

discussion of the proposals at this stage.
URGENT. ability to brief the representatives of
 other Treaty Powers so that they may be **PRETORIA.**
 the problem. Later, when the time is
 could revive it in this form by having
 views being ourselves on the ground (22.2.1963)
 regard to the Recommendations referred to above,
 that this form can be equated in some respects

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Preliminary Meeting to discuss Antarctic
 Matters : Brussels, 7th March, 1963.

The following is the text of a telegram just
 received from Brussels:

"No. 5.

With reference to my despatch of 23rd January,
 No. 25/18/1.

Invitation received to attend the preliminary
 meeting of Antarctic Treaty Signatories in Brussels
 March 7th to discuss the date of the third consultative
 meeting, and exchange views on Buenos Aires recommendation
 II - II

(Fauna and Flora) II - III (Radio Communications) and
 II - IV (Logistics). Letter despatched special air mail
 today."

On the question of the date of the Third Consulta-
 tive Meeting, I suggest we adhere to our previously expressed
 views namely that if a substantive and profitable agenda can
 be produced we would have no objection to a meeting in 1963.
 If, however, there is any danger of the agenda being as
 abortive as the agenda for the Second Consultative Meeting
 then it would be advisable to postpone the Third Meeting until
 1964. From the reports received from our overseas missions
 it seems that the British are the main protagonists of a
 meeting in 1963 their argument being that the Treaty would
 lose momentum if a meeting were not held in this year. This
 argument does not impress us. As the Buenos Aires meeting
 showed nothing is likely to dampen enthusiasm more than an
 unprofitable and unproductive meeting. If you agree we shall
 advise our Embassy in Brussels on these lines.

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
 Dr. Harais and Mr. van Rooy, who argued our case in Buenos
 Aires, as to whether we should not introduce our proposals
 for a permanent secretariat either at the 7th March meeting
 or, in view of the limited time at our disposal, at some
 subsequent meeting in Brussels. We would not call for a

143/1

EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
WASHINGTON

27th February, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Antarctic : Third Consultative Meeting

With reference to my minute No. 143/1 of 7th February, 1963, regarding the proposed date for the Third Consultative Meeting on Antarctica, I have to inform you that the State Department has passed some additional information to the Embassy. It appears that during last week, the Belgian Department of Foreign Affairs sent notes to all the representatives of the Antarctic Consultative Members in Brussels inviting them to preliminary discussions on the 7th March, 1963. Amongst other matters, the Embassy has been informed that the date of the Third Consultative Meeting will also be discussed. The Americans, however, feel that the large majority of countries will prefer a date in 1964 as opposed to 1963.

The impression has been gained that the Americans as well as other countries were dissatisfied with the results of the Second Consultative Meeting and that they would welcome some form of preliminary committee which would prepare the way for the next Consultative Meeting both as regards the agenda and also the procedures to be followed.

(Sgd.) ?????

AMBASSADOR.

Mr. Malan

F

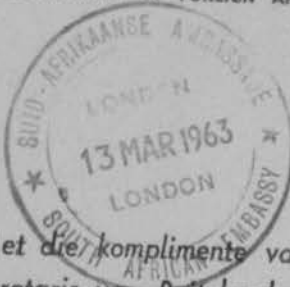
102/2/7/3

P.S. 16/2

FA. 57.



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



11. 3. 1963

Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The Ambassador,
LONDON.

For your information -

P. 8/3/62

102/2/7/3.

143/1

EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA
WASHINGTON

27th February, 1963.

Consultative Meeting

minute No. 143/1 of 7th
proposed date for the Third
Antarctica, I have to inform you
that I have passed some additional
information appears that during last
Foreign Affairs sent notes
The Antarctic Consultative
Committee to preliminary discussions
on other matters, the Embassy
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Meeting. The Americans, however,
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...date in 1964 as opposed to 1963.
...views merely that it is a substantial and profitable agency and
...be produced as would have no objection to a meeting in 1964.
...If, however, the impression has been gained that the Americans
...as well as other countries were dissatisfied with the results
...of the Second Consultative Meeting and that they would wel-
...come some form of preliminary committee which would prepare
...the way for the next Consultative Meeting both as regards
...the agenda and also the procedures to be followed.
...the possibility of a meeting were not held in 1964. This
...arrangement does not impress us. In the Buenos Aires meeting
...nothing is likely to dampen enthusiasm more than an
...unproductive and unproductive meeting. If you agree we shall
...advise our Embassy in Brussels on these lines.

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

(Sgd.) ??????

AMBASSADOR.

Handwritten signature

I should also like to mention particularly of
this and Mr. van der... I was sure in Buenos
...to whether we should not introduce our proposals
...for a permanent secretariat either at the 7th March meeting
...in view of the limited time at our disposal, at such
...subsequent meeting in Brussels. We would not call for a

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SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Office of the President

S C I E N T I A

PRETORIA.Our ref. 14/56/6/1B
Your ref. 102/2/7/3

26th February 1963

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.Preliminary Meeting to discuss Antarctic
Matters - Brussels - 7th March 1963.

The views of C.S.I.R. scientists who have attended Antarctic Consultative Meetings and the Meetings of SCAR, can be summed up by the statement that our scientific interests are adequately catered for by SCAR. It is probably no exaggeration to state that the technical achievements of the Consultative Meetings have been negligible and there is no indication that future meetings are likely to make any significant contribution in the technical field. In these circumstances, there is obviously no point in arranging for a third Consultative Meeting until a profitable agenda is produced.

From the scientific point of view, nothing has arisen in connection with the three Buenos Aires recommendations which appears to merit discussion at Brussels at this stage.

With regard to the permanent secretariat, there would appear to be little point in raising this matter now unless political considerations indicate that the psychological climate is more favourable to the reception of this idea. Scientific requirements are catered for so adequately by SCAR in its present form that there appears to be no need to press for a secretariat until such time as the need for machinery additional to SCAR has been established. It must be emphasized that in attempting to express the scientific point of view, political considerations have not been taken into account, as it is considered that these will be covered adequately by your Department.

(Sgd.) E.J. Marais

VICE-PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

necessary, whether the holding thereof is a matter of urgency or not.

- (iii) This Department would therefore like to recommend that the South African representative at the Brussels meeting should take up the attitude that the report of the SCAR-symposium should first be studied and implemented as far as possible, that the Consultative meeting should then note the contents of the report and the steps taken as a result thereof and only then decide on a recommendation regarding the necessity and urgency of a further symposium and, if it is to be proceeded with, on a date for holding it.

3. On the question of establishing a permanent secretariat of some form or other, this Department agrees that you instruct the South African representative at the Brussels meeting on the lines suggested in the pen-ultimate paragraph of your minute under reply.

(Sgd.) H.S. van der Walt
ACTG. SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

H.S. VAN DER WALT
VICE-CHIEF OF BUREAU FOR TRANSPORT

- (iii) It is felt, at this stage, that any recommendation which a Consultative Meeting may make in connection with this matter, should, if accepted and approved, be applied on a voluntary basis by South Africa and that an attempt should not be made to pass legislation in that regard. Such a step is not considered necessary and will furthermore undoubtedly entail difficulties and probably international repercussions as was the case when Act No. 55 of 1962 was accepted by Parliament last year.
- (b) Recommendation 11-111
(Radio Communications).
- (i) It is noted from your minute No. 102/2/7/3 of 22 February 1963, addressed to the Ambassador in Washington, that a date for the proposed meeting of experts on Antarctic radio communications has now been fixed and that the meeting will be held during the period 24-28 June 1963 in Washington.
- (ii) It is in the circumstances suggested that the Brussels meeting merely note that a meeting of experts is being convened in terms of the recommendation and that the representatives draw up a suitable draft resolution for submission to the Consultative meeting, should one be convened during 1963.
- (c) Recommendation 11-V
(Logistics).
- (i) It is pointed out that the cable quoted in your minute as well as the copy of minute No. 25/18/1 of 20 February 1963 which your Department received from Brussels, refers to Recommendation 11-IV (Logistics). This is obviously wrong since Recommendation 11-IV deals with the exchange of information in terms of paragraph 5 of Article VII of the Treaty while Recommendation 11-V deals with the question of a symposium on logistics which is to be sponsored by the Treaty Powers. It is assumed (as pointed out telephonically to Mr. Von Hirschberg) that Recommendation 11-V will be discussed at the Brussels meeting and for the purposes of this minute, that Recommendation will be dealt with.
- (ii) The final report of the SCAR-symposium on Antarctic logistics (Boulder, July 1962) has not yet been received. At this stage it is therefore very difficult to express an opinion as to whether a symposium on logistics under the Treaty is still necessary or not and, if still

COPY/MW

Secretary for Transport,
Private Bag 193,
Transport Building,
Fountain Lane,
PRETORIA.

URGENT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

28.2.1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

PRELIMINARY MEETING TO DISCUSS ANTARCTIC MATTERS:
BRUSSELS, 7TH MARCH 1963: YOUR 102/2/7/3 OF
22 FEBRUARY 1963.

1. This Department still holds the opinion (as expressed on several previous occasions) that, unless a worth-while agenda could be drafted, which seems unlikely at this stage, the Third Consultative Meeting should not be held during 1963 but should rather be allowed to stand over until next year. The view that abortive agendas, resulting in unproductive meetings which all signatory countries are obliged to attend at considerable expense, are much more likely to dampen (or even destroy) interest and enthusiasm than no meetings at all, is supported and it is agreed that you advise the Ambassador in Brussels on the lines suggested in paragraph 2 of your minute.

2. As regards the other matters mentioned in the cable from Brussels, namely the exchange of views on certain recommendations of the Second Consultative Meeting, the following comments are offered:-

(a) Recommendation 11-11 (Fauna and Flora).

- (i) South African expeditions to Antarctica have strict instructions regarding the protection of living resources in the area. During relief voyages seals are normally shot and taken to the base as food for the dogs. Only so many seals as could reasonably be expected to be sufficient to feed the dogs, are normally taken and no more. On the continent animals and birds are not disturbed in any manner. Samples of indigenous flora are collected only for research purposes.
- (ii) The proposed measures contained in the recommendation of SCAR (1960) which forms part of Recommendation I-VIII of the First Consultative Meeting, appear to cover the matter adequately and it is suggested that the South African representative at the Brussels meeting be requested to either propose a draft recommendation on those lines or to support any such proposal should it be made by another representative.

/...

meeting that we should welcome an exchange of views on this subject also at some future meeting of the group. If you could sound out one or two delegations on both sides of the fence on this question we shall find it helpful in assessing our prospects of securing the adoption of a recommendation on this subject. A point which strikes us as potentially advantageous is the fact that these interim meetings are now assuming a different character, in many respects similar to the character with which we wish the proposed permanent organisation to be endowed. Perhaps we could use the points of similarity to our advantage. I should appreciate your views.

22 FEBRUARY 1963.

1. This document will hold the opinion (as expressed on several previous occasions) that, whilst a worthwhile agenda could be drafted, which would naturally at this stage, the Third Consultative Meeting should not be held during 1963 but should rather be allowed to stand over until next year. The view that alternative agendas, centred on reproductive meetings which will naturally attract all obliged to attend at considerable expense, are more likely to succeed (or avoid further) interest and attendance than no meetings at all, is of course agreed that you advise the Ambassador in Brussels of the lines suggested in paragraph 2 of your minute.

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. As regards the other matters mentioned in the cable from Brussels, namely the exchange of views on certain recommendations of the Second Consultative Meeting, the following comments are offered:-

- (a) Recommendation 11-12 (Name and Place).

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Thank you for your A 11/50/2/1 of the 28th February / 14/56/6/1B of the 26th February.

(11)

C. F. G. von Hirschberg

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

agreed that the South African representative of the Brussels meeting be requested to visit Geneva a day or two before the proposed meeting in order to support any such proposal should it be made by agreement.

1/11

P. S. 16/2

102/2/7/3.

PRETORIA.

- 1. 3. 1963

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



Preliminary Meeting to discuss Antarctic Matters:
Brussels, 7th March, 1963.

With reference to your telegram No.5 and minute of the 20th February and my 102/2/7/3 of the 22nd February, I send you herewith copies of two communications received from the Department of Transport and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

With regard to the date of the next Consultative Meeting, would you please be guided by the views expressed in the communications under reference as well as in our minute of the 4th January on this subject.

On the question of the three Recommendations, I have nothing to add to the comments of the Department of Transport. With regard to the proposal of the Department of Transport in paragraph 2(a)(ii) on Fauna and Flora, the South African representative will ofcourse use his discretion as to whether to take the initiative suggested having regard to the fact that there may well be other proposals aimed at securing the establishment of the measures called for in terms of paragraph (c) of Recommendation II - II. Sub-paragraph 2(a)(iii) relates ofcourse to future domestic action which we might take pursuant to the adoption of a Recommendation by the Third Consultative Meeting.

With regard to the Recommendation on Radio communications, I send you copies of a minute of the 22nd January from Washington enclosing an invitation to attend a meeting in Washington in June and our reply, of the 22nd February. These communications will bring you up to date on this question.

With regard to the proposal in my minute of the 22nd February about the permanent secretariat, there is obviously insufficient time to prepare anything thoroughly for the 7th March meeting. I would suggest, if you see no objection, that you merely give notice in the

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102/2/7/3

P. S. 16/2

F.A. 57.

102/2/7/3.



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL
VERTROUWLIK

*Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.*

*With the Compliments of the
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.*

*The Ambassador,
LONDON.*

F

5/3/1963

his discretion as to whether to take the initiative suggested having regard to the fact that there may well be other proposals aimed at securing the establishment of the measures called for in terms of paragraph (c) of Recommendation II - II. Sub-paragraph 2(a)(iii) relates ofcourse to future domestic action which we might take pursuant to the adoption of a Recommendation by the Third Consultative Meeting.

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PRETORIA.

Plenipotentiary

Antarctic Matters,
1963.

Telegram No. 5 and minute
7/3 of the 22nd February,
communications received
and the Council for

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subject.

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- 2 -



would be a mistake, since the incentive to consult together on Antarctic problems might gradually be lost. This would be a great pity, bearing in mind the success so far achieved in excluding contentious political issues from the Antarctic discussions and in keeping the United Nations out of that Continent.

(3) On the other hand, we thought that we would fully support the points made in paragraphs 1(a), (b) and (c) of the Australian Note, and probably (d) as well. With respect to (e), one should not underrate the danger referred to earlier that less frequent meetings might result in loss of incentive to co-operation.

(4) We could not comment on the points made in paragraph 2. This was a matter for the technicians and scientists."

With regard to paragraph 2(a), you will recall that we have since advised the South African representative to the Interim Group meeting in Brussels (the Belgian invitation having been accepted) that we have no objection to the Australian suggestion that countries participating in the Radio Communications meeting should circulate their acceptance of its recommendations and announce their intention of putting them into effect pending their formal acceptance by the Third Consultative Meeting. We should perhaps point out that we regard this suggestion as procedural and not related in any way to the substantive issue of the acceptability or otherwise of the recommendations of the Radio Communications meeting.

If you have any comments on any aspect of the Australian Note, I should be glad to have them.

C. F. G. von Mirschberg

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

⊗ Paragraph 5(a) - (e) of the telegram sent to you by Canberra.

+ Paragraph 6 of the telegram in question.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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102/2/7/3.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
PRETORIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

THE PRESIDENT; COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

Antarctic Treaty : Third Consultative Meeting.

On the 25th February we sent you copies of a Confidential telegram from the Australian Department of External Affairs to a member of Australian Missions abroad. A copy of this telegram had been made available to our Embassy in Canberra.

Recently, in Cape Town, the Australian Embassy formally conveyed the main points of this telegram to the Department. I enclose copies of the Australian Note for your records.

Our preliminary reaction to the suggestions and observations in the Australian Note, as seen from a purely political point of view, are the following (as conveyed informally to an official of the Australian Embassy in Cape Town):

"(1) We had received an invitation to attend a preliminary meeting of Antarctic Treaty signatories in Brussels in March to discuss the date of the 3rd Consultative Meeting and exchange views on certain Buenos Aires recommendations. We thought that this would be a useful opportunity to consider further the various points raised in the Australian Note, and as we had on our Embassy staff somebody who was familiar with Antarctic matters, we would probably have no hesitation in accepting the invitation.

(2) Our own delegation had also been disappointed in the results of the Buenos Aires meeting and felt that it was essential to give future meetings a somewhat meatier agenda to work upon. We detected, however, in the Australian Note some doubt as to whether it would be desirable to proceed with the pattern of regular meetings. This we thought

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CONFIDENTIAL.

P.S. 16/2

CONFIDENTIAL.

- 3 -



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.

For information and comment, if any. Copies
of the Australian telegram have been distributed to all
addressees by the Embassy in Canberra.

[Faint, mostly illegible text]

Recently, in Cape Town, the Hon. *[Signature]*
Minister of Foreign Affairs, *[Signature]*
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

[Faint, mostly illegible text]

CONFIDENTIAL.

We had received an invitation to attend a
consultative meeting of Antarctic Treaty signatories on
10 March to discuss the date of the 1st
annual meeting and exchange views on certain
matters. We thought that this
would be an opportunity to consider further the
various points raised in the Australian Note, and as
we had on our Embassy staff somebody who was familiar
with Antarctic matters, we would probably have no
objection to accepting the invitation.

Our own delegation had also been
disappointed in the results of the Buenos Aires
meeting and felt that it was essential to give future
meetings a somewhat neutral agenda to work upon. We
thought, however, in the Australian Note some doubt
as to whether it would be desirable to proceed with
the pattern of regular meetings. This we thought

CONFIDENTIAL

This meant that the matter could not be reduced to the simple issue of supporting or opposing the British proposal.

16. For the rest, there appeared to be no objection to the British draft convention, except that several representatives (Argentina and South Africa) asked that the measures be formulated preferably as a code of conduct or set of rules rather than as a convention, which required complicated and time-consuming procedures for parliamentary ratification. The United Kingdom delegate was prepared to accept whatever form was most suitable provided that it was sufficiently binding on the signatories.

Item 3 : Radiocommunications.

17. There was no discussion under this item. The Chairman (Mr. van der Essen, of Belgium) simply notified those present of the United States invitation to attend a meeting of specialists on this subject in Washington during the period 24th-28th June.

Item 4 : Logistics.

18. The Argentinian delegate expressed the view that the Treaty Powers should convene a meeting on logistics before the Third Consultative Meeting, especially if the latter does not take place before 1964. He pointed out that the SCAR meeting considered problems as they existed after the 1961-62 expeditions had returned. Between then and June, 1964, two more summer seasons and two more series of expeditions would have come and gone and new logistical problems would have arisen requiring consideration.

19. This was not the view of the South African delegate ^{and} also of the Australian delegate, both of whom felt that there was no point in considering either the date of, or indeed the necessity for, a meeting on logistics until the SCAR recommendations, made at Boulder in August last year had been digested and implemented. The Australian and also the United Kingdom Governments had seen the SCAR recommendations and considered them very satisfactory and worth exploring as a first step. The United Kingdom felt that there would probably be no necessity for another logistics symposium before 1965 or even 1966.

20. The Belgian delegate reaffirmed his Government's belief that logistics were a matter for Government, not for scientists, to consider, but he agreed that, in spite of that, the SCAR recommendations seemed very adequate to meet current needs.

21. No conclusions were reached and the only other point of interest was an Australian proposal that, if another logistics meeting was to be considered, the proposed agenda be prepared before the matter was discussed in principle, since the contents of that agenda would be a material factor in deciding whether in fact another meeting was necessary.

22. We should be interested to have your views on the distribution to other Missions of reports of this nature on Antarctica. We presume London and Washington should be supplied with copies, but we are not sure whether you would like us also to supply copies to Paris, Buenos Aires, Canberra and Tokyo.

23. We shall send you for record purposes copies of the procès-verbal of this meeting as soon as it is received.

Copied to London and Washington.

A. B. F. BURGER
Ambassador.

8. Secondly, there was the Norwegian request that these meetings be convened during the first half of June as this was the only time when the Norwegian polar scientists were not occupied either in the Arctic or the Antarctic regions. All delegates were prepared to accede to this request, except the United States, who preferred July, but expressed willingness to reconsider the matter.

9. Finally, there was the question of the date of the Third Consultative Meeting. On this point, all delegates spoke and the final line up was 8 in favour of 1964 (South Africa - by implication, Australia, Norway, United States, France, Soviet Union, Chile, New Zealand); 2 in favour of 1963 (Argentina and United Kingdom); and 2 neutral (Japan and Belgium, as host country).

10. The Argentinian case was based mainly on the necessity, in their view, of making a fruitful contribution to the international research effort which will be exerted during the Year of the Quiet Sun (1964). For this purpose, if for no other, it was considered desirable to hold a Consultative Meeting in 1963 so as to co-ordinate views and activities. Replying specifically to the South African/Australian contention that, to discuss an agenda which was simply a re-hash of previous items served no useful purpose, the Argentinian representative argued eloquently that this was not necessarily so; in fact, his experience had been that it was only by going over the same problems again and again that common ground could be established and a compromise formula found for contentious issues. Here I should add that the Argentinian delegate was Mr. Guyer, who was almost unique in having attended the Antarctic Conference in Washington, all the Interim Group Meetings, and both Consultative Meetings. He had come especially from Bonn, where he is now stationed, for this occasion.

11. You are already familiar with the United Kingdom point of view, that, unless Consultative Meetings are held every year, the Treaty activities are likely to lose momentum. They do not consider that discussion at these meetings should inevitably have to conclude with recommendations; inconclusive debate on informal lines was useful in itself, to clear the ground of controversial issues.

12. At this point, the Australian delegate expressed the opinion that momentum and enthusiasm were more likely to be dissipated by agendas which lacked substance or purpose. He felt that the Argentinian need to hammer out acceptable solutions by repetitive discussion could just as easily be met through a series of informal preliminary meetings such as the one then taking place. Indeed these informal meetings could be most useful in preparing the ground for the Consultative Meetings.

13. The South African delegate seized this opportunity to explain that the validity of this argument was in fact one of the considerations which had prompted his Government to press for a series of informal meetings at diplomatic level as one of the elements in solving the problem of administrative arrangements. He added that, at some stage, his Government hoped to raise this matter once more.

14. It was finally decided that delegates should report back to their Governments and should meet again in Brussels on the 4th April to see whether a date acceptable to all could be agreed upon. Since the "voting" is at present 8 to 2 (with 2 abstentions) in favour of 1964, we may, I think, assume that the Argentine and United Kingdom will accept the majority preference.

Item 2 : Conservation of Living Resources.

15. Discussion on this item was rather hamstrung by an announcement by the Soviet delegate that his Government was in the process of drafting proposals in this field which would be submitted later when they were received. He hoped that they might be ready by the 4th April.



SUID-AFRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY



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

Root

18th March, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Antarctic Treaty: Preliminary Meeting in Brussels: 7th March, 1963.

I refer to your despatch IO2/2/7/3 of the 1st March.

A preliminary meeting of the Antarctic Treaty signatories was convened in Brussels on the 7th March, and was attended by representatives, at diplomatic level, of all twelve signatories.

2. The agenda contained four items as follows:

- a) The date of the Third Consultative Meeting in Brussels;
- b) Recommendation II-II: Conservation of living resources in Antarctica;
- c) Recommendation II-III: Radiocommunications;
- d) Recommendation II-V: Logistics.

3. I would particularly draw your attention to the fact that the next preparatory meeting in Brussels will take place on the 4th April, when the two items which will again be raised will be the date of the next Consultative Meeting, and the form which should be adopted for the measures to conserve natural resources in Antarctica.

4. In regard to the first of these, we would propose to express the following views:

- a) that the Third Consultative Meeting be convened in 1964;
- b) that the first part of June would be acceptable to us;
- c) that we do not think it wise for the Treaty Powers to commit themselves in advance to a meeting every other year (as proposed by the Chileans), or to any other fixed formula.

5. In regard to the second item, we suggest reaffirming our preference for some instrument less formal than a convention, which involves ratification procedures for some countries which are more complicated and time consuming than the matter seems to warrant. However, if the majority favours a convention, we will be prepared to concede the point.

6. If we have misinterpreted your views in regard to these two issues, please let us know before the 4th April.

Item 1 : Date of Next Consultative Meeting.

7. This item consisted of three subdivisions. Firstly, there was the Chilean proposal that Consultative Meetings be convened every two years as a fixed rule. Only the Norwegians expressed tentative approval of this proposal. Other delegates (especially Australia and the Argentine) felt that it would be unwise for the signatories to commit themselves in advance to so inflexible a calendar. The Australian supported the South African attitude that the criterion should be whether or not in any given year an agenda could be compiled sufficiently substantial to make a Consultative Meeting worthwhile.

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(iii) that Mr. van der Essen be requested to distribute these to the other representatives and to set a date for a preparatory meeting on this subject - perhaps six weeks ahead so as to give plenty of time for reflection and briefing.

If you agree with this procedure, we could discuss it informally with Mr. van der Essen so as to ensure that he would have no objection to (iii) above. Before doing so, however, we should like to know precisely what the text of the memorandum will be, so that Mr. van der Essen can be told exactly what he will be circulating.

The only other comment we have is on the penultimate paragraph of your despatch under reference. At the preparatory meeting on the 7th March, the Australian representative did not in fact raise the question of implementing the recommendations of the meeting on Radio-communications. Consequently, the opinion expressed in your telegram n° P.6 of the 5th March, 1963, was not expressed, *made use of*.

Copied to London, Washington, Canberra and Wellington.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

NO 25/18/I



SUID-AFRIKAANSE AMBASSADE
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY

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

27th March, 1963.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

A N T A R C T I C A.

In your undated despatch IO2/2/7/3, addressed to the Secretary for Transport and the President of the C.S.I.R., you summarise the reply to the Australian comments and suggestions on Antarctic planning, which the Department conveyed informally to an officer of the Australian Embassy in Cape Town. You also invited this Miss^s to comment on your reply.

We observe that, in relation to the Australian paragraph I(e), you have pointed out the danger "that less frequent meetings might result in loss of incentive to co-operation". This is, of course, the British contention and is an argument which they use to advocate annual consultative meetings irrespective of whether an adequate agenda can be compiled or not. The point you make is certainly a valid one, but we submit that it is necessary to choose between the Australian view and the British view; one cannot really have it both ways. This is not to say that both considerations cannot be taken into account - clearly they can, and indeed should be borne in mind when setting dates for future consultative meetings. But, since they will usually be in conflict, one of the two criteria should, in our view, be regarded as the more important.

At the preparatory meeting in Brussels earlier this month, we in fact gave precedence to the Australian view as expressed in paragraph I(e), i.e. "that "the number of full-scale consultative meetings should be governed by the usefulness of the agenda rather than the passage of time". We did so in the belief that this represented your attitude as expressed in your directive, and we are consequently a little puzzled by the apparently conflicting view expressed in paragraph (3) of your reply to the Australians.

The Australian paragraph I(e) goes on to state "but this need not exclude the possibility of ad hoc small-scale meetings at some convenient location (....)". It occurs to us that this suggestion might be used (a) to meet the British objection by taking advantage of such small-scale meetings to foster the incentive to co-operation; and (b) as a convenient peg on which to hang our own proposals for administrative arrangements, of which one of the elements is precisely this procedure of convening small informal meetings at a convenient location.

While on this latter subject, it would perhaps be appropriate to offer comment on the procedure to be followed in raising once again the question of administrative arrangements. We would suggest the following procedure:

- i) that a memorandum be prepared in Pretoria (or by this Mission if you would prefer it) based on the memorandum circulated by the South African Delegation in Buenos Aires;
- ii) that this be roneed in Brussels and the appropriate number of copies (in English and French) be despatched to the convener of the preparatory meetings (Mr. van der Essen of the Belgian Foreign Ministry);



Root 100



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

7th March, 1963.

Brussels.

*With the Compliments
of the
South African Embassy*

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Col. 12.98.40

14, Rue de l'Arbre

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