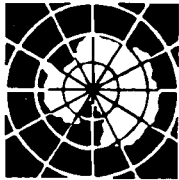


TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA
13-27 SEPTEMBER
1983

ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

ANT/XII/12
14 September 1983
Original: English

ITEM 13: EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION
UNDER ARTICLES III AND VII OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY
(Note submitted by the United Kingdom)

The United Kingdom has noted that activities are proceeding in Antarctica which involve some or all of seismic reflection surveys, depth soundings, sub-bottom profiling, sono-radio buoy refraction surveys, magnetometer surveys, gravimetric surveys, measurements of terrestrial heat flow and bottom sampling aboard research vessels. Certain doubts have arisen in the mind of the United Kingdom as to whether such activities fall within the scope of operative paragraph 8 of Recommendation IX-I. While recognising and welcoming the information already provided about these activities in conformity with the Antarctic Treaty, these doubts have arisen from a recognition that although such activities are entirely consistent with purely scientific objectives they are also indistinguishable from those activities that would take place in the early stages of exploration for offshore hydrocarbon resources.

In these circumstances it is the view of the United Kingdom that pending the timely adoption of agreed solutions pertaining to exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, a Government whose activities might reasonably be expected to give rise to a doubt of the nature described above needs to give special attention to the fulfilment of its obligations under Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty.

In this context the United Kingdom wishes to invite the views of its Consultative partners as to whether, in such cases, it would be reasonable for the governments of Consultative Parties to accept that in relation to such maritime research activities:

- (i) the announcement of such planned activities under Article VII of the Treaty should be accompanied by a proposed track chart;
- (ii) within a reasonable time after the completion of the voyage:
 - (a) a track chart should be made available showing what observations were taken and where;

- (b) the ship's log-book should be open for inspection;
 - (c) the data should be open for inspection; and that
- (iii) copies of published papers deriving from the voyage should be sent to the Governments of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

In suggesting that data should be open for inspection the United Kingdom recognises that it would need to be understood that neither the ownership of the data nor the owners' copyright was to be prejudiced.

The United Kingdom is aware that such a practice set out in the preceding paragraph, if it were effectively to set at rest the sort of doubt previously described, ought to be based on the same principle of reciprocity that underlies Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty.