ANTARCTIC TREATY
NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
ДЕВЯТОЕ КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

LONDON

TRAITÉ SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
NEUVIÉME RÉUNION CONSULTATIVE

TRATADO ANTARTICO
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ANT/IX/44
Date: 26 September 1977

Agenda Item 6

WORKING GROUP ON MARINE LIVING RESOURCES: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The list of documents before us begins with the terms of reference in ANT/IX/39. There are substantive proposals, in reverse order of submission in the following:

USSR	ANT/IX/37
Agentina	ANT/IX/34
Chile	ANT/IX/30
S Africa	ANT/IX/25
Australia	ANT/IX/22-21

There are also the papers reproduced from the Preparatory meeting (ANT IX/6 ANT IX/8) and the paper on the Biomass programme (ANT IX/10). There is a procedural proposal by the French Delegation (ANT IX/38)

The substantive elements of the various proposals seem to reveal two basic treads.

But first there would seem to be the question raised by at least one delegation as to the need to examine at the outset the scientific basis for any measures adopted. It would perhaps be desirable to dispose of this question at the start of our discussion.

The two basic threads to which I refer are:

(a) the need for <u>this</u> meeting to adopt certain measures, at the least including support for the Biomass Programme and collection and exchange of information or possibly going so far as a system of voluntary restraint, within existing treaty procedures and following existing treaty procedents, to cover the interim period between now and the time that a definitive regime is adopted.

(The importance of showing an active concern for the marine living resources to the outside world seems to many delegations a major factor in the Exercise).

(b) The desirability of a "second stage" which will require perhaps the drafting of a recommendation relating to the convening of a subsequent meeting (whether of the Treaty Powers or on a wider basis) and consideration of the question of adequate preparation for such a meeting (perhaps by the inclusion in the draft recommendation or in our report of a number of agreed elements if that point can be reached).

Delegations will note that these items correspond closely with the terms of reference of the Working Group. They also encompass in a simplified form the slightly more detailed agenda proposed by France in ANT IX/38.

If it is agreed that these are the broad areas to be discussed, the next question is the order in which they should be discussed.

The scientific aspects will be present no doubt at many points of the discussions. If the Working Group felt it necessary, however, to review specifically the current situation of the scientific aspects and prospective trends to use the wording of the French paper, one possible way of taking the question further could be for a restricted scientific group of interested countries' experts to meet in parallel with the Working Group. Even if it were not felt necessary to follow this procedure at the outset, it could be kept in reserve.

So far as points (a) and (b) above are concerned, the question next to be posed would be whether these should be considered seriatim or whether they should be the subject of a single discussion from which, at a later stage, a draft recommendation or recommendations as well as a report could be drawn as a conclusion to our proceedings.