

time, further exchanges of views took place between the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

14. As a result of these exchanges, it became apparent that the United States favoured some form of international control. Their first suggestion was for the establishment of a United Nations trusteeship, but following an unfavourable reception from the United Kingdom, this was replaced by a proposal for the creation of an eight-power condominium.

15. The chief United Kingdom objections to international control of the Antarctic at that time were (a) that without considerable study and a clear definition of the area involved, it would be difficult to establish a sound administration; (b) it would be difficult to exclude other countries such as the USSR from such international schemes; (c) direct strategic and commercial interests of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries would suffer; (d) the scheme would require acceptance by Norway and France, both countries which have so far not been involved in any major disputes over sovereignty. Australia and South Africa agreed with these views, Australia being particularly opposed to a condominium or other similar arrangements. New Zealand favoured a United Nations trusteeship and was opposed to an international condominium.

16. As a result of these United Kingdom-United States talks in Washington, the United States came around to the view that a general eight-power conference would be desirable and it seemed at the time that the United Kingdom might agree to such a course.

17. In June however, the United States informed the United Kingdom that a revised plan for an international trusteeship for the Antarctic was being considered. The United Kingdom at once referred to the grave dangers, which had been stressed in previous discussions, that existed in such a plan and stated that an eight-power condominium would be a preferable solution (see Appendix II — memorandum from the Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ottawa).† It was learned later that the United States had presented the plan to Chile and that the initial Chilean reaction had been unfavourable.

IV. Latest U.S. Proposal

18. As a result of United Kingdom objections to the proposal for a trusteeship under the United Nations, the United Kingdom informed us that the United States have now prepared a revised scheme to set up a "special régime" for the Antarctic. The United States is expected to deliver the revised proposals to the other eight governments concerned within the next few days and at such time to announce its territorial claims to the Antarctic.

19. The essence of the United States scheme is the creation of an "International Antarctic Commission", the territorial scope of which would embrace the Antarctic Continent and all islands south of 60° south latitude. The eight countries concerned would merge and join their claims and interests in this "special régime". The Commission would cooperate with appropriate specialized agencies of the United Nations and with international scientific bodies on matters of mutual concern. It is to be observed that the United States proposal will not settle the Argentine-United Kingdom dispute about the Falkland Islands because these Islands lie north of the