

NSC Briefing

5 December 1956

ANTARCTIC ANNEX: NATIONAL CLAIMS & INTERESTS

I. Although the explorers of 13 different nations have, at one time or another, asserted discovery claims in various parts of the Antarctic continent, only seven nations at present maintain official claims. These are (map):

A. The UK - - Falkland Islands Dependency (1908): map, top right.

B. Argentina - - overlapping UK claim (date about 1942): map, top right.

C. Chile - - partial overlap of both Argentine and UK claim (date 1940): map, top.

D. New Zealand - - Ross Dependency (1923): map, left (the scene of most US exploration).

E. Norway - - Queen Maud Land (1939): map, right; plus two islands.

F. Australia - - Antarctic Territory (1923-33): map, bottom.

G. France - - small enclave in Australian claim (1938): map, bottom left.

II. Present Soviet activity is centered on the ~~Queen Mary~~ Coast area (map, bottom), about in the middle of the Australian-claimed Antarctic Territory.

A. Located on insert are two of the three present Soviet permanent bases, Mirnyy and Oazis.

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- B. The permanent bases planned by the USSR for establishment in the interior this season are shown as red dots on the main map.
- C. Permanent installations manned by claimant nations are shown as squares of the appropriate color on the main map (Argentina maintains 8; Chile, 4; the UK, 7; and Australia, 1.
- D. US stations planned or in operation for the IGY program are indicated by black stars.