

Brazil Proposes Antarctic Government

Ottawa, Canada

In a heated discussion over the utilization of fuel and water resources in Antarctica, Brazil proposed the formation of an Antarctic government, similar in structure to the United Nations Security Council. Brazil have been successfully combating internal resource problems, and pointed out that Antarctica's resources could alleviate the severe shortage in the world.

The seven countries with territorial claims over Antarctica would be permanent members of this council, while members from other regions would rotate periodically. The purpose of this proposed body is political jurisdiction over Antarctica, a land with no indigenous people and a minuscule impermanent population.

Brazil's main goal is to "expediate the utilization of Antarctica's resources" and enable the equitable distribution of these resources throughout the world. Although delegates from Japan and the Arab League were willing to consider such a proposal, others including France, the UK and New Zealand were opposed to it. The latter believe the solution lies in a summit to preserve 'territorial sovereignty' while France suggested that current territorial powers be responsible for extraction of resources from Antarctica, negotiating a percentage of the resources that would be distributed to other regions across the world. ♦

South American Services



United States Intersects Mission to Antarctica

New Delhi, India

The US has mobilised one of their fleets to intersect ships sent by India that are seeking to extract fresh water. The Indian Prime Minister said, "I have only been trying to look out for the well being of my people, since the domestic situation is at risk and I have no other possible course of action."

The Antarctic negotiations have been overcome with overlapping claims to

territory. Yesterday, the oil corporations stood unified in asserting that if the discussions did not speed up, they may be forced to implement their own interests in the region.

EXXON MOBIL has taken action today by forging a partnership with LUKOIL and the Chilean government. Technical experts have been sent to Arturo Prat and Bernardo O'Higgins to conduct scientific core tests. Exxon Mobil has confirmed that those two locations may have oil and mineral resources. Both the UK and Argentina are adamant that any new claims to Antarctica should not infringe on their current ones.

The United States is anxious to distribute the land in a fair and equitable manner, before any action is taken. However, the government will not allow EXXON MOBIL to start drilling without their official agreement. The US representative said, "Since it is for scientific research and not drilling, it is completely legitimate." Chile believes that peaceful extraction is a possible goal that should not hinder international security. ♦

North American Times

Antarctica 2020 Negotiations Hardly Chipping Tip of the Iceberg

Ottawa, Canada

It would seem that the Antarctica talks are slow at finding ways to equitably share Antarctica's resources and decide upon various land claims. The lack of representation for the developing world is particularly distressing, as India is the only representative of this group. According to the Indian delegate, the talks have been "bogged down by bureaucratic wrangling." It was found that the delegates spent three days of their precious time watching movies about penguins.

According to the delegate from China, "the historical claims [on Antarctica] have no validity, and are based and hazy myths and local folk legends" but are nevertheless being firmly held onto by the claimants. However, most parties do agree with the delegate from Brazil that it is "imperative to share more equitably among the international community," yet there are few concrete proposals on how to do this. The delegate from Brazil has proposed the novel idea of establishing a government for Antarctica which would work like the UN Security Council, in that there would be thirty or so members who would change on a rotational basis and ideally represent the interests of the whole world. There would be no boundaries as such but the territory would be dealt with as a whole and the panel would decide how to exploit and distribute Antarctica's resources. When asked if this would be an effective model rather than more bureaucracy, the Brazilian delegate was firm in his stance that "there is no other fair way." ♦

There have now been rumours that India, a current non-claimant, has barges heading towards Antarctica and is planning to claim the one fifth of the territory that is still unclaimed. It would appear that India is planning to claim this land in the name of the third world, which is desperately in need of the resources that Antarctica can offer, namely water and petroleum.

African Press

Nuclear Weapons Threaten CODESA Talks

Cape Town, South Africa

Despite optimistic opening addresses by most parties in the CODESA talks, the discovery of nuclear weapons in South Africa could potentially endanger its progress. When President de Klerk was asked how the weapons got there, he admitted that he did not know and simply said that five inactive nuclear weapons had been "found." He continued to deflect the question of how these mysterious weapons even got into the country by speaking of South Africa's "renewed commitment to democracy," and even called the news a "distraction." He did say however that South Africa is very open to weapons inspectors coming into South Africa and that the weapons have been secured.

The European Community has placed new sanctions on South Africa, which Dr. Salim Ahmed-Salim said would cripple the country even further. ♦

African Press

Turmoil in Angola

Yesterday, events surrounding Angola's government officials in the government, unfolded in a very conspicuous manner. Early in the afternoon, the Angolan president was killed in a plane crash. That was only the start of the drama. Later in the day, the American embassy in Luanda, the capital of Angola, was bombed. There were over 100 casualties and firefighters were not able to get to the site for an unknown reason. In response to the events, the American Department of Homeland Security raised the National Security level to Orange, or "High." As the day moved along, more Angolans were implicated, when the bank accounts of the Ambassador to the UN were publicly released. Within the past month, his balance has risen from approximately \$500,000 USD (which supposedly came from a \$50,000 USD/year salary) to an astounding \$6,883,908 USD. From March 8th to March 11th, 29 deposits were tracked to unknown sources, although it has been implicated that these deposits were from the accounts of those who have been killed in what is appearing to be genocide. ♦

North America News Wire

Pinochet Finally on Trial for Crimes Against Humanity

The Hague, Netherlands

On Wednesday, March 10, 2004 the first international trial against former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet was launched for crimes against humanity including murder, rape and torture. Many attempts have been made to try General Pinochet but only the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague has succeeded in bringing this perpetrator through the international judicial system. Two prosecution witnesses have already testified in the trial against the former dictator. "Pinochet was supposed to lead and protect his people, instead he slaughtered them," declared ICC prosecution lawyer Gregg Whetton in his opening statement in the trial in which he is focused on bringing General Pinochet to justice for the murders and disappearances of over 3,000 civilians.

On August 23, 1973, former President Allende appointed Augusto Pinochet to Army Commander in Chief. Less than a month later, General Pinochet led his army to execute a violent coup which overthrew President Allende, replacing him as head of state. This led to turmoil within Chile as support split between Dictator General Pinochet and former leader, President Allende.

Tomorrow marks day two of the ICC trial against the former dictator, General Pinochet for crimes against humanity. ♦

South American Services

Vers un contrôle des armes légères

L'accessibilité des armes légères rend leur utilisation prédominante lors des conflits armés. Afin d'assurer un meilleur contrôle sur leur prolifération, l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU sur le commerce illicite des armes légères, tenue en décembre 2003, a adopté une motion favorable à une plus grande transparence dans leur vente et leur transport. Même si plusieurs pays sont d'avis que la tenue d'un registre exhaustif de leurs ventes et possesseurs s'avérerait une entreprise inefficace du fait de la difficulté de réalisation, la nécessité de politiques d'envergure nationale et internationale régissant ce problème semble s'imposer. En ce sens, le Liban, ayant adopté la mention concernant les armes légères sus mentionnée, compte profiter de la présente session pour rallier les membres de la Ligue Arabe à cette cause qu'il défend avec conviction. L'objectif visé serait de soutenir la coopération internationale dans ce dossier de façon à aider les pays avertis avec des troubles financiers à assurer le resserrement du contrôle du trafic d'armes légères aux frontières et aux douanes souhaité par l'entreprise. ♦

Asie-presse

United States Refutes Red Cross

At 1600 EST, the International Red Cross released a statement to the UN Security Council, North Korean Cabinet and the US Security Council. The Americans, with President George W. Bush missing, staunchly denied any guilt in the matter. According to Tom Ridge, Department of Homeland Security, "the Red Cross was out of line." Senior Advisor Karl Rove stated the prisoner "held no allegiance to any state" and therefore "international law does not apply." He later stated that "it doesn't matter who it is that speculates, it is still speculation." While officially stating that "the United States of America respects the Red Cross," Rove's words display that there is actually little respect for the work the Red Cross has done within the American Security Council. The North Koreans initially deplored the United States when learning about the news. A reliable source said that the United States would impede any UN attempt with a threatened veto. ♦

European News Wire