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1 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: SA/CPP

SUBJECT: Comments Concerning Interim Report on Antarctica and Progress Report on Antarctica

I. Planning Board Interim Report

A. Par. 4.c.

1. Reference to the "unclaimed area" obscures the fact that there are two unclaimed areas. Moreover, it is not appreciated that the unclaimed area south of the Norwegian claim may be covered by air or land traverses from a planned Soviet base near it into as yet an unexplored area. Such a Soviet achievement would provide the soundest basis for a claim and thus frustrate the basic objective of 5824/1: ". . . maintenance of control by friendly powers and the exclusion of our most probable enemies." One countermove to this would be a small-scale reconnaissance-type mapping program in this and the other unclaimed areas before Russian activity develops in 1958-59.

2. The evaluation of the "unclaimed area" as of "less value than any other" is based only on its inaccessibility from the sea. In terms of rock outcrop areas and lower elevations making for easier ground operations, it may be second in value only to the Palmer Peninsula.

3. Our inadequate information on natural resources has now been delayed for two operational seasons and is likely to be delayed through some time after 1959 by the exclusion of mapping and hard-rock geology field studies. This is due to the restriction of U.S. operations exclusively to the support of the IGY. In marked contrast, the Soviets are undertaking an extensive mapping, geology and natural resource study program and, as a consequence, will gain this basic useful knowledge for a more thorough appraisal of the value of Antarctica within their extensive area of study.

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B. Par. 4.a, d, and Par. 7

1. How U. S. interest might be prejudiced is not spelled out in 4.a. It is suggested that the following be added:

> It must be realized that continued Soviet scientific operations now and after the IGY will dilute any initial rights based primarily on early exploration and sealing activities and remaining unsupported by modern scientific activities covering extensive areas.

C. Par. 7

In the event that no U. S. claims action is taken, it might be desirable to incorporate in policy guidance the concept of extending further the tacit condominium already in practice with New Zealand to include Australia in a series of small joint scientific operations. This could be preceded by a formal transfer of Wilkes Station (Knox Coast) to Australia, for continuation as a joint operations.

II. Progress Report on Antarctica

A. Par. A. 2. Summary of Operating Progress

1. We are not in agreement that U. S. programs to support U. S. rights exceed that of any other nation (par. A.2., second sentence). Our exception in the Working Group entered in the form of the last sentence has been modified incorrectly by Defense by inserting the statement that some non-IGY activities are included. The U. S. program has explicitly excluded, in Deepfreeze I and II, ground-controlled aerial photography, mapping and basic geology. Very limited activities have been undertaken in hydrographic charting and biology.

2. The CIA position in the OCB Working Group on Antarctica over the past year has been aimed to modestly expand the scope of U. S. operations in the interest of (1) strengthening U. S. rights and (2) simultaneously securing the basic information needed to appraise the worth of Antarctica. This was outlined in CIA-G/E-36 (6 February 1956).

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The scientific validity of these suggestions calling for ground-controlled photography, oceanography and magnetometer surveying has been re-affirmed in April, 1957 by the IGY plans and requirements therefor outlined for the 1958-59 operations. [redacted] 25X1X4

25X1X4 [redacted]

B. Par. A. 2.a. Exclusion of Soviets

The CIA contribution to a U.S. coping with this problem has been incorporated in this paragraph and in B.6. is based on the concept that (1) the Soviets are likely to remain in Antarctica, (2) Soviet bases be kept under surveillance to insure peaceful activities, and (3) Soviet information be obtained through exchange agreements.

C. Par. B.6.

CIA added its interest not only in Soviet IGY data, but also for non-IGY data: mapping, charting, and terrain data. Geology had been inadvertently omitted from this listing. This should also be included.

25X1A9a [redacted]

Alternate CIA Member
Working Group on Antarctica

ENCLOSURES: 2
OCB Progress Report on Antarctica (NSC 5434/1)
Interim Report on Antarctica

Distribution:
Ch1 - Addressee
2 - DD/I
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