

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XII REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XII REUNION CONSULTATIVE



CANBERRA
13-27 SEPTEMBER
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ANTARCTIC TREATY
XII CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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ITEM 5: DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON ANTARCTIC
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(Submitted to Plenary by the Telecommunications Working Group)

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;
 - (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;

(c) communications between stations, ships and aircraft for the purpose of co-ordinating emergency and search and rescue operations.