

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA
13-27 SEPTEMBER
1983

ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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FINAL REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANTARCTIC TREATY
CONSULTATIVE MEETING

FINAL REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANTARCTIC
TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

1. In accordance with Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty, Representatives of the Consultative Parties (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America) met in Canberra from 13 to 27 September, 1983, for the purpose of exchanging information, consulting together, and considering and recommending to their Governments measures in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty. On the invitation of the Consultative Parties the Meeting was also attended by Delegations from Contracting Parties to the Antarctic Treaty which are not Consultative Parties (Bulgaria, China, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Spain and Uruguay); Czechoslovakia was not represented.

2. The Meeting was formally opened by Mr Bill Hayden, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the presence of Mr Barry Jones, Minister for Science and Technology.

3. Mr J.R. Rowland, Representative of Australia, was elected Chairman of the Meeting, and Mrs B.F. Spencer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, was appointed Secretary General.

The opening session was held in public. Opening statements were delivered by Heads of Delegation (these, including that made by Mr Hayden, are attached at Annex A).

4. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Opening Addresses
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Improvement of Telecommunications in Antarctica and Collection and Distribution of Meteorological Data
6. Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment
7. Facilitation of Scientific Research: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
8. Effects of Tourism and non-Governmental expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area
9. Activities of Countries not Party to the Antarctic Treaty
10. The Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System
11. Public Availability of the Documents of the Consultative Meetings
12. Matters relating to the Appointment of Observers at Consultative Meetings
13. Exchange of Information in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty
14. Uses of Antarctic Ice
15. Antarctic Resources: The Question of Mineral Exploration and Exploitation (Procedural item only)
16. Date and Place of next Consultative Meeting
17. Any other Business
18. Adoption of Final Report
19. Closing of the Meeting

5. The Meeting considered in Plenary Session all the items on the Agenda and appointed three working groups. A working group on Improvement of Telecommunications in Antarctica and Collection and Distribution of Meteorological Data was chaired by Dr J.S. Boyd of Australia. A working group on Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment was chaired by Mr C.D. Beeby of New Zealand. A working group on the Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System and Public Availability of the Documents of Consultative Meetings was chaired by Mr R. Trolle Andersen of Norway.

6. The Meeting approved the following Recommendations which are set forth in Part II of this report:

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|--------|--|
| XII-1: | Collection and Distribution of
Antarctic Meteorological Data |
| XII-2 | Antarctic Telecommunications |
| XII-3 | Man's Impact on the Antarctic
Environment |
| XII-4 | Man's Impact on the Antarctic
Environment : Code of Conduct on
Waste Disposal |
| XII-5 | Extension of the Expiry Date of the
Designation of Sites 1-8 as Sites
of Special Scientific Interest |
| XII-6 | Operation of the Antarctic Treaty
System |
| XII-7 | Historic Sites and Monuments |

Telecommunications (Agenda Item 5)

7. This Agenda item was discussed in Plenary and further consultations were carried on in a Telecommunications Group chaired by Dr John Boyd (Australia). Copies of the SCAR Working Group on Logistics "Antarctic Telecommunications Guidance Manual" (SCARCOM) were circulated. Appreciation was expressed to SCAR and the Australian Antarctic Division for the considerable work that had gone into the preparation of SCARCOM. It was accepted that the continuing usefulness of SCARCOM depended on it being kept up to date. The offer of the Australian Antarctic Division to continue to maintain the manual pending consideration by SCAR of its long term maintenance was noted with appreciation. Since the necessary information for this purpose was in the hands of national Antarctic programs it was considered appropriate that SCAR consult with them as to how updating might best be achieved.

8. Two points were considered in connection with the adoption by some national Antarctic programs, since 1979, of satellite communications. First, it was suggested that national Antarctic programs which had not adopted satellite communications should be able to learn from the experience of those that had. Secondly, concern was expressed that the widespread adoption of satellite communications by national Antarctic programs might affect communications between stations. Attention was drawn to the increasing shipping and aircraft activity in the Antarctic, to the need for point to point communications to support such activity and to the need to ensure that an adequate capability existed for communication between stations to cope with emergency situations. In order to meet these concerns it was felt that a workshop could be the best mechanism, possibly convened by SCAR in the context of a

meeting of the SCAR Working Group on Logistics rather than as a Meeting of Experts under the auspices of the Antarctic Treaty. It was recognised that such a workshop could also provide an opportunity to consider the matter of how best to ensure the regular updating of SCARCOM.

9. The reactivation of the WMO Executive Committee Working Group on Antarctic Meteorology was warmly welcomed by all Consultative Parties. Appreciation was especially expressed for the manner in which the Meeting on Antarctic Data Telecommunication Arrangements had explored the difficulties involved in ensuring that the inherent peculiarities of Antarctic meteorological data could be adequately handled within the Global Telecommunications System. It was felt to be appropriate that further work in this field, along lines already identified in the Final Report of that meeting, should be encouraged through the Permanent Representatives of Consultative Parties with WMO.

10. It was recognised that further work needed to be done on the matter of requirements for raw and processed meteorological data. It was noted that while any national Antarctic program should be able to state what data it wanted to receive, the ability of stations from which data had been requested to provide it would inevitably be subject to constraints. It was therefore felt that a revised statement of requirements should reflect not only what data was wanted but also what could be provided.

Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment (Agenda Item 6)

11. Draft Recommendations had been tabled by Argentina and Chile about the connection between the Antarctic Treaty itself and instruments derived from it, by Australia proposing amendments to the Code of Conduct for Antarctic Expeditions and

Station Activities annexed to Recommendation VIII-11 and by the United Kingdom calling for the adoption nationally, on an experimental basis, of broadly defined procedures for the assessment of the environmental impact of such activities of national Antarctic expeditions which might have impacts which were significant. In addition, Australia tabled a discussion paper raising the question of whether there needed to be a greater degree of coherence between measures for the protection of the Antarctic environment adopted under the Antarctic Treaty and instruments derived from the Treaty.

12. An Environmental Group was convened under the chairmanship of Mr C.D. Beeby (New Zealand) which gave detailed examination to all these proposals.

13. It was felt that, in a broad sense, the Argentine and Chilean draft Recommendation and the Australian discussion paper addressed similar concerns and should be treated together. In debate, it was recognised that there was a need to consider whether further co-ordination was necessary of the various elements of environmental protection and conservation contained in the Antarctic Treaty system.

14. Regarding the Australian draft recommendation on the Code of Conduct it was agreed to refer to national Antarctic programs the questions of problems in implementing the Code of Conduct and of the desirability and feasibility of revising the Code of Conduct (see Recommendation XII-4).

15. Regarding the United Kingdom's draft recommendation, it was felt that the issues dealt with in the draft should be referred to SCAR for advice. While it was noted that some governments already subject their Antarctic programs to impact assessment procedures, other Representatives felt that there was a need to move cautiously in search of whatever element of comparability it might be found prudent to apply, on a national basis, to such procedures (see Recommendation XII-3).

16. It was noted that the material set out in paragraphs 17 to 19 below, consisting of a description of the practice of a number of countries in relation to environmental assessment procedures, might be of value to SCAR in considering the issues referred to it by Recommendation XII-3. It was further noted that the Consultative Parties and National Committees of SCAR might wish to forward to SCAR additional material relating to their own procedures.

Environmental Impact Assessments

17. Among the steps found in some national environmental impact assessment procedures are the following:

- (i) definition of criteria to be used in determining whether proposed activities have a significant impact on the environment;
- (ii) clear definition and description of the proposed activity;
- (iii) a first evaluation, performed by the organisation responsible for the activity, of whether the proposal might reasonably be expected to have a significant impact;
- (iv) if the result of such a preliminary evaluation is that the proposed activity is likely to have no more than a minor or transitory effect on the environment, the activity would proceed;
- (v) if the preliminary evaluation indicates that a proposed activity is likely to have significant impacts on the environment, an environmental assessment of the proposed activity would be made;

- (vi) such an assessment might be expected to include:
 - (a) description of the proposed activity as well as feasible alternatives including the consequences of not proceeding;
 - (b) description of the initial reference state with which predicted changes are to be compared and a prediction of future environmental states in the absence of action;
 - (c) estimation of the nature and magnitudes of the likely environmental changes resulting from the proposed activity;
 - (d) definition of the criteria to be used in measuring the significance of environmental changes, including the relative weighting to be assigned in comparing different kinds of changes;
 - (e) estimation of the significance of the predicted changes;
- (vii) a decision would then be made on the basis of the assessment as to whether or not the activity should proceed in its original or a modified form, and this decision and the reasons for it would be notified to those interested or affected; and
- (viii) implementation of the accepted action.

18. Monitoring of key indicators of the environmental effects of such activities is an important element and may call for modification of the activity.

19. Where appropriate, the assessment procedures described above might also be expected to include the following steps:

- (a) consideration of indirect or second order effects;
- (b) consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed activity in the light of existing activities;
- (c) description of any measures to be taken to maintain environmental quality; and
- (d) description of the manner in which restoration of the environment would be achieved.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Agenda Item 7)

20. The Meeting considered a draft Recommendation by Chile, Argentina and the UK embodying a proposal for the designation of a Site of Special Scientific Interest at South Bay, Doumer Island in the Palmer Archipelago. The proposal and a management plan for the site has been considered and supported at the Seventeenth Meeting of SCAR. The site is partly terrestrial and partly marine.

21. It was agreed that any proposal for marine Sites of Special Scientific Interest should be carefully examined in the light of Article VI of the Antarctic Treaty and other factors.

22. The Meeting noted that the management plan, as amended, specified that the passage of vessels into, in and through the area would not be affected and that the restrictions placed on vessels (namely that bottom trawling, dumping of waste and anchoring should be avoided except in compelling circumstances) were of a limited kind.

23. The Meeting also noted, however, that at the Tenth Consultative Meeting consideration of other Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the marine environment (Chile Bay, Greenwich Island and marine areas adjacent to SSSI No. 8, Admiralty Bay, King George Island) had been deferred for future consideration. Noting that at previous meetings proposals for such sites which included marine areas had not been approved, it was agreed to defer the making of a decision at this meeting pending further study. It was therefore agreed that further consideration of such SSSI's should be deferred until such time as offices responsible for Antarctic programs had proposed to SCAR, and SCAR had approved, SSSI's partly or wholly in the marine environment. In this context particular attention was drawn to the criteria for the designation of any SSSI contained in operative paragraphs 1(a)(i) and (ii) of Recommendation VIII-3.

24. Until such time as this matter might be considered at a future Consultative Meeting or until June 1988, whichever came earlier, it was agreed that offices responsible for Antarctic programs operating in the vicinity of South Bay, Doumer Island should be asked to draw the attention of their ship masters to the scientific work proceeding in South Bay and to the draft management plan reproduced at Annex B to this Report.

25. It was noted that the designation of Site Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 would expire on 30 June 1985; that the designation of Site No. 8 would expire on 31 March 1985, before the probable date of the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting; and that the designation of Site No. 7 as a Site of Special Scientific Interest expired on 30 June 1983. The United States Delegate circulated for information a message recently received from the President of SCAR, Dr James Zumberge, stating that SCAR had not yet reviewed whether such designations should be allowed to lapse or should be extended, that such a review would be conducted by SCAR and the results presented at the next

Consultative Meeting, and that the Conservation Sub-Committee of the SCAR Working Group on Biology requested the Consultative Parties to extend the designation of these Sites of Special Scientific Interest until the next Consultative Meeting, when an informal decision could be made. Accordingly, Recommendation XII-5 extends the expiration date of the designation of Site Numbers 1-8 until 31 December 1985, which would be after the conclusion of the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

26. The Parties recognised that the designation of Site No. 7 had already expired and that Recommendation XII-5 might not be formally approved and become effective, pursuant to Article IX-4 of the Treaty, until after the expiration dates of Site Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. Therefore, it was agreed that, in the interim, the Parties would voluntarily observe the management plans for these sites.

Tourism and non-Governmental Expeditions (Agenda Item 8)

27. The Meeting discussed the implications of the increase of tourism and non-governmental expeditions in Antarctica. It was agreed that the isolation of the region meant that assistance by national programs to such activities was expensive, disruptive to research programs and sometimes hazardous to life and equipment.

28. The Meeting agreed that emergency assistance was a humanitarian obligation, but that the risks and costs involving other assistance in Antarctica might best be reduced by Consultative Parties' urging upon private expeditions and tour operators the need for careful and thorough planning and for self-sufficiency in their operations. In accordance with Article X of the Antarctic Treaty, the Meeting emphasized the importance of ensuring that non-governmental expeditions to the Antarctic Treaty area observed the principles and purposes of the Antarctic Treaty and the relevant measures adopted under

it. To this end it was agreed that Consultative Parties should do their best to ensure that such expeditions were made aware of these provisions. It also agreed that Consultative Parties should keep each other fully informed about commercial or private expeditions being planned in their countries.

29. It was noted that non-governmental expeditions and tour operators should be covered by adequate insurance and by some form of guarantee that would demonstrate their responsibility for their activities. A view was also expressed that responsibility for compliance by non-governmental expeditions with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty and Recommendations adopted at the Consultative Meetings should be placed upon those States whose physical or juridical persons organize such expeditions or participate in them. Since there was no agreement as to where responsibility for non-governmental expeditions should lie, the draft Recommendation which had been tabled was withdrawn.

30. It was agreed that the ideas expressed in the previous paragraphs might be followed up and that further consideration be given to them at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

Activities of Countries not Party to the Antarctic Treaty
(Agenda Item 9)

31. There was a discussion of the inclusion, on the proposal of Malaysia and Antigua and Barbuda, of an item on Antarctica on the agenda for the 38th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consultative Parties unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to the Antarctic Treaty and expressed their concern that any attempts to modify or replace the Treaty would be likely to introduce contention and instability into a region of hitherto unparalleled peace and international co-operation.

Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System, and Public Availability of the Documents of the Consultative Meetings
(Agenda Items 10 and 11)

32. The delegation of Chile presented a systematic survey of practical suggestions which - in time - might be considered by the Consultative Parties in order to deal with the expanding scope of international co-operation and interest in Antarctica. There was general appreciation of the Chilean presentation, which it was agreed could be considered also at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

33. The inter-relationship between Agenda Item 10 and the following Items 11, 12 and 13 was noted by several delegations. However, for practical reasons, it was decided to convene a Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr R. Trolle Andersen of Norway for the consideration of Items 10 and 11 together.

34. Consensus was reached on Recommendation XII-6 which broadens the circulation of the Reports of regular Consultative Meetings, as well as securing a continuous updating of, and the inclusion of an explanatory introduction and prefaces in, the "Handbook of Measures in Furtherance of the Principles and Objectives of the Antarctic Treaty", renamed the "Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty". In regard to the transmission of a copy of the Final Report of the Meeting to the United Nations Secretary-General, it was agreed that the question of whether he be asked to circulate the report to member countries should be left to the Consultative Parties' Missions in New York. In addition, the Recommendation registers further progress with regard to the public availability of documents. It also invites the Depositary Government to examine the question of identifying and cataloguing publicly available information about the Antarctic Treaty System, and of the sources from which it may be obtained.

35. The possibility of further disseminating general knowledge of the Antarctic Treaty System through the future elaboration of an extensive report - a White Book - on the history and achievements of the Antarctic Treaty was discussed. It was agreed that the matter would require further study, and that it should be considered at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

36. It was agreed that there was a practical need for the host Government of a Consultative Meeting to continue to act as co-ordinator for matters of common interest to the Consultative Parties from the conclusion of one Consultative Meeting until the Preparatory Meeting for the next. The Contracting Parties expressed their appreciation to the Government of Australia for its offer to accept this task until the next Preparatory Meeting in 1985. It was agreed that the establishment of a more permanent infrastructure to undertake these tasks would be premature at the present time, but that the matter, together with the question of frequency of meetings, should be discussed further at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

37. It was agreed that "The Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System" should be included on the Agenda of the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

Observers (Agenda Item 12)

38. Not all States which are Contracting Parties to the Antarctic Treaty are entitled to appoint representatives to participate in Consultative Meetings. Non-Consultative Parties, like all Contracting Parties, have rights and obligations under the Antarctic Treaty and are, as Parties, bound to carry out its provisions and uphold its purposes and principles, and to maintain and strengthen that Treaty. The Consultative Parties therefore invited non-Consultative Parties to this Consultative

Meeting and welcomed their attendance: it assisted the deliberations of the Consultative Parties, helped to keep non-Consultative Parties informed about activities under the Treaty, and furthered the common aim of all Contracting Parties to develop and strengthen the operation of the Antarctic Treaty system.

39. For these reasons, the representatives of the Consultative Parties endorsed the attendance of non-Consultative Parties at the next regular Consultative Meeting. They therefore decided to invite the non-Consultative Parties to the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting, as well as to its Preparatory Meeting. Draft Rules of Procedure incorporating the necessary amendments were prepared by the Meeting, and will be referred to Governments for their consideration on the clear understanding that this would not affect the right of Special Consultative Meetings, as Meetings held pursuant to Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty, to adopt their own Rules of Procedure. Consultative Parties which have not indicated their views by 1 April 1984 will be taken to have accepted the text. If any government requests that the matter be discussed further, the Australian Government will either pursue the matter through diplomatic channels or will refer the draft Rules of Procedure to the preparatory meeting for the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

40. Since there was a close relationship between subjects to be discussed at special Consultative Meetings and attendance at those Meetings, the Meeting decided that the question of attendance at future Special Consultative Meetings could be decided only when such Meetings were being convened. As regards the Fourth Special Consultative Meeting, the Meeting took note of the wish of several of the non-Consultative Parties that they should be invited to attend future sessions. The Meeting was of the view that attendance at the Fourth Special Consultative Meeting, representation at which had been determined in 1981, was a matter to be decided by that Meeting.

41. A statement by Non-Consultative Parties is at Annex C.

42. There was a full discussion of the extent to which, in the light of paragraph 2 of Article III of the Antarctic Treaty, the attendance of appropriate international organisations at regular Consultative Meetings might assist the Consultative Parties. The Meeting concluded that, as part of the preparation for each regular Consultative Meeting, the Consultative Parties should consider whether the Consultative Parties would be assisted in their discussion of any item of the agenda of the regular Consultative Meeting if a Specialised Agency of the United Nations or other international organisation having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica were to attend the Meeting as an observer when that item was being discussed; and, if so, whether the relevant organisation should, with the agreement of all Consultative Parties, be invited by the host government to attend the Meeting on that basis.

Exchanges of Information Under the Antarctic Treaty
(Agenda Item 13)

43. The meeting discussed a proposal that it might be opportune to review the timeliness of exchanges of information under Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty, by seeking the views of those directly responsible for Antarctic programs, as the bodies which both provided the major part of the information and should also gain most from its timely exchange. It was suggested that the first step in such a review required that Consultative Parties' offices responsible for their Antarctic programs should be asked for advice as to:

- (i) the date by which they would ideally wish to receive exchanged information;

- (ii) whether each of them could assemble that part of the information for which they were responsible one month before the date identified under the preceding sub-paragraph to allow time for transmission of the information through diplomatic channels;
- (iii) whether the exchange of information called for under Recommendation II-VI (Annex to Recommendation VIII-6, para 2) should be combined with the exchanges called for under paragraph 1 of the Annex to Recommendation VIII-6;
- (iv) whether some of the information called for in the Annex to Recommendation VIII-6 might better be exchanged after, rather than before, the activity in question; and
- (v) whether, as one means of more effectively implementing Article III.1(c) of the Treaty, brief reports on the implementation of scientific investigations might be included in the information exchanged.

It was also suggested that national contact points might be designated to which enquiries about activities, scientific observations and results could be addressed.

44. The Meeting agreed that, after advice on these questions had been received from offices responsible for national Antarctic programs, the matter should be discussed at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting. In the meantime, the Meeting agreed that it would be useful to encourage the maximum of early informal information exchange between offices responsible for national Antarctic programs.

45. The Meeting also exchanged views on whether it might be desirable to give special attention to information exchanged, under Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty, about activities on geophysical research in which the techniques used might be indistinguishable from those activities which would take place in the early stages of exploration for off-shore hydrocarbon resources. A number of Delegations noted that Article III of the Antarctic Treaty established obligations to exchange and make freely available scientific observations and results from Antarctica. In this regard, the United States Delegation made available its plan for data release of geophysical research to be undertaken in January/February 1984 by the Research Vessel "Lee", which would include the depositing of record sections and magnetic tapes of seismic and other data in the US National Data Centre, where copies would be freely available, subject to payment of reasonable reproduction costs. A map showing the proposed cruise track would also be available before the cruise began, as well as the actual cruise track after the cruise had taken place.

46. The Japanese Delegation informed the Meeting that all scientific data produced by Japan, including those from recent expeditions by the "Hakurei Maru", would be freely available on request to their Government.

Uses of Antarctic Ice (Agenda Item 14)

47. The Meeting took note of two technical information papers on the potential uses of ice, and agreed to discuss the issue again at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

Antarctic Minerals (Agenda Item 15)

48. This was a procedural item only. A report on the progress of negotiations towards a regime to regulate Antarctic minerals exploration and exploitation was given by Dr E.F. Jung

of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chairman of the Second Session of the Fourth Special Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources. The Meeting noted that these negotiations were taking place in another forum, welcomed the progress in the negotiations that had taken place so far, and expressed the hope for an early completion of negotiations.

Date and Place of Next Consultative Meeting (Agenda Item 16)

49. The Meeting welcomed the Belgian Delegation's indication that Belgium was in principle willing to host the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting in 1985, subject to final confirmation as early as possible.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item 17)

50. The Meeting agreed that Consultative Parties, being not all members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), should not respond collectively to Resolution 15/20 adopted in 1982 by the IUCN.

51. The Meeting adopted Recommendation XII-7, establishing the site of the temporary Indian station "Dakshin Gangotri" as a Historic Monument, to be annexed to Recommendation VII-9, as Monument No. 44.

52. The Meeting agreed to send the traditional telegram of greetings to all Antarctic stations. The text of the message is at Annex D.

53. On a number of occasions in the course of the Meeting attention was drawn to the financial implications for SCAR of the requests for advice being put to SCAR through National Committees for consideration. In this context Recommendation XII-8 was adopted.

54. Attention was also drawn to the needs of those Contracting Parties which were not Consultative Parties but which might wish to undertake scientific investigations in the Antarctic. It was noted that the main sources of advice were offices responsible for national Antarctic programs and SCAR. Representatives of Consultative Parties affirmed the willingness of their national Antarctic programs to respond to requests for advice. It was noted that the constitution of SCAR provided for national and observer status within SCAR, and that those Contracting Parties which had recently become Consultative Parties had gained much from attending SCAR meetings. States interested in learning more about SCAR should address their enquiries to the Executive Secretary, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, CB2 IER, United Kingdom.

55. The United States delegation circulated for information to all Delegations a copy of the report of an inspection tour of Antarctic stations which was undertaken in the summer of 1982/83, in accordance with Article VII.3 of the Antarctic Treaty.

II
RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE
TWELFTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE
MEETING

XII-I

THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANTARCTIC
METEOROLOGICAL DATA

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendation VI-3 and X-3;

Noting Resolutions 4,5,6,7 and 8 of the WMO Executive Committee, Thirty Fourth Session June 1982 concerning meteorological observing networks, collection and transmission of meteorological data and meteorological data processing in Antarctica;

Recognising

- (1) the continuing importance of Antarctic meteorological data for support of operations within Antarctica and for weather forecasting and research, especially climate research in the rest of the world;
- (2) the need to maintain a basic network of meteorological stations providing surface and upper-air synoptic data to meet in so far as possible the requirements of Consultative Parties and of the WMO World Weather Watch;
- (3) the diminished value of meteorological data if it is not available to users within and outside the Antarctic in accordance with the WMO schedules for the receipt of raw and processed data;

- (4) the paucity of Antarctic meteorological surface and upper air data and the consequent importance of maintaining regularity of meteorological observations; and
- (5) that the increasing shipping and aircraft activities in Antarctica will give rise to increasing demands for meteorological support;

Reaffirming the importance of the WMO Global Telecommunications System (GTS) for purposes of transmitting Antarctic meteorological data between Antarctic stations in cases where direct transmission within Antarctica is inhibited by ionospheric conditions, and noting that the adoption by some Consultative Parties of satellite communications may facilitate the reception within Antarctica of meteorological data from the GTS;

Noting:

- (1) that monitoring carried out by WMO in 1982 and 1983 on the flow of Antarctic meteorological data into the GTS indicates that significant deficiencies remain;
- (2) the reactivation of the WMO Executive Committee Working Group on Antarctic Meteorology and the outcome of its Third Session in April 1982, including preliminary work on a review of the requirements for raw and processed data set out in Annexes 1 and 2 of Recommendation VI-3;
- (3) the efforts of the WMO Meeting of Experts on Antarctic Data Telecommunication Arrangements in June 1983, in reviewing and updating the meteorological telecommunications routing diagrams set forth in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of Recommendation X-3; and

- (4) that the aforesaid WMO Meeting of Experts arrived at a number of conclusions and recommendations aimed at improving Antarctic telecommunications for meteorological purposes, and at improving the manner in which Antarctic meteorological data is transmitted within the GTS of the WMO World Weather Watch;

Recognising the need to keep under review:

- (1) the requirements for raw and processed Antarctic meteorological data; and
- (2) the arrangements for transmission of meteorological data within Antarctica and between Antarctica and the WMO World Weather Watch system;

Recommend to their Governments that they:

- (1) use their best endeavours, subject to any overriding scientific, administrative or budgetary considerations, to secure full implementation of the network of stations and observational programs set forth in Annex 1 of this Recommendation;
- (2) maintain and improve, subject to any overriding scientific, administrative or budgetary considerations, the system for collection and distribution of meteorological data to, from and within Antarctica having regard to the routing arrangements shown in Annexes 2 and 3, which are based on the conclusions of the WMO Meeting of Experts on Antarctic Data Telecommunication Arrangements in June 1983;

- (3) seek, through their Permanent Representatives with WMO, the completion of Annex IV to the Final Report of the aforesaid WMO Meeting of Experts, as a helpful contribution to planning the exchange of available meteorological data;
- (4) seek, through their Permanent Representatives with WMO, to ensure that consideration is given, as appropriate, to other conclusions and recommendations made by the aforesaid WMO Meeting of Experts;
- (5) invite WMO through their Permanent Representatives with that Organisation, to keep under review the arrangements for routing of meteorological data within Antarctica and between Antarctica and the GTS of the World Weather Watch, and to suggest actions which might be taken to improve the timely receipt of data at stations in Antarctica and at World Meteorological Centres Melbourne, Moscow and Washington and other centres in the World Weather Watch System, having particular regard to changing requirements for meteorological information and to opportunities offered by new technology; and
- (6) note that the statements of requirements for raw and processed Antarctic meteorological data provided by the WMO pursuant to Recommendation X-3 paragraph 9 require refinement, and invite WMO, through their Permanent Representatives with that Organization, to undertake such refinement.

STATIONS AND OBSERVATIONAL PROGRAMMES COMPRISING THE BASIC SYNOPTIC NETWORK
IN THE ANTARCTIC

INDEX NUMBER	NAME OF THE STATION*	SURFACE**								RADIOWIND/ RADIOVENT				RADIO- SONDE	
		1		2				3				4			
		00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	18	00	12
85984	CENTRO MET. ANTARTICO PDTE. EDUARDO FREI***	X		X		X		X							
85986	B.A. ARTURO PRAT	X		X		X		X							
85988	B.A. BERNARDO O'HIGGINS	X		X		X		X							
88925	SIGNY ISLAND	X		X		X		X							
88952	FARADAY (ARGENTINE ISLAND)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
88962	FOSSIL BLUFF	X		X		X		X							
89022	HALLEY	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89062	ROTHERA POINT	X		X		X		X							
88963	ESPERANZA B.E.	X		X		X		X							
88968	ISLAS ORCADAS D.N. (OBSERVATORIO METEOROLOGICO)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
88970	TENIENTE B. MATIENZO B.A.	X		X		X		X							
88971	ALMIRANTE BROWN E.C.	X		X		X		X							

* The names of stations are considered to be as geographical designators and are not indicative of functions.

** Where possible when other requirements make it desirable, observations should also be made at some or all of the four intermediate standard times of observation, i.e. 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 GMT.

*** Stations carrying out data-processing and meteorological service functions.

* Note this Annex is reproduced from the Annex to Resolution 5 of the W.M.O. Executive Committee Session of June 1982 (ECXXIV).

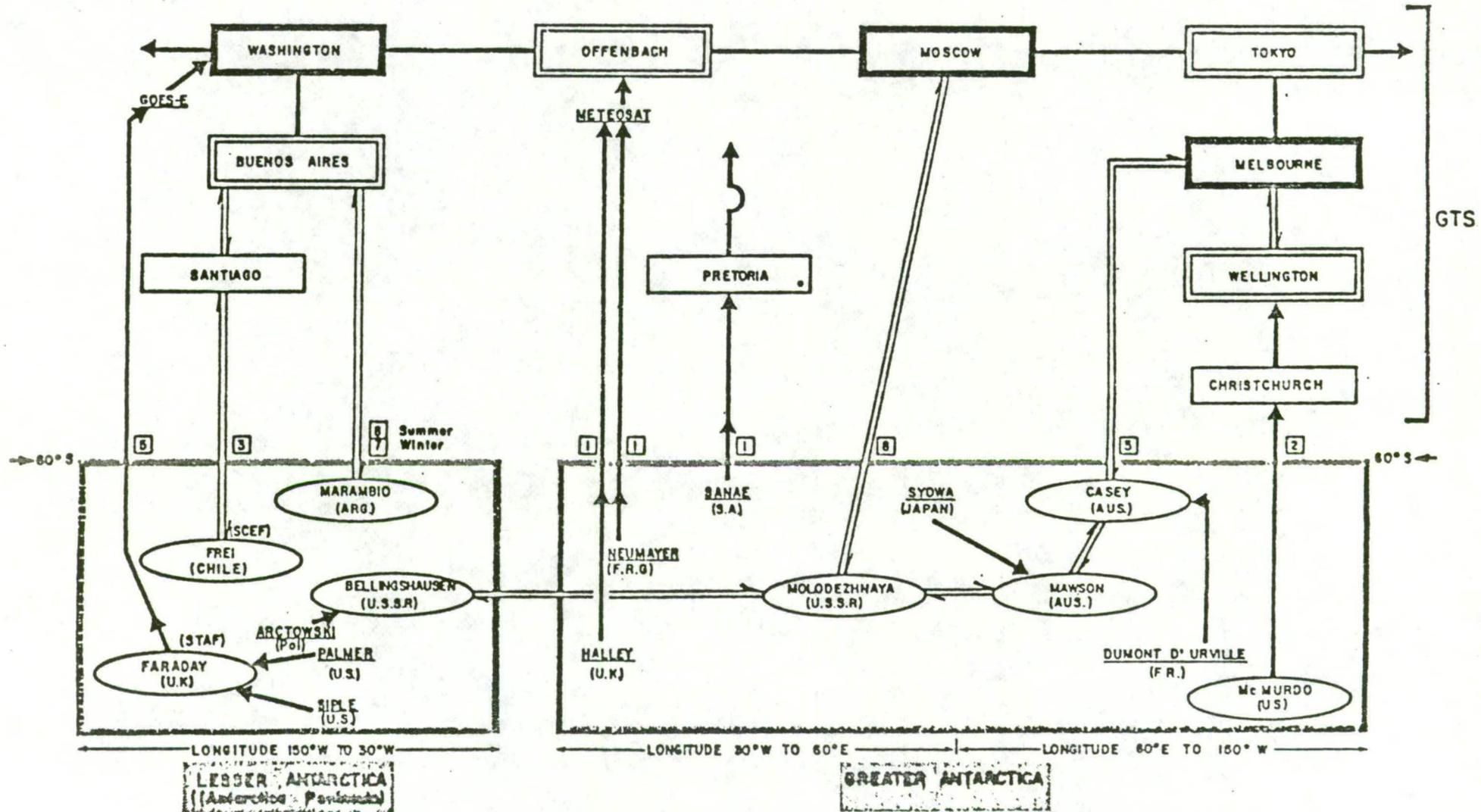
INDEX NUMBER	NAME OF THE STATION*	SURFACE**								RADIOWIND/ RADIOVENT				RADIO- SONDE	
		1		2				3				4			
		00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	18	00	12
89034	GENERAL BELGRANO II B.E.	X		X		X		X							
89045	GENERAL BELGRANO III B.E.	X		X		X		X							
89055	VICECOMODORO MARAMBIO B.A. CENTRO METEORO- LOGICO ANTARTICO***	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89066	GENERAL SAN MARTIN B.E.	X		X		X		X							
89001	S.A.N.A.E. STATION	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89002	GEORG VON NEUMAYER	X		X		X		X							
89009	AMUNDSEN-SCOTT	X		X		X		X		X		.		X	.
89664	MCMURDO	X		X		X		X		X		.		X	.
89050	BELLINGSHAUSEN	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89132	RUSSKAYA	X		X		X		X							
89512	NOVOLAZAREVSKAJA	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89542	MOLODEZNAJA***	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89592	MIRNYJ	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89606	VOSTOK	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89657	LENINGRADSKAJA	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89532	SYOWA	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89571	DAVIS	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
89611	CASEY	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
94986	MAWSON***	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X
95502	DUMONT D'URVILLE	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X

* The names of stations are considered to be as geographical designators and are not indicative of functions.

** Where possible when other requirements make it desirable, observations should also be made at some or all of the four intermediate standard times of observation, i.e. 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 GMT.

*** Stations carrying out data-processing and meteorological service functions.

PRINCIPAL ROUTES BY WHICH ANTARCTIC METEOROLOGICAL DATA ENTERS THE GTS



W.M.C.	M.C. or STATION WITH SIMILAR FUNCTIONS	PRIMARY ROUTE TO AND FROM G.T.S.	NR OF STATIONS INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL SOURCE BULLETINS TO THE G.T.S.
R.T.M. or R.M.C.	ANTARCTIC COLLECTING AND TRANSMITTING STATION	PRIMARY ROUTE TO G.T.S.	SUSPENDED BY RESOLUTION 38 (C) FROM EXERCISING ITS RIGHTS AND ENJOYING ITS PRIVILEGES AS A MEMBER OF THE W.M.O.

XII-2

ANTARCTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendations VI-1, VII-7 and X-3;

Recognising that Antarctic telecommunications are designed to carry operational, scientific and meteorological traffic and that improvement of the telecommunications system would serve to ensure timely and full exchange of information;

Recognising that recent developments in the use of satellites, of which some Consultative Parties have made use, have improved the reliability of communication links between Antarctic stations and the outside world, but that consequent diminished reliance on conventional telecommunication methods may have affected the capability of stations to communicate with each other;

Noting with appreciation, the response of the SCAR Working Group on Logistics to the request in Recommendation X-3, paragraph 6, to prepare an Antarctic Telecommunications Guidance Manual (SCARCOM);

Noting that the increasing shipping and aircraft activity in Antarctica will require improved telecommunications and meteorological support by Consultative Parties undertaking such increased activity;

Recommend to their Governments that:

- (1) they strive to ensure effective use of the Antarctic telecommunication systems already in existence, and to utilise as appropriate the developing satellite communication systems with a view to achieving improved communications between the Antarctic stations, as well as between those stations and points outside Antarctica;
- (2) they invite SCAR, through their National Antarctic Committees, to:
 - (i) consider, in consultation with agencies responsible for national Antarctic programs (hereinafter referred to as "national Antarctic programs"), how best SCARCOM can be periodically updated so that it may provide adequate guidance to telecommunications operators on telecommunication practices of national Antarctic programs and relevant internationally agreed procedures;
 - (ii) examine issues relating to increased use of satellite communications including:
 - (a) an exchange of information and experience arising out of the adoption of satellite communications for the benefit of those national Antarctic programs which have not adopted this means of telecommunication,
 - (b) the cost-effectiveness of satellite communications and the benefits to operational efficiency and scientific research that may be derived therefrom,

- (c) identification of any problems which may be encountered in communication between the stations of different national Antarctic programs in the event of more widespread adoption of satellite communications, and
- (d) exploration of means by which any such problems might be overcome while maintaining the cost-effectiveness and other benefits of satellite communications;

(iii)

examine the adequacy of the Antarctic telecommunications system to meet demands arising from the expansion of shipping and aircraft activity in Antarctica, and to suggest improvements where these might be desirable. In this examination particular attention should be given to:

- (a) communications between Antarctic stations,
- (b) use of the existing facilities for communications between Antarctica and the outside world, and
- (c) communications between stations, ships and aircraft for the purpose of co-ordinating emergency and search and rescue operations.

MAN'S IMPACT ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

The Representatives,

Recalling Article II of the Antarctic Treaty, Recommendations VI-4, VIII-11, VIII-13 and IX-5;

Noting that in these Recommendations, which have become effective in accordance with Article IX, Paragraph 4 of the Antarctic Treaty, certain principles were elaborated and adopted, namely that:

- (i) the ecosystem of the Antarctic Treaty Area is vulnerable to human interference;
- (ii) the Antarctic derives much of its scientific importance from its uncontaminated and relatively undisturbed condition;
- (iii) in considering measures for the wise use and protection of the Antarctic environment their Governments shall act in accordance with their responsibility for ensuring that such measures are consistent with the interests of all mankind; and
- (iv) no act or activity having an inherent tendency to modify the environment over wide areas within the Antarctic Treaty Area should be undertaken unless appropriate steps have been taken to foresee the probable modifications and

to exercise appropriate controls with respect to the harmful effects such uses of the Antarctic Treaty Area may have;

Recalling that in accordance with these principles there has been established for the Antarctic a substantial series of measures for the protection, conservation and wise use of Antarctic fauna and flora consisting of the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

Noting that the States involved in Antarctic research activities are in the best position to assess potential environmental impacts of such activities and to develop assessment procedures which might, with benefit, be applied to determining whether the activities they plan to conduct are likely to have significant impacts;

Considering that a measure of comparability between such procedures might, in the future, become desirable;

Affirming that environmental assessment procedures should not prejudice one of the fundamental principles of the Antarctic Treaty providing for freedom of scientific investigation as set out in Article II of the Antarctic Treaty and that such procedures should not encroach upon nor prejudice provisions for the protection of the environment and the conservation of living resources contained in instruments that have been or may, in the future, be negotiated as parts of the Antarctic Treaty system;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. in relation to any scientific activity they plan to conduct, including the planned provision of logistic facilities to support such activity, they urge their respective national organizations responsible for Antarctic activities to continue to scrutinize the plans for such research and logistic activities, in accordance with procedures they have developed or may develop, to determine whether the planned activities are likely to have significant impacts;
2. if a preliminary determination indicates that a planned research or logistic activity could have potentially significant impacts on the environment, their relevant agencies undertake a detailed environmental assessment, in accordance with procedures they have developed or may develop, with a view to determining the factors likely to cause such impacts and, if the seriousness of such impacts so indicates, to elaborating feasible research and logistic alternatives aimed at minimizing harmful effects on the environment. In the event that such an assessment is completed they notify other Consultative Parties;
3. through their National Committees, they invite the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to offer:
 - (i) scientific advice regarding the definition of categories of research and logistic activity in Antarctica which might reasonably be expected to have a significant impact on the environment; and

(ii) bearing in mind, inter alia, the discussion at this Meeting as reflected in paragraphs 17 to 19 of its Report, such advice as seems to SCAR to be relevant to the elaboration of assessment procedures which may be applied by the relevant agencies of the Consultative Parties, on an experimental basis, with regard to research and logistic activity; and

4. the question of Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment should be considered further at the next Consultative Meeting.

MAN'S IMPACT ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

CODE OF CONDUCT ON WASTE DISPOSAL

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendation VIII-11;

Noting a general increase in awareness amongst Consultative Parties of the potential environmental impacts of the disposal of waste in the Antarctic region;

Noting that the increasing level and degree of complexity of Antarctic operations is likely to introduce into the Antarctic a wider range of potentially environmentally damaging substances than previously;

Noting that improvements in logistics and technology increase the feasibility of on-site treatment of human and other waste, and of the removal of solid waste, residues and noxious substances from the Treaty area;

Recommend to their Governments that they seek the advice of their respective Antarctic operating agencies as to:

- (i) any problems which have been experienced in implementing the Code of Conduct for Antarctic Expeditions and Station Activities contained in the Annex to Recommendation VIII-11; and

- (ii) the desirability and feasibility of revising the Code of Conduct in the light of the points noted above, particularly the increased potential for on-site treatment and removal of waste from the Treaty area.

XII-5

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendations VIII-3, VIII-4 and X-6;

Noting that, pursuant to Recommendation X-6, the designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest of the Sites numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will expire on 30 June 1985, and the designation of Site No. 8 will expire on 31 March 1985, before the probable date of the Thirteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, and that the designation of Site No. 7 expired on 30 June 1983;

Desirous that the designation of these sites as Sites of Special Scientific Interest not be allowed to expire before the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) has reviewed the Sites and presented the results of its review to the Consultative Parties;

Noting the intention of SCAR to review all Sites of Special Scientific Interest at the Eighteenth Meeting of SCAR in 1984 and to present the results of its comprehensive review to the Consultative Parties for consideration at the Thirteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 1985;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. the date of expiry of the following sites should be extended from 30 June 1985 to 31 December 1985:

Site No. 1 : Cape Royds, Ross Island,
Site No. 2 : Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross
Island,
Site No. 3 : Barwick Valley, Victoria Land,
Site No. 4 : Cape Crozier, Ross Island,
Site No. 5 : Fildes Peninsula, King George Island,
South Shetland Islands,
Site No. 6 : Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island,
South Shetland Islands;

2. the date of expiry of Site No. 7 : Haswell Island,
should be extended from 30 June 1983 to 31 December 1985.
3. the date of expiry of Site No. 8: Western Shore of
Admiralty Bay, King George Island, should be extended
from 31 March 1985 to 31 December 1985; and
4. they use their best endeavours to ensure, in accordance
with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Recommendation VIII-3, that
the management plans of these sites are observed.

OPERATION OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

The Representatives,

Noting that the Antarctic Treaty, based on principles of the United Nations Charter, in the interest of all mankind, establishes Antarctica as an area dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes, to international harmony and to international scientific cooperation;

Noting further that the Antarctic Treaty, the numerous measures adopted in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty and other instruments and acts associated with it constitute a far-sighted and effective system of international co-operation, which promotes international peace and security, increase in scientific knowledge and understanding, and effective environmental protection;

Desiring to involve the Contracting Parties to the Antarctic Treaty which are not Consultative Parties more closely with the Antarctic Treaty System;

Conscious of the value of increasing public knowledge of the achievements and operation of the Antarctic Treaty System;

Recalling Article III, paragraph 2 of the Antarctic Treaty which encourages co-operative working relations with those Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and international organisations having a scientific and technical interest in Antarctica;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. in addition to sending Consultative Parties certified copies of the Report as well as documents of Consultative Meetings as called for in Recommendation I-XIV, paragraph 1, the Government of the host country of each Consultative Meeting shall also send certified copies of the Report as well as documents of that meeting to all other Contracting Parties which were invited to that Meeting;
2. in furtherance of Article III, paragraph 2, of the Treaty, the Government of the host country shall:
 - (a) on behalf of the Consultative Parties send a certified copy of the Final Report and Recommendations of regular Consultative Meetings to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and
 - (b) as and when the Representatives of the Consultative Parties consider it appropriate, draw the attention of any Specialised Agency of the United Nations or other international organisation having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica to any part of the Report of the Consultative Meeting, or any information document submitted to the Meeting and made available to the public, relevant to the scientific or technical interest which that agency or organisation has in Antarctica;
3. the "Handbook of Measures in Furtherance of the Principles and Objectives of the Antarctic Treaty" be renamed the "Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty" and:

- (a) be brought up to date by the host government as soon as possible after each Consultative Meeting,
- (b) contain an introduction outlining the background and history of the Antarctic Treaty as well as a preface to each section as appropriate giving a brief background to the measures set out in that section. The host government of the Twelfth Consultative Meeting will undertake the necessary consultations with a view to the early preparation of such introduction and prefaces, and
- (c) contain the Final Report (excluding attachments and annexes) from each Consultative Meeting;

- 4.
- (a) starting with the Thirteenth regular Consultative Meeting, Delegations should indicate, when submitting an Information Document, if they intend that document to be publicly available;
 - (b) after the closure of the Meeting and provided no Consultative Party has objected, any Consultative Party or non-Consultative Party which has been invited to that Meeting may make such document publicly available on such terms as it may prescribe;
 - (c) as regards Conference Documents or Information Documents of the First to the Twelfth Consultative Meeting, and Conference Documents of the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting, and subsequent Meetings, as well as Information Documents that have not been identified in accordance with paragraph (a) above as intended to be publicly available, Consultative Parties will consider in what

circumstances such Documents may be made publicly available, with a view to discussing the matter further at the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting;

5. invite the depository Government to examine the question of information about the Antarctic Treaty System, including publicly available documents arising from Consultative Meetings, with a view to identifying and cataloguing publicly available information about the System and identifying the sources from which such information can be obtained; and
6. "The Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System" be included on the Agenda of the Thirteenth Consultative Meeting.

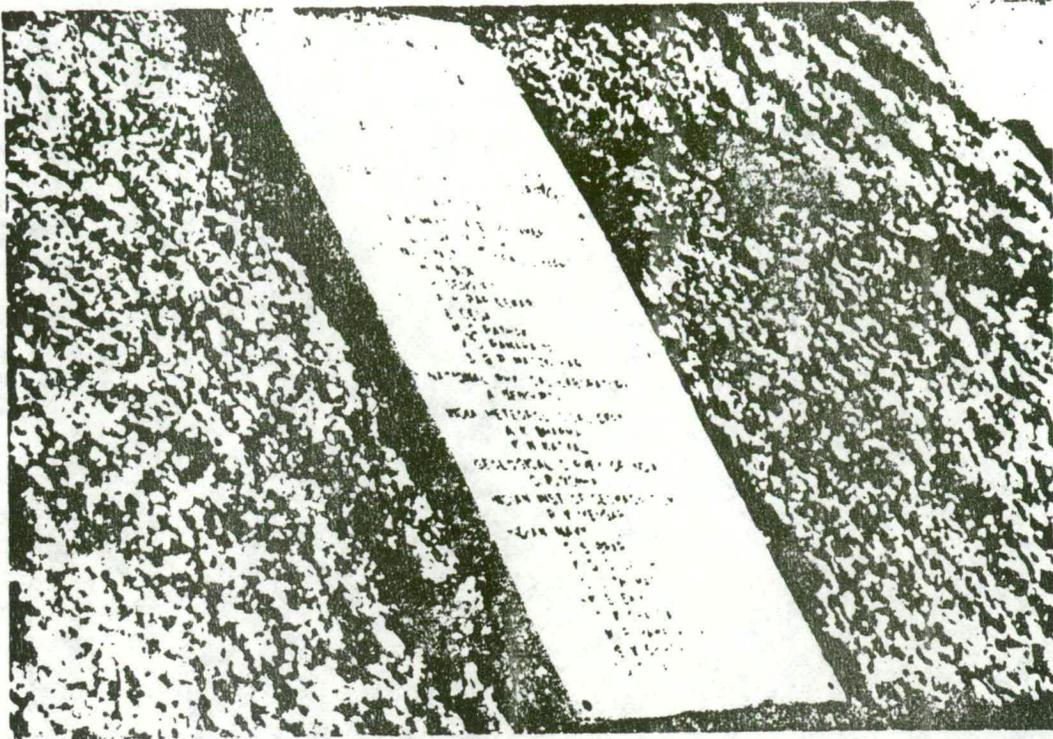
HISTORIC_SITES_AND_MONUMENTS

The Representatives,

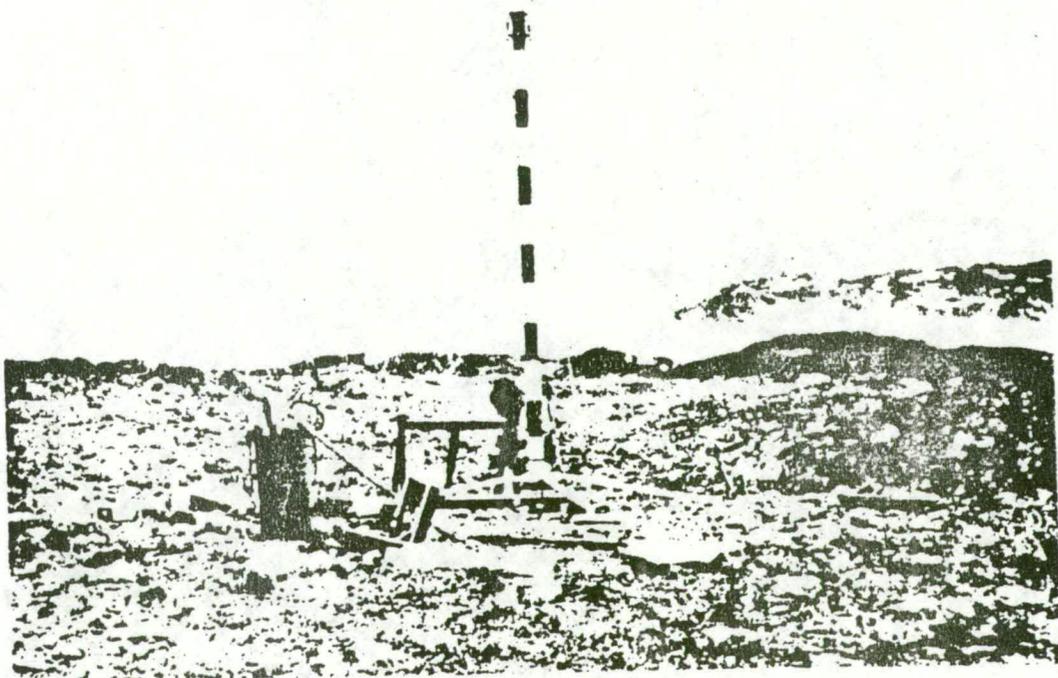
Recalling Recommendations I-IX, V-4, VI-14 and VII-9

Recommend to their Governments that the following historic monument be added to the "List of Historic Monuments Identified and Described by the Proposing Government or Governments" annexed to Recommendation VII-9 and that thereafter it be accorded the respect and protection required by the Recommendations recalled above:

44. Plaque erected at the temporary Indian station "Dakshin Gangotri", Princess Astrid Kyst, Dronning Maud Land, listing the names of the members of the First Indian Antarctic Expedition which landed nearby on 9 January 1982. (Lat. 70°45'S., Long. 11°38'E.)



Plaque installed at *Dakshin Gangotri* in the rock.



Automatic weather recording station at *Dakshin Gangotri* set up by the Indian Team on the foothills of the Antarctic mountain ranges.

SCAR ASSISTANCE TO CONSULTATIVE PARTIES

The Representatives,

Recognising that the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions comprises a unique assemblage of knowledge and expertise in Antarctic scientific fields;

Noting with appreciation the advice provided to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties by SCAR in response to various requests;

Being aware that under its Constitution SCAR is charged with "furthering the co-ordination of scientific activity in Antarctica, with a view to framing a scientific program of circumpolar scope and significance";

Being aware also that the assistance requested of SCAR by the Consultative Parties imposes additional demands on scarce resources;

Recommend to their Governments:

That they consider in the light of its expertise and past assistance any requests that may be made by their national committees for additional funding to meet costs to SCAR of responding to requests for advice by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

TWELFTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

13 TO 27 APRIL 1983

CANBERRA

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

DOC NO	TITLE	COUNTRY
ANT/XII/1	Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment - Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/REV.1	Agreed Measures for the Protection of the Antarctic Environment: Interim Guidelines - Draft Recommendation	Australia
ANT/XII/2	Twelfth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting Agenda	
ANT/XII/3	Improvement of Telecommunications in Antarctica and Distribution of Meteorological Data - Explanatory Note and Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/4	Non-Governmental Expeditions (NGE's) - Explanatory Memorandum	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/4/REV.1	Non-Governmental Expeditions (NGE's) - Revised Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/5	Telecommunications and Meteorology - Draft Recommendation	Australia
ANT/XII/6	Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment	Australia
ANT/XII/6/CORR.1	Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment (Replacement page 5 for document ANT/XII/6)	Australia
ANT/XII/7	Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment - Draft Recommendation	Australia
ANT/XII/8	Operation of the Antarctic Treaty	Chile
ANT/XII/9	Impact of Man on the Antarctic Environment	Chile, Argentina
ANT/XII/10	Public Availability of the Documents of the Consultative Meetings - Explanatory Note and Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/11	Matters Relating to the Appointment of Observers at Consultative Meetings - Discussion Paper	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/12	Exchanges of Information under Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty	United Kingdom
ANT/XII/13	Exchanges of Information under the Antarctic Treaty - Explanatory Note and Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom

DOC NO	TITLE	COUNTRY	PAGE
ANT/XII/14	Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Draft Recommendation	Chile, United Kingdom, Argentina	
ANT/XII/14/REV.1	Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Revised Recommendation and draft paragraphs for inclusion in the Final Report	Chile, United Kingdom, Argentina	
ANT/XII/15	Improvement of Telecommunications in Antarctica and Distribution of Meteorological Data : Telecommunications Group	Argentina, Brazil, Chile	
ANT/XII/16	Any Other Business : Historic Sites and Monuments - Draft Recommendation	India	
ANT/XII/16/REV.1	Any Other Business : Historic Sites and Monuments - Draft Recommendation	India	
ANT/XII/17	Extension of the Expiration Date of the Designation of Sites 1-7 as Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Draft Recommendation and Paragraphs for the Final Report	United States	
ANT/XII/17/REV.1	Extension of the Expiration Date of the Designation of Sites 1-8 as Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Draft Recommendation and Paragraphs for the Final Report	United States	
ANT/XII/18	Draft Recommendations on Man's Impact on the Antarctic Environment		
ANT/XII/19	Item Relating to the Strengthening of Ties between SCAR and the National Committees of Contracting Parties which are not Consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty	Argentina	
ANT/XII/20	Item Relating to a Greater Participation in SCAR by the Non-Consultative Contracting Parties of the Antarctic Treaty	Argentina	
ANT/XII/21	Matters Relating to the Appointment of at Consultative Meetings - Draft Recommendation	United Kingdom	
ANT/XII/22	Draft Recommendation on the Collection and Distribution of Antarctic Meteorological Data		
ANT/XII/23	Draft Recommendation on Antarctic Telecommunications		
ANT/XII/24	Final Report of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		
ANT/XII/24/ADD.1	Final Report of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		
ANT/XII/24/ADD.2	Final Report of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		

DOC NO	TITLE	COUNTRY	PAGE
ANT/XII/24/ADD.3	Final Report of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		
ANT/XII/24/REV.1	Final Report of the Twelfth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		
ANT/XII/24/REV.2	Final Report of the XII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		
ANT/XII/25	Draft Recommendation on the Antarctic Environment (Code of Conduct)		
ANT/XII/26	Draft Recommendation on Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System		
ANT/XII/26/REV.1	Draft Recommendation on Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System		
ANT/XII/27	Message from the Twelfth Consultative Meeting to Stations in Antarctica		
ANT/XII/27/REV.1	Message from the Twelfth Consultative Meeting to Stations in Antarctica		
ANT/XII/28	Draft Recommendation : SCAR Assistance to Consultative Parties	Australia	
ANT/XII/28/REV.1	Draft Recommendation : SCAR Assistance to Consultative Parties	Australia	
ANT/XII/INF.1	Information for Delegates		
ANT/XII/INF.2	Information for Delegates : Weekend Activities		
ANT/XII/INF.3	Meeting on Antarctic Data Telecommunication Arrangements, Geneva - Final Report		
ANT/XII/INF.3/ CORR.1	Meeting on Antarctic Data Telecommunication Arrangements, Geneva - Final Report		
ANT/XII/INF.4	List of Delegates		
ANT/XII/INF.4/ REV.1	List of Delegates - Consultative Parties		
ANT/XII/INF.4/ REV.2	List of Delegates		
ANT/XII/INF.5	The Utilisation of Antarctic Ice (a technical information paper)	Australia	
ANT/XII/INF.6	Recommendations for Standards to be Met by Cruise Operators in the Antarctic	Australia	

DOC NO	TITLE	COUNTRY	PAGE
ANT/XII/INF.7	Scientific Research and Cooperation in Antarctica (Paper given by Mr Tore Gjelsvik of Norway at the Antarctic Symposium organised by University of Kiel, 22-24 June 1983)	Norway	
ANT/XII/INF.8	Requirements for Raw and Processed Antarctic Meteorological Data	Australia	
ANT/XII/INF.9	Facilitation of Scientific Research : Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) : Management Plan referred to in the discussion of this agenda item and approved by SCAR	United Kingdom	
ANT/XII/INF.10	Antarctic Meteorology : Resolutions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the WMO Executive Committee, Geneva 7-24 June 1982	Australia	
ANT/XII/INF.11	Sites of Special Interest : Telegram from the President of SCAR to Mr R Tucker Scully (Chief US Delegate, 12th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, Canberra 11-27 September 1983)		
ANT/XII/INF.12	Exchanges of Information under the Antarctic Treaty	United States	
ANT/XII/INF.13	Satellite Telecommunications at the Antarctic Meteorological Centre, "Vicecomodoro Marambio"	Argentina	
ANT/XII/INF.14	Rules of Procedure (Draft paragraphs for inclusion in the Final Report)		