

- 2 -

(2) Mr. Parsons AIRMAIL stated that although he personally would like to support this question, he shall probably recommend some difficulty in calling CONFIDENTIAL of the other Treaty Powers 14th December, 1962.

(3) As far as a view for the working group in THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, it is proposed that the choice of providing the working group with a particularly detailed report, which would tend to bring forward the advantages. In the Antarctic Division we wish, however, to maintain limited to ensure in the past that outside world countries the two Powers are represented only in Canberra and not in Wellington. Special Airs or messages this would reduce the advantages of the group.

Antarctica

Your minutes 102/2/7/3 of the 2nd October and 20th November refer.

I should now like to report that during recent informal lunchtime discussions on Antarctica with Mr. Parsons, Head of the Foreign Office's Antarctic Section, I took the opportunity of again mentioning the advantages of establishing some form of diplomatic secretarial working group to assist the Treaty Powers. In doing so I invited attention to the proposals in this regard put forward by the South African delegation to the Second Consultative Meeting at Buenos Aires and, in repeating the advantages of creating such a group, I emphasised in particular that we are of the opinion that implementation of our suggested measures would help to overcome the apathy which now surrounds many aspects of Antarctic co-operation.

The gist of Mr. Parsons' purely informal reactions during these discussions was as follows:-

(1) He agreed that the formation of a diplomatic working group of the type envisaged by us would have a number of advantages including the facilitation of exchanges between the Treaty Powers themselves and with NSAR and that such an arrangement would certainly help to combat any existing apathy by stimulating interest in Antarctica generally and, in particular, by creating machinery to prod the consciences of the laggards amongst the Antarctic powers. He pointed out, however, that whereas the United Kingdom had immediately after the Second Consultative Meeting (vide my minute of the 22nd August) been somewhat concerned at the apathy then present amongst the Treaty Powers, the situation had in their opinion improved considerably since then - they had, for example, been gratified to see that both the ratification of the recommendations of the Second Consultative Meeting and the exchange of information in terms of Article VII, para. 5, had been attended to far more promptly this year than on the previous occasion. (I might mention in passing that our own very prompt response in this respect did not go unnoticed and was favourably commented upon.)

/ (2)

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Copy for 25 16/2

The South African Embassy presents its compliments to the Embassy of Czechoslovakia and, on the instructions of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, has the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Czechoslovakian Government, copies of the memorandum on Antarctic activities provided by South Africa this year in terms of Article VII, Paragraph 5, of the Antarctic Treaty.

The South African Embassy takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of Czechoslovakia the assurance of its highest consideration.

LONDON
10th January, 1963.

WMA/BT



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Copy for P.S.16/5
P.S.1612.

The South African Embassy presents its compliments to the Polish Embassy and, on the instructions of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, has the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Polish Government, copies of the memorandum on Antarctic activities provided by South Africa this year in terms of Article VII, Paragraph 5, of the Antarctic Treaty.

The South African Embassy takes this opportunity to renew to the Polish Embassy the assurance of its highest consideration.

LONDON

10th January, 1963.



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25/1/63
L.A. 12

stimulate and facilitate exchanges of views on Antarctic matters between governments during the period between Consultative Meetings, and so lay the ground for the preparation of the agenda and for constructive discussions at these Meetings.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

D. B. Ke

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,

LONDON
WASHINGTON
TAHRAN
CANBERRA
BRISBANE



The Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa

BRUSSELS

BRUXELLES

Date of Third Consultative Meeting.

At the Second Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Powers which was held in Buenos Aires between 18 and 26 July 1962, it was decided that the Third Consultative Meeting would be held in Brussels.

There was however, apparently no general agreement as to when the meeting should be held. The Norwegians, Sweden, and the United Kingdom thought that the meeting should convene in 1963, but Chile suggested that the interval between meetings should be increased to two years, and it was also suggested that the next meeting would only take place in 1964. In a recent communication from the Honorary Consul, Brussels, Brussels, he referred to this suggestion and stated that an official in the Belgian Foreign Office who is concerned with Antarctic matters had claimed that the Secretary of State who attended the Buenos Aires meeting had indicated that the next Consultative Meeting should be held in 1964 and not 1963.

In the light of the above I shall be grateful if you would be pleased to ascertain the views of the Government in regard to the date for the holding of the meeting and report these views as far as possible.

It is noted that we hold no specific views on this matter at present. It is to be noted that the date for the holding of a meeting is a matter which should be decided upon by the governments and plenipotentiaries of the Treaty Powers. It is suggested that the holding of a meeting in 1963 is a possibility and that it is suggested that there is a possibility of a meeting being held in 1963. It is suggested that the holding of a meeting in 1963 is a possibility and that it is suggested that there is a possibility of a meeting being held in 1963.

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P.S. 16/2



102/2/1/3

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

PRETORIA.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,

- LONDON.
- WASHINGTON.
- PARIS.
- CANBERRA.
- BUENOS AIRES.



The Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa,

- WELLINGTON.
- TOKYO.

Date of Third Consultative Meeting.

At the Second Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Powers which was held in Buenos Aires between 18 and 28 July 1962, it was decided that the Third Consultative Meeting would be held in Brussels.

There was however, apparently no general agreement as to when the Meeting should be held. The Norwegians, French, and the United Kingdom thought that the Meeting should convene in June 1963, but Chile suggested that the intervals between Meetings should be increased to two years, which would mean that the next Meeting would only take place sometime during 1964. In a recent communication from the South African Ambassador, Brussels, he referred to this question and stated that an official in the Belgian Foreign Ministry who is concerned with Antarctic matters had claimed that the majority of members who attended the Buenos Aires Meeting had favoured biennial Consultative Meetings, and that the Belgians were thinking in terms of a Meeting in 1964 and not next year.

In the light of the above I shall be grateful if you will endeavour to ascertain the views of the Government to which you are accredited in regard to the date for the next Consultative Meeting and report these views to me in due course.

I may add that we hold no strong views on this question. If a Meeting is to be held next year it is however, essential that a suitable agenda be drafted which could lead to constructive and positive discussion. If this is not likely the convening of a Meeting then could only do more harm than good. Accordingly if there is evidence that something useful could be achieved by convening a Meeting in 1963 we would be in favour of holding it then. Our feeling remains that some sort of machinery (preferably a small secretariat) should be brought into being which would

Mr. Melen

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of the expedition's research will be conducted between latitudes 65 and 75, that is to say in approximately the same latitudes in which the Queen Maud range of mountains is located in the eastern section of Antarctica. According to a press release which our Embassy in Berne saw recently, this is the region in which Soviet geologists discovered certain mineral deposits - the expedition may possibly therefore be anxious also to do some prospecting there. Finally we understand that some "foreign power", whose identity has not been disclosed, has offered financial support to the expedition if it cannot be fully financed in Switzerland. Other than this we have no information on the expedition and as our authorities are greatly interested in it I wondered if you could perhaps let me know whether you have any further data on it which you can perhaps pass on to us. Any information which you may be able to give me in regard to your Government's attitude towards the expedition would also be much appreciated.

With kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely,

Boek

(W. Malan)

14th January, 1963.

My dear Tony,

Many thanks for your letter No. A.1523/1 of the 8th January under cover of which you were kind enough to forward the set of Antarctic maps which the Soviet Embassy has provided for the South African Government. I have passed them on to Pretoria.

I should also like to take this opportunity of again raising two other matters which we discussed when we had lunch together recently.

The first concerns the date of the Third Consultative Meeting. If I remember correctly you previously mentioned that the United Kingdom is in favour of a meeting this year, rather than waiting until 1964, as you feel that the Antarctic cause might otherwise tend to lose momentum. We now understand, however, that the Belgians are under the impression that the majority of the Antarctic Treaty Powers now favour biennial rather than annual meetings and are accordingly thinking in terms of a meeting in Brussels in 1964 - has this perhaps altered your thinking on the matter or do you still intend to press for a meeting this year?

I would mention that although our chaps hold no strong views on this question they feel that if a meeting is to be held in 1963 it is essential that a suitable agenda be drafted which could lead to constructive and positive discussion. If this is not likely, however, they incline to the view that a meeting in 1963 would do more harm than good and would in that case prefer a meeting in 1964. Their feeling furthermore remains that some sort of machinery (preferably some small secretarial arrangement) should be brought into being which would stimulate and facilitate exchanges of views on Antarctic matters between Governments during the period between Consultative Meetings and so lay the ground for the preparation of the agenda and for constructive discussions at these meetings.

The other matter on which I would again like to trouble you concerns the rumoured Swiss expedition to Antarctica which you mentioned last time I saw you. We now understand that the "Swiss Polar Explorers Society" is arranging the expedition which is scheduled to proceed to Antarctica in October, 1963. We also gather that some

/of the

A. D. Parsons, Esq.,
Foreign Office.



1972/7/3

that I should welcome it if you would, when convenient, seek clarity of the United Kingdom position.

Copies to Brussels, Washington, Canberra, Wellington and Buenos Aires. Details of our Secretariat proposals will shortly be sent to Washington, Canberra and Wellington.

Minister of International Trade and Development
of the Republic of South Africa



J. Butler
ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text follows]

[Handwritten signature] F



102/2/7/3

that I should welcome the Republic of South Africa, when convenient, with clarity of its position.

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Confidential

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

11 9 1 1963



J. B. B. B.
Antarctica.

Thank you for your P.S. 16/2 of the 14th December, which we have read with interest.

We agree that we should canvass support for our proposals relating to a secretarial working group before the next Consultative Meeting. We have in fact had this very much in mind for some time but have refrained from taking any initiative in the absence of any firm indication as to when the next meeting will be. It would be pointless, we feel, to approach Governments now if the next meeting is to be held only in 1964, that is, in about eighteen months time. In a separate communication addressed to you and a number of other missions we have drawn attention to the fact that there appears to be no consensus amongst the Treaty Powers as to the date of the next meeting. We have asked you and the other missions concerned to approach the local authorities on this question. The approach is designed to bring about greater clarity and when this has been achieved we shall be in a position to decide on the timing of our approach to Governments on the question of a Secretariat.

In your reference to possible Swiss and West German expeditions to the Antarctic, you quote Mr. Parsons as speculating whether any of the Antarctic Treaty countries through which the expeditions might pass would report the details required in terms of Article VII, paragraph 5. We are puzzled by this remark since neither Article VII, paragraph 5, nor Recommendation I-VI, (which is an elaboration of Article VII, Paragraph 5) requires Treaty Powers to report on expeditions merely calling at ports or passing through the territory of any Treaty Power en route to the Antarctic. With respect to foreign expeditions, Recommendation I-VI lays down that they must be organised in or proceed from the Party's territory before that Party is required to furnish information about them. You might seek clarity on this issue when an opportunity presents itself. We have not hitherto furnished detailed information on foreign expeditions calling at Cape Town or elsewhere en route to the Antarctic and we would not propose to do so in the event of a Swiss or West German expedition calling at Cape Town. But it may well be that our interpretation of the Treaty and of the Recommendation in question is at variance with that of the United Kingdom and perhaps others. It is primarily in order to remove all doubt

Mr. Malan:

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17th January, 1963.



The Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
PRETORIA.

Antarctic Treaty: Date of Third Consultative Meeting

The above question has been discussed with M. Ragueneau, the responsible official at the French Foreign Ministry. He had not as yet received any definite intimation from the Belgians that they might propose the postponement of the next Consultative Meeting until 1964, but he thought that, unless some urgent business arose in the course of the next few months, France would be unlikely to raise any objection if such a proposal were made. He was inclined to feel that the time and expense of holding these meetings would only be justified if they became genuine working parties, and if less time were devoted to prestige speeches followed by repetitive and discursive discussion on matters of little real substance.

I took the opportunity to inquire whether, if this was so, it would not be useful to have some interim machinery to prepare the ground between meetings and thus to produce a more constructive agenda for discussion at the meetings themselves. M. Ragueneau replied that there were not in fact many problems of substance to discuss and that a secretariat would merely be making bricks without straw. Furthermore, the French Government was very reluctant to assist in the birth of any new international secretariats as these almost invariably tended to assume a sovereignty of their own at the expense of the member-Governments who created them. Antarctica was a particularly sensitive subject in this respect as there were dormant sovereignties which could easily give rise to trouble if they should appear to be challenged.

M. Ragueneau showed some interest in examples I quoted of inter-African organisations which had worked satisfactorily through panels of correspondents or limited secretariats and which had not, in our experience, infringed the national sovereignties of member-Governments. He did not however appear to be convinced that even a limited secretariat was necessary to implement the Antarctic Treaty.

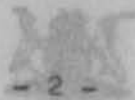
F. A. de VILLIERS.

AMBASSADOR

cc. London, Washington, Canberra, Buenos Aires, Wellington,
 Tokyo

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102/2/7/1
102/2/7/3

REPUBLIK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT VAN SUITLANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Your minute A.11/50/2/2 of 24th December, 1962, refers).

LONDON

THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(Your minute 14/56/10 of 17th December, 1962, refers).

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

For your information.

WASHINGTON.

BRUSSELS.

CAHARRA.

The Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa,
REIMS.

D. S. FRANKLIN

Exchange of Information under Article VII
paragraph 5 of the Antarctic Treaty

ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

I attach a copy of minute No 102/2/7/1,
102/2/7/3 dated the 31st December, 1962, addressed to
the South African Embassy in London.

It would be appreciated if the local
authorities concerned could be informally advised of
our action and the reasons which prompted it.

I advised
Mr. P...
of the Foreign
Office of the
on 29/12/62
when I called
on him.

[Signature]
ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

[Handwritten signature]

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→ 102/2/7/1.
102/2/7/3.

Department of Foreign Affairs,
Pretoria, 1962, reference.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(Year since 14/56/10 of 17th December, 1962, reference).

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

For your information.

Exchange of Information under Article VII
paragraph 5 of the Antarctic Treaty.

As you know information on expeditions and stations is annually exchanged between the original twelve signatories of the Antarctic Treaty in terms of Article VII paragraph 5 of the Treaty.

Up to the present there has however been no uniformity in practice as to whether this information should also be provided to those countries namely Czechoslovakia and Poland which have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty. It is known for instance that both the United States and New Zealand have transmitted information in respect of their expeditions and stations to Poland and Czechoslovakia whilst other Treaty Powers, including South Africa, have not done so.

Some thought has now been given to this question and after consultation with the various Departments concerned it has been decided that as there is nothing in the Treaty which precludes acceding countries from receiving the information which is transmitted in terms of Article VII paragraph 5 South Africa should make this information available, in particular as some of the other Treaty Powers are already doing so.

I shall accordingly be grateful if you will address an appropriate Note to the Czechoslovak and Polish Embassies in London and enclose for the information of their Governments copies of the information provided by South Africa this year in terms of Article VII paragraph 5 of the Treaty.

D.B. SOLE

ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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LUGPOS.
AIRMAIL.



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E.A. 37.

102/2/7/1
102/2/7/3



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

18. 1. 1963

→ The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

WASHINGTON.

BRUSSELS.

CANBERRA.

The Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa,
WELLINGTON.

Exchange of Information under Article VII
paragraph 5 of the Antarctic Treaty

I attach a copy of minute No 102/2/7/1,
102/2/7/3 dated the 31st December, 1962, addressed to
the South African Embassy in London.

It would be appreciated if the local
authorities concerned could be informally advised of
our action and the reasons which prompted it.

I advised
Mr. Parsons
of the Foreign
Office of this
on 29/1/63
when I called
on him.

I shall accordingly be grateful if you will
address an appropriate Note to the Consulate and which
encloses in bolded and enclose for the information of
their Government copies of the information provided by
South Africa under paragraph 5 of Article VII, paragraph 5
of the Treaty.

J. B. B. B.
ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Parsons

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N° 25/18/I

SUID-APRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSYBOOMSTRAAT 14
14, RUE DE L'ARBRE
BRUSSEL - BRUSSELS

23rd January, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.Antarctica: Date of Third Consultative Meeting.

We have received your minute IO2/2/7/3 of 4th January, 1963, and have thought that it might be helpful to discover whether there had been any developments in Belgian thinking in regard to the timing of the Third Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Powers. Mr. Whitehead accordingly called last week on Mr. van der Essen, who is the official at the Belgian Foreign Ministry dealing with Antarctic matters.

Mr. van der Essen said that, until Norway and Russia had communicated decisions in regard to the Recommendations of the Second Consultative Meeting, Belgium could not take any initiative as host country for the Third Meeting, since Belgium did not have that status until all the signatories had ratified the appropriate Recommendation.

He expected to hear from these two countries within the next few days. All the other countries involved had accepted the Recommendations and, assuming that Norway and Russia do not delay longer than he expects, the Foreign Ministry hopes to send Notes within the next three weeks to all the pertinent representatives in Brussels, inviting them to a preliminary meeting to pave the way for the next Consultative Meeting. Here he referred us to the relevant Recommendation (11-X).

He touched on the Chilean viewpoint, which is supported by Belgium, namely that the next meeting should be delayed until 1964. He also stated that he had canvassed the views of various countries in Buenos Aires last year on the subject of the timing of the next meeting and that, in addition to the French, Norwegian and British, the Australians and New Zealanders had also been inclined to favour a date in 1963.

The position is therefore that it is not yet possible to predict the date of the next Consultative Meeting, but that we may expect an invitation shortly to attend a preliminary meeting in Brussels to discuss that point among others.

Copied to London, Washington, Paris, Canberra, Buenos Aires, Wellington, Tokyo.

A. B. F. BURGER
Ambassador.

Mr. Malan

F



25/18/I

Room 100

2/11

BOOMSTRAAT 14
14, RUE DE L'ARBRE
BRUSSEL - BRUSSELS

23rd January, 1963.

Brussels, 23rd January, 1963.

tative Meeting.



*With the Compliments
of the
South African Embassy*

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the Belgian Foreign Ministry

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Copied to London, Washington, Paris, Canberra, Buer
Aires, Wellington, Tokyo.

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AC. B. E. BURGER
Ambassador.

Mr. Malan

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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30/18

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL.

CANBERRA.

17th January, 1963.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

Date of Third Consultative Meeting.

I called at External Affairs and was informed that no decision has as yet been reached by them regarding the date for the Third Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Powers. At the present time they are still "casting around for a worthwhile subject to discuss". In other words, unless there is reason to believe that something positive is to be achieved by convening a meeting in 1963, External Affairs would probably rather have it held next year.

Mention was made that as the Second Consultative Meeting did not live up to expectations, no useful purpose could be served, having due regard to the expenses involved, if the Third Meeting produced no better results.

In all, my impression is that at this stage External Affairs would appear to favour holding the Third Meeting in 1964. However, the British have canvassed the support of Australia for convening the Meeting in 1963 and advanced the argument that any postponement could lead to the "evaporation of interest". (This information was given confidentially).

This External Affairs accepted as having some merit, but indicated to me that the reasoning cuts both ways in that the Meeting, without a suitable agenda, could also result in a decline of interest.

It would also appear that Australia is in no hurry to crystallise its views - the United States has, without making its own views known, asked External Affairs to reply by April next.

It was confirmed by External Affairs that the majority of Treaty Powers (including the U.S.S.R.) had been in favour of holding the Meeting over until 1964. Perhaps the reason why Chile had suggested that the intervals between the Meetings should be increased to two years was on account of the "unanimity rule" governing resolutions. I was told that this rule was unpalatable to the Latin American countries (Chile and Argentine). In this regard it was confidentially stated that a frank exchange of views etc. could possibly attain more than by voting on resolutions which require unanimous agreement - but not always obtained.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(Sgd) ?
AMBASSADOR.



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

102/2/7/3

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

28.1.1963

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
BRUSSELS.

- LONDON.
- WASHINGTON.
- BUENOS AIRES.
- PARIS.



The Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa,
WELLINGTON.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

THE PRESIDENT : COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Date of Third Consultative Meeting.

I attach, for information, a copy of minute
No. 30/18 dated the 17th January, 1963, received from the
South African Embassy in Canberra.

C. G. van der Merwe
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

F

as we know, the expedition does not plan to go anywhere near the Queen Maud range of mountains. These mountains are situated close to the Ross Ice Shelf, which means that the Russians have not been anywhere near them either. I think therefore that you can entirely discount the information in the press release you refer to.

We are postponing any decision on our attitude to this expedition until we are certain that it is a serious undertaking.

Yours
Ever

Tom

(A. D. Parsons)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(A 15221/1)

January 28, 1963.

My dear Boer,

Many thanks for your letter of January 14 about various Antarctic matters.

Our position on the date of the Third Consultative Meeting remains as I explained it to you the other day. We still feel that, if there is no meeting this year, the small amount of momentum acquired so far by the Treaty may well disappear. We also have discussed the subject with the Belgians and understand that they are not keen to organise a meeting this year. We did not know that they had consulted anybody else except the Norwegians, who did not seem to be against the idea of a meeting in 1963 if it could be got over before the Arctic season opens in the middle of June. This would of course be very difficult to arrange. We have not formed the impression that the majority of Antarctic Treaty powers positively favour biennial meetings although we think that the majority would not object very strongly if there was not to be one this year. There is perhaps a slight distinction between the two. We propose to talk to the Belgians again with a view to getting them to consult the other Treaty powers soon on this question. Until this has been done, we cannot be sure what the consensus is.

We agree strongly with your peoples' view that, if a meeting is to be held this year, a suitable and constructive agenda should be drafted. We think that, if the Treaty is to be made to work properly, consultations within its framework should be a continuous process both at consultative meetings and at other less formal meetings. The difficulties of drawing up the agenda for a consultative meeting enhance the need for some permanent secretarial machinery on which you know our views.

I am enclosing with this letter a copy of a Foreign Office paper on the proposed Swiss expedition to Antarctica. Incidentally, the paper is marked confidential because some of the information comes through private S.C.A.R. correspondence; it should therefore not be publicly disclosed. You will see from this paper that the standing of this expedition is dubious. Indeed the whole enterprise is surrounded with surmise and rumour, and scientists in this country have been advised by their Swiss colleagues to view reports about it with considerable distrust. You will also see that, as far

/as

Mr. W. Malan,
South Africa House.

on P.S. 16/1.
together with
relevant excerpt
for this letter

5. Information on South Africa's 1961 Antarctic Programme Furnished to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Parsons expressed a great deal of interest when informed that South Africa has this year also furnished Poland and Czechoslovakia (vide your minute 102/2/7/1, 102/2/7/3 of the 18th January) with copies of the memorandum on expeditions and stations provided in terms of Article VII paragraph 5. He indicated that the United Kingdom has for some time been considering taking similar action but has been "put off" by the Americans, who they understood were opposed to this, as also by the Australians who they believe are similarly opposed on legal grounds. According to him the Australians are of the opinion that the Contracting Parties mentioned in Article VII paragraph 5 are those parties entitled to attend Consultative Meetings in terms of Article IX, i.e. the Antarctic Treaty signatories plus acceding States who conduct substantial scientific research activity in Antarctica. Mr. Parsons added that the United Kingdom does not agree with this rather narrow Australian interpretation of Article VII paragraph 5 but, coupled with the American opposition to furnishing Poland and Czechoslovakia with information on Antarctic activities, it was sufficient to deter them also. When we advised him that, according to the information given by the Department, both New Zealand and the United States have already in fact provided Czechoslovakia and Poland with this information, he expressed astonishment and added that he would in that case try to start the ball rolling to get U.K. data on expeditions and stations released to Poland and Czechoslovakia, probably not this year (because the Antarctic summer season is already well advanced) but certainly next year.

Copies to Brussels, Buenos Aires, Canberra, Paris, Tokyo, Washington and Wellington.

W. MALAN,
Ambassador.

WM/AG

route to Antarctica the Contracting Party in which the expedition was organized would clearly be obliged to give advance notice of the expedition in terms of the first part of Article VII paragraph 5 (i.e. "expeditions to Antarctica organized in ... etc.") and it would hardly seem necessary or desirable for South Africa to repeat this information even if we are strictly speaking required to do so in terms of the latter part of the article (i.e. "expeditions to Antarctica ... proceeding from ... etc.")

(b) Where an expedition is not, however, organized in the metropolitan territory of one of the Contracting Powers but in a non-Treaty state and subsequently proceeds to Antarctica via South Africa or the territory of any other Contracting Party, the first part of Article VII paragraph 5 is not operative and it can possibly be argued that the expedition is "proceeding from" the latter State, which should then report the information required in terms of the latter part of Article VII paragraph 5. This argument is perhaps worth advancing, he added, if one bears in mind that it was probably the intent of Article VII to ensure that the Contracting Parties get advance information of as many as possible, if not all, expeditions proceeding to Antarctica whether they originate in the territory of a Treaty Power or not. Mr. Parsons added that in his opinion France should for example consider reporting details of the Swiss expedition which is proceeding via its territory and we could perhaps likewise think about reporting on the West German expedition which, it has been stated, will charter its vessel in Cape Town. Another point also worth considering in this regard is that, according to Mr. Parsons, New Zealand has already submitted reports on American expeditions which have "proceeded" to Antarctica from its territory.

4. Creation of a Secretarial Working Group

We again raised with Mr. Parsons the question of the creation of a secretarial working group as suggested by the South African delegation at Buenos Aires. He had little to add to the views previously expressed by him (vide my minute of the 14th December), but did say that after further discussion of the whole matter with other Foreign Office officials they are of the opinion that our suggestions are a good second best to what they would still like to see, namely a very small permanent secretariat in Canberra. When we pointed out that that suggestion had met with a very poor response from the other Treaty Powers and that our proposals were aimed at securing a compromise solution and thus more likely to succeed, he agreed with us and indicated that the United Kingdom would probably be willing to support us when we revive the idea. He added the proviso, however, that we should suggest Canberra as the first venue for the working group and should stress that for the sake of continuity it would not be desirable for the group to move to another site for several years. We gathered in fact that Mr. Parsons hopes that once the group is established in Canberra it will tend to stick there permanently after it gains momentum.

the remark (vide my minute of the 14th December) that the Foreign Office is not really wedded to the idea of a discussion on this point and had raised the issue at Buenos Aires merely to pacify the House of Lords. He also again mentioned that the Foreign Office was secretly rather relieved that the matter was eventually not discussed at Buenos Aires and stated openly that the British delegation to the next Consultative Meeting, on which he is likely to serve or at least to brief, will follow the same tactics in not trying too hard to get this item placed on the agenda.

In all we gained the very definite impression that the Foreign Office is, despite its assertions to the contrary, not entirely sold on the idea of a meeting this year and will probably be persuaded to agree to a meeting next year, unless of course scientific circles here insist that an earlier meeting would be useful from their point of view - we gather that the scientists here have not yet expressed any views one way or the other. Mr. Parsons also added that they were about to consult the United States on this point and would certainly feel that it would be pointless to continue insisting on a meeting this year if the Americans express a contrary view.

2. Swiss Antarctic Expedition

We compared notes on the information we have in regard to the Swiss expedition and in commenting on the fact that there seem to have been several substantially different versions of the expedition's aims and itinerary, Mr. Parsons invited attention to his statement (vide his attached letter) that "the whole enterprise is surrounded with surmise and rumour and scientists in this country have been advised by their Swiss colleagues to view reports about it with considerable distrust". He added that it also seemed to him as if the South African authorities might to some extent have confused the Swiss and West German expeditions.

3. Information on Foreign Expeditions Proceeding from the Territory of an Antarctic Treaty Power

The points raised in the second paragraph of the Department's minute 102/2/7/3 of the 9th January were discussed with Mr. Parsons. He replied that he had no strong feelings on the matter one way or the other as the wording of Article VII paragraph 5 and Recommendation I-VI was clearly ambiguous and subject to different interpretations. He pointed out that everything of course hinged on the interpretation of the words "proceeding from its territory" in Article VII paragraph 5(a). Again stressing that he was merely giving a personal opinion and could not be adamant on any of the views expressed, he ventured to suggest that these words could be interpreted as follows:-

(a) In the case of Antarctic expeditions organised in the metropolitan territory of one of the Contracting Parties and merely touching at a South African port on

/route

AIRMAILCONFIDENTIAL

4th February, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.Antarctica

Please refer to your minutes 102/2/7/3 of the 9th and 28th January; 102/2 of the 14th January and 102/2/7/1, 102/2/7/3 of the 18th January.

We would now report that we have just had a further informal exchange of views and information in regard to the date of the Third Consultative Meeting and the proposed West German and Swiss expeditions to Antarctica with Mr. Parsons, the Head of the Foreign Office's Antarctic Section. On our side we furnished a resumé of non-classified material received from the Department in this regard and we now enclose a copy of Mr. Parsons' self-explanatory written reply of the 28th January, together with the Foreign Office's background paper on the Swiss expedition referred to therein and a similar paper on the West German expedition. It was emphasised that both these papers have been furnished for our confidential information only.

At the same time we would mention that during a subsequent informal visit to Mr. Parsons at the Foreign Office, an Embassy official discussed these and other matters concerning Antarctica and gathered the following additional information:-

1. Date and Agenda of the Third Consultative Meeting

Mr. Parsons was questioned on his assertion that "if a meeting is to be held this year a suitable and constructive agenda should be drafted" and asked whether he felt that a useful agenda could in fact be drawn up this year. It immediately became clear from his reply that he has not yet devoted any real thought to this aspect of the matter and furthermore that both he and his assistant, Mr. Spreckels, who was present during the interview, would be hard put at present to draw up any sort of agenda at all. They laughingly admitted in fact that the only really useful item they could think of off-hand would be a further discussion on and finalisation of the question of the conservation of living resources in Antarctica. When it was suggested that the problem of jurisdiction in Antarctica might be another matter worth debating, Mr. Parsons repeated

F

/the remark

COPY/SG.

P.S. 16/2

South African Consulate-General,
Imperial Hotel,
Room 114,
Chiyoda-ku,
TOKYO.

23rd January, 1963.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
PRETORIA.

DATE OF THIRD CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Your despatch 102/2/7/3 of 4th January, 1963,
refers.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry is disinclined to express any views either for or against annual or biennial Consultative Meetings. They will fall in with whatever the majority view might be. I got the impression that their reluctance to express a view stems from the fact that Japan does not operate a station in Antarctica at present. I was however, assured that they will continue to send representations to the Consultative Meetings.

There was a report some time ago that Japan will resume operations in Antarctica next year, but the Foreign Ministry was unable to confirm this. It is a question of finance and officials at the Ministry did not seem hopeful of their prospects of getting the necessary appropriations.

(Sgd.) J.S.P. Botha

CONSUL-GENERAL.

102/2/7/3.

P.S. 16/2

F.A. 57.



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



- 6. 2. 1963

Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

*Die Bute-geware e Gevalmaghede
Ambassadeur.
Londen.*

Hi is inligting

Mr Malan

F

[Signature] 4/2.

is a question of finance and officials at the Ministry did not seem hopeful of their prospects of getting the necessary appropriations.

in Consulate-General,
Diplomatic Hotel,
Room 114,
Chiyoda-ku,
TOKYO.

4th January, 1963.

STATIVE MEETING

of 4th January, 1963,

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(Sgd.) J.S.F. Botha

CONSUL-GENERAL.

PM 208/5/9

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the South African Consulate-General and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Consulate-General's Note 23/2/4 of 22 January 1963 and attached memorandum regarding the proposed date of the holding of the next Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Powers.

The Ministry considers that the timing of the Consultative meeting should be so arranged to enable adequate preliminary planning and preparation to take place, thus ensuring that the meeting is a successful and constructive one. While it has reached no firm decision about a date, it is inclined to the view that the meeting could most appropriately be held in the first half of 1964.

London
The Ministry shares the concern of the South African Government at the importance of arranging well in advance for exchanges of views and consultations about the agenda between member governments. The South African Government will be aware of the content of the resolution on administrative arrangements which New Zealand tabled at the Second Consultative Meeting held at Buenos Aires in July 1962. The Ministry continues to feel that it would be desirable for a series of preliminary meetings to be convened at periodic intervals for this purpose at an agreed capital commencing later this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the South African Consulate-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ministry of External Affairs,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

29 January 1963.

COPY/MduP

PM 208/5/9

23/2/4

South African Consulate-General,

P.O. Box 3750, Wellington.

31st January, 1963.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
PRETORIA.

Date of Third Consultative Meeting

With reference to your Note No. 102/2/7/3 of the 4th January, 1963, I attach a copy of Note No. PM 208/5/9 of the 29th January, 1963, received from the Ministry of External Affairs, Wellington.

It is the wish that the meeting could most appropriately be held in the first half of 1964.

(Sgd) A. van Lille

CONSUL-GENERAL

The Ministry shares the concern of the South African Government as to the importance of arranging well in advance for exchange of views and consultations about the agenda between the two Governments. The South African Government will be aware of the content of the resolution on administrative arrangements which was tabled at the Second Consultative Meeting held at Durban Aires in July 1962. The Ministry continues to feel that it would be desirable for a series of preliminary meetings to be convened at periodic intervals for this purpose at an agreed capital commencing later this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs would be glad of this opportunity to renege to the South African Consulate-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ministry of External Affairs,

Wellington,

New Zealand.

29 January 1963.

102/2/7/3.



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



13.2.1963

Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

*Die Buitengewone + Gevolmagtigde
Ambassadeur.*

Londen.

Ters wilging

Mrs Malan

[Signature] 12/2

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Ministry of External Affairs,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

29 January 1963.

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Box 3750,
Wellington.

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CONSULATE-GENERAL

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CONSULATE-GENERAL.

102/2/7/1
102/2/7/3

F.A. 57



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



143/1

SOUTH AFRICA,
WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

January, 1963.

under Article VII
Antarctic Treaty.

Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Die Bintergewone en Gewoontydige
Ambassadeur,
Londen.

Ter inligting.

R. 14/2

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(Sgd) S.W.Wentzel.

for AMBASSADOR.

Ministry of External Affairs,

Wellington,

New Zealand.

23 January 1963.

CONFIDENTIAL.EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA,
WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

7th February, 1963

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.Antarctic Treaty : Date of Third
Consultative Meeting

The above question has been discussed with Mr. Simsarian, the responsible official at the State Department. He had not as yet received any definite information from the Belgians as to the date on which they propose to hold the next Consultative Meeting, but had been informed that the Belgians were still waiting for the acceptance of recommendation (II-I) to be submitted by the Norwegians. After which he assumed the Belgian Foreign Ministry would go ahead and send Notes to all the representatives in Brussels inviting them to a preliminary meeting on the subject of the next Consultative Meeting. He did, however, state that the United States was very definitely against the 3rd Consultative Meeting being held during 1963, and indicated that the United States would be in favour of a meeting being held before August, 1964, preferably during June or July, 1964.

The impression gained is that the United States would be in favour of interim machinery to prepare the ground between meetings in order to produce a more constructive agenda for discussion at the next meeting. It appears that the composition of such an interim committee would not necessarily be of specific importance nor would the location of such a committee greatly affect them. However, this would naturally have to be in a capital where Embassies of all the Consultative members were to be found. The feeling encountered is that very little of value was accomplished in the view of the U.S. during the 2nd Consultative Meeting held last year in Buenos Aires.

In accordance with the information received from Paris and Brussels, it would appear that the general feeling will be in favour of holding the next Consultative Meeting during 1964 and while it may be premature to approach the other consultative members in connection with the institution of interim machinery. It would perhaps be of value to give more thought at present to such a committee in order to have the details available for any proposition we may wish to make at some later date.

(Sgd) A.G. Dunn.

for AMBASSADOR.

F

102/2/7/3

CONFIDENTIAL
VERTROUWLIK F.A. 57.



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake,

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

*Die Buitengewone en Gevolmagtigde
Ambassadeur,
Londen.*

Ter inligting

P. 14/2

last year in Buenos Aires.

In accordance with the information received from Paris and Brussels, it would appear that the general feeling will be in favour of holding the next Consultative Meeting during 1964 and while it may be premature to approach the other consultative members in connection with the institution of interim machinery. It would perhaps be of value to give more thought at present to such a committee in order to have the details available for any proposition we may wish to make at some later date.

(Sgd) A.G. Dunn.
for AMBASSADOR.

143/1



OFFICE OF SOUTH AFRICA,
WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

February, 1963



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Russian base.

The Argentine Embassy in Berne has been requested to endeavour to obtain more information about the proposed Swiss expedition. According to the only information available to them, i.e., a press cutting from the "London Times" the expedition would proceed to the French sector and not to the Norwegian sector.

ANTARCTIC TREATY: DATE OF THIRD CONSULTATION
REGARDING SWISS ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The above-mentioned matters are being dealt with by the Foreign Ministry official dealing with the Antarctic region.

In regard to the date of the Third Consultation regarding the Argentine Government hold no strong views. The preference is that the Meeting should be held this year, i.e., July or August.

AMBASSADOR

As regards the projected Antarctic expedition by the Swiss Explorers Society the Argentine Government are of the opinion that this expedition should not take place. As much as they they were contemplating annulling the Antarctic Treaty they are now contemplating annulling the Antarctic Treaty. They are now contemplating annulling the Antarctic Treaty. They are now contemplating annulling the Antarctic Treaty.

Copies to Washington, Canberra, London, Wellington, Tokyo, Paris.

JCHA/SP.

CONFIDENTIAL

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA

would consist of representatives of Antarctic Treaty powers and some scientific organisations such as S.C.A.R., and it would execute W.M.O.'s meteorological programmes in Antarctica, while remaining under W.M.O. sponsorship. Depending on the action taken at the W.M.O. congress on the Australian proposal, it may be desirable for the next Treaty consultative meeting to discuss the question of meteorological responsibility in Antarctica. We shall keep posts in touch with developments on this subject.

For London, Washington, Brussels, Wellington and Cape Town.

7. Would you please discuss our views with your local authorities and emphasise to them that we have no enthusiasm for a meeting in 1963.

For Washington.

8. Please refer to paragraph 7 of your Savingram 998 of 26th September, 1962. We should be glad to know if Dr. Simsarian has made any progress with his "ways of stimulating activity under the Antarctic Treaty". We should also like to know the position about the issuing of invitations to the Radio Communications meeting: we have a report from Brussels to the effect that the Belgian Foreign Ministry (van Essen) is beginning to think of preparatory meetings for the next Consultative Meeting, and that the first meeting might discuss the place and date of the Radio Communications gathering.

For other posts.

9. Foregoing is primarily for your information, but please be guided by it in your contacts with local authorities.

W. H. WOODWARD
ATTACHE

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT
MIN. & DEPT DEFENCE
P.M.'s

5th February, 1963.

The last part of the preamble for this meeting arose from a desire not to let the Treaty slip from lack of effective activity. But I doubt if the purposes of the Treaty were much furthered. Surely the date for the next meeting has been left open.

It is not an error in the argument that annual meetings should be held because otherwise the Treaty might "lose momentum". In our opinion full-scale consultative meetings every 12 or 18 months - with enough questions will have been considered to keep the world wide - would be a good idea. A meeting every year is unlikely to do anything significant. It is not necessary to discuss the Treaty with all countries. It is not necessary to discuss the Treaty with all countries. It is not necessary to discuss the Treaty with all countries.

Symposium at Boulder last year, we see little practical need for a further symposium under the Treaty, as urged by Recommendation IV of the Buenos Aires meeting - though our view that logistics is primarily a matter for Governments and is, therefore, appropriately dealt with under the Treaty remains unchanged. We think the next meeting will need to take some action noting that SCAR has held a symposium. But discussion of Logistics offers nothing substantial. To bring logistics back within the province of the Treaty it might meanwhile, be expedient to encourage governments to discuss outstanding problems informally among themselves by direct correspondence, without waiting for another symposium. We should like to know the views of others on this and on what subjects would lend themselves to such exchanges (Antarctic building techniques have been mentioned).

(c) Continued Discussion of Administrative Arrangements.

No progress has been made on the issue of a small central office or secretariat to service the Treaty. In the light of the deadlocks at Canberra and Buenos Aires, we see little point in another discussion at this early stage. If the idea of some secretariat should become acceptable we are still willing to provide the necessary services.

(d) Other possible items are the controversial British items of conservation of living resources, historic sites and mail services, none of which has so far got very far. The British might also return to the charge on the subject of jurisdiction. We do not think that another fruitless meeting on these matters would be useful, but have no objection to taking part in preliminary exchanges (e.g. on conservation of living resources). If the British are anxious to move ahead, they might best do so through initiating such exchanges.

(e) In connexion with the proposed Swiss and West German expedition the Foreign Office has also suggested that the "status and obligations of expeditions from non-signatory states" might be discussed, since at present, there is nothing to prevent such expeditions doing what they like in Antarctica regardless of the Treaty. The Foreign Office comment, however, that it would probably be undesirable to encourage discussion under such an item of the question of accession to the Treaty by states from or by which such expeditions were organised.

Though we should like to get something agreed about this matter, we think it would be virtually impossible to discuss it at a consultative meeting without immediately raising the question of accession, since this would be the most obvious method of regularising the situation. We entirely agree about the disadvantages of doing so, given the prospective West German expedition and existing East German activities. Consequently, we think it might well prove necessary to avoid the subject altogether. Even to limit it to the status and obligations of non-governmental expeditions (like the Swiss and West German) about which we have already exchanged views with the Foreign Office would be likely to raise the wider question.

(f) World Meteorological Organisation.

The Australian delegation to the fourth congress of the W.M.O. in April may propose that Annex I of the organisation's general regulations should be amended to set a southern boundary of 60 degrees S. lat. to W.M.O.'s regional associations in the southern hemisphere. (At present Antarctica is divided between three W.M.O. regions, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, which has drawn up the proposal considers this an unsatisfactory state of affairs). The executive committee of W.M.O. at its 14th session in May, 1962, decided to set up a panel of experts on Antarctic meteorology to be nominated by the permanent representatives at the U.N. of W.M.O. members which are operating meteorological programmes in Antarctica. In effect, this panel

recommendations to a number which is already substantial but which has shown little practical result. We consider that a meeting in 1964 would be quite soon enough.

5. It will be clear from the foregoing that we think the effectiveness of Treaty meetings should be judged not by how many resolutions they produce, but rather by the value of the discussions that are held. This may mean lowering our sights a little and revising our concepts of what sort of gathering a consultative meeting should be. The following suggestions, on which we should like to know the views of others, show the way our minds are working:

(a) More emphasis might be placed on technical discussion; for example meetings could be used as occasions on which groups of Antarctic experts can get together for discussions of common, non-political problems.

(b) At consultative meetings there should be an opportunity - in the informal atmosphere of a working committee rather than in plenary - for a kind of general debate on Treaty matters. This could make it possible to exchange views on some of the more controversial subjects but without necessarily achieving any conclusive result in the form of recommendations. It is the prospect of recommendations for action that makes some delegations reluctant to discuss issues of substance; so long as every debate is expected to end in a recommendation some countries will not even begin to do so.

(c) At each meeting there might be an accounting of how far recommendations previously approved have been carried out.

(d) The next meeting should be a much less full-dress occasion. At Buenos Aires arrangements were on a level appropriate for a ministerial meeting, when, in fact, the greater part of the Buenos Aires meeting was at an official level below that of head of mission. This level of arrangements can give rise to public expectations that the results of the meeting do not justify.

(e) The number of full-scale consultative meetings should be governed by the usefulness of the agenda rather than the passage of time. But we would not exclude the possibility of ad hoc small-scale meetings at some convenient location to deal with urgent matters occurring singly, e.g. to pass to the twelve governments recommendations of expert groups, if it were desired to obtain the status of "measures under the Treaty" for such recommendations earlier than if they were left to the normal consultative meetings to consider.

Matters for Discussion at the next Meeting.

6. A review of possible items for discussion at the next consultative meeting is set out below. They would not, in our opinion justify a meeting in 1963.

(a) Radio Communications.

At some point it will be necessary for a consultative meeting to pronounce upon the recommendations of the coming radio-communications meeting before they can formally become "measures under the Treaty". If no meeting were held this year, we see no reason why participating countries could not circulate their acceptance of the recommendations and announce their intention individually of putting them into effect. Formal sanction could then await the next consultative meeting.

(b) Logistics.

In the light of the results of the SCAR Logistics

C O P Y.

Department of External Affairs.
OUTWARD SAVINGRAM O.2207
Dated 4th February, 1963.
1550.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO:

External Affairs Office,
LONDON ... Sav. E.A.23.

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON .. Sav.34

Australian High Commission,
WELLINGTON .. Sav.14.

Australian Embassy,
PARIS .. Sav.32

Australian Embassy,
BRUSSELS... Sav.7.

Australian Embassy,
CAPETOWN .. Sav.6.

Australian Embassy,
TOKYO .. Sav.9.

Australian Embassy,
BUENOS AIRES .. Sav.6.

Australian Embassy,
MOSCOW... Sav.8

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

The Second Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in Buenos Aires in July last year, decided that the third consultative meeting should be held in Brussels "on a date to be decided upon by agreement among the participating governments". There was a feeling at Buenos Aires, shared by a majority of those participating, that the results of the meeting were meagre, that this was partly caused by its having been held too early after the Canberra meeting for there to be new ground to cover; and that it might be better to postpone the next meeting until 1964 rather than hold it in 1963.

2. The British, arguing that interest in the Treaty will almost certainly evaporate if we leave the next meeting until 1964, have now asked whether we agree that a third meeting should be held this year. The Americans have asked for our views on what should be discussed at the next meeting, saying that it is desirable to have a fairly clear idea of this by April or May this year. The South Africans have asked whether we think a meeting should be held this year, indicating that they are not enthusiastic but that if an agenda could be produced that would make a meeting profitable, they would be prepared to attend.

Australian Views.

3. We, too, thought that the Buenos Aires meeting took matters little beyond the point they had reached at Canberra. The leader of our delegation (Mr. Hay) said in his report:

"No doubt some of the pressure for this meeting arose from a desire not to let the Treaty atrophy from lack of effective activity. But I doubt if the purposes of the Treaty were much furthered. Wisely the date for the next meeting has been left open."

4. We see no virtue in the argument that annual meetings should be held because otherwise the Treaty might "lose momentum". In our opinion full-scale consultative meetings every two or three years - when enough questions will have accumulated to make them worth while - would be quite sufficient. A meeting this year is unlikely to add anything significant to the results achieved at Buenos Aires and would probably produce frustration and impatience: we have no wish to add more virtually meaningless

SUID-AFRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
CANBERRA



30/18
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

12th February, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

Third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

I transmit, for your information, a copy of Canberra Savingram dated 4th February regarding the Third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

You will notice that the Australians have come to the conclusion that a meeting this year would not be justified. Paragraph 7 instructs the Australian Embassy to make Canberra's views known to you. Matters which the Australians consider should be discussed at the next meeting are set out in paragraph 6.

H.H. WOODWARD
AMBASSADOR.

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With the Compliments of the
South African Embassy

Canberra

Mr Malen

30/18

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL

12th February, 1963.

Australian Embassy,
PARIS
Australian Embassy,
CAPE TOWN
Australian Embassy,
Johannesburg
Security Consultative

information, a copy of
January regarding the Third
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H. H. WOODWARD
AMBASSADOR.

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this year is unlikely to add anything significant to the results
achieved at Buenos Aires and would probably produce frustration
and impatience: we have no wish to add more virtually meaningless

2/- recommendations ...

SUID-AFRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
CANBERRA



30/18

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA

14th February, 1963

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

With the Compliment Exchange of Information under Article
VII Paragraph 5 of the Antarctic Treaty
South African Embassy

With reference to your minute No. 102/2/7/1;
102/2/7/3 of the 18th January on the above subject, I
wish to confirm that the local authorities were infor-
mally advised of our action in regard to the trans-
mission of information in terms of Article VII paragraph
5 to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The official at External Affairs to whom the
Embassy conveyed the information indicated that the
Australian authorities had withheld the transmission of
information to acceding countries as their legal adviser's
views were that such exchange was confined to the "inner
circle" only. However, he himself was inclined to share
our view. He also indicated that the United Kingdom
authorities too share our view (of which you are probably
aware), but that they had decided not to notify Czecho-
slovakia and Poland of their decision before next October
- ostensibly on the ground that they do not wish these
countries to gain the impression that a great amount of
thought had been given to the matter.

A copy of this minute is being sent to London
for information.

H. H. VAN NIEKERK
AMBASSADOR.

The Secretary,
South African Embassy,
LONDON.

Copy for your information, with reference to
the penultimate paragraph of my minute in question.

H. H. Van Niekerk
AMBASSADOR.

F



Room 100
19/2

Mr. Malan

With the Compliments of the
South African Embassy

Canberra



30/18

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA

14th February, 1963
12th February, 1963.

SIRS,

on under Article
of the Antarctic Treaty

Consultative
in my minute No. 102/2/7/1;
on the above subject, I
authorities were infor-
regard to the trans-
of Article VII paragraph

Foreign Affairs to whom the
on indicated that the
withheld the transmission of
as their legal adviser's
was confined to the "inner
self was inclined to share
that the United Kingdom
(of which you are probably
did not to notify Czecho-
decision before next October
if they do not wish these
on that a great amount of
matter.

A copy of this minute is being sent to London
for information.

H. H. VAN NIEKERK
AMBASSADOR.

The Secretary,
South African Embassy,
LONDON.

Copy for your information, with reference to
the penultimate paragraph of my minute in question.

H. H. Van Niekerk
AMBASSADOR.

It may be noted in the meeting
should be held because...
In our opinion full-scale...
three years - when...
most...
this year...
achieved...
and...
F

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
BRUSSELS.

Your telegram No. 5 refers. I should welcome
your comments also on the suggestion that we should seek a
discussion in Brussels of our proposal for a permanent
secretariat.

C. F. G. von Mirschberg.
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
→ LONDON.
WASHINGTON.
CANBERRA.

For information.

C. F. G. von Mirschberg
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



Mr. de la...

With regard to the three recommendations to be
discussed in Brussels, I should welcome your comments for
transmission to our representative at the meeting.

I should also welcome the views particularly of
Mr. Harcus and Mr. van Rooy, who argued our case in London
since, as to whether we should not introduce our proposal
for a permanent secretariat agency at the 11th March meeting
or, in view of the limited time at our disposal, at some
subsequent meeting in Brussels. We would not call for a

discussion of the proposals at this stage. Our object would be primarily to brief the representatives in Brussels of the other Treaty Powers so that they may become acquainted with the problem. Later, when the time is more opportune, we could revive it in this forum by asking for an exchange of views basing ourselves on the precedent now established with regard to the Recommendations referred to above. The fact that this forum can be equated in many respects with the sort of permanent body which we have in mind might produce a psychological climate favourable for a profitable exchange of views on this subject. The mere fact of our asking for a meeting to discuss this matter which might lead to a recommendation to the Third Consultative Meeting or to a consensus of opinion, is in itself a first step towards the acceptance of the practical advantages inherent in our proposal. There seems to us, therefore, to be some merit in referring this question to the Brussels group initially for information and later for discussion.

I feel also that we are perhaps more likely to achieve results by a discussion at a meeting at which the representatives of all the Treaty Powers are present than by taking the matter up individually with each of the Treaty Powers in whose capitals we are represented. We would not of course preclude such direct approaches. In general, however, we envisage that direct approaches would be more in support of the initiative taken in Brussels than an initiative in itself.

Subject to such comments as you may have, we would propose to instruct our representative in Brussels as a first step to circulate a memorandum based on the directive prepared for the Buenos Aires meeting and the delegation's own formulation of the proposal amongst the members of the Group and at the same time to inform them that we would in due course welcome an exchange of views at a meeting of the Group to be convened in Brussels. If he should, however, consider it more tactful to use the Belgian Government as a channel for this exercise, there would of course be no objection.

If you could let me have your views on this subject fairly shortly, I should much appreciate it. The urgent matter is, however, the briefing on the three Recommendations which we should provide our representative in Brussels and I should welcome your comments on these Recommendations, if possible, by Thursday the 28th February.

C. F. G. von Hirschberg

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

/....