

TRATADO ANTARTICO  
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

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TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE  
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA  
13-27 SEPTEMBER  
1983

ANTARCTIC TREATY  
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

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ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ  
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

ANT/XII/13  
14 September 1983  
Original: English

ITEM 13: EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION UNDER THE  
ANTARCTIC TREATY  
(Explanatory Note and Draft Recommendation  
submitted by the United Kingdom)

[ Explanatory Note: This matter was discussed at length in the course of the XIth ATCM. No conclusion was reached and the reasons are set out in the Final Report of that meeting. It was agreed that the subject should be further considered at the XIIth ATCM. It may help colleagues in considering this matter if some of the main points made in the discussion at Buenos Aires are recalled:

- (a) information exchanged about planned activities (Articles III, 1(a) and VIII (5) should be as precise and accurate as possible;
- (b) information about planned activities should be exchanged in time "to permit maximum economy and efficiency of operations" (Article III, 1(a)) as between Antarctic programmes;
- (c) information is not being exchanged in time to be of maximum use to offices administering Antarctic programmes and to those in the Antarctic who needed it;
- (d) Antarctic operations are now beginning earlier after the winter than had been the normal practice when the date by which information was to be exchanged was established;
- (e) the exchanges of information under Article VII (5) of the Antarctic Treaty bear an important relation to the inspection provisions of the same Article;
- (f) without in any way replacing the obligation under Article III 1(a) of the Antarctic Treaty, it would be helpful if brief reports on the implementation of scientific investigations could be provided;
- (g) it would help to reduce the burden of information exchanges if the information called for under Recommendation II-VI relating to modifications in the previous years plans could be exchanged at the same time as information about the following season's plans;

- (h) it would be useful if national contact points were designated to which enquiries about activities could be addressed;
- (i) a difference of opinion existed between those who considered that the date by which information is to be exchanged should be brought forward in order to ensure its maximum usefulness and those who considered that the further that date is brought forward the more inaccurate information about plans would become and that this inaccuracy could counter balance the advantages of an earlier exchange date.

The United Kingdom considers that it would be useful to have the views on these matters of those directly responsible for Antarctic programmes and of SCAR through National Antarctic Committees, thus seeking the opinion of those who both provide the major part of the information and should gain most from its timely exchange. A recommendation drafted with that end in view follows.]

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

The Representatives,

Recalling that the exchange of information called for under Articles III and VII of the Antarctic Treaty and twenty subsequent Recommendations of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings were consolidated into a "Standard format for the annual Exchanges of Information" annexed to Recommendation VIII-6;

Recognising that the date for the primary exchange of information has remained at 30 November each year since 1961 and that the Antarctic operations of many Consultative parties now begin earlier than that date each year;

Noting that the SCAR Working Group on Logistics, meeting on the occasion of the XVIIth meeting of SCAR, agreed to exchange certain information in advance of the formal exchange of information under

Article VII (5) of the Antarctic Treaty;

Recalling that under Recommendation II-VI any extensions, reductions or other modifications of activities previously reported are to be furnished before 30 June each year; and

Recognising that, while the exchanges of information should be as useful as possible to those operations in Antarctica, the accuracy of such exchanges needs to be ensured since they perform an important function in relation to the inspections provided for under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty;

Recommend to their Governments that:

1. A review of the timeliness of exchanges of information is now opportune;
2. That the first step in such a review requires that their offices responsible for their Antarctic programmes 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 are responsible one month before the date identified under the preceding sub-paragraph to allow time for transmission of the information through the diplomatic channel;
  - (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;

- (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;
  - (vi) national contact points might be designated to which enquiries about activities, scientific observations and results could be addressed.
3. They be ready to consider this matter further at the Thirteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.