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Item 69 of the provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 44/124 B of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed its conviction that, in view of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems, any régime to be established for the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems, in order to be for the benefit of mankind as a whole and in order to gain the universal acceptability necessary to ensure full compliance and enforcement, must be negotiated with the full participation of all members of the international community.
2. The General Assembly urged all members of the international community to support all efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all activities are exclusively used for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica and the protection of its environment and are for the benefit of all mankind.
3. The General Assembly also expressed its conviction that the establishment, through negotiations with the full participation of all members of the international community, of Antarctica as a nature reserve or a world park would ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind.
4. In response to a note verbale from the Secretary-General to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties 1/ with regard to the resolution, a note dated 30 April was received from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations responding on behalf of the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty. The note reads as follows:

* A/45/50 and Corr 1.

"The Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, acting on behalf of the States Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty ... has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note of 19 March 1990 with reference to General Assembly resolution 44/124 B of 15 December 1989 with respect to the question of Antarctica.

"The resolution refers to the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems. The Antarctic Treaty Parties are aware of the need for concerted international action to protect the Antarctic environment from external environmental disturbances which could accelerate serious global environmental change. For their part, the Antarctic Treaty Parties as the countries active in the region will continue to develop measures to protect the fragile Antarctic environment and dependent associated ecosystems from the impact of human activity within the region. Given the indispensable contribution of Antarctic scientific research to the global effort to predict and understand climate change, the Antarctic Treaty Parties will also continue to make freely available the results of their Antarctic research bearing upon the global environment as well as all other subjects. Any State Member of the United Nations can participate in this work by acceding to the Antarctic Treaty.

"The Permanent Representative of Australia has the honour to recall that before the voting on resolution 44/124 B in the First Committee at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Australia made a statement reflecting the views of Antarctic Treaty Parties. The statement noted, inter alia, that Treaty Parties had not participated in the voting as they 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 Parties."

5. In the resolution, 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, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon at its forty-fifth session.

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, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, 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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