien Antarktika nou in die Verenigde Nasies bespreek word, wil dit voorkom dat die Unie se beswaar van 1948 nog goedhou naamlik dit sou Rusland en ander, uit ons oogpunt, ongewenste lande 'n seggenskap gee oor die toekoms van Antarktika en enige invloed wat die Unie moontlik op die saak sou kon uitoefen sou in die niet

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op hierdie feite meen die Indiese Regering dat in die belang van wêreldvrede dit paelik sou wees indien alle nasies ooreenstem en bevestig dat die gebied alleen en vir vreedsame doeleindes en vir die gemene bes gebruik sal word. Alle nasies behoort saam te stem om hulle handelinge met hierdie doel voor oë te harmonieër en om seker te maak dat geen bedrywighede in Antarktika 'n slegte uitwerking op klimaats- en ander natuurlike toestande sal hê nie. Die Regering van Indië stel dus voor dat die Algemene Vergadering 'n beroep in hierdie sin op alle nasies doen en in die besonder om ooreen te kom dat die gebied nie gebruik sal word op 'n wyse wat wêreldspanning sal verhoog of bestaande spannings na die gebied sal uitbrei nie.

4. Die Britse Regering het van die begin af alles in sy vermoë gedoen om die Indiërs te ooreen te kom om van hulle voorstel af te sien. Hierin is hulle gesteun deur Australië en Nieu Zeeland. Hierdie lande is baie besorg oor die moeilikhede wat so 'n bespreking in die Verenigde Nasies vir hulle territoriale eise in Antarktika kan veroorsaak veral aangesien daar nie eensgesindheid tussen die Gemenebeslande en die Verenigde State in verband met die toekomst van die gebied bestaan nie. (Onlangs het Statebondslende (Verenigde Koninkryk, Australië, Nieu Zeeland en die Unie) vertoë tot die Verenigde State gerig om samesprekings te hou ter bereiking van 'n eenvormige beleid ten opsigte van Antarktika. Die Verenigde State het egter nie bereidwilligheid getoon om op die voorstel in te gaan nie).

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GEHEIM.

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verdwyn. Wat ook al die vorm van die bespreking in die Verenigde Nasies mag wees, lyk dit of dit 'n ongesonde uitwerking mag hê op die kanse van die bevriende lande wat vandag sektors in die gebied eis en op die kanse van die Unie om in die toekoms eise van sy eie te laat geld. Aangesien verder die Statebond en die Verenigde State verdeeld is ten opsigte van 'n Antarktikabeleid, kan bespreking van die kwessie in die Verenigde Nasies die Weste in groot verleentheid bring.

9. Graag verneem ek of ons die Britse Permanente Afvaardiging in New York kan meedeel dat, soos sake nou staan, ons bereid sou wees om saam met die ander Westerse lande teen die inskrywing van die item op die Agenda te stem.

C.P.J.
31/8

Dis is vir my moeilik om te verstaan
 of watter gronde Indiese hê om uit te spreek oor
 die Suidpool gebied. My keuse word in die
 beelde belangrik is daardie gebied is.
 Dit was my altyd die mening toegedaan dat
 die haaslyke lande die grootte Soffenskeid
 behoort te hê — en in elke geval net so
 veel reg het om oor die Suidpool gebied te praat
 as die V.A., Noorwe, e.a. vir te aanspraak
 sepend is op ontdekkinge van hul streek
 in die beelde. Rusland en Noorwe se
 walrusbote gaan na ~~die~~ die Suidpool — maar
 so ook die van S.A. praat!

M.i. moet ons teen inskrywing van die Indiese
 voorstel stem, en terselfdertyd moet ons sedertig
 aandring op die Unie se belang in die streek

Soel. 31. 8. 56

*

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Mr. Touts, *RJ 4/9/56*
Sien a.s.b. die *102/2/8.*
se opmerkinge. *CPJ*

GEHEIM.

Die Wêreld:

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Who Owns the Unknown?

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

INDIA has requested the United Nations Assembly to consider "the question of Antarctica" at its 1956 session. It is not yet clear exactly what is in Mr Nehru's mind; but several ideas about Antarctica are already in the wind. Some world federalist organisations are suggesting that it should be placed under the UN trusteeship system, but administered by the United Nations itself instead of by a trustee government, as is usual; any profits obtained from developing its minerals or other natural resources should be used, it is urged, to give economic assistance to the less developed areas of the world. The Charter provides for direct UN administration of trust territories; this has never been tried in practice, but it has been considered in a number of cases—Jerusalem, for example. At UN headquarters in New York there is no reluctance to experiment, but there is a feeling that it would be too ambitious an experiment to try to take over a continent which, although virtually empty, is a good deal larger than Europe.

A somewhat less radical proposal is that the countries which claim sections of Antarctica should place their areas under trusteeship without surrendering their claim to sovereignty or giving up their present "administrative" responsibilities. This, however attractive in theory, is impracticable. There would, presumably, be no petitions to the United Nations from an uninhabited continent, and as things stand the idea of a Visiting Mission touring the bleak wastes of Antarctica in search of violations of trusteeship agreements is merely ludicrous.

A more practical move would be for the Assembly to go on record as believing that Antarctica should be used only for peaceful purposes. There is a possibility that, as new weapons are developed, nations will be tempted to conduct dangerous experiments in the vast spaces of the southern continent. A declaratory resolution might help to maintain the happy mood of international co-operation which has characterised recent expeditions.

Antarctic Claims

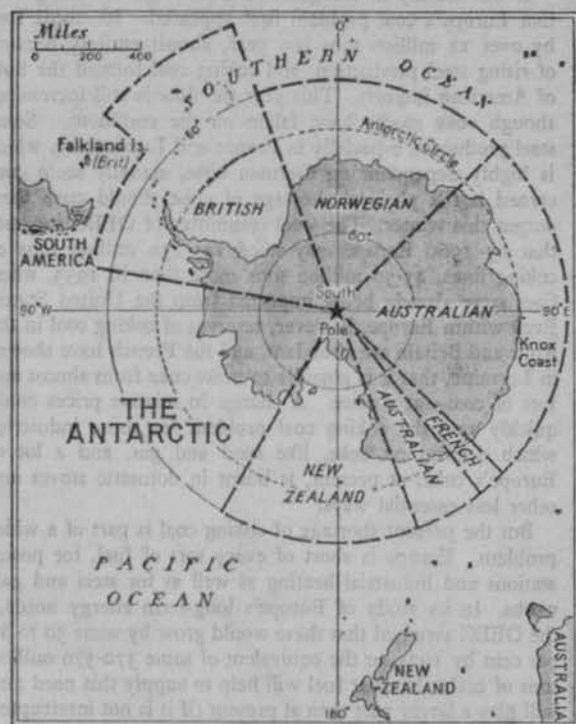
There may, however, be some opposition to even the most restrained proposal. Britain and the other countries which claim sovereignty over parts of Antarctica will probably react with some coldness. At the same time, Argentina and Chile, who dispute Britain's title to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies (Chile, however, only claims the Dependencies), are unlikely to be willing to submit their claims to the test of a debate in the world forum; indeed, Argentina has always refused to refer its dispute with Britain to the International Court.

There has naturally been some mild speculation in New York about why India should appear more anxious about the Antarctic regions than about the Arctic. The simple answers, however, are, first, that Antarctica is a continent while the Arctic is an ocean subject to the normal law of the sea, and, secondly, that the United Nations should do one thing at a time.

Another question of disputed sovereignty has been raised

in one of the technical UN agencies, the International Civil Aviation Organisation. Who is entitled to use outer space, and on what terms? This is a less fanciful and more important matter than it may seem at first sight, for it now appears certain that artificial satellites and perhaps other mechanical contrivances will soon travel beyond the earth's atmosphere. There have been reports that the first American satellite will be placed in outer space next year. Each nation has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the air space above its own territory; but there is no international agreement as to whether this sovereignty extends upwards beyond the boundary of the air. Mr Dulles recently asked his legal adviser, Mr Herman Phleger, to study the question.

There is a possible connection here with President Eisenhower's disarmament proposal for aerial surveys as a



precaution against surprise attack. The Russians say they are not prepared to discuss aerial inspection until disarmament, internationally supervised only on the ground has begun, and they have made no secret of the fact that they regard the Eisenhower plan as legalised espionage. The question has, however, been asked whether it will not soon be possible to achieve at least part of the purposes of the "open skies" method of aerial reconnaissance by means of artificial satellites. These contrivances will rotate on fixed paths and will be capable of taking and transmitting photographs. The first American satellite will probably be launched on an orbit that avoids the outer space above the Soviet Union, but there is the possibility that eventually devices of this kind will be violating the space above other nations. An international agreement on the use of artificial satellites is a question which might usefully be taken up by the disarmament organs of the United Nations before the satellites are launched rather than afterwards.

102/2/8

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ANTARCTICA
September 3, 1956
Section 1

A 15218/96

DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND
MR. LESTER PEARSON, SEPTEMBER 3, 1956

Present:

The Foreign Secretary
Mr. A. Nutting
Sir I. Kirkpatrick
Sir C. Steel
Mr. I. T. M. Pink
Mr. G. A. Crossley

Mr. Lester Pearson
Mr. G. Pierce
Miss M. Meagher

Antarctica

The Foreign Secretary enquired whether Mr. Pearson had any views on Antarctica.

Mr. Pearson said he hoped it would be possible to avoid any discussion at the General Assembly of the sort suggested by the Indians. The Canadian position was simply that they hoped it would be possible to avoid any future scramble for possession of Antarctica.

The Foreign Secretary said Mr. Krishna Menon thought that Antarctica might be used for atomic tests; this might shift the ice-cap and affect the climate of India.

Mr. Pearson commented that this was an inadequate reason for discussion in the Assembly.

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102/2/8

VERTROULIK.

PRETORIA.

12 SEP 1956

Die Permanente Verteenwoordiger van die
Unie van Suid-Afrika by die Verenigde Nasies,
NEW YORK.

Antarktika.

Met verwysing na u diensbrief nr. 11/96 van 8 Augustus 1956, in verband met die Indiese versoek om die kwessie van Antarktika op die agenda van die Elfde Sitting van die Algemene Vergadering te plaas, het die Minister te kenne gegee dat u die Britse Afvaardiging kan meedeel dat ons teen die inskripsie van die item oor Antarktika op die agenda sal stem.

Die Minister het ook aangedui dat ons by elke geleentheid moet aandring op die Unie se belang in die Suidpoolstreek (Sien in hierdie verband Beleidsorsig nr. 84A, bladsye 1 en 2).

G. P. JOOSTE

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE

JvD/MV.

The Government of India accordingly suggests that the General Assembly of the United Nations should call upon all States to agree to and affirm the peaceful utilization of the Antarctica for the general welfare and in particular to agree that the area shall not be used in any manner that would create or accentuate world tensions, or extend to this area the influence and effects of existing tensions.

The Peaceful Utilisation of Antarctica

1002/2/8.

Explanatory Memorandum

The Antarctica, a region covering about six million square miles of territory, has considerable strategic, climatic and geophysical significance for the world as a whole. With the development of rapid communications, the areas might shortly come to have further practical significance, to the welfare and progress of nations. The mineral wealth of the land mass is believed to be considerable and its coastal waters contain important food resources.

The growing interest in the Antarctica is manifesting itself in the fact that a number of recent expeditions sent by various nations have been or are at work in the area. These activities will be intensified in the course of the International Geophysical Year, commencing July 1957 and in the preparations preceding it. One typical consequence will be that the number of observation posts in this area will be more than doubled by 1957.

Modern science is likely to reveal many possibilities for the peaceful utilisation of a region hitherto regarded as unproductive. At the same time the influence of the Antarctica on climatic and related conditions throughout the world, while obviously considerable, requires further study. Any disturbance of the equilibrium of natural forces in this area might lead to incalculable consequences of the world as a whole involving the deterioration of the conditions for human and other forms of animal and plant life. In view of these facts and bearing in mind the size of the area, its international importance and the growing interest in it, the Government of India consider that in order to strengthen universal peace it would be appropriate and timely for all nations to agree and to affirm that the area will be utilised entirely for peaceful purposes and for the general welfare. All nations should agree further to harmonise their actions to these ends and to ensure also that no activities in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
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13 September 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

102/2/8



Eleventh session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

Letter dated 12 September 1956 addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

New York, 12 September 1956

I have the honour to refer to my communication No. 110/PR of 17 February 1956 (document A/3118 of 21 February 1956) asking for the inscription of an item entitled "The question of Antarctica" on the agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly. On instructions from the Government of India I would request you kindly to alter the title of the item from that stated above to:

"THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ANTARCTICA".

(Signed) Arthur S. LALL
Permanent Representative
of India to the United Nations

56-24305

f

in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENTE AFVAARDIGING VAN DIE
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA NA DIE VERENIGDE VOLKERE
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Ref: 11/96.

102/2/8

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REGISTRY
- 4-10-56
RECORDED... *Schedule*
PLACED ON FILE.....

26th September, 1956.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PRETORIA.

ANTARCTICA.

Our latest information on the Indian item relating to Antarctica is that the Latin American group have decided that they will oppose inscription. On being told this by the Chairman of the group, Mr. Lall is reported to have indicated that he would advise his government to drop the item.

While Latin American opposition greatly increases the odds against inscription, it naturally remains to be seen whether the Indian government will change its mind. We should therefore continue for the time being on the assumption that the item will be discussed.

File.

*Seen by Secy
M.H.L./126*

J. B. K.
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM
THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ANTARCTICA

Antarctica, a region covering about six million square miles of territory, has considerable strategic, climatic and geophysical significance for the world as a whole. With the development of rapid communications, the area might shortly come to have further practical significance to the welfare and progress of nations. The mineral wealth of the land mass is believed to be considerable and its coastal waters contain important food resources.

The growing interest in Antarctica is manifesting itself in the fact that a considerable number of recent expeditions sent by various nations have been or are at work in the area. Furthermore, these activities are to be intensified in the course of the International Geophysical Year, commencing July 1957 and in the preparations preceding it. One typical consequence will be that the number of observation posts in this area will be more than doubled by 1957.

Modern science is likely to reveal many possibilities for the peaceful utilization of a region hitherto regarded as unproductive. At the same time the influence of Antarctica on climatic and related conditions throughout the world, while obviously considerable, requires further study. Any disturbance of the equilibrium of natural forces in this area might lead to incalculable consequences for the world as a whole involving the deterioration of the conditions for human and other forms of animal and plant life. In view of these facts and bearing in mind the size of the area, its international importance and the growing interest in it, the Government of India consider that in order to strengthen universal peace it would be appropriate and timely for all nations to agree and to affirm that the area will be utilized entirely for peaceful purposes and for the general welfare. All nations should agree further to harmonize their actions to these ends and to ensure also that no activities in Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

The Government of India accordingly suggest that the General Assembly of the United Nations should call upon all States to agree to and affirm the peaceful utilization of Antarctica for the general welfare and in particular to agree that the area shall not be used in any manner that would create or accentuate world tensions, or extend to this area the influence and effects of existing tensions.

in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

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102/2/8



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3118/Add.2
17 October 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eleventh session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ANTARCTICA

Letter dated 16 October 1956 addressed to the Secretary-General by
the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

New York, 16 October 1956

I have the honour to refer to the provisional agenda of the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly (document A/3191 of 13 September 1956) and to enclose an explanatory memorandum relating to item 59 on the agenda, "The peaceful utilization of Antarctica".

f

(Signed) Arthur S. LALL
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

56-27257

in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions.

.....

two divisions in Poland.

While the number of Soviet Army officers in Polish uniform is not known, Gruson says their influence is nevertheless considerable since they have dominated the political education of the army ever since Soviet Army Marshall Konstantin K. Rokosovsky became Defense Minister and Chief of the Polish Army in 1949. Rokosovsky, although born in Poland, is a Soviet citizen as well and served in the Soviet Army for many years.

Rokosovsky, whom Gruson says belongs to a faction in the Polish leadership which seeks to maintain the closest ties with the Polish party leadership and the Soviet Union, is believed to be in a weaker position as a result of his faction's failure to halt or slow the process of liberalizing Polish economic, social and cultural life.

Gruson adds that disclosures last weekend that 19 Army, Air Force and Navy officers had been unjustly tried and executed in 1952 have furthered Rokosovsky's political isolation.

Gruson reports that Gomulka, in discussing the presence of Soviet troops in Poland recently, said that Soviet forces in East Germany could as easily be supplied by air or sea as through Poland. The Soviet Union has maintained that its reason for maintaining troops in Poland is to assure the Soviet Army's lines of communication to East Germany.

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U.S. INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, NATIONAL INCOME HIT RECORD LEVELS .

WASHINGTON, Oct 17 -- American industry poured out goods in September that equalled in quantity the all-time high level established in December, 1955, and national income likewise continued its upward surge.

The seasonally adjusted index of industrial activity for September, prepared by the Federal Reserve Board, showed an increase of 144 percent of the 1947-49 average. That equals the December, 1955 rate and shows a two percent gain over August.

At the same time the Commerce Department announced that national income went up to a record yearly rate of \$338,700 million in the second quarter, continuing the steady climb that started in the Fall of 1954.

The board noted that the outlook for October is for still more goods being turned out. It said steel mill activity, which in September was near rated capacity, was even higher in early October. Auto manufacture, due to completion of new model changeovers, is also expected to add to the October level.

Most of the September rise, the board said, was due to sharp increases in steel production and iron ore mining. In other areas, industrial machinery and other equipment construction expanded somewhat while the output of household durable goods and building materials was maintained at high levels.

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102/2/8

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AMERICAN EMBASSY, PRETORIA
18th October, 1950

INDIA EXPLAINS REQUEST FOR UN DEBATE ON ANT-ARCTIC.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Oct 17- India suggests that the UN General Assembly, call upon all states to agree to, and affirm the peaceful utilization of the Antarctic for the general welfare.

The suggestion was made in an explanatory memorandum on Tuesday, explaining India's proposal of last February that the forthcoming General Assembly take up "the question of Antarctica."

The memorandum would have the Assembly request all states "to agree that the area shall not be used in any manner that would create or accentuate world tensions, or extend to this area the influence and effects of existing tensions."

India noted that the Antarctic has considerable significance for the world as a whole and "might shortly come to have further practical significance to the welfare and progress of nations."

*Mr. Van Dulles
20/10/50*

File

* * *

SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL EFFORTS RELATED TO POLISH INDEPENDENCE DRIVE.

NEWYORK, Oct 17 -- Efforts by Polish Communist leaders to secure the withdrawal of a large number of Soviet officers in Poland's armed forces are part of a drive to win increased independence from the Soviet Union, according to today's New York Times.

In a dispatch from Warsaw, Sydney Gruson says that such efforts are actually part of a "broader struggle between the Soviet Union and other Communist countries over the meaning of Moscow's pledge of equality for all Communist parties."

Moreover, the Times correspondent adds, Wladyslaw Gomulka, who is supposedly to be restored shortly to the Polish party's politburo, favors the evacuation of all Soviet troops from Poland.

Gomulka is a former Communist Minister said to favor nationalist policies who was purged in 1949 on charges of Titoism.

Gruson notes that the Soviet Union is generally believed to maintain

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3118/Add.2
17 October 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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New York, 16 October 1956

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(Signed) Arthur S. LALL
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

56-27257

~~evacuation of all service groups from ...~~
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102/2/8



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
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 NEW YORK 21, N.Y.
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 TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 3-7100
 TEMPLETON 8-1700

REF. 11/96

18th October, 1956

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRETORIA.

Provisional Agenda of the Eleventh Session: Antarctica

...

With reference to my minute 11/96 of 26th September, 1956, I now enclose a copy of document A/3118/Add.2 containing an explanatory memorandum submitted by India in relation to their item on Antarctica.

This memorandum is identical to the preliminary draft forwarded to you under cover of my minute 11/96 of 8th August, 1956. The fact that it has now been formally submitted would seem to indicate that India has not been deterred by the decision of the Latin-American bloc to oppose inscription.

D.B. He
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

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DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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 NEW YORK 21, N.Y.
 TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 5-5000
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 NEW YORK 21, N.Y.
 TELEPHONE 6-1700

REF. 11/96

November 16, 1956

Mu. v. Doersen.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 PRETORIA.

The Peaceful Utilization of
 Antarctica

RQ 27/11/56

[Signature]

*Krow
 2/11*

When the inclusion of this item was considered by the General Committee, Mr. Krishna Menon announced on behalf of his Government that he was withdrawing his proposal that this matter be discussed. He gave no explanations, but it is generally assumed that he realised there were distinct doubts as to his securing a majority for inscription, particularly since the Latin American bloc was lined up solidly against inclusion of the item on the Assembly agenda.

[Signature]
 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

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102/2/E 12/8

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

*Original
with covering
minutes on
136/2/24*

Extract from Note of Meeting in the
Commonwealth Relations Office on
12th September, 1956.

ANTARCTICA

MR. PINK said that although the United Kingdom view on this item was not yet firm, discussion of it would certainly be unprofitable and might become acrimonious.

MR. RIDDELL said that although the Canadian Government had no strong views, they were anxious to avoid controversy in the United Nations as far as possible. They hoped it might be possible for the item to slide through the General Assembly with the minimum of discussion.

MISS GLEESON-WHITE said that the Australian Government at present tended to favour opposing inscription and were taking informal soundings from their overseas representatives. Their feeling was that if inscription could not be avoided it might be possible to secure a mild resolution which would go through quickly.

MR. BURNETT said that the New Zealand Government would probably not oppose inscription and that their views were similar to those of Canada.

MR. JORDAAN said that the South African Government would probably wish to oppose inscription.

MR. MURRAY said that although the Indians had not yet put in their memorandum they still had plenty of time to do so.

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Telephone: WHITEHALL 4488.
Telegraphic Address —
"OPPOSITELY, LESQUARE, LONDON."

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON, W.C.2.

AIRMAIL

15th June, 1959.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

C.C.T.A.

I forward for consideration
6 copies of each of the following papers:

- (1) Document L(59)86 dated 1st June, 1959
(Facilities for Members of C.S.A.)
- (2) Note 2/30 dated 10th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A.)
- (3) Note 4/70 dated 10th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A. and 1st Annual
Meeting of F.A.M.A.)
- (4) Note 2/240 dated 10th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A.)
- (5) Note 4/150 dated 11th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A.)

and for information, 6 copies of:

- (6) Document L(59)99 dated 9th June, 1959
(The Quelea in Tanganyika)
- (7) Note 4/110 dated 10th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A.)
- (8) Note 3/170 dated 10th June, 1959
(14th Session of C.C.T.A.)
- (9) Note 3/100 dated 12th June, 1959
(Visit to West Africa of Mr. K.C. Doctor,
Statistician of I.L.O.)
- (10) Note 1/293 dated 12th June, 1959
(Study Tour of Specialists responsible
in the field of community development
UN/CCTA).

P.H.J.J. van VUUREN.

Minister.

102/2/8

Reference P.S.31/2/6



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON, W.C.2.

Telephone: WHITEHALL 4488.
Telegraphic Address:—
"OPPOSITELY, LESQUARE, LONDON."

AIRMAIL

15th June, 1959.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

18 JUN 1959

C.C.T.A.

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102/20/10.
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- (3) Note 4/70 dated 10th June, 1959 (14th Session of C.C.T.A. and 1st Annual Meeting of F.A.M.A.) *102/20/2/14*, *102/12/3/6*
- (4) Note 2/240 dated 10th June, 1959 (14th Session of C.C.T.A.) *102/20/2/14* *102/20/26/9.*
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- (6) Document L(59)99 dated 9th June, 1959 (The Quelea in Tanganyika) *102/12/53/2.*
- (7) Note 4/110 dated 10th June, 1959 (14th Session of G.C.T.A.) *102/20/24/26*
102/20/7/14.
- (8) Note 3/170 dated 10th June, 1959 (14th Session of C.C.T.A.) *102/20/26/14*
102/20/2/14
- (9) Note 3/100 dated 12th June, 1959 (Visit to West Africa of Mr. K.C. Doctor, Statistician of I.L.O.) *102/20/17.*
- (10) Note 1/293 dated 12th June, 1959 (Study Tour of Specialists responsible in the field of community development UN/CCTA). *102/20/26/27.*

File
L. M. Van der Merwe
for Minister.