



## General Assembly

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Agenda item 70

## QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 43/83 A of 7 December 1988, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its conviction that any minerals régime on Antarctica, in order to be of benefit to all mankind, should be negotiated with the full participation of all members of the international community.
2. The Assembly further expressed its deep regret that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties <sup>1/</sup> had proceeded with negotiations and had adopted on 2 June 1988 a convention on the regulation of Antarctic mineral resource activities, notwithstanding Assembly resolutions 41/88 B of 4 December 1986 and 42/46 B of 30 November 1987, calling for the imposition of a moratorium on negotiations to establish a minerals régime until such time as all members of the international community could fully participate in such negotiations.
3. In response to a note verbale from the Secretary-General to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on the above issue, a note was received on 19 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, responding on behalf of the States parties to the Antarctic Treaty. This note reads as follows:

"The Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, acting on behalf of the States Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note with reference to General Assembly resolution 43/83 A of 7 December 1988 with respect to the question of Antarctica.

"The Permanent Representative of Australia has the honour to recall that before the voting on resolution 43/83 A in the First Committee at the forty-third session of the General Assembly, Australia made a statement

reflecting the views of Antarctic Treaty Parties. The statement noted that Treaty Parties continued to believe that consideration of Antarctica by the General Assembly **should proceed only on the** basis of consensus. That remains the **conviction** of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties."

4. **In paragraph 3 of its resolution 4:** 3 A, the General Assembly also reiterated its call upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to invite **the** Secretary-General **or** his representative to all meetings of the Treaty Parties, including their consultative meetings. Moreover, **the** Secretary-General was requested to submit **a** report on **his evaluations thereon to the** Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

5. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 6 July 1989, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations conveyed a press release issued by the President **of** the Preparatory Meeting of the **xvth** Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, which was held **in Paris** from 9 to 13 May 1989. This letter and the attached press release **were** circulated as a document of **the** General Assembly on 11 July 1969 (A/44/383).

6. The Secretary-General was not in receipt of **an** invitation to meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, and therefore is not in a position to provide any evaluations thereon.

#### **Notes**

**1/** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the Union **of** Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

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