

The first question to be discussed by the Committee was whether or not the French claim to an Adélie Land Sector extending from the coast to the South Pole should be resisted by the Commonwealth Government on the grounds set out in Memorandum E.(37)22.

THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE outlined the developments which have led to the submission of the document under discussion and the reasons for the resistance of the application of the Sector principle to Adélie Land.

THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVES explained that there were a considerable number of areas in the Australian and, to a lesser extent, in the Falkland Islands Sector, the title to which could hardly be supported otherwise than by the application of the Sector principle. The British title to these areas, if based on other grounds, appeared in fact to be less substantial, if anything, than the French title to Adélie Land. Resistance to the French claim to a Sector, by setting at issue the Sector principle in the Antarctic generally, might, it was thought, render the British title to much of the Antarctic Continent liable to challenge.

THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE stated that the Canadian Government, for their part, would deprecate any denial of the Sector principle in relation to Adélie Land, since it might have embarrassing repercussions in the Arctic.

THE UNION REPRESENTATIVE called attention to paragraph 4 of the note printed as Annex IV in E.(37)6 and asked whether the assurances there given to the Norwegian Government meant that the area mentioned was reserved for Norwegian exploitation. He was told that that was the case, but that it appeared from paragraph 2 of the note referred to that the assurances had been given after