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FINAL REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANTARCTIC TREATY
CONSULTATIVE MEETING

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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 objective 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 1).

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

XII-8

SCAR Assistance to Consultative
PartiesTelecommunications (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 2 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 (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
(Item 9)

31. There was a discussion of the inclusion, on the proposal of Malaysia and Antigua and Barbuda, of an item on Antarctic 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 secures 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 "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 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)

39. 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 3.

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 4.

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.