

Inspection of non-U.S. stations in Antarctica

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In January 1980, the United States carried out an inspection of foreign stations in Antarctica under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. Exercise of the rights of inspection provided under the treaty is one of the important but least known activities supported by the U.S. Antarctic Research Program (USARP).

Under article VII of the Antarctic Treaty, each Antarctic Treaty Consultative Party has the right to designate observers who have complete freedom of access to all areas of Antarctica, including all stations and installations there. This inspection system is designed to promote the objectives and ensure the observance of the provisions of the Treaty. These include the reservation of Antarctica exclusively for peaceful purposes, with a prohibition on military activities, nuclear explosions, and disposal of nuclear waste there; freedom of scientific research in Antarctica and the exchange of plans for, and the results of, such research; and the conservation of living resources. Regular exercise of the rights of inspection in support of these goals is an important element of U.S. antarctic policy.

The 1980 inspection, carried out by a five-person inspection team, covered six stations of Argentina, Chile, Poland, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom in the Antarctic Peninsula area. The team was led by R. Tucker Scully, Director of the Office of Oceans and Polar Affairs, Department of State, along with Commander Richard Schaus, United States Navy, Lt. Commander Maria Kazanowska, United States Navy, and Darold W. Silkwood and Charles R. Oleszycki, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (figure 1).

The conduct of the 1980 inspection was made possible by the aircraft and icebreaker capability available to USARP. The team was flown to the U.S. McMurdo Station from Christchurch, New Zealand, by USARP C-130 aircraft. Once at McMurdo, the team embarked on U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Sea* (WAGB-11) (figure 2). The inspection of stations took place during the transit of *Polar Sea* from McMurdo to Ushuaia in southern Argentina, along the Antarctic Peninsula. Coast Guard helicopters assigned to *Polar Sea* flew the team from the icebreaker to each station inspected (figure 3).

Following the departure of *Polar Sea* from McMurdo on 17 January, the team made its first inspection 27 January at the United Kingdom station, Rothera, on Adelaide Island. On 29 January it inspected the Argentine station, Almirante Brown, on Paradise Bay, and then on 30 January, the Chilean station, General Bernardo O'Higgins, on the Trinity Peninsula.



Figure 1. U.S. inspection team (left to right): Charles R. Oleszycki, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; R. Tucker Scully, Director of the Office of Oceans and Polar Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Lt. Commander Maria Kazanowska, U.S. Navy; Darold W. Silkwood, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; and Commander Richard Schaus, U.S. Navy.

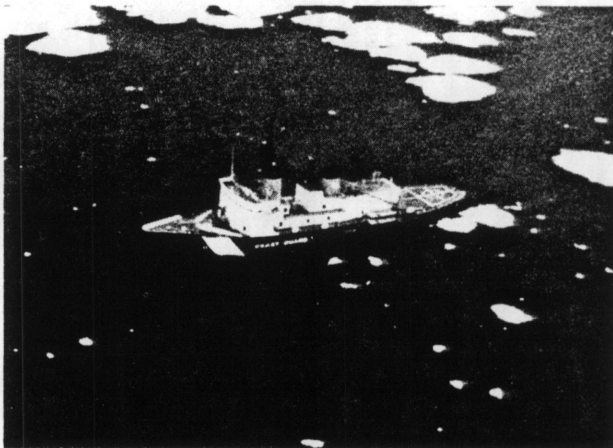


Figure 2. U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Sea* (WAGB-11), off the Antarctic Peninsula.

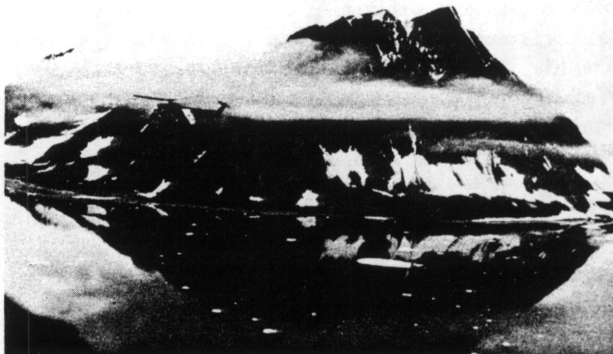


Figure 3. Inspection team approaches by U.S. Coast Guard helicopter.

Polar Sea then crossed the Bransfield Strait to King George Island, where inspections were made 31 January of the Polish station, Arctowski, on Admiralty Bay and the Soviet station, Bellingshausen, on the Fildes Peninsula. From King George Island *Polar Sea* returned to the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, and the inspection team carried out its final inspection at the Argentine station, Esperanza, on 1 February. From there, *Polar Sea* crossed the Drake Passage to Ushuaia, Argentina, and the team disembarked 4 February for return to the United States.

The 1980 inspection, like the five previous inspections carried out by the United States, reflected the amicable and

cooperative spirit characteristic of the operation of the Antarctic Treaty since its inception. The individual station inspections were organized as official, yet friendly, visits. The team found no evidence of violations of either the letter or spirit of the Treaty. At each of the six stations inspected, they were received with warmth and hospitality. At each station, the team witnessed specific activities demonstrating the practical realization of the goals and objectives of the Treaty. The 1980 inspection once again corroborated the unique and pragmatic international communication and cooperation taking place under the aegis of the Antarctic Treaty.

Study of the U.S. Antarctic Research Program since World War II

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The purpose of this project was to begin a historical investigation of the genesis of the United States Antarctic Research Program in the period after 1945. The specific goals of the project were: (1) to provide an accurate record of the research effort by the United States Government and the scientific community over a period of three decades; (2) to examine how this substantial research effort was organized, funded, and sustained; and (3) to analyze the cooperative international framework that emerged in Antarctica during this period.

In 1979 I began research, concentrating on the period 1945 to 1961 and visiting Antarctica during the 1979-80 season. I conducted primary research in the extensive polar, scientific, and naval collections of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and began additional, supplementary work in the records of the U.S. State Department and the National Security Council. The collections of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas, also yielded useful material. The documentary foundation for the study is substantial, but fragmented. In some areas research is hampered by the restrictions of government classification. Nevertheless, I have found materials that document the origins of the modern policies of the United

States toward Antarctica. The involvement of Congress, the importance of certain concerns deriving from acute east-west tensions, the wisdom of President Eisenhower, and a rather miraculous confluence of scientific interests with national interests had already created the nucleus of our present policies by July 1954. Materials on the International Geophysical Year are rather extensive and the picture of this important formative period is also taking shape. Problems of classification inhibit, for the time being, comprehensive basic research on the immediate background to the Antarctic Treaty, although I have obtained valuable materials on this aspect of the project.

The beginning of this study was supported by an award of the first Antarctic Fellowship of the National Endowment of the Humanities. This fellowship is a joint venture of the Endowment and the National Science Foundation and was established to give humanists a formal opportunity to investigate topics relevant to Antarctica. The fellowship provided a research trip to Antarctica so a historian could observe the scientific investigations being supported by the U.S. Antarctic Research Program. My trip in November and December 1979 allowed me to accomplish several things. First, I was able to experience the environment of Antarctica both at the major stations and at more remote camps. This is essential for a historian's understanding of operations in the area. Second, I was able to view and discuss with others the organizational structure that currently governs our antarctic activities. And, third, I had the opportunity to observe firsthand the scientific research conducted by participants in this year's program. Specifically, in addition to McMurdo Station, I visited the South Pole, Siple Station, the dry valleys, and the Ellsworth Mountains.

This combination of documentary research and onsite experience is especially appropriate for a historical topic. Moreover, the Antarctic Fellowship, which provides an opportunity to bridge the gap between science and the humanities, aids in establishing sound and sympathetic communications between the disciplines. The perspectives gained from this opportunity should make the study on the United States and the Antarctic since World War II more useful.

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