

ANT/XII/4/REV 1

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NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPEDITIONS (NGE'S)

(Revised draft recommendation submitted by United
Kingdom)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
Submitted by the United Kingdom

Non-Governmental Expeditions

The Representatives,

Recalling Recommendations I-X, IV-27, VI-7, VIII-9 and X-8 and the provisions in these Recommendations applicable to non-governmental expeditions;

Recognizing that requests for assistance from such expeditions may be categorized as follows:

- (a) assistance at the planning stage ("planned" assistance);
- (b) assistance provided in the Antarctic to remedy deficiencies ("necessary" assistance); and
- (c) assistance in an emergency involving risk to life in the expedition ("emergency" assistance);

Desirous of establishing a common practice with regard to such non-governmental expeditions as may, in their planning stages, approach their offices responsible for their national Antarctic organization for planned assistance or may approach stations in the Antarctic for necessary assistance to remedy deficiencies in their provisions;

Recognizing that the common Antarctic principle of help being freely given in the event of an emergency request for assistance must apply without regard to who asks for it;

Recognizing that national Antarctic organizations are financed by public funds for the purpose of conducting scientific research and supporting agreed international scientific projects and that resources made available to non-governmental expeditions are likely to be at the expense of the primary purposes of such programmes;

Recognizing that inadequate provisioning on the part of a non-governmental expedition or an emergency involving such an expedition may entail diversion of resources from their planned purpose, disruption of scientific programmes and risk to the personnel and equipment of national Antarctic organizations;

Aware of the grave difficulties and possible dangers likely to befall any inexperienced or inadequately organised non-governmental expedition;

Recognizing that the provision of assistance to remedy deficiencies and the humanitarian duty to respond to an emergency involving a non-governmental expedition may, in the event, need to be undertaken by a national Antarctic organization of a Consultative Party other than the one in which it was organized or which assisted the non-governmental expedition in question;

Recognizing that a non-governmental expedition may request assistance from a national Antarctic organization of a country other than that in which it is organized and that the government of the Consultative Party in whose territory it is organized is better placed to assess the purposes and planning of the non-governmental expedition in question;

Affirming that, in respect of non-governmental expeditions Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with Article X of the Antarctic Treaty, exert appropriate efforts to the end that no one engages in any activity in Antarctica contrary to the principles or purposes of the Treaty;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. They take such steps as are open to them to enquire as to the objectives and plans of non-governmental expeditions of which they may become aware and they circulate to Consultative Parties the results of their enquiries.
2. They provide to any non-governmental expedition of which they may become aware a copy of this Recommendation and a copy of the "Statement of Accepted Practices and the Relevant Provisions of the Antarctic Treaty" referred to in Part I of Recommendation X-8.
3. They further emphasize to any non-governmental expedition of which they may become aware the following considerations reflecting the common attitude of Consultative Parties and their national Antarctic organizations towards such expeditions:

- (i) governmental facilities and resources in Antarctica are committed to support of national and agreed international programs with little or no excess capacity;
 - (ii) the proposed expedition may interfere with ongoing scientific programs and their supporting activities unless entirely self-sufficient;
 - (iii) any need for emergency assistance from governmental facilities or resources in Antarctica would at best be disruptive of ongoing programs and at worst lead to loss of life or critical resources or both;
 - (iv) their proposed activities should be planned for total self-sufficiency in transport, logistic support, communications, accommodation and emergency assistance.
4. No office responsible for a national Antarctic organization shall provide planned assistance to a non-governmental expedition organized in the territory of another Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty without first consulting, through diplomatic channels, the Government of the Consultative Party in whose territory the expedition is being organised.
5. They urge any non-governmental expedition of which they may become aware to consult with the Government of the Consultative Party in whose territory it is being organised and to lodge with it a guarantee, supported by

insurance against the risk of incurring financial charges or material losses in the Antarctic Treaty Area so that the expedition will be able to reimburse to any national Antarctic organization the costs of any necessary assistance for which it may call.

6. Nothing in of this Recommendation shall be interpreted as prejudicing.

(a) the humanitarian obligation of national Antarctic programmes to respond to emergency requests for assistance in accordance with Recommendation I-X; or

(b) the right of any office responsible for a national Antarctic programme to decide that it will not assist a non-governmental expedition.