



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/834
14 December 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 66

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Letter dated 11 December 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement made by the Foreign Minister of Norway, Mr. Svern Stray, on 1 December 1984 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty.

I kindly request you to arrange for the statement to be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 66.

(Signed) Tom E. VRAALSEN
Permanent Representative of Norway
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway on
1 December 1984, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary
of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty

1. On 1 December 1959, Norway, together with 11 other nations, signed the Treaty that has since formed the basis of one of the most impressive examples of constructive international co-operation in the post-war period. Thus, we are today observing the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty. So far, 32 countries have acceded to the Treaty, which is open to all States Members of the United Nations.
2. In spite of political and ideological differences, Antarctica has successfully been preserved as a continent of peace. The area has remained demilitarized. The Antarctic Treaty has, in an effective, balanced manner, prevented conflict resulting from different conceptions as to sovereignty issues.
3. Not only has the Antarctic Treaty prevented the militarization of Antarctica as well as conflict. It has also involved the parties in open scientific co-operation and contributed considerably to the exploration of the Antarctic continent. The Treaty has made it possible to arrive at effective measures for the conservation of the vulnerable Antarctic fauna and the natural environment, such as the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The signatories are also in the process of elaborating a régime concerning the mineral resources in Antarctica.
4. Norway has long traditions to look after in Antarctica. Dronning Maud Land and Peter I Øy have been placed under the Norwegian Crown as dependencies, as has Bouvetøya outside the area of applicability of the Antarctic Treaty. We have made important contributions to the exploration of the continent and are presently sending a large research expedition to Antarctica.
5. Today, Antarctica is the object of growing international attention from various quarters, including the United Nations. As far as Norway is concerned, we are convinced that the challenges presented by this development can best be met through strong support of the Antarctic Treaty from all sides. A continuation of the Treaty and the co-operation established by it will be the best way to realize the lofty aims set down when the Treaty was concluded 25 years ago.
