



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/396
9 June 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Item 70 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Letter dated 8 June 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, I have the honour to transmit to you, annexed to this letter, a statement on the question of Antarctica, issued on 8 June 1988.

We should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 70 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) GHAZZALI Abdul Khalid
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 8 June 1988 by Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, the Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, on the Antarctica minerals régime negotiations, held at Wellington, New Zealand, from 2 May to 2 June 1988

It is a matter of utmost regret and deep concern that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have held negotiations and adopted on 2 June 1988 a convention on an Antarctica minerals régime. This is in complete disregard of General Assembly resolution 42/46 of 30 November 1987 on the question of Antarctica, which had, inter alia, reaffirmed that any eventual minerals régime on Antarctica should take fully into account the interests of the international community and that a moratorium on the negotiations to establish a minerals régime should be imposed until such time as all members of the international community could participate fully in such negotiations. It is particularly regrettable that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have chosen to disregard the call for them to invite the United Nations Secretary-General or his representative to all meetings of the Treaty Parties, including the minerals régime negotiations.

It is further regretted that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa had been allowed to participate in the negotiations at Wellington in defiance of the appeal contained in General Assembly resolution 42/46 for the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the participation of the racist apartheid régime.

The actions taken by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties at Wellington are contrary to the expressed will of the General Assembly and is particularly regrettable as the actions would not contribute in any way to the earnest efforts being made at the United Nations to seek consensus on the question of Antarctica. However, the countries that are not parties to the Treaty will continue to work strenuously for consensus on this question, which is a matter of vital interest to the international community and to the well-being of mankind.
