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Item 70 of the provisional agenda\*

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 30 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/46 B on the question of Antarctica.
2. While reaffirming, inter alia, that any eventual minerals régime on Antarctica should take fully into account the interests of the international community, the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of the resolution called upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties 1/ to impose a moratorium on the negotiations to establish a minerals régime until all members of the international community could participate fully in such negotiations.
3. On 30 June 1988, the Secretary-General received a letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations conveying a statement of Mr. C. D. Beeby, Chairman of the Antarctic Treaty Special Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources, regarding the adoption on 2 June 1988 of a Convention on the regulation of mineral resource activities in Antarctica. The letter and the statement attached to it were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly (A/43/434).
4. On 18 August 1988, the Secretary-General received a letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations conveying an authenticated copy of the Final Act of the Fourth Antarctic Treaty Special Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources.
5. On 8 June 1988, the Secretary-General received a letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations on

\* A/43/150.

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. This letter expressed the utmost regret and deep concern about the adoption of the aforementioned Convention. The letter was circulated as an official document of the General Assembly (A/43/396).

6. In its resolution 42/46 B, the General Assembly also called 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 and the minerals régime negotiations, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the Assembly at its forty-third session.

7. 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, Brasil, Chile, China, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, 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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