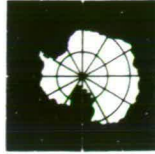


ANTARCTIC TREATY
XVIIth CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TRAITÉ SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XVIIème RÉUNION CONSULTATIVE



VENICE
11-20 november 1992

TRATADO ANTÁRTICO
XVII REUNIÓN CONSULTIVA

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XVII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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OPENING ADDRESS BY H.E. KI-CHOO LEE -
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Submitted by Korea)

Opening Address by H.E. Ki-Choo Lee,
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Italian Republic,
Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Seventeenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. I would also like to express our warm thanks to the Government of the Italian Republic for presenting us with such a magnificent setting for our meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation strongly believes that this Consultative Meeting represents a further reinforcement of the Treaty System and serves well in pursuing its objectives in the interest of mankind: to protect Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science. Last year, as all of us are aware, the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was successfully adopted at the 16th Consultative Meeting held in Bonn. I trust that the Protocol, with its Annexes, will be fully in the interest of all human beings. The provisions of the Protocol advance basic goals of protecting the environment of Antarctica, preserving the unique opportunities

the pristine continent offers for scientific research of global significance, and maintaining it as a zone of peace. Its conclusion symbolizes an important step in strengthening the Antarctic Treaty and the unique form of international cooperation it has fostered.

Being confirmed that all of 26 Consultative Parties have signed the Protocol, I hope that ratifications will soon follow with the spirit of cooperation among Consultative Parties in order to have the Protocol enter into force at an earliest date.

Mr. Chairman,

At this Consultative Meeting, we have many important tasks to strengthen the Antarctic Treaty System, such as the creation of a permanent secretariat and the implementation of a wide range of environmental protection measures enunciated in the Protocol. Faced with these imperative tasks, we must give a positive impetus to resolve different views and consolidate our tradition of cooperation among the Parties. I firmly believe that this Consultative Meeting will take another meaningful step in that direction.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation seizes this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the provisions of the Treaty and the Protocol. I believe that there is no need in going into detail here on the activities of the Republic of Korea in Antarctica. However, I feel that a brief mention should be made of our recent Antarctic expeditions; our research team has installed a high-resolution Fabry-Perot interferometer system at King Sejong Station in January 1989 and

has since investigated the neutral temperatures and winds in the Antarctic thermosphere which was the first experiment of its kind in the region of the Antarctic Peninsula; three weeks from now a sixth research team will leave for King George Island to pursue extensive work in atmospheric sciences, biological oceanography, terrestrial geology, and marine geology and geophysics.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I assure you my delegation's full support in your august endeavour to make this Meeting a successful one.

Thank you.