

60° south latitude. More complete details of the United States proposal are contained in C.R.O. circular D.157 of July 24, a copy of which is attached as Appendix III.†

20. The United Kingdom have decided, if other Commonwealth countries agree, to negotiate with the other seven governments on the basis of the United States proposal. The United Kingdom will not agree to any form of trusteeship under the United Nations, but would approve full cooperation and association with appropriate United Nations bodies. The United Kingdom would also hope to retain sovereignty over a limited area in the South Shetland Islands but, if necessary to ensure success of the eight-power discussions, they would not insist upon this.

21. The United Kingdom has asked for any comments the Canadian Government may have to offer in connection with the United States proposal and on the attitude the United Kingdom proposes to adopt towards the plan. An urgent request for Canadian views has also been received from the New Zealand Government through the Canadian High Commissioner in Wellington. A copy of despatch No. 267 of July 8 from Wellington is attached as Appendix IV.†

V. *Canadian Interests*

22. In formulating Canadian policy, the following considerations should be borne in mind:

(a) Canada has no claims to any territory in the Antarctic.

(b) Canada's main interest is to see an end to the long-standing and increasingly troublesome disputes over Antarctic territory. In particular, conflicting claims have soured relations between the United Kingdom on the one hand, and Argentina and Chile on the other. This is to be deplored at a time when it is important that there should be close cooperation between powers of Western Europe and those of the Western Hemisphere.

(c) Canada, therefore, would welcome any settlement which is acceptable to the interested countries.

(d) It is desirable that, in the first instance the interested countries should attempt to settle their differences by negotiation before any reference is made to the United Nations with a view to establishing an international trusteeship.

(e) It is possible, but not probable, that any international régime set up to administer the Antarctic might be considered a precedent for the establishment of a similar régime in the Arctic. The cases are not, of course, parallel and any attempt to treat them as such should be vigorously resisted. In any comments we may choose to make, I think it would be a mistake to make any reservations about the Arctic. If we did, it might suggest to others that we had some doubts about our legal rights there. The possibility, moreover, that any international organization for the Antarctic might be exploited to our disadvantage as regards the Arctic, makes it advisable for us to take no active role in the settlement of the Antarctic dispute.

(f) The United States proposals are only known in broad outline. It is not yet known what the attitude of the other interested countries will be or whether others in addition to the eight countries named in paragraph 2(c) will also assert claims to territory in the Antarctic.