

The Norwegian expedition actually did turn its attention to this sector and discovered two new stretches of territory, about 200 miles of coastline, of which formal possession was taken. No communication has so far been received from the Norwegian Government with regard to these discoveries but it is anticipated that the claims made by the expedition will be formally confirmed.

On the 14th January, 1929, the Norwegia expedition met with the Mawson expedition in latitude  $66^{\circ} 22'$  S. and longitude  $47^{\circ}$  E. This spot is inside the sector assigned to Australia. Captain Lawson of the Norwegia was informed that the Australian expedition had already explored and mapped the coast line for hundreds of miles to the East. After some discussion it was decided that the Norwegia should confine their efforts to the West of 40th meridian East of Greenwich and that the Mawson expedition would limit themselves to the East of that line.

It is not clear whether any of the 200 miles of land discovered by the Norwegia lies within the small sector which could be claimed by South Africa.

In the course of his investigations, Mawson discovered a valuable whaling fishery off the coast of Enderby Land. He was able to inform the British Whaler Radioline of this discovery in time for her to participate during last season. It would appear that the Norwegia located the whaling ground at the same time. It is obvious that the Norwegians are bent on securing as much land as possible in the Antarctic with a view to consolidating their position in the whale fishery and possibly the establishment of bases from which their ships could work.

In this connection I attach, for your information, a memorandum which has just been issued - E(P) (3) 2 - entitled

"The ...

Enderby Land and the Falkland Island dependencies which lies between 20 W. Longitude and 45 E. Longitude. This is the sector which lies immediately to the South of the Continent of Africa and it is the portion of the Antarctic in which the Union is principally concerned.

In the course of conversation the other day, the Prime Minister mentioned that in 1926 a sector had been assigned to the Union, but so far I have been unable to trace any reference to this in the papers which are contained in file 50/26 Y. If the sector principle were adopted, the portion which would be assigned to South Africa would be that lying between 15 and 30 degrees East Longitude and which is shown in black lines on the map attached to E. (30) 20.

Since 1926 various expeditions have visited the Antarctic; for instance, the Australian Mawson expedition in 1928, the American expedition under Admiral Byrd in 1928 and Sir Hubert Wilkins' expedition in 1928 visited the other sectors, and the Norwegians sent the Norwegia expedition which was authorized to take possession for Norway of any new land which might be discovered. This expedition planted a Norwegian flag on Bouvet Island which is situated in latitude  $54^{\circ} 26'$  S. and  $3^{\circ} 24'$  E. Longitude.

When it was ascertained that this expedition was being prepared, the Government of the United Kingdom advised the Union Government as it was felt that the expedition would visit the sector lying immediately to the South of Africa. The Union Government concurred in the view that in the event of the Norwegian expedition proceeding to explore the sector lying between  $20^{\circ}$  W. Longitude and  $45^{\circ}$  E. Longitude and claiming any territory discovered in it for the Norwegian Crown, no grounds existed on which objection could be taken.

The ...

## POLICY IN THE ANTARCTIC.

The Imperial Conference of 1926 recommended that His Majesty's Government should gradually establish British control over the whole of the Antarctic Continent, apart from those areas to which a good foreign title already existed

The greater portion of the area was divided into sectors, one of which was assigned to Australia, one to New Zealand, and one to the Falkland Islands.

Considerable progress has been made by the Commonwealth of Australia in demarcating the coast line in the area assigned to it; New Zealand has asserted its rights to its sector by granting whaling licences confined to the limits of their sector. Some steps have been taken towards making it possible to establish a plea of effective occupation in certain parts of the land falling within the sector of the Falkland Islands.

There were two sectors of the Antarctic which had not been explored and which were not definitely assigned to any of the nations of the British Commonwealth. These were -

- (1) The sector between Enderby Land and the Falkland Dependencies;
- (2) The sector between the Falkland Island Dependencies and the Ross Sea Dependencies, that is, the New Zealand Sector.

The latter lies between 80 and 150 West Longitude, of this it is proposed to add to the Falkland Island Dependencies sector 15 degrees.

A portion of the remaining area was visited by an American expedition under Admiral Byrd in 1928. It was thought that steps would be taken by America to establish a claim to the land which he discovered and explored but it appears that no steps have been taken towards this end.

As regards the former, i.e., the sector between  
Enderby ...

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.

DOMINION OFFICE.

November, 1930.

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 co-operation 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 the present time was not appropriate for the visit of any expedition, whether official or private, to the sector 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

Note: Front page(s) missing when papers transferred to P.S. 16/2 in 1958.

A.C. 27/1/58

Capt. Mills Joyce to concentrate on that sector of the Antarctic continent which lies between Enderby Land and Coats Land (longitude  $45^{\circ}$  E westwards to approximately  $15^{\circ}$  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  $6^{\circ} 30'$  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 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

Memorandum

the High Commissioner, a copy of a secret memorandum giving the views of the Committee on the proposals.

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 the notice and in affording the Polar Committee the opportunity of examining them.

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

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*H. N. Tait*

...  
Finally, the Committee expressed its 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

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DOMINIONS OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following Number quoted: 5385/1



Secret.

Dominions Office,

Downing Street,

11 November, 1930.

*PA. See into*

*12/1125.*

Sir,

With reference to the Political Secretary's letter of the 23rd July regarding the scheme of Captain E.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 Captain 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

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

*Refer by papers per 15th*

*A.C. for information*

*After perusal will send the matter to the Govt as arranged*

*See by A.C.*

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



Documents enclosed :-

1. Letter dated 6th June, 1930, from Captain E. Mills Joyce to the High Commissioner.
2. Letter dated 23rd June, 1930, from Captain Joyce to the High Commissioner, with enclosures.
3. Letter dated 23rd July, 1930, addressed to Under-Secretary of State, Dominions Office, by the High Commissioner.
4. Memorandum dated 21st October, 1930, on "Policy in the Antarctic" prepared by Mr. J. Collie, as a Member of the South African Delegation to the Imperial Conference.
5. Letter dated 11th November, 1930, by Under-Secretary of State, Dominions Office, to the High Commissioner, with memorandum prepared by Polar Committee.

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

Office, which makes a special study of Polar questions, so that its views would be available for our Government's information.

In response thereto a memorandum and covering letter of the 11th instant has come to hand and will be found with the attached file, from which it will be seen that after consideration of the various factors involved, the Committee throws out the suggestion that H. M. Government in the Union of South Africa might agree that the despatch of an exploratory expedition to the sector proposed was to be discouraged.

For the Government's full consideration of the matter, however, I am also enclosing with the file a copy of the memorandum dated 21st October prepared by Mr. Collie, as the Imperial Conference Representative on the Conference Committee which was appointed to consider Policy in the Antarctic, wherein he touches upon Captain Joyce's scheme.

It might also be of interest and of value to refer to Imperial Conference secret document E (30) 20 on "Policy in the Antarctic" and the Report E (P)(30) 3 issued by the Imperial Conference Committee for the information of Heads of Delegations, both of which will no doubt be available in your Imperial Conference papers.

It will be much appreciated if early consideration may be accorded the foregoing matter, so that Captain Joyce, who propounded the scheme as far back as June last, may be advised finally of our decision.

High Commissioner.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

73 STRAND, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECRET.

20th November, 1930.

The Secretary for External Affairs,  
P R E T O R I A.

Antarctic Policy : proposed  
Expedition to Antarctic 1930 - 32.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for our Government's consideration, copies of essential documents and correspondence arising out of the proposal made by Captain Mills Joyce to undertake an exploratory expedition to the Antarctic in 1930 - 32, for discovery, commercial and scientific purposes. Captain Joyce's request for Governmental support of the scheme involves consideration of a question of policy and I should be glad to have direction in the matter.

For your information, I may state that Captain Joyce's communication of the 6th June last was addressed to me at the instance of Lady Bailey, whose support had been asked for. Lady Bailey also wrote to me direct in the matter inquiring whether the proposed expedition had the sanction of the Union Government, without which she was not prepared to do anything in the matter.

In view of the cablegrams (D.13635/29 of the 30th November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...



Nov 22 1930

Reck'd by personal  
note HFA 24  
11

M<sub>2</sub> Sea Andrews,

Tait tells me that you have asked  
for a further copy of the Polar Committee memorandum  
on Capt Mills Toye's Antarctic scheme.

I am afraid that I cannot do  
anything better at the moment than the enclosed  
flycopy: the memorandum is however being printed  
for our records and I will send you a printed  
copy as soon as prints are available.

I expect that you are now looking  
forward to a well-earned rest!

Yours etc

Richard Shack

do anything in the matter.

In view of the cablegrams (D.13635/29 of the 30th  
November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had  
passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in  
connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the  
Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition  
before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

73 STRAND, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

No. 12/1125.

21st November, 1930.

SECRET.

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.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

*PN Sec  
22/11*

*Repy*

*Return to me  
after despatch. Pls  
also arrange to fix  
all the papers in  
the enclosed file  
147A.*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

73 STRAND,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

28th November, 1930.

12/1125.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the High Commissioner to inform you that he would be very pleased if you would call upon him at this Office on Monday afternoon, December 1st, at 3.30.

Yours faithfully,

*M.C.T.*

Private Secretary.

Captain E. E. Mills Joyce, A.M.,  
Oxford Mansion,  
Oxford Circus,  
W. 1.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

Oxford Mansion  
Oxford Circus  
W-1

29/11/30

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Sir

I will have much  
pleasure in calling on the  
High Commissioner on Monday  
afternoon December 1st at 3.30.

Yours faithfully,  
Ernest E. Mills Joyce.

To

The Private Secretary

to the High Commissioner

Union of South Africa

H. J.

Ernest E. Mills Joyce

W. 1. 1/12

28th November, 1930.

Letter No. 222/2

Enclosed had directed

the return of the

Mills Joyce's

Commissioner to

be pleased if you would

call on Monday afternoon,

at 3.30.

Yours faithfully,

Ernest E. Mills Joyce

Private Secretary.

Return  
after dispatch  
also a copy to file

H. T. ANDREWS

Political Secretary

Captain E. E. Mills Joyce, A.M.,  
Oxford Mansion,  
Oxford Circus,  
W. 1.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had  
passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in  
connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the  
Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition  
before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

HB/MN



P.M.103/20.



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CAPE TOWN,

4th February, 1931.

SECRET

The High Commissioner  
for the Union of South Africa,  
South Africa House,  
73, Strand,  
LONDON W.C.2.

Antarctic Policy; Proposed Expedition to  
Antarctic 1930 - 32.

With reference to your letter of the 20th of November, 1930 in connection with the above matter, I have been instructed by the Minister of External Affairs to inform you that after due consideration he has come to the conclusion that it would, under the circumstances, be inadvisable to give any Governmental support to Captain Joyce's scheme.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur B. Benson".

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...



P.S. 12/1125.

SECRET.

26th February, 1931

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,

Political Secretary.

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

HTA/MFB.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

6th March, 1931.

7-MAR 1931

Dear Lady Bailey,

With further regard to your letter of the 7th June last, and subsequent correspondence, in which you inquired as to whether the South African Government might wish to proceed with a certain South African Antarctic Exploration Scheme proposed by Captain E. K. Mills Joyce, this is to inform you that I have received official intimation to the effect that, after due consideration of the matter, my Government does not consider it advisable to give any governmental support to Captain Joyce's scheme.

I hope that the foregoing will be of assistance to you in your consideration of the matter. It is no doubt quite unnecessary to ask you to treat this information as confidential.

Yours sincerely,

C. T. WATER

The Honourable  
Lady Bailey, D.B.E.,  
38 Bryanston Square,  
W. 1.

HTA/MFB.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

13th March, 1931.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your call upon the High Commissioner in December last, and previous correspondence, I am directed to say that after due consideration of the proposition contained in your letter of the 23rd June last and various annexures, it is regretted it will not be possible to secure Governmental support for your scheme.

Yours faithfully,

W. C. NAUDÉ

Private Secretary.

Captain E. E. Mills Joyce, A.M.,  
Oxford Mansion,  
Oxford Circus,  
W. 1.

HTA/MFB.

November and D.15111/29 of the 5th December, 1929) that had passed between the United Kingdom and Union Governments, in connection with the Norwegian Government's activities in the Antarctic, I took the opportunity of placing the proposition before the inter-Departmental Committee of the Dominions

Office ...

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Downing Street.

Circular despatch C. No.

30

16 February, 1935.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, for the information of His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa, the accompanying copies of an extract from the London Gazette of the 14th February, containing an Order-in-Council made on the 7th February for placing part of His Majesty's dominions in the Antarctic Seas under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Extract 14.2.35.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DOMINIONS OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1,  
and the following number quoted:—

6083/83

Subject: *Antarctic*

*Pd Rec 18/2*

*[Handwritten mark]*

*39/101?*

1933-  
E.  
uary, 1933.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to the Dominions Office of the

*To Ministry of South Africa Circular No 30 - 16/2/1933*

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

17 FEB 1933 49

*[Large handwritten mark]*

the  
the Union of  
extract from  
ntaining an  
or placing  
retic Seas  
Australia.

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

5/10/34

COPY

Extract from the "Evening Standard" dated 6th January, 1934.

: : : : : : : : : : :

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."

: : : : : : : : : : :

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 when he has found to put up £200,000! Until we know this, we are not disposed to take this report too seriously.

Yours sincerely,

R. Wiseman

1111111111

6385/3.

*Key  
let me have  
see H.T. 10/1/34*

*PD Sec.  
idi*

1934

Downing Street.

9 January, 1934.



My dear Andrews,

6.1.34.

I enclose an extract from Saturday's "Evening Standard" reporting that Captain Mills Joyce is planning to take a £200,000 air expedition to the Antarctic next August.

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

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

H.T. ANDREWS, ESQ.,

: : : : : : : :



Trafalgar  
Square,

XXXXXXXX

12th January, 1934.

12/1125.

The Secretary for External Affairs,

C A P E T O W N.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of  
a letter, dated January 9th, from the Dominions Office,  
with an annexure from the London "Evening Standard" of  
January 6th, in regard to a proposed air expedition to  
the Antarctic, under the leadership of Captain Mills  
Joyce, which is planned to leave this country in August  
next.

After receipt of the letter, the Political Secretary  
was advised by the Dominions Office by telephone that from  
information from a private source, it was understood  
Captain Mills Joyce had obtained financial support from  
Lord Wakefield - the oil magnate - to the extent of  
£20,000, not £200,000, as was first reported.

In the circumstances, the inquiry contained in the  
latter section of the Dominions Office communication falls  
away.

As you will recall, however, an Antarctic expedition  
under Captain Joyce, formed the subject of consideration  
on the part of the Union Government in 1931 - your papers  
P.M. 103/20 of 4th February 1931 refer - and the information  
as to the present air expedition will no doubt be of interest.

C. T. de WATER  
HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HTA/MFB.

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,  
C. T. ANDREWS.

*File 157*

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

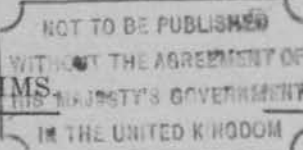
HTA/MFB.

As you will remember, an Antarctic expedition under Captain Joyce, formed the subject of consideration on the part of the Union Government in 1931 - your papers P.M. 103/20 of 4th February 1931 refer - and the information as to the present air expedition will no doubt be of interest.

C. T. te WATER  
HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HTA/MFB.

POLAR TERRITORIAL CLAIMS



January 27, 1934.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

[W 952/23/50]

No. 1.

*Memorandum communicated by the Norwegian Minister on January 26, 1934.—  
(Received in Foreign Office, January 27.)*

THE situation which has been created in the Antarctic by the Norwegian and British discoveries, and the placing under British authority of a new vast territory by the Order in Council of the 7th February, 1933, have been followed with close attention by the Norwegian Government.

Not without concern have the Norwegian Government taken cognisance of the fact that nearly two-thirds of the Antarctic Continent, with adjacent islands, has been declared placed under foreign sovereignty, and thus a possibility created that in future certain restrictions might meet Norwegian activities, more especially the whaling industry, in these parts of the world.

The question naturally arises whether certain parts of the Antarctic Continent ought to be placed under Norwegian sovereignty, in order to protect Norwegian activities against the possibility of being subject to interference from some other country. Large areas in the Antarctic between Enderby Land and Coats Land have been discovered and partly mapped out by Norwegians.

The above-mentioned Order in Council of the 7th February, 1933, gives rise to certain practical questions which the Norwegian Government are anxious to have clarified. The fact that part of Haakon VII's Vidde has been included in the area claimed as British territory might cause some reservation similar to that made by Norway in the exchange of notes with Great Britain in 1925-27 with regard to the Ross Dependency. There may also arise some questions with regard to the western border line of this territory. With the line as now fixed the claimed area comprises a substantial part of Queen Maud's Land, which has been discovered and mapped out by Norwegians.

There are also some questions which it is desirable to have clarified regarding the naming of certain areas, for instance, Lars Christensen's Land.

In case the territory between Enderby Land and Coats Land should be placed under Norwegian sovereignty, the question arises of fixing the border line between this territory and the part of Coats Land which lies outside the Falkland Island Dependencies (see the *Summary of Proceedings from the Imperial Conference in London, 1926, p. 33*).

The Royal Norwegian Government have had under consideration the desirability of holding an international conference for the discussion of the situation in the Antarctic. As, however, the questions of special interest to Norway in these regions chiefly concern areas where practically only Norway and Great Britain are interested, the Norwegian Government have come to the conclusion that the purpose would be better answered if the situation were discussed between these two countries, in order that the different questions might be clarified and an understanding between Norway and Great Britain reached. The Norwegian Government therefore venture to suggest that the most expedient procedure would be that these questions—of a practical nature and based on facts—could be discussed between experts from the two countries, and that the result of their deliberations thereafter could be transmitted to their respective Governments, who will then make their decision and endeavour to obtain an arrangement of all questions which may not be clear or may have given rise to divergent opinions.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 210

Secret.

LET TO BE FORWARDED  
BY THE SECRETARY  
OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE MINISTER OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Downing Street,

15 November, 1934.

Approved and communicated by the Executive Council of the Union of South Africa  
(Received in Foreign Office on 16/11/34)

THE situation which has been created in the Antarctic region by the discovery of the continent of Antarctica, and the discovery of territory by the Order in Council of 1933, has been brought to your attention with some attention by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Not Sir,  
In connection with my Secret Circular despatch D. No. 77 of to-day's date regarding British and Norwegian claims in the Antarctic, I have the honour to invite reference to Lord Passfield's secret telegram No. 127 of the 30th November, 1929, and your secret telegram No. 170 of the 5th December, 1929, in reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom recognise the special interests of Norway in the Antarctic. In this connexion I desire to repeat the assurance already given informally to the Norwegian Government that there is no intention of claiming British sovereignty over the region lying between the western boundary of the Australian Antarctic Territory as defined in the Order-in-Council of the 7th February, 1933, and the eastern boundary of Coats Land as mentioned in the summary of proceedings of the Imperial Conference of 1926.

I have, etc.

(For the Secretary of State).

(Sd.) F. LEIGH-SMITH.

COPIES.

(No. # 9240/23/50).

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

23rd October 1934.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to M. Vogt's note of the 26th January last concerning the Antarctic, in which he alluded to certain questions arising out of the Order-in-Council of the 7th February, 1933, and suggested that these questions might form the subject of discussions between Norwegian and British experts.

2. I much regret the delay which has occurred in replying to M. Vogt's note under reference, due to the necessity for consultation with His Majesty's Governments in the other parts of the Empire concerned in this matter.

3. I now have the honour, after such consultation, to inform you that His Majesty's Governments concerned are fully in agreement with the view expressed in the last paragraph of M. Vogt's note that an international conference on the subject of the Antarctic would not be desirable. They will on the other hand, of course, be ready at any time to enter into discussions with the Norwegian Government through the diplomatic channel in regard to any specific points which the Norwegian Government may desire to raise. At the same time they are not, in the absence of more precise information as to the questions to be discussed, convinced of the necessity in present circumstances for any discussions between experts.

4. I have the honour to add as regards the second and third paragraphs of your predecessor's note under reference  
that

Monsieur Erik Colban,

etc., etc., etc.

in the note to the Norwegian Minister in London, to which,  
so far as His Majesty's Government are aware, no claims  
have yet been put forward by any country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Circular despatch D No. 77

Secret

Downing Street,

November, 1934.

15

Sir,

With reference to my circular despatch C No. 50 of the 16th February 1933, I have the honour to transmit the accompanying copies of a memorandum communicated by the Norwegian Minister regarding British and Norwegian claims in the Antarctic, together with a copy of the reply which was returned to him, after informal consultation with His Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia and in New Zealand.

2. A copy of the correspondence has been sent to His Majesty's Minister at Oslo, with instructions to inform the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs that it is considered that British sovereignty over the whole of the Falkland Islands Dependencies (including the whole of Coats Land), of the Ross Dependency, and of the Australian Antarctic Territory is regarded as unimpeachable that, as public opinion in the British Empire strongly supports these claims, it would be impossible to recognise the claims of any other country in any of these areas, but that there remains the large area in the Antarctic mentioned

in

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

26.1.34  
1 Copy  
23.10.34



D.O.3.

SECRET

V

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DOMINIONS OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.  
and the following number quoted:—

6019/79

Subject: *Antarctic claims*

9/18

19/11/34



Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter <sup>to</sup> from the Dominions Office of the 17 Feb. 1933 6083/83.

15 NOV 1934  
15 NOV 1934

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for  
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the ✓

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

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Australian Antarctic Territory is regarded as unimpeachable  
that, as public opinion in the British Empire strongly  
supports these claims, it would be impossible to recognise  
the claims of any other country in any of these areas, but  
that there remains the large area in the Antarctic mentioned

in

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

C O P Y

No. W 810/431/50

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

7th February, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the note No. 11/1939 of the 14th January in which you were so good as to inform me that by a Royal Decree of the 14th January 1939, the portion of the Antarctic continent stretching between the Falkland Islands Dependency on the west and the Australian Antarctic Dependency on the east has been placed under Norwegian sovereignty.

2. I have the honour to enquire whether you are in a position furnish me with a copy of the Royal Decree in question, and to inform me of the acts of discovery or occupation upon which the claim of the Norwegian Government is founded.

3. I have, at the same time, the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 12/1939 of the 14th January stating that the Norwegian Government recognise the boundaries of the Australian Commonwealth Dependency in the Antarctic as defined in the Order in Council of the 7th February, 1933.

I have, etc.

(For the Secretary of State)

(Signed) WALTER ROBERTS.

Monsieur Erik Colban,  
etc., etc., etc.

11  
il a été mentionné déjà, sur les recherches géographiques norvégiennes faites dans ces territoires et auxquelles les norvégiens ont été seuls à se livrer jusqu'ici.

Les considérations d'ordre pratique qui amèneraient la Norvège à faire usage du droit qu'elle estime ainsi avoir acquis, se rapportent à la pêche norvégienne de la baleine dans l'Océan antarctique et surtout dans les eaux au large du territoire dont il est question ici.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères se permet par conséquent

de proposer

que S.M. le Roi approuve et souscrive le projet de décret Royal qui Lui a été présenté, portant que la partie de la côte continentale de l'Antarctique qui s'étend de la frontière des Falkland Islands Dependencies à l'ouest (la frontière de Coats Land) jusqu'à la frontière de l'Australian Antarctic Dependency à l'est (45° de Longitude Est) avec le territoire au dedans de ladite côte et les eaux adjacentes, soient soumis à la souveraineté de la Norvège et que le Ministère de la Justice soit autorisé à prendre les dispositions nécessaires concernant l'autorité de police dans cette région.

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Cette question se trouve toutefois encore quelque peu dans l'indécision. Il a été soutenu que la limite des glaces dans l'Océan Antarctique devait être considérée comme frontière. La Grande Bretagne et les deux Dominions britanniques qui ont occupé des territoires dans ces parages ont, en général, tracé leur frontière le long du 60° de Latitude. Ce qu'implique cette mesure quant au droit à la souveraineté ne semble pas tout-à-fait clair; mais le fait est que la pêche norvégienne de la baleine fut frappée, pendant quelques années, d'un droit à l'intérieur de cette frontière.

Etant donné que des questions de cette nature au sujet de la frontière, demeurent encore ouvertes, il pourrait être fort désirable pour l'activité de pêche norvégienne dans ces eaux, que la Norvège soit maître d'une large bande du continent et de la mer contigue. La Norvège n'as pas l'intention, pour ce qui la concerne, d'exclure les autres nations du territoire maritime dont elle pourrait ainsi avoir la souveraineté, ni de les empêcher, d'aucune manière, à s'y livrer à la pêche. Mais les pêcheurs norvégiens doivent, de leur côté, avoir l'assurance que d'autres non plus ne peuvent les en exclure ou procéder à des mesures pouvant causer des dommages ou porter préjudice à leur activité.

Cette revendication a déjà longtemps retenu l'attention du gouvernement norvégien et il s'est efforcé, pendant les années qui se sont passées depuis que la question a été soulevée, de jeter les bases d'un arrangement propre à satisfaire les revendications norvégiennes. Le gouvernement estime le moment venue maintenant de prendre une décision définitive.

Le fondement juridique de la Norvège pour soumettre à sa souveraineté la terra nullius en question se base, comme

Il y a lieu de signaler que des explorateurs norvégiens, Roald Amundsen et d'autres, ont exploré les terres aussi dans d'autres parties de l'Antarctique. Au cours des dernières années ils ont surtout exploré une grande partie du territoire qui fut rattaché à l'Australie en 1933 et en ont dressé des cartes. Nonobstant ce fait, il n'entre aucunement dans l'idée de la Norvège de faire valoir des droits à des territoires qui ont déjà été soumis à la souveraineté d'un autre état. Ceci s'accorde d'ailleurs avec la déclaration que le gouvernement norvégien fit au gouvernement britannique en 1929, de ne pas élever des prétentions sur des terres se trouvant au dedans de territoires qui, alors, étaient soumis à la souveraineté de l'Empire britannique.

Mais le territoire qui jusqu'ici a été une terra nullius, que personne d'autre que des norvégiens n'a exploré et dont ils ont été les seuls à lever des cartes, ce territoire, la Norvège estime, de plein droit, pouvoir le revendiquer et le soumettre à sa souveraineté.

Ce territoire est justement celui qui, au cours des dernières années, a eu le plus d'importance pour la pêche de la baleine. La pêche s'effectue actuellement en haute mer mais cherche, dans le courant de l'été, de plus en plus vers terre. La côte continentale dans ces parages suit à peu près le 70° de Latitude et la lisière des glaces se trouve au commencement de l'été, c'est à dire au mois de décembre, généralement au 60°; ce n'est qu'au mois de février que les raffineries flottantes arrivent assez près de terre.

Une question qui peut avoir de l'importance lorsqu'il s'agit de la liberté de se livrer à la pêche, est celle de savoir jusqu'à quelle distance en mer s'étend la limite de la souveraineté.

Cette

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régions antarctiques et ce furent alors des expéditions norvégiennes. L'armateur de baleiniers, M. Lars Christensen, envoya, l'été de 1929/30, une expédition dans ces parages sous les ordres du capitaine Riiser-Larsen. Celui-ci ainsi que le capitaine Lützow-Holm qui l'accompagnait, prirent des observations et dressèrent des cartes photo-aériennes d'une grande partie de ces terres, entre autres du territoire appelé ensuite Terre Princesse Royale Martha. Au cours d'une nouvelle expédition, envoyée par M. Lars Christensen en 1930/31, un territoire de grande étendue fut également découvert et exploré par avion; cette terre fut appelée Terre Princesse Ragnhild. Ce fut ici que le capitaine Riiser-Larsen et ses compagnons descendirent à terre au cours d'une expédition qu'il firent dans ces parages en 1932/33 avec le concours du gouvernement norvégien. Des baleiniers norvégiens furent aussi, durant ces années, maintes fois sous terre tant à cet endroit qu'à d'autres, à l'intérieur du secteur dont il est question ici. Et, enfin, M. Lars Christensen envoya, l'été de 1936/37, une nouvelle expédition dans les régions antarctiques, au cours de laquelle le lieutenant Widerøe survola et découvrit de vastes étendues de nouvelles terres et en dressa des cartes. Ces terres étaient situées tant au dedans qu'au dehors du territoire auquel les expéditions antérieures étaient parvenues déjà. Une partie du territoire exploré maintenant et qui était situé entre la Terre Reine Maud et la Terre Princesse Ragnhild, fut appelé Terre Prince Harald. Pour ainsi dire presque toute la terre continentale en bordure de la mer à l'intérieur du secteur de l'Atlantique fut explorée au cours de toutes ces expéditions d'une manière si méthodique et il en fut dressé des cartes si détaillées, qu'il est permis de dire que peu de parties du continent antarctique sont mieux connues.

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autorités publiques et les parties intéressées norvégiennes sur la question de savoir s'il ne serait pas juste et utile de soumettre une partie du continent antarctique à la souveraineté de la Norvège.

La Grande-Bretagne proclama en 1908 l'annexion d'une partie de ce continent avec les eaux et les îles adjacentes, qui fut appelée Falklands Islands Dependencies. Le territoire appelé Ross Dependency fut rattaché, en 1923, à la Nouvelle Zélande, tandis que le plus grand de tous les territoires du continent antarctique, celui compris entre le 130° et le 45° de Longitude Est fut rattaché à l'Australie en 1933. La France avait toutefois annexé déjà une terre de petite étendue avec quelques îles, situées au-dedans de ce territoire, la Terre Adélie qui se trouve à environ 140° de Longitude Est.

L'île Bouvet est située dans la mer au large du continent qui se trouve entre le territoire britannique et celui de l'Australie. Le territoire qui comble cet espace intermédiaire est celui qui, fort souvent, a été appelé le secteur de l'Atlantique, et dont aucun état n'a, jusqu'ici, revendiqué la souveraineté.

Les terres continentales de ce territoire ont été longtemps totalement inconnues et inexplorées. Nous savons que dans une époque déjà reculée quelques expéditions d'exploration réussirent à se frayer un passage dans les eaux au large de ce continent; il en fut ainsi d'une expédition russe en 1820 et de deux expéditions anglaises en 1831 et 1843. Aucune de ces expéditions ne parvint toutefois à pénétrer si loin qu'elle vit terre et, bien moins encore, put mettre à terre des membres de l'équipage.

Ce ne fut qu'en 1929 que des expéditions d'exploration parvinrent à atteindre la côte continentale de cette partie des régions

C O P I E.

Traduction.

La souveraineté norvégienne  
dans les régions antarctiques.

R a p p o r t  
à Sa Majesté le Roi

Proposition

du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères,  
en date du 14 janvier 1939, approuvée  
par Décret Royal du même jour.

(rapportée par M. Halvdan Koht,  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères).

Par Décret Royal du 23 janvier 1928 l'île Bouvet,  
située dans l'Océan Antarctique, fut placée sous la  
souveraineté de la Norvège et par Décret Royal du 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1931,  
il en fut de même de l'île Pierre 1<sup>er</sup>, située également dans  
l'Océan Antarctique.

L'île Bouvet est située à 3°24' de Longitude Est et  
54°26' de Latitude Sud, donc dans la partie de l'Antarctique qui,  
souvent, fut appelée le secteur de l'Océan Atlantique. L'île  
Pierre 1<sup>er</sup> est située à 90°35' de Longitude Ouest et 68°50' de  
Latitude Sud, donc dans le secteur de Pacifique de la région  
antarctique.

En soumettant ces îles de l'Océan antarctique à la  
souveraineté de la Norvège, on se proposait de pourvoir les  
pêches norvégiennes dans les parages de bases fixes qui pourraient  
leur servir de point d'appui et les mettre à l'abri contre des  
interventions éventuelles de la part de puissances étrangères.

Depuis lors des discussions ont été entamées entre les  
autorités



C O P Y

ROYAL NORWEGIAN LEGATION

No. 31/1939.

The Norwegian Minister presents his compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to his note No. 11 of the 14th January last on the subject of the Norwegian occupation in the Antarctic, has the honour to forward herewith two copies of the French translation of the proposals of the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs dated the 14th of January 1939, and approved by Royal Decree of the same date.

London, 6th February, 1939.

COPY

(W 811/431/50)

No. 12/1939.

Norwegian Legation,

London.

14th January, 1939.

My Lord,

Referring to my other note of this date concerning the Antarctic, I have the honour to bring to your knowledge that the Norwegian Government recognise the boundaries of the Australian Commonwealth Dependency in the Antarctic, as defined in the Order in Council of the 7th February, 1933.

I have, etc.

(Signed) ERIK COLBAN.

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

etc., etc., etc.

C O P I E

(W 810/431/50)

No. 11/1939.

Norwegian Legation,

London.

le 14 janvier 1939.

Excellence,

D'ordre de mon Gouvernement j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Votre Excellence ce qui suit:

Par Decret Royal du 14 janvier 1939 est placée sous la souveraineté de la Norvège la partie de la côte du Continent Antarctique qui s'étend de la frontière des Falkland Islands Dependencies à l'Ouest (frontière du Coats Land) jusqu'à la frontière de l'Australian Antarctic Dependency à l'Est (quarantecinq degrés longitude Est) avec le territoire situé en dedans de ladite côte et avec les eaux adjacentes. Le Ministère de la Justice a été autorisé à prendre les dispositions nécessaires concernant l'exercice de l'autorité de Police dans cette region.

J'ai l'honneur de prier Votre Excellence de bien vouloir agréer les assurances de ma plus haute considération.

(Signé) ERIK COLBAN.

Son Excellence

Le Très Honorable

Vicomte Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,  
etc., etc., etc.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Circular despatch B No. 26

SECRET.

Downing Street,

31 MAR 1939

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Thomas' circular despatch D No. 77 Secret of the 15th November, 1934, enclosing copies of communications with the Norwegian Minister in London regarding British and Norwegian claims in the Antarctic I have the honour to state that a Royal Decree was issued in Norway on the 14th January, 1939, placing under Norwegian sovereignty the portion of the Antarctic continent stretching between the Falkland Islands Dependency on the West and the Australian Antarctic Territory on the East. I enclose copies of Notes No. 11/1939 of the 14th January, No. 12/1939 of the 14th January and No. 31/1939 of the 6th February from the Norwegian Ministers and of a letter of the 7th February to the Norwegian Minister on the subject of this Decree.

2. Provided that there is no conflict between the Eastern boundary of the Norwegian claims and the Western boundary of the Antarctic territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, and that the definition of the Western boundary of the Norwegian claim as "boundary of Coats Land" is satisfactory, it is proposed formally to recognise the Norwegian claim.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) T. W. H. INSKIP

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

**SECRET**

*H.C. Union*

*PS 17/82*

Communications on this subject should be passed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DOMINIONS OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1,  
and the following number quoted:—

*W 11/21*

Subject:

*Norwegian Antarctic Territory*

ing Street,

MAR 1939



POLITICAL SECRETARY,  
REGISTRY FOR DISTRIBUTION  
*3/4*

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter <sup>to</sup> from the Dominions Office of the *15-11/34*  
*6019/79*

*15/11/34*

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for  
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

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Dominions Office, Downing Street,

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... provided that there is no conflict between the Eastern boundary of the Norwegian claims and the Western boundary of the Antarctic territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, and that the definition of the Western boundary of the Norwegian claim as "boundary of Coats Land" is satisfactory, it is proposed formally to recognise the Norwegian claim.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) T. W. H. INSKIP

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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19/10/45

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Circular despatch D. No. 158

Dominions Office,  
Downing Street.

street,  
1939

SECRET

10 October, 1945.



19/10/45  
Inscribed

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit copies Nos. 51 to 53 of a secret handbook entitled "Territorial Claims in the Antarctic".

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Signed) ADDISON

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

of the Antarctic territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, and that the definition of the Western boundary of the Norwegian claim as "boundary of Coats Land" is satisfactory, it is proposed formally to recognise the Norwegian claim.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) T. W. H. INSKIP

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

With the Compliments of the  
Under-Secretary of State for Dominion  
Affairs. 20 JUN 1946 W 118/1.

P. (46)5.

POLAR COMMITTEE.  
MAP OF THE ANTARCTIC.

Annexed are six copies of a general map of the  
Antarctic showing territorial claims in this region.

Members of the Committee may obtain further  
copies of the map on application to the Secretary.

(Sgd.) JOHN CHADWICK

Secretary  
Polar Committee

Dominions Office,  
14th June, 1946.

of Australia, and that the definition of the Western  
boundary of the Norwegian claim as "boundary of Coats Land"  
is satisfactory, it is proposed formally to recognise  
the Norwegian claim.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) T. W. H. INSKIP

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

19/88/1.

21st June, 1946.

The Secretary for External Affairs,  
Pretoria.

Polar Committee Map of the Antarctic.

At a recent meeting of the Polar Committee, copies were circulated in proof form of a map of the Antarctic showing territorial claims. Dominion Representatives at the meeting expressed interest and asked whether copies could be made available for transmission to their Government. Five copies have now been received and are forwarded herewith.

R. JONES.

Political Secretary.

DBB/MP.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) T. W. H. INSKIP

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.



deemed necessary to establish at selected points permanent stations which should be there in actual possession if any intruders arrived.

13. One may, perhaps, put it in more graphic terms. If you claim to be sovereign of an area which you have annexed, for which you have provided a paper administration and which you visit officially from time to time but if on the other hand no other claim is made and no visits made by anybody except with your explicit leave and licence, the light is green, even if few other powers in the world have expressly recognised your sovereignty.

If, however, foreign expeditions go there without your leave and licence but no other claim to sovereignty is made, the light may be amber.

If, however, other powers are claiming sovereignty over the area and visits are made or stations maintained in defiance of you, then the light is red.

14. The light is definitely red in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Perhaps it may be said that in some sectors such as the Ross Sea Dependency or, perhaps, the Australian sector, the light is amber but may suddenly turn to red. U.S. expeditions have been made and the U.S. Government has most carefully avoided admitting H.M. sovereignty. The U.S. Government in its statements lays the greatest emphasis on actual and continuous physical control. It may be well to consider where stops, if any, are now possible and necessary to anticipate the eventuality of the light turning red.

sovereignty. It is impossible to read the records of the decisions in cases as to territorial sovereignty without observing that in many cases the tribunal has been satisfied with very little in the actual exercise of sovereign rights provided that the other state could not make out a superior claim. This is particularly true in the case of claims to sovereignty over areas in thinly populated or unsettled countries." (page 474).

Practical  
Conclusions

11. In one part of the Antarctic the British title is definitely in dispute. I refer to the Falkland Islands Dependencies which are all claimed either by the Argentine or by Chile or by both, and the United States while not claiming sovereignty for itself has quite definitely refrained from admitting British sovereignty. Nor does the matter stop at purely paper claims.

There have been official visits by Argentine vessels which have set up marks claiming the territory for the Argentine and destroying any marks they found attesting British sovereignty. In addition, on one island an Argentine meteorological station which was originally established with British leave and licence is now maintained in defiance of us and a wireless station and post office for which no licences have ever been given have been added to it. Finally some parts of the area had been visited by the U.S. expeditions who had maintained for a time temporary bases there.

12. In these circumstances there seemed urgent need to increase the effectiveness of our possession and control. It was no longer sufficient that the area had been annexed under Letters Patent, that they had been attached administratively to the Falkland Islands, that occasional visits were made including persons who held magistrates commissions, that scientific expeditions were sent out and that in the past whaling operations had been carried out from some islands under United Kingdom licence. It

/was

degree of  
control  
relative  
to other  
claims

10. There is, however, another important element in determining what measure of effectiveness is required and that is whether or not your title is being disputed.

In the important case of East Greenland, the P.C.I.J. held that Denmark had validly acquired and maintained sovereignty over an enormous area on the east side of the sub-continent, although Denmark had only one or two small settlements on the coast. Denmark had enacted legislation for the whole area, controlling hunting and fishing, and there were fairly frequent visits by Danes and Danish authorities along the whole coast. Certain concessions had been granted by the Danes to an Englishman named Taylor who had carried on hunting and fishing in the area under Danish licence. But the Permanent Court in so deciding, however, laid repeated stress on the fact that, until the actual dispute arose with Norway, no other power had made any claim in this area at all and many powers had actually recognised Danish sovereignty. This absence of claims by other powers is stressed more than once in the judgment and, as I think the following quotation shows, the Permanent Court would have required something more in the way of effectiveness if there had been competing claims of other powers and visits to the territories by foreigners in defiance of the Danes.

"Another circumstance which must be taken into account by any tribunal which has to adjudicate upon a particular territory is the extent to which the sovereignty is also claimed by some other power. In most of the cases involving claims to territorial sovereignty which have come before an international tribunal there have been two competing claims to the sovereignty and the tribunal has had to decide which of the two is the stronger. One of the peculiar features of the present case is that up to 1931 there was no claim by any power other than Denmark to the sovereignty over Greenland. Indeed, up to 1921 no power disputed the Danish claim to /sovereignty.

to be exercising administration at every moment of time over every inch of your territory. "The intermittence and discontinuity compatible with the maintenance of the right necessarily differs according as inhabited or uninhabited regions are involved, or regions enclosed within territories in which sovereignty is uncontestedly displayed, or again regions accessible from, for instance, the high seas. It is true that neighbouring states may, by convention, fix limits to their own sovereignty even in regions such as an interior of a scarcely explored continent where such sovereignty is scarcely manifested and in this way each may prevent the other from any penetration of this territory ...." (page 394).

To put it in my own words:

If the territory is uninhabited, less is required than if it is inhabited. If you occupy the means of access, such as the sea coast, there is probably no need to do much about the interior. If the boundary is a nearly impassable chain of mountains, you have not got to bother so much about it, as if it is a line on the map which is accompanied by no obstacle on the ground. If the climate is such that it is impossible to live there during part of the year, it is no doubt sufficient if the administration and control is present at those times of the year when people can go there. In desolate and uninhabited areas, very large stretches of land may be controlled from a small settlement. If you have a group of islands or islets it is not necessary to occupy all of them provided that from the places which you do occupy you can reasonably supervise what is happening on all the others. (I.e. page 407).

You can exercise control over one portion of your territory from another adjacent portion of your territory, in this sense contiguity is relevant for the purposes of international law, but that is another thing than claiming a title merely by the fact of contiguity. (C.F. Huber I.c. page 407).