

THE TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

CHAIRMAN: MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, SIR JOHN GLESSOR, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

64, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

TELEPHONE: TATE GALLERY 7966/68.
TELEGRAMS: TRANSPOLAR, SOWEST, LONDON.

23rd April 1958.

Dear High Commissioner

The question of awards to members of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition will come up for consideration in the near future, and one name which has been submitted to the Committee of Management of the Expedition for an award is that of Johannes la Grange who, as you know, was the meteorologist with the party.

We, as the Committee of Management in the United Kingdom, will be submitting the United Kingdom names in due course to the Prime Minister, and the same procedure will no doubt be followed, after co-ordination between the two Committees concerned, for the New Zealand members.

I know that all concerned in the Expedition would very much regret if la Grange did not get an award and I wonder whether you would be good enough to advise me on what action should be taken i.e. whether your Government would submit his name to The Queen in the same way as the United Kingdom and New Zealand Governments will be submitting the names of their nationals.

Jansinck

P. Hill

F. The Hon. Dr. J.E. Holloway,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C.2.

to the Prime Minister that there should be a drive through the streets to the House of Commons where a Government reception and Press Conference should be held. This is still under consideration.

Social functions after the Expedition returns.

4. It was reported that the Expedition and their wives will be received at Buckingham Palace on the 15th May when Dr. Fuchs will receive his accolade. The Committee felt that it would be appropriate if Her Majesty would consent to present Polar medals to the members of the Expedition at the same time and the Chairman undertook to approach the Polar Medal Committee asking if this could be arranged.

OF 15 P.M.

Surface Mail

P.S. 16/1

8th April, 1958.

Southampton

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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Trans-Antarctic Expedition

Enclosed for information are two copies of the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Committee of Management held on 31st March, 1958.

Committee
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Press

L. F. A. de VILLIERS

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Arrangements for the arrival of the Expedition in the United Kingdom

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3. On arrival in London the Expedition will be officially welcomed at Waterloo by Lord Home, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and it has been suggested to the Prime Minister that there should be a drive through the streets to the House of Commons where a Government reception and Press Conference should be held. This is still under consideration.

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TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1 AT 3.15 P.M. ON MONDAY, 31ST MARCH 1958.

PRESENT: Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Sir James Wordie
Captain A.R.Glen
Mr.G.P.Pirie-Gordon
General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Professor H.H.Read
Sir Miles Clifford
Mr.F.H.Corner (representing Ross Sea Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr.M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
Mr.A.F.Drake (South Africa House)
Mr.P.Williams (Kemp Chatteris & Co)

The Minutes of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Committee of Management held on 28th February 1958 were confirmed.

Authority for Finance Sub-Committee to deal with Press and Publicity matters

1. It was reported that since the successful completion of the Expedition so much work had arisen in connection with publicity which would now inevitably surround its return to the United Kingdom, that, in the Chairman's absence in America, Sir James Wordie had extended the terms of reference of the Finance Sub-Committee to deal with Press and Publicity matters and had asked that it should organise all the social arrangements connected with the Expedition on arrival. The Committee unanimously approved this decision.

Arrangements for the arrival of the Expedition in the United Kingdom

2. It is hoped to run a Special Train to meet the Expedition on arrival at Southampton on 12th May. This will probably leave London at about 7.30 a.m. and the RANGITOTO will probably dock between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. At about 10.15 a.m. the Mayor of Southampton will board the vessel to offer a civic welcome after which there will be a drive through the streets to the Town Hall where a Press Conference will be held, followed by a Civic Reception. The Special Train will leave for London at about 2 p.m., luncheon being served on board.

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*Min. 4 only.
See Minutes
2 copies to EA.*

5. A luncheon will be held at Skinners Hall on 15th May when members of all the Trans-Antarctic Expedition Committees will entertain members of the Expedition and their wives, and that evening there will be a large reception at the Royal Geographical Society. Captain Glen said that the Finance Sub-Committee felt that on this occasion the Guest List should be representative of the leading figures in the life of the nation. The Committee agreed and authorised the Sub-Committee to draw up a suggested list for approval.

6. On 22nd May the Lord Mayor of London has invited the Expedition and the members of the Committee of Management to a private luncheon at the Mansion House as his personal guests.

7. It was reported that the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators has awarded the Johnston Memorial Trophy 1957 to Squadron Leader John Lewis for his achievement in flying the first single-engined plane across Antarctica, and this will be presented at their Annual Banquet on 28th May.

Press and Publicity

8. The main television programme covering the achievements of the Expedition will be on Sunday evening, 18th May, and the main sound radio programme will be recorded on 10th June and broadcast all over the world very shortly afterwards.

9. Sir Miles Clifford said that he felt that the office would be under great pressure from newspapers when the Expedition return home, and suggested that a whole time Press liaison officer should be appointed to handle publicity. He was willing to approach the J. Walter Thompson Company asking that Mr. Raymond Baker's services should be made available. After discussion, the Committee agreed that before reaching a decision, Admiral Parry should be consulted on his return from New Zealand later this week.

Report on Film Premiere

10. A report on the results of the Film Premiere was tabled showing that the final profit will be about £1,290. This is a disappointing result due partly to the fact that it fell during a period when those who can normally be expected to support charity Premieres are abroad, and partly because the title and subject of the film (juvenile delinquency) was not attractive either to patrons or to potential advertisers.

Lectures.

11. It was reported that Dr. Fuchs will lecture privately to the Royal Geographical Society on 9th June and his first public lecture will be given at the Festival Hall on 11th June in the presence of H.M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. After this lecture there will be a small reception which the Queen has promised to attend, confined to members of the Expedition and their close families, the Committee of Management and their ladies and the Headquarters staff. On 12th and 13th June Dr. Fuchs and one other member of the Expedition will travel to Scotland and to give two lectures and carry out a civic programme in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

12. Mrs. Honnywill reported that many requests are coming in for Dr. Fuchs to lecture early in July including a suggestion that he should spend a week at the Brussels Fair. In view of the importance of delivering the manuscript of the book in time for publication in the autumn the Committee felt that every effort must be made to protect Dr. Fuchs from outside engagements and Mrs. Honnywill was instructed to postpone the Brussels engagement - preferably until the autumn if this was possible.

Treasurer's Report

13. Mr. Pirie-Gordon reported that the combined deficit for both ends of the Expedition is now about £30,500 but it should be possible to meet this from the following sources:

Film Premiere and future lectures	£3,500
Excess Royalties on Book	10,000
Profits from the two films	15,000
Sale of Otter to the United States Government	26,000 (possibly)

(Of this money the first £5,000 profit is returnable to the Mount Everest Foundation).

14. In budget estimates it is assumed that office expenditure will continue for about twelve months after the return of the Expedition.

Salaries for Dr. Lister and Dr. Rogers.

15. It was reported that Durham University have expressed their intention of taking Dr. Lister back on their books as from 1st May but have indicated that he will have adequate facilities and time to work up his Expedition results.

16. Dr. Rogers has been asked how long he estimates that his whole time services should be available to the Expedition to work up his results. When this is known Bristol University will be asked to co-operate accordingly.

The meeting adjourned at 4. 20 p.m.

Eleanor Honnywill
p.p. C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Distribution

All Members of the General Committee
Commonwealth Relations Offices (4)
Colonial Office (2)
New Zealand House (2)
Australia House
South Africa House (4)
The Ross Sea Committee (2)
Kemp Chatteris & Co.
H.E. The Governor of the Falkland Islands
Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee

MR. DE VILLIERS:

The meeting of the Committee of Management of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition held on 31st March discussed the arrangements for the reception of Dr. Fuchs and his party who are due at Southampton on 12th May aboard the "Rangitoto".

The "Rangitoto" will probably dock between 7.00 and 9.00 a.m. The special train which the Trans-Antarctic Expedition is arranging will leave London about 7.30 a.m., and breakfast will be available on it. The Expedition have asked to be notified as soon as possible of the names of persons who wish to travel on the special train.

There will be a Civic Reception in Southampton for Dr. Fuchs and party. Special buses will be laid on there for the members of the Committee of Management, amongst whom any South African representative would, I presume, be included. After the Civic Reception and a press conference at the Southampton Town Hall, the special train, on which Dr. Fuchs and his party will also be travelling, will depart for London at 2.30 p.m. Lunch will be available on the train at, I gather, about 2 p.m. The train will arrive at Waterloo, where Lord Home (and possibly also the Prime Minister, though this is uncertain) will greet Dr. Fuchs.

On Thursday, 15th May there is a Committee of Management Luncheon at Skinners Hall. This will be at 1.15 for 1.30 p.m. Presumably a South African representative will be invited.

Also on 15th May there is to be a reception at the Royal Geographical Society from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. It is planned to invite to the reception representatives of the 8 (?) countries with particular interests in Antarctica, including the U.S.S.R. Here again, an invitation will presumably be issued to a South African representative.

On Thursday, 22nd May, at 1.00 p.m. there will probably be a private luncheon given by the Lord Mayor for about 50 or 60 guests, who would include about 30 persons from the "City". All the members of the Management Committee would be invited, so an invitation for this function also may be received at South Africa House. This arrangement, which is apparently still tentative, is in substitution for an official Mansion House Luncheon for which there are no funds available.

There is to be a private lecture by Dr. Fuchs at the R.G.S. on 9th June, for Fellows only. The Duchess of Kent will be present. However, on 11th June he is to give a further lecture (fund raising) at the Royal Festival Hall, which is to be attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. A reception will be held after the lecture. The Committee of Management will, it is believed, receive gratis tickets

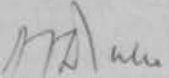
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Pennells
Cor Gordon says
to attend.

for this occasion. It is not known yet whether this will be black tie.

In view of my impending departure on home leave, I shall ask Miss Honeywill or Mrs. Giles at the Trans-Antarctic Expedition Secretariat at 64 Victoria Street to place your name on record as liaison with the Management Committee, if you agree.

The arrangements outlined above still seem to be fairly tentative and are subject to confirmation.


A. F. Drake.

2nd April, 1958.

P.S. Admiral Parry, who is the head of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition Secretariat, is due back from New Zealand, I believe this week.

AGEMENT
RIDAY,

Surface Mail

P.S. 16/1

10th March, 1958.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Trans-Antarctic Expedition

Enclosed for information are two copies of the minutes of the 29th meeting of the Committee of Management held on 28th February, 1958.

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Committee)



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Social functions on the return of the Expedition to the UK

2. The Secretary said that on the return of the Expedition it was proposed that all the important festivities organised to welcome them home should take place in the first week of arrival and should consist of:

- (a) A Luncheon given in their honour by the Committee of Management.
- (b) A Reception at the Royal Geographical Society for representatives of all the Firms who have assisted the Expedition on lines similar to the party given just prior to the sailing of the Magga Dan.
- (c) A Civic Luncheon at the Mansion House.

Sir Miles Clifford said that he had already made tentative enquiries asking the Lord Mayor to hold a Civic Luncheon and had been given to understand that such a suggestion would be looked upon favourably. He was asked to write to the Lord Mayor officially as soon as Dr. Fuchs' date of arrival was definite.

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1 AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY,
28TH FEBRUARY 1958.

PRESENT: Sir James Wordie (in the Chair)
Sir Miles Clifford
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
General Sir James Marshall Cornwall
Mr. G.P. Pirie-Gordon
Mr. F.H. Corner (representing Ross Sea Committee)

*Mr. Drake
A.C.*

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr. G.V. Bradie, Australia House
Mr. A.F. Drake, South Africa House
Captain R.B. Honeywill, Film Premiere
Secretary

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

Sir Edwin Herbert
Captain Glen
Professor Read
Mr. M.A. Willis, Colonial Office



The Minutes of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Committee of Management held on 28th January 1958 were approved.

Progress of the Main Party

1. The Secretary reported that Sir Edmund Hillary had joined the Main Party under Dr. Fuchs at Depot 700 and they were now approximately 100 miles from Scott Base. Seismic soundings had been taken along the whole route from Southice to the edge of the Plateau at the head of the Skelton Glacier. It was hoped that the Party would reach Scott Base on 2nd March and would be evacuated in the Endeavour on the 4th or 5th. They would then spend at least two weeks in New Zealand and a suggestion had been made, and conveyed to Dr. Fuchs, that the Air Ministry might be willing to bring the Party home in a Comet. If this did not materialise they would return in the s.s. RANGITOTO leaving Wellington on 12th April.

Social functions on the return of the Expedition to the UK

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Purchase of the Otter

3. The Secretary reported that Admiral Dufek had told Squadron Leader Lewis that he had asked the American Government to purchase the Otter for £70,000 and word from Washington is now awaited.

Finance.

4. The Treasurer reported that the financial position has not materially altered since the last meeting; there is still a deficit of about £30,000 between the United Kingdom and New Zealand but the figures in the Budget do not include:

- (a) Excess royalties on the book
- (b) Net profit from the film
- (c) Receipts from the Film Premiere
- (d) Receipts from lectures
- (e) The sale of one Sno-cat

It was hoped that under these categories a further £29,000 could be realised.

5. The Treasurer said that the Expedition is now overdrawn again for about £150.

6. The Secretary reported that the American manufacturers of the Sno-Cat had offered to purchase one vehicle for the price of a new one less the transport charges. Another would be presented to the British Petroleum Co. who had supplied all the Expedition's fuels and lubricants. Sir Miles Clifford said he felt that BP should be asked to give the Sno-Cat to the Science Museum or some similar institution after they had finished with it.

Film Premiere

7. Captain Honnywill reported that all arrangements for the Film Premiere on 3rd March are in train but a grave situation has arisen because the rules for tax exemption have been revised and the Customs and Excise Authorities have refused to grant the Expedition exemption on the profits of the Film Premiere. This could mean that the Expedition would be liable for as much as £1500. Every effort is being made to have the decision altered and Sir Edwin Herbert is using his influence to this end.

8. The Programme advertisements have sold for £1400 and it is hoped to realise a further £150 from their sale in the cinema. Mrs. Clarke, organising the sale of tickets, has so far realised just over £1100.

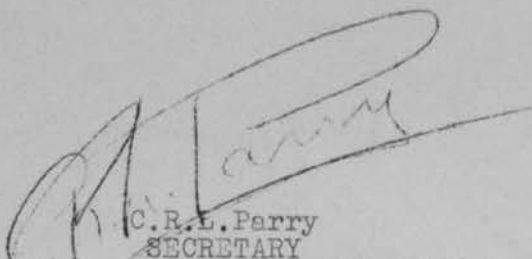
Instructions to Admiral Parry covering his visit to New Zealand.

9. Sir Miles Clifford raised the question of the Committee providing Admiral Parry with official Instructions as a Mandate for his visit to New Zealand. It was agreed that the Secretary should draft this.

Date of next Meeting

10. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should not be fixed until it is known exactly when the Expedition will be arriving home.

The meeting adjourned at 3. 22 p.m.



C.R.E. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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H.E. The Governor of the Falkland Islands
Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

A Meeting of the Committee of Management of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition will be held at 64, Victoria Street at 2-30 p.m. on Friday 28th February.

A G E N D A

1. Progress of Dr. Fuchs' Party.
2. Removal of Party from Antarctica to New Zealand and thence to the United Kingdom.
3. Social functions proposed on arrival in England .
4. Financial statement.
5. Report on arrangements etc., for film premiere.

File

Expedition costs money, and money can be regarded as the "life-blood" of such a venture. It is the object of this Conference to explain the present financial circumstances and the necessity for holding this Film Premiere.

Finance.

The total cost of the Expedition, including both the United Kingdom and New Zealand teams, will come to approximately £500,000. This excludes donations in kind from a wide variety of commercial firms amongst which must be ranked firstly the gift of fuel, lubricants etc., for ships, aircraft and surface vehicles by the British Petroleum Company, also gifts in kind from the British and New Zealand Governments which vary from the seconding of service personnel to - in the case of New Zealand - the use of administrative accommodation in a Government Building.

Government Support

The project has been generously supported by the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Governments as shown below:-

United Kingdom	£100,000
New Zealand	50,000
Australia	20,000
South Africa	18,000

The major portion of the balance, therefore, had to be found from public appeal and other sources. It is, of course, impossible at this stage to forecast what the final expenses will be, but we have a financial gap to be closed of £30,000. Although this Expedition is financially in a substantially better position than all previous comparable ventures, £30,000 is none the less a large sum, and it is in order to reduce this figure as much as possible that we appreciate so much the generosity of the Rank Organisation in giving us the proceeds of this very distinguished Film Premiere.

THE TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Press Hand-out by the Expedition, Thursday 20th March.

Special Message just received from Dr. V.E. Fuchs.

Sitting in a two-man tent, which I now share with Sir Edmund Hillary, at 9,000 feet on the Southern Polar Plateau, it is difficult to think of values in terms of pounds, shillings and pence, but we all know that unless our supporters at home are able to raise a considerable additional sum of money in the next three months, we shall return home to find the Expedition funds insufficient to meet our commitments. It is, therefore, most welcome news to hear that the Film Premiere, "Violent Playground", is to benefit this Trans-Antarctic venture. We believe that the scientific work we have done and continue to do will prove of great interest. All we require to complete it and to ensure that we do not spend another winter here is the continuation of reasonable weather conditions for about another two weeks.

Aims of the Expedition.

Firstly the accomplishment of a great journey never before attempted though previously contemplated. Secondly, the completion of a comprehensive scientific programme which includes topographical and geological survey, physiology, meteorology, the latter being of immense importance to shipping, aviation and whaling activities in the Southern Hemisphere: glaciology will help to ascertain the thickness of the ice.

To launch, maintain and complete such an Expedition costs money, and money can be regarded as the "life-blood" of such a venture. It is the object of this Conference to explain the present financial circumstances and the necessity for holding this Film Premiere.

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Surface Mail

P.S. 16/1

10th February, 1958.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Committee)

Trans-Antarctic Expedition

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A. F. DRAKE

Minister.

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A telegram had been received from a meeting reporting that Geoffrey Pratt, suffering from severe carbon monoxide poisoning and as the Party carry little oxygen and are travelling at high altitudes, it was proposed to take him to sea level as soon as possible. As it was beyond the capacity of the Otter to take off at 10,000 ft. Admiral Dufek had been asked for medical assistance and arrangements were being made to fly in American aircraft. It was hoped that Mr. Pratt would be evacuated and recover quickly enough to rejoin the Party at Depot 700.

Movement of Ships and aircraft from McMurdo Sound

3. The Secretary reported that the Ross Sea Committee had been asked to give details of the probable movement of ships and aircraft from Scott Base to New Zealand and they had replied as follows:

It is hoped that the "Endeavour" will be able to remain as late as 18th March if necessary but her departure is at the Captain's discretion and will depend on existing ice conditions. The American Globemasters will all leave by the end of February and the U.S. ice-breakers will be in Australian waters and the Bellingshausen Sea at the beginning of March.

TRANS ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1. ON
TUESDAY, 28TH JANUARY 1958

PRESENT: Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
Sir Miles Clifford
Sir James Wordie
General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Professor H.H.Read
Mr. A.R.Glen
The Rt.Rev.the Bishop of Portsmouth
Mr. F.Corner (representing Ross Sea Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr.C.G.Johnston (Kemp Chatteris & Co)
Mr Peter Williams (Kemp Chatteris & Co.)
Mr.R.B.Lloyd (representing Mr. Pirie-Gordon)
Captain R.B.Honnywill (Film Premiere Sec)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

Sir Edwin Herbert
Mr.G.P.Pirie-Gordon

The Minutes of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Committee of Management held on 13th January 1958 were approved.

Progress of Dr. Fuchs' Party

1. The Secretary reported that Dr. Fuchs had left the Pole on January 24th in bad weather conditions and during the first three days he had travelled 25 35 and 45 miles respectively. The Party was now approximately 150 miles out from the Pole. The Sno-Cats were doing well over soft surfaces but the fuel consumption had gone up.

2. A telegram had been received just before the meeting reporting that Geoffrey Pratt, Seismologist, was suffering from severe carbon monoxide poisoning and as the Party carry little oxygen and are travelling at high altitudes, it was proposed to take him to sea level as soon as possible. As it was beyond the capacity of the Otter to take off at 10,000 ft. Admiral Dufek had been asked for medical assistance and arrangements were being made to fly in American aircraft. It was hoped that Mr. Pratt would be evacuated and recover quickly enough to rejoin the Party at Depot 700.

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4. Sqd. Ldr. Lewis is investigating the possibilities of bringing the Otter out inside a Globemaster and enquiries are being made regarding the insurances resulting from such an operation.

Removal of Assets

5. The Secretary reported that the problem of bringing out Expedition equipment is being investigated. B.P. are most anxious to have one of the Sno-Cats for exhibition and test purposes and this will be arranged if practicable. Sir Miles Clifford suggested that the makers, Tuckers of Oregon, should be asked if they would like to take one - it being made clear that they would have to bear all shipping expenses. The Secretary said that Captain Kirkwood had been asked whether it would be possible to bring out one or two as deck cargo in the "Endeavour".

Film Premiere

6. Captain Honnywill reported that he is in close touch with the J. Arthur Rank Organisation over arrangements for the Film Premiere to be held in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh on 3rd March. Mrs. Madge Clarke has been engaged to organise the sale of tickets and a Committee Meeting to this end is being convened by her to meet at the English Speaking Union on 11th February. A Souvenir Programme is being prepared which will contain photographs and thumbnail sketches of members of the Expedition and will carry advertisements. The first opportunity of booking space is being offered to those firms who have assisted the Expedition. The Band of the Royal Marines will attend and the Guard of Honour for H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh will be provided by the Royal Marine Volunteer Reserve.

7. The names of those who will form the Premiere Committee will be supplied to Mrs. Clarke from the Expedition Office and the Committee authorised Sir Miles Clifford and Mr. Glen to co-ordinate the list.

8. A suggestion has been made that a New Zealand film about the Antarctic should also be shown on this occasion. This matter will be investigated.

9. Tax exemption has been applied for and is at present under consideration by the Customs & Excise authorities.

Finance

10. Mr. Johnston said that at the last meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee it was appreciated that if Dr. Fuchs' Party had to overwinter at Scott it would entail considerable additional expenditure - possibly in the nature of £12,000, without the cost of chartering a ship to bring them out to New Zealand. In view of the financial problems which may arise the Treasurer has written to the Treasurer of the Ross Sea Committee asking for up to date figures of the financial position in New Zealand.

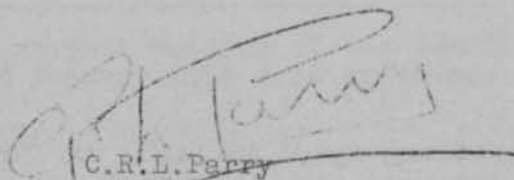
Visit to New Zealand of members of the Committee

11 It was reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had agreed that two members of the Committee of Management should go to New Zealand to welcome Dr. Fuchs back from the Antarctic. Sir Miles Clifford said that he would be available to represent the Committee after March 21st. It was decided that if Dr. Fuchs arrived in New Zealand later than this, Sir Miles and Admiral Parry would represent the Committee in welcoming him - if he reached New Zealand earlier Admiral Parry would go there alone for this purpose.

Date of next meeting

12. The next meeting of the Committee of Management will take place at 64 Victoria Street on Friday, the 28th February 1958 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12.5 p.m.


C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee

PRESS CUTTING.

From STATE INFORMATION OFFICE Dated 22ND JAN., 1958
BULLETIN

FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN TO REACH SOUTH POLE

Newspaper the Day : 22/1/58.

The first South African ever to set foot at the South Pole is Mr. J. J. le Grange who is in charge of meteorological observations with Dr. Vivian Fuchs's party. Mr. le Grange has been in the Antarctic since 1956 making observations of the weather systems of the Southern Ocean. His "next-door neighbour" at Little America, near McMurdo Sound, has been another South African, Mr. H. van Loon. (Mr. van Loon is a map analyst and his present work is associated with International Geophysical Year investigations).

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition held at 64 Victoria Street S.W.1. on Friday, 20th December at 11. am.

PRESENT: Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
Mr G.P.Pirie-Gordon
Mr A.R.Glen
Mr L.Brooks
Professor H.H.Read
Sqd Ldr W. Hampton
Dr N.A.Mackintosh
General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Mr. D. Kirwan
Sir James Wordie
Sir Raymond Priestley
Mr F. Corner (representing the Ross Sea Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr P Williams (Kemp Chatteris & Co.)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

Sir Miles Clifford
The Rt Rev the Bishop of Portsmouth
Sir Edwin Herbert

The Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting held on 18th December 1956 were approved

Report of the Committee of Management.

1. The Report of the Committee of Management and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st October 1957 were tabled and discussed in detail. The Treasurer said that according to the latest available figures there is an apparent deficit in New Zealand of about £19,000 but against this the Expedition's residual assets are estimated to be in the region of £40,000 if all goes well.

2. It had been reported that the Public Appeal, in New Zealand was shortly to be officially closed, but the Treasurer said that while he fully appreciated the difficulties of asking for more money in New Zealand, he had written to the Treasurer of the Ross Sea Committee pointing out that in the United Kingdom if an Appeal is officially closed it is no longer possible to accept any further donations which may be made. If the same rules apply in New Zealand he suggested that while no further active efforts should be made to raise funds, the Appeal could perhaps remain "open" in case the resurgence of interest now that the Expedition is in the field should produce any offerings to its funds. He pointed out that per capita New Zealand had in fact done better than the UK.

3. Discussing the Statement of Accounts Mr. Corner pointed out that the New Zealand deficit is magnified until it is realised that certain revenues shown as assets in the UK accounts are actually derived from sources which cover both countries. To meet this point it was agreed that the following Note should be inserted in the accounts: "Attention is drawn to the fact that revenue listed above should be regarded as being derived from the Expedition's joint efforts in this country and in New Zealand." It was then proposed by Sir James Marshall-Cornwall and seconded by Professor Read that the Report be accepted and the Accounts passed. Carried.

Election to the Committee of Management

4. The following three members of the Committee of Management, being eligible for re-election and being willing to stand, the following proposals were made:

Sir Edwin Herbert to be re-elected to the Committee
Proposed by the Chairman
Seconded by Sir James Wordie

Mr. Pirie-Gordon to be re-elected to the Committee
Proposed by Sqd. Ldr. Hampton
Seconded by Mr. Glen

General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall to be re-elected to the Committee
Proposed by Sir James Wordie
Seconded by Professor Read.

Each proposal was carried unanimously.

Auditors' remuneration

5. It was reported that Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris & Co. were willing to remain in office as Auditors to the Expedition and the Treasurer pointed out that in addition to the Annual Audit they also handled the accounting of all Expedition salaries. He therefore proposed that their annual remuneration should be £577:10:0. This was seconded by Sir James Marshall-Cornwall and carried unanimously.

Progress of Dr. Fuchs' Party

6. The Deputy Secretary reported that the Main Party were now nearing South Ice but had suffered constant set-backs, firstly owing to badly crevassed terrain which had on occasion limited their progress to as little as two miles per day, and latterly by white-out conditions which made any advance impossible. In one crevassed area in a distance of one mile there were 98 flags marking danger spots. Despite their difficulties, however, the Party had saved nine days on the original vehicle reconnaissance journey and Dr. Fuchs hoped that the terrain would improve after South Ice and they would be able to make up for lost time. It was intended to spend three days at South Ice servicing vehicles, picking up supplies and re-adjusting sledge loads, and the R.A.F. contingent now providing air support from Shackleton would fly the Otter across to Scott when the Ground Party were two days out from South Ice. It was also reported that very friendly relations had been maintained with the American I.G.Y. Party at Ellsworth station, who had co-operated in many ways and it was probable that after South Ice had been evacuated it might be used by the Americans for a short time as a ground control point for their seismic soundings in the area. The Secretary was instructed to send a message of Christmas greetings to the Expedition, and a message of appreciation to the Commander of Ellsworth Station.

Progress of Sir Edmund Hillary's Party

7. The Deputy Secretary said that the New Zealand Party left Scott on 14th. October and having made rapid progress was now nearing Depot 700, which was its final objective. The Chairman told the meeting that Sir Edmund had asked permission of the Ross Sea Committee to go further South to the Pole if time permitted and the concurrence of the Committee of Management to the proposal had been sought. He then read out the telegrams which had been exchanged and said that it had been conveyed to New Zealand that provided the first object of the Expedition - the crossing of the continent by the Main Party - was in no way jeopardised and that Dr. Fuchs was consulted and approved the scheme, the Committee of Management would have no objection and wished Sir Edmund the best of luck in any attempt to reach the Pole. The Deputy Secretary reported that the Ross Sea Committee had authorised Sir Edmund to go forward with the provisos asked for by the Committee of Management, and provided he could do so within his existing resources.

Press Correspondents at the Pole

8. The Deputy Secretary said that there is now maximum world-wide Press interest in the Expedition, and the pressure on the office is maintained round the clock. The Daily Mail has succeeded in getting a correspondent to the Pole and The Times are now anxious about the exclusiveness of any material which they may receive which might jeopardise their syndication interests. They are considering the feasibility of sending a photographer with a wire picture transmitter to the Pole. Mr. Douglas Mackenzie, who is the New Zealand Press correspondent with Sir Edmund Hillary's Party officially accredited by the Ross Sea Committee, has been asked to send a limited amount of exclusive material to The Times. It is now obvious that with American planes flying constantly between McMurdo Sound and the Pole Station and the tremendous interest evoked in the arrival of either Party at the Pole, it will be virtually impossible to provide very much material exclusively to either The Times or the B.B.C., both of which have special interests in the Expedition. The B.B.C. are endeavouring to set up a direct link with the American Pole Station and the New Zealand Committee are making every effort to ensure that news of the arrival of each Party at the Pole will be first reported through Scott Base and Commonwealth sources.

Press Publicity

9. Some members of the Committee felt that too much sensationalism was surrounding the reports in the Press and that it should be brought to the notice of the public that the Expedition was undertaking a serious scientific programme. The Deputy Secretary said that this was constantly stressed on every possible occasion, but as it did not constitute "news" for the average reader the newspapers did not print the material supplied, and there was no way of making them do so. The Daily Mail has agreed to publish a feature article on the scientific aims of the Expedition soon after Christmas.

10. The Committee deplored the Press Treatment of Sir Edmund Hillary's proposed journey to the Pole with its suggestion of aggressive competition between the two Parties. The Deputy Secretary said that everything possible was being done, both in the United Kingdom and in New Zealand, to

counteract this. The Chairman of the Ross Sea Committee had made a public statement reiterating the main objects of the Expedition and the part assigned to the New Zealand Party, and stressed repeatedly that there is no competition between the two and no question of a race for the Pole. The same principles are being constantly given by this office in an effort to give the Press a proper perspective. Newspapers are already seeking guidance and asking for official comments on Sir Edmund's activities, and it is hoped that the first rather sensational re-actions to his journey will soon be modified.

Publication of New Zealand Scientific results

11. Professor Read, Chairman of the Scientific Sub-Committee, reported that the Ross Sea Committee is anxious to publish its own results on the marine biology carried out in McMurdo Sound last season, whereas the Scientific Sub-Committee had recommended that all scientific results emanating from the Expedition should be pooled and published collectively. It was agreed that the marine biology carried out from Scott Base could reasonably be considered as primarily a New Zealand concern, but it was hoped that it might be possible to postpone a final decision on the matter until Dr. Fuchs himself reached New Zealand and could discuss it with the Ross Sea Committee. Dr. Mackintosh suggested that the results should be written up in New Zealand forthwith pending a decision during April.

Lecture fees

12. The Deputy Secretary reported that Mr. R.H.A. Stewart of the Advance Party, who had been giving lectures on behalf of the Expedition, had waived the proportion of the fees to which he was entitled. The Committee expressed their appreciation of his gesture, and the Deputy Secretary was instructed to convey their grateful thanks to Mr. Stewart.

The meeting adjourned at 13.10 p.m.

Eleanor Henrywell

p.p. C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY (sick).
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Distribution:

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Ross Sea Committee

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1 ON
MONDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1958

PRESENT: Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
Sir Miles Clifford
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Mr. A.R.Glen
Professor H.H.Read
Sir Edwin Herbert
Sir James Wordie
Mr. P.G.Pirie-Gordon
Mr. F. Corner (representing Ross Sea
Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr. M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
Mr. J.A.G.Banks (Commonwealth Relations
Office)
Mr. A.F.Drake (South Africa House)
Mr. O. Davies (Australia House)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall

1. The Chairman said that he had called this emergency meeting because the Main Party under Dr. Fuchs was now approaching the Pole where the final decision about continuing or abandoning the Expedition would have to be made and he felt that the Committee ought to send Dr. Fuchs a message either of advice or support - more particularly in view of the world Press controversy which had raged ever since Sir Edmund Hillary's message to the Committee of Management had unfortunately "leaked" in a news room in Wellington. Since then there had been a great deal of adverse publicity both in this country and in New Zealand and he felt the Committee should not allow the Leader to arrive at the Pole to be subjected to Press pressure and criticism without some firm guidance as to their views. To this end he tabled copies of a suggested draft message to be sent to Dr. Fuchs.

2. A long and full discussion followed during which Mr. Glen and Sir Edwin Herbert pressed the view that while it was essential that a message should go to Dr. Fuchs he should not be burdened with a lengthy communication nor confused with too much operational advice. It was felt that if air cover from the Otter could be provided and dog teams could be assembled over at least part of the route from the Pole to Scott Base, these might constitute an emergency life-line in case of total mechanical breakdown.

3. The Chairman said that he had already cabled Mr. Bowden suggesting that as a precautionary measure Sir Edmund Hillary might be asked to look into the possibility of assembling the dog teams at some suitable point, preferably Depot 700.

4. The Secretary said that Squadron Leader Lewis had been asked to report on how late in the season he felt able to fly the Otter with safety and he had replied that the concensus of opinion in McMurdo Sound was that the 'plane could fly up to the middle of February but after that it was impossible to guarantee either a safe landing or a take-off from the Plateau. He also reported that if the Otter was to be evacuated this year it must sail in an American ship leaving McMurdo Sound on 25th January.

Alternatively he was making plans to winter it at the Base. He proposed to evacuate the three other members of the RAF contingent and would either remain with the Otter himself if so instructed, or could hand it over to an RNZAF relief Party which is being flown in to take over from the RNZAF contingent now at the Base.

5. . . . The Committee agreed that under no circumstances must the Otter be sent out as early as January 25th and that Squadron Leader Lewis should be instructed to make arrangements to winter it at Scott.

6. It was stated that according to Press reports from McMurdo Sound there is a great deal of unofficial American pressure that Dr. Fuchs should allow the Main Party to be flown out from the Pole owing to the lateness of the season and Mr. Glen made the point that when the Expedition was originally conceived there had been no thought of an American Station at the Pole and it had always been accepted that a journey beginning from the Weddell Sea would end at the Ross Sea. It was for this reason that a strong New Zealand Support Party had been organised and he did not feel that there was any necessity to rely on American air coverage. Nothing could ever be accomplished in Polar regions without accepting an element of risk and he saw no cause for panic in this situation. Sir Edmund Herbert said he felt that we all lived far too close to newspapers. From reports of Dr. Fuchs' progress it seemed clear that he remained calm and unflurried - he was continuing his full scientific programme and stopping for vehicle maintenance as planned. These were not the actions of an over-anxious or harried Leader and Sir Edwin felt that at the present time the Committee were not called upon to deal with an "emergency". He would like a very short message to be sent to Dr. Fuchs merely giving him any operational information available which the Committee might feel he had not already received together with a reiteration of the confidence they continued to feel in his good sense and responsible judgement.

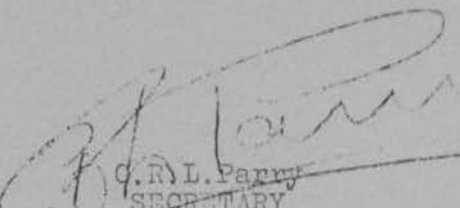
7. After further discussion the following message was drafted and the Secretary was asked to send it to await Dr. Fuchs' arrival at the Pole.

"FUCHS SCOTT BASE WELLINGTON
VIC/483 FIRST TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING FINAL
DECISION YOU WILL WISH TO KNOW THAT LEWIS
CONSIDERS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT ON ABILITY
TO LAND ON OR TAKE OFF FROM PLATEAU AFTER MID
FEBRUARY STOP
SECOND HILLARY HAS BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER
POSSIBILITY OF ASSEMBLING FOUR DOG TEAMS AT D700
AS EMERGENCY RESERVE INCASE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE
WITH VEHICLES AFTER D700 STOP
THIRD OTTER WILL REMAIN SCOTT
ALTHOUGH THIS MEANS LEAVING IT THERE FOR WINTER
STOP
FOURTH WE REITERATE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOU
AND OUR SUPPORT IN WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO
STOP YOUR DECISION SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED
BY ANY CONSIDERATIONS PRESTIGE OR POSSIBLE
FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

SLESSOR"

8. The next Meeting of the Committee of Management will be held at 64 Victoria Street on Tuesday, 28th January 1958 at 11.30 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.


C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE 26TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1 ON
6TH JANUARY 1958 AT 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Sir James Wordie (in the Chair)
Sir Edwin Herbert
Mr. Pirie-Gordon
Mr. A.R.Glen
Sir Miles Clifford
Mr. F. Corner (Representing Ross Sea
Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED Mr. M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
Mr. J.A.G. Banks (C.R.O)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Rt.Rev.The Bishop of Portsmouth
General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
Professor H.H.Read

The Minutes of the 25th Meeting of the Committee of
Management held on 27th November 1957 were approved.

Film Premiere

1. Sir Miles Clifford reminded the Committee that many months ago the Finance Sub-Committee had reported that the J. Arthur Rank Organisation were willing to hold a Film Premiere in aid of Expedition funds. The understanding was that they would be entirely responsible for its organisation. The date had been fixed for 3rd March and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh had promised to attend. It now transpired that there was some misunderstanding and the Expedition must assume responsibility for the sale of tickets and the production of the Souvenir Programme.
2. The Secretary said that with the publicity at present directed on the Expedition it was impossible for the office to undertake any additional work in connection with the Premiere and indeed selling tickets for such an occasion required specialised knowledge and contacts.
3. After a full discussion it was agreed that the Expedition should secure the services of a professional social organiser to undertake the sale of tickets. It was also suggested that in order to provide a liaison between the office, the Rank Organisation and the Ticket selling agency, the National Association for Mental Health should be asked to release Captain Tuck for a short period to deal with any work connected with the Premiere. Mr. Corner promised that the P.R.O. department at New Zealand House would give assistance if required.
4. The further organisation of this Film Premiere was referred to the Finance Sub-Committee with authority to make what arrangements they felt to be suitable and to engage any additional staff required.

5. Financial Statement

The Treasurer reported that a revised Financial Statement has been received from New Zealand and this shows the deficit that end to be only £17,000. The U.K. deficit is now estimated at £14,000. A full summary of the Statement was tabled and discussed in detail.

Otter's Flight to Scott Base.

6. The Secretary reported that Squadron Leader Lewis made an attempt to fly the Otter from South Ice to Scott Base on 29th December 1957 but had to turn back after 3½ hours as the plane began to ice up. He had reported that he would remain at South Ice until 14th January hoping for a clear day but after that he would have to consider getting the R.A.F. contingent out through the American Station at Ellsworth. He had sufficient fuel for one more attempt.

7. A message had just been received that the Otter had left South Ice for the second time at 11 p.m. last night and was expected at Scott Base in two hours time. Later during the meeting a telegram arrived to say that she had landed safely at Scott. The Committee were very pleased at the news of this successful achievement and the Secretary was asked to send the R.A.F. contingent a message of congratulations and good wishes.

Progress of the Main Party.

8. The Secretary said that the news of the progress of the Main Party was now coming out from Wellington and the Press reports were very conflicting but he thought that Dr. Fuchs was now about 300 miles from the Pole averaging 30 miles a day. He then read two cables which had just been received the texts of which are quoted below:-

" TO CHAIRMAN LONDON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.
COPY TO CHAIRMAN ROSS SEA COMMITTEE.

FUCHS ON SUNDAY MORNING WAS 357 MILES FROM THE POLE IN HEAVY SASTRUGI AND DOING REPAIRS TO A WEASSEL. ADVISED THAT THE OTTER REPORTED A VERY HIGH RIDGE COVERED WITH ENORMOUS SASTRUGI AT ABOUT 87 DEGREES SOUTH. ALTHOUGH HE HOPES WITH REASONABLE LUCK TO BE AT THE POLE BY JANUARY 20TH THIS WILL REQUIRE A MUCH HIGHER AVERAGE THAN HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN. HAVE EXPRESSED MY VIEW TO FUCHS THAT WITH EXTREME DELAY IN HIS PROGRAMME AND THE FURNISHMENT HIS VEHICLES ARE SUSTAINING THAT HE WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE ON OVER THE 1250 MILES TO SCOTT BASE THIS SEASON. THIS JOURNEY COULD ONLY BE DONE AT CONSIDERABLE RISK TO MEN AND AT THE SACRIFICE OF ANY EFFECTIVE SEISMIC PROGRAMME. I SUGGESTED THAT HE WINTER HIS VEHICLES AT THE SOUTH POLE, THAT HIS PARTY BE EVACUATED BY AIR, AND THAT IN NOVEMBER THEY FLY IN AGAIN TO THE POLE IN AMPLE TIME TO RECONDITION THEIR VEHICLES AND COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEY WITH FULL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ADMIRAL DUFEK WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO ASSIST IN THIS AS FUCHS DOES NOT REALISE THAT HIS DELAYED PROGRESS IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CONCERN NOT ONLY TO OURSELVES BUT ALSO TO THE AMERICANS. THEY ACCEPT THE FACT THAT IT WILL BE THEIR JOB WHETHER THEY ARE ASKED OR NOT TO INITIATE RESCUE ACTION AND THAT THEREFORE BOTH NAVAL AND AIR FORCES WILL BE TIED UP HERE AWAITING FUCHS SAFE ARRIVAL. ALTHOUGH FUCHS REQUESTED THAT ONE OF MY MECHANICS ACCOMPANY HIM FROM THE POLE TO SCOTT BASE NEITHER OF MY MEN, WHO HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB, IS PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS JOB WHICH THEY REGARD AS EXTREMELY FOOLHARDY AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. WHEN I ADVISED

"FUCHS OF MY VIEWS, HE REPLIED MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER, AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF DETERMINED TO GO ON DESPITE ALL. ALTHOUGH FUCHS WAS ANXIOUS FOR ME TO TRAVEL WITH HIM FROM THE POLE I HAVE ADVISED HIM THAT RATHER THAN WAIT SEVERAL WEEKS INACTIVE AT THE POLE I WOULD RETURN TO SCOTT BASE AND GET ON WITH MY JOB AND THEN JOIN HIM AT ONE OF THE DEPOTS. TO MY MIND ENOUGH PRESTIGE WILL HAVE BEEN GAINED BY THE ARRIVAL OF FUCHS AND OURSELVES AT THE SOUTH POLE TO ENABLE A MODIFICATION OF THE PLAN TO ALLOW THE TASK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A REASONABLE AND SAFE MANNER OVER A TWO YEAR PERIOD WHEREAS A FORCED MARCH LATE IN THE SEASON COULD WELL CAUSE MOST UNFAVOURABLE PUBLICITY. YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE THE ONLY THING THAT CAN ENABLE FUCHS TO SAVE FACE AND ADOPT A MODIFIED PLAN SO I WOULD EARNESTLY REQUEST THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE THIS MATTER ITS EARLIEST CONSIDERATION
HILLARY"

" TO CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

HAVE RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM HILLARY URGING ME TO ABANDON JOURNEY AT POLE AND RETURN THERE NEXT SEASON TO CONTINUE WORK. HIS GROUNDS ARE DETERIORATION WEATHER LATE IN SEASON. I AM AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY WHICH MUST BE ACCEPTED. HAVE INFORMED HIM THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ABANDONMENT AND RETURN OF PARTY FOLLOWING SEASON IMPRACTICABLE. HE DOES NOT WISH TO JOIN US D700. HE STATES HIS AGREEMENT WITH HIS MECHANICS VIEWS THAT CONTINUATION OF JOURNEY LATE IN SEASON IS UNJUSTIFIABLE RISK. I DO NOT AGREE BUT HAVE INFORMED HIM THAT I DO NOT FEEL ABLE TO ASK HIM TO JOIN US AT D700 TO USE HIS LOCAL KNOWLEDGE BUT MUST FIND OUR OWN WAY OUT.
FUCHS"

9. The Committee realised that there is now a definite difference of opinion between Dr. Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary and discussed in detail the implications of these messages. It was felt unanimously that although Sir Edmund had made his recommendation with the best intentions, they were based on the experience of one journey to the Pole made in farm tractors never designed for the purpose, and that Dr. Fuchs had a long record of successful Antarctic travel behind him and was best fitted to judge the consequences of continuing his journey to Scott. They felt that he was a man well fitted to make responsible decisions in the face of difficulties and it was for this reason that he had been chosen to lead the Expedition. If at any time he felt that the risks of going on were no longer acceptable he could be trusted to say so and until he did this the Committee would support him wholeheartedly and unequivocally in his decisions. As it was now obviously necessary that cables should be sent in the Chairman's name, Sir John Slessor was contacted and asked to come to the meeting immediately. He arrived and took over the Chair. The Secretary was asked to send Dr. Fuchs the following message with copies to Mr. Bowden and Sir Edmund Hillary.

" TO FUCHS SHACKLETON MOBILE HALLYBAY PORTSTANLEY

COMMITTEE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR TELEGRAM AND HILLARYS 5/1610Z STOP WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN YOU AND YOUR JUDGEMENT AS LEADER OF THE EXPEDITION STOP WE SUPPORT YOUR DECISION AND ANY OTHER YOU MAY MAKE STOP COPY THIS TELEGRAM BEING SENT TO HILLARY AND BOWDEN STOP BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS ON PRESENT PROGRESS

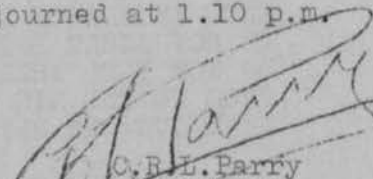
SLESSOR "

He was also asked to thank Sir Edmund for his message and to assure him that the Committee had given full weight to his views but that they intended to support any decisions made by Dr. Fuchs as overall Leader of the Expedition.

10. It was agreed that the exchange of these messages should be treated as highly confidential and Mr. Cornor undertook to send them to New Zealand in cypher through Government channels.

11. The Committee then discussed the implications of the suggestion now made that the Main Party might be in difficulties if they found themselves travelling on the Plateau late in the season. It was unanimously felt that in such an event the responsibilities of the Support Party were correspondingly increased and the Chairman undertook to send a personal message to Mr. Bowden asking him to instruct those at Scott Base to make plans for any foreseeable eventuality. Those present felt quite confident that the Ross Sea Committee who have always co-operated so wholeheartedly with the London Committee would continue to do everything possible to ensure the success of the trans-continental journey.

The Meeting adjourned at 1.10 p.m.


C. B. L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee

NOTE: FOR INFORMATION

Mrs. Madge Clarke has been engaged to organise the sale of tickets for the Film Premiere. It was not possible for Captain Tuck to undertake the liaison work but Captain Honnywill has been engaged for this purpose for a period of approximately two months.

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT HELD AT 64 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1 ON
MONDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1958

PRESENT: Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
Sir Miles Clifford
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Mr. A.R.Glen
Professor H.H.Read
Sir Edwin Herbert
Sir James Wordie
Mr. P.G.Pirie-Gordon
Mr. F. Corner (representing Ross Sea
Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED: Mr M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
Mr. J.A.G.Banks (Commonwealth Relations
Office)
Mr. A.F.Drake (South Africa House)
Mr. O. Davies (Australia House)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall

1. The Chairman said that he had called this emergency meeting because the Main Party under Dr. Fuchs was now approaching the Pole where the final decision about continuing or abandoning the Expedition would have to be made and he felt that the Committee ought to send Dr. Fuchs a message either of advice or support - more particularly in view of the world Press controversy which had raged ever since Sir Edmund Hillary's message to the Committee of Management had unfortunately "leaked" in a news room in Wellington. Since then there had been a great deal of adverse publicity both in this country and in New Zealand and he felt the Committee should not allow the Leader to arrive at the Pole to be subjected to Press pressure and criticism without some firm guidance as to their views. To this end he tabled copies of a suggested draft message to be sent to Dr. Fuchs.
2. A long and full discussion followed during which Mr. Glen and Sir Edwin Herbert pressed the view that while it was essential that a message should go to Dr. Fuchs he should not be burdened with a lengthy communication nor confused with too much operational advice. It was felt that if air cover from the Otter could be provided and dog teams could be assembled over at least part of the route from the Pole to Scott Base, these might constitute an emergency life-line in case of total mechanical breakdown.
3. The Chairman said that he had already cabled Mr. Bowden suggesting that as a precautionary measure Sir Edmund Hillary might be asked to look into the possibility of assembling the dog teams at some suitable point, preferably Depot 700.
4. The Secretary said that Squadron Leader Lewis had been asked to report on how late in the season he felt able to fly the Otter with safety and he had replied that the concensus of opinion in McMurdo Sound was that the 'plane could fly up to the middle of February but after that it was impossible to guarantee either a safe landing or a take-off from the Plateau. He also reported that if the Otter was to be evacuated this year it must sail in an American ship leaving McMurdo Sound on 25th January.

Alternatively he was making plans to winter it at the Base. He proposed to evacuate the three other members of the RAF contingent and would either remain with the Otter himself if so instructed, or could hand it over to an RNZAF relief Party which is being flown in to take over from the RNZAF contingent now at the Base.

5. The Committee agreed that under no circumstances must the Otter be sent out as early as January 25th and that Squadron Leader Lewis should be instructed to make arrangements to winter it at Scott.

6. It was stated that according to Press reports from McMurdo Sound there is a great deal of unofficial American pressure that Dr. Fuchs should allow the Main Party to be flown out from the Pole owing to the lateness of the season and Mr. Glen made the point that when the Expedition was originally conceived there had been no thought of an American Station at the Pole and it had always been accepted that a journey beginning from the Weddell Sea would end at the Ross Sea. It was for this reason that a strong New Zealand Support Party had been organised and he did not feel that there was any necessity to rely on American air coverage. Nothing could ever be accomplished in Polar regions without accepting an element of risk and he saw no cause for panic in this situation. Sir Edmund Herbert said he felt that we all lived far too close to newspapers. From reports of Dr. Fuchs' progress it seemed clear that he remained calm and unflurried - he was continuing his full scientific programme and stopping for vehicle maintenance as planned. These were not the actions of an over-anxious or harried Leader and Sir Edwin felt that at the present time the Committee were not called upon to deal with an "emergency". He would like a very short message to be sent to Dr. Fuchs merely giving him any operational information available which the Committee might feel he had not already received together with a reiteration of the confidence they continued to feel in his good sense and responsible judgement.

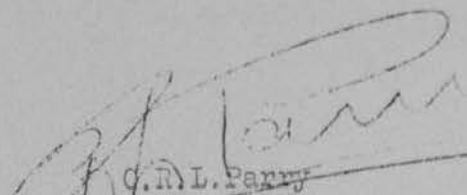
7. After further discussion the following message was drafted and the Secretary was asked to send it to await Dr. Fuchs' arrival at the Pole.

"FUCHS SCOTT BASE WELLINGTON
VIC/483 FIRST TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING FINAL
DECISION YOU WILL WISH TO KNOW THAT LEWIS
CONSIDERS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT ON ABILITY
TO LAND ON OR TAKE OFF FROM PLATEAU AFTER MID
FEBRUARY STOP
SECOND HILLARY HAS BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER
POSSIBILITY OF ASSEMBLING FOUR DOG TEAMS AT D700
AS EMERGENCY RESERVE INCASE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE
WITH VEHICLES AFTER D700 STOP
THIRD OTTER WILL REMAIN SCOTT
ALTHOUGH THIS MEANS LEAVING IT THERE FOR WINTER
STOP
FOURTH WE REITERATE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOU
AND OUR SUPPORT IN WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO
STOP YOUR DECISION SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED
BY ANY CONSIDERATIONS PRESTIGE OR POSSIBLE
FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

SLESSOR"

8. The next Meeting of the Committee of Management will be held at 64 Victoria Street on Tuesday, 28th January 1958 at 11.30 a.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.


C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

DISTRIBUTION

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H.E. The Governor of the Falkland Islands
Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee

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By 30

HIGH COMMISSIONER SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE TRAFALGAR SQUARE
W.C.2.

URGENT EMERGENCY MEETING TRANSANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION WILL BE HELD
64 VICTORIA ST 11.30 AM MONDAY 13TH JANUARY =

tee)

= SECRETARY **

Handwritten mark

Handwritten signature

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C
C

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Sir Edwin Herbert
Sir Miles Clifford

The Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Committee of Management held on 6th March 1957 were approved.

Progress of Dr. Fuchs' Party.

1. The Secretary reported that the Main Party of the Expedition left Shackleton on the trans-antarctic journey on Sunday 24th November. This Party consists of eight men under the leadership of Dr. Fuchs, travelling in three Sno-Cats, three Weasels and the Muskeg tractor hauling between them twenty tons of stores.

2. On October 8th Dr. Fuchs had left Shackleton to lead a vehicle reconnaissance Party of four men in one Sno-Cat and three Weasels to establish a safe route as far as South Ice. This journey had proved very much more difficult than had been envisaged - the distance between the Bases by air is 280 miles but to reach South Ice the ground Party had covered 400 miles, 69 of which were through badly crevassed areas. One Weasel broke down only 10 miles out from Shackleton and was returned. A second broke a camshaft and ran its big end after 200 miles and had to be abandoned. The sledges which these vehicles had been hauling were transferred to the Sno-Cat which finally arrived at South Ice after a journey lasting 37 days pulling 6 tons.

3. Four men are already at South Ice with the two dog teams which were flown in to the Shackleton Range during October where they were used for survey and geological work in that area, and also to reconnoitre a safe vehicle route through an area known to be heavily crevassed. The four men comprising the RAF contingent will remain based at Shackleton to provide air support until the crossing Party are safely past South Ice and on their way to the Pole. The Directorate of Surveys has made a map of the route to South Ice based on a telegram from Dr. Fuchs, and copies will be circulated.

Return of the Auster to the United Kingdom.

4. Squadron Leader Lewis has reported that the Auster has been of inestimable value to the Expedition

Dist. Co. (S) Dept. of Ad. Gp. 1068

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Committee of Management held at 64 Victoria Street S.W.1 on 27th November 1957 at 11.30.am.

PRESENT Sir John Slessor (Chairman)
 General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall
 Sir James Wordie
 Professor H.H.Read
 Mr. A.R.Glén
 Mr. G.P.Pirie-Gordon
 Mr. F. Corner (representing Ross Sea Committee)

ALSO ATTENDED Mr. G.V.Bradie (Australia House)
 Mr. A.F.Drake (South Africa House)
 Mr. M.A.Willis (Colonial Office)
 Mr. C.G.Johnston (Kemp Chatteris & Co)
 Mr. P. Williams (Kemp Chatteris & Co.)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Portsmouth
Sir Edwin Herbert
Sir Miles Clifford

The Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Committee of Management held on 6th March 1957 were approved.

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Return of the Auster to the United Kingdom.

4. Squadron Leader Lewis has reported that the Auster has been of inestimable value to the Expedition

problems resulting from their connection with the Expedition. For the last six weeks a telephone circuit has been open to Shackleton twice a week which has been a great aid to morale at home and of much value to those at Shackleton.

Lectures, Articles Radio Talks etc.

10. The Secretary reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had discussed the question of fees for articles, talks etc. and it had been decided to defer the question of lectures until next year, and to use the scale of fees operated by the Everest Expedition as a basis for discussion. The Sub-Committee wished to recommend to the Committee of Management that for articles, broadcast talks etc. all expenses should be deducted from the fees and the net profit shared equally between the author and the Expedition. They further recommend that the Committee should reserve the right to vary this rule in exceptional circumstances, and that the Ross Sea Committee should be informed of this decision with a view to making similar arrangements with the New Zealand members of the Expedition.

11. Discussing the official book to be written by the two leaders, the Secretary reported that the publishers insist that, in order to catch the Christmas market, the typescript, photographs and maps should be available to them by the end of June next year. In order to meet this deadline it will be necessary to protect Dr. Fuchs from other demands and commitments until the book is finished. Two lectures have been accepted for him - at the Royal Geographical Society on 9th June and at the Festival Hall on 11th June when it is hoped that The Queen will be present. There is also a tentative suggestion that he should lecture to the Scottish Royal Geographical Society during June but this is not confirmed.

The remainder of the Agenda concerned only the Committee of Management and the Accountants - the others present left the Meeting.

Ballot for re-election to the Committee.

12. The Secretary stated that in order to comply with the Company rules set out in the Articles of Association, it was necessary that three members of the Committee should submit themselves for re-election. As all members were willing to do this, names were drawn by ballot and Sir Edwin Herbert, Sir James Wordie and Mr. Pirie-Gordon will be proposed for re-election at the Annual General Meeting to be held in December.

Presentation of Annual Accounts.

13. The Treasurer tabled a Financial Statement and Balance Sheet which were discussed in detail, the Committee hearing explanations and comments from the Treasurer and Mr. Johnson of Messrs. Kemp Chatteris & Co. the Expedition Accountants and Auditors.

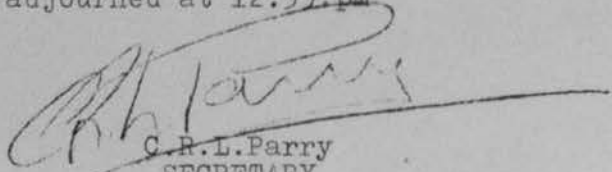
14. The Treasurer presented the Report of the Committee of Management which will be published with the Accounts. With one amendment in the wording Mr. Pirie-Gordon proposed and Mr. Glen seconded that the Report be adopted. Carried.

15. The Chairman said he was most satisfied with the way in which the Finance Sub-Committee have administered the Expedition funds and on behalf of the Committee he expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Sub-Committee and the Accountants.

Date of next Meeting.

16. The next meeting of the Committee will be called when it is considered to be necessary and those concerned will be informed accordingly.

The Meeting adjourned at 12.55 pm



C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

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H.E. The Governor of the Falkland Islands
Chairman, Scottish Appeal Committee.

TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

28th October 1957.

64 Victoria Street
London. S.W.1.

Meetings of the several Committees of
the Trans-Antarctic Expedition will be
held as follows:

Finance Sub-Committee

Monday 4th November. 5pm at Kirkland House S.W.1.
Financial matters.

Monday 25th November. 5pm at Kirkland House S.W.1.
To discuss the Annual Statement
of Accounts.

Committee of Management.

Wednesday 27th November. 11.30am at 64 Victoria St. S.W.1.
General matters and to consider
the Annual Statement of Accounts.

Annual General Meeting

Friday 20th December 11am at 64 Victoria St. S.W.1.
To pass the Annual Statement
of Accounts and to receive
reports on the progress of the
Expedition.

NOTE: The Annual General Committee will be attended
by members of the General Committee only.

Agendas for the Meetings will be issued later.

C.R.L. Parry
SECRETARY
TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Distribution:

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Date: August 1957

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ANTARCTICA

	<u>Page</u>
GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE	1
EARLY EXPLORATION	2
Early Twentieth Century Exploration	3
Later Discoveries Until the Second World War	4
Exploration Since the Second World War	4
TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN ANTARCTICA	5
Argentine and Chilean Claims	6
THE FUTURE OF ANTARCTICA	7
FOR FURTHER REFERENCE	
MAPS: Antarctica	
Graham Land	

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ANTARCTICA

Antarctica, the largest area in the world remaining virtually unexplored, is being visited during the next two years by expeditions from eleven countries. One of these, the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, will attempt the crossing of the continent, and the others will continue existing research programmes and make various scientific observations in connection with the International Geophysical Year 1957-58¹.

This is the largest number of parties to visit the Antarctic at any one time, although over 150 expeditions, more than half of them British, have visited it since it was first sighted in 1820, and the seamen of Britain and other nations have been active in the Southern Ocean since the eighteenth century. Exploration of the interior of the continent began early in the 20th century, and during the last thirty or forty years there has been increasing interest in the conditions and resources of the Antarctic. Permanent stations are already maintained in Graham Land and its offlying islands, in the Australian Antarctic Territory, and on some of the islands in the southern ocean. The question of territorial claims in the Antarctic has been attracting wider attention. In recent years there has also been discussion of the strategic and economic possibilities of the region.

This paper is intended to provide, as a background, a brief account of the discovery of Antarctica and of the physical conditions prevailing there, and to give a summary of the legal and political considerations arising from current discussion about the region.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Geographically, the Antarctic includes, in addition to the continent of Antarctica, with which this paper is mainly concerned, the island groups of the Falkland Islands Dependencies², Bouvet island (Bouvetøya), the Prince Edward islands, the Crozet islands (Iles Crozet), the Kerguelen islands (Iles de Kerguelen), Heard island, and Macquarie Island, where the physical and climatic conditions are in general similar to those prevailing on the continent.

Antarctica itself has an area of approximately six million square miles and a coastline some 14,000 miles long. Practically the whole of this land mass lies within the Antarctic circle (latitude 66° 30' S.) and most of it is a high plateau of between 3,000 and 10,000 feet. At the South Pole itself there is an elevation of some 10,000 feet and the entire continent, apart from the peaks of the mountain ranges, of which the highest reaches some 15,000 feet, is covered by a thick ice sheet. This slopes gradually towards the coast where it breaks off to create the icebergs which are so characteristic of the oceans of the Antarctic. During the winter months (June to October) the continent is surrounded by a belt of pack-ice some thirty feet thick and from 100 to 1,000 miles wide. This breaks up during the summer, but navigation to some of the more remote areas is always difficult and very strong winds are frequent.

¹For a fuller description of these expeditions see R.3522 of February 1957 The International Geophysical Year and the Commonwealth, p.11 'The Antarctic Expeditions'.

²The British Falkland Islands Dependencies include all lands and islands south of latitude 50° S. between longitudes 20° and 50° W. and south of latitude 58° S. between longitudes 50° and 80° W. There are five dependencies: South Georgia, the South Orkney islands, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Shetland Islands and Graham Land. Large areas of land in the Antarctic continent are also comprised in the Dependencies. All the Dependencies are Antarctic in character, being very mountainous with many glaciers, and are almost entirely snow-covered throughout the year. During the whaling season, however, South Georgia supports a population of some 1,400 and rather less than half this number remain during the winter.