



## General Assembly

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Agenda item 70

## QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 41/88 C of 4 December 1986, the General Assembly viewed with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties; appealed once again to the Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime of South Africa from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date; invited the States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty to inform the Secretary-General on the actions taken regarding the provisions of the resolution; and also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the Assembly at its forty-second session.
2. In accordance with resolution 41/88 C, the Secretary-General, on 10 February 1987, addressed a note verbale to the States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty 1/ and requested them to submit as soon as possible, but not later than 30 April 1987, the replies that their respective Governments were prepared to provide pursuant to the provisions of the resolution.
3. On 2 July 1987, a communication was received from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, acting on behalf of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, with reference to the Secretary-General's note verbale. The communication dated 1 July 1987 reads as follows:

"The Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, acting on behalf of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty,\* has the honour to refer

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\* Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

to the Secretary-General's note of 10 February 1987 relating to the question of Antarctica.

"The Permanent Representative of Australia has the honour to recall that, before the voting on resolution 41/88 C in the First Committee at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, he made a statement on behalf of Antarctic Treaty Parties. The statement expressed continuing disappointment at the lack of consensus in the General Assembly's consideration of Antarctica.

"In the case of two of the draft resolutions before the Assembly, this disappointment occasioned decisions by most Treaty Parties not to participate in the voting. In the case of the draft resolution subsequently adopted as resolution 41/88 C, the statement noted that Treaty Parties had decided to reflect their views in ways that did not affect their position on the successful functioning of the Antarctic Treaty. Treaty Parties reiterated their belief that the General Assembly's consideration of Antarctica could proceed usefully and realistically only on the basis of consensus. This remains the view of Treaty Parties.

"Based on their condemnation and abhorrence of the system of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa, a number of Treaty Parties decided to vote for resolution 41/88 C, which called for urgent measures to exclude South Africa from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty. The decision of these Parties should be seen as being without prejudice to their views on the merits of a consensus approach to Antarctica and on the successful functioning of the Antarctic Treaty.

"Other Treaty Parties, who likewise abhor and condemn the system of apartheid, decided not to participate in the voting on resolution 41/88 C. The decision of these Parties was based on their support for the principle of universality in the United Nations; on the importance they attach to the view that there is no valid basis under international law for limiting the exercise of a Party's right under the Antarctic Treaty; and that it is essential that all States Parties that undertake activities in Antarctica be bound by and carry out their obligations under the Treaty.

"Countries who host meetings under the aegis of the Antarctic Treaty make the necessary arrangements strictly in compliance with the relevant obligations that apply to such meetings. This will be the case with meetings held in 1987 and cannot in any way be interpreted as having a bearing upon broader foreign policy objectives.

"Treaty Parties are united in their determination to safeguard the effective functioning of the Antarctic Treaty system. They believe that the consensus necessary to productive international consideration of Antarctica can be based only on resolutions that give full regard to the Antarctic Treaty and the continuing operation of the Treaty system."

Notes

1/ Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

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