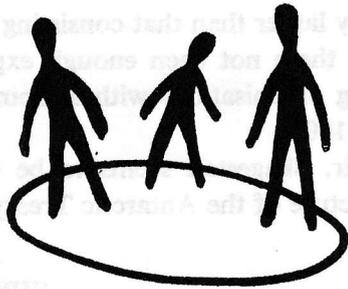


# BULLETIN OF PEACE PROPOSALS

to motivate research  
to inspire future oriented thinking  
to promote activities for peace

## 1974

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Dear Editor,

I regret Mr. Goldblat's reaction to my rejoinder to his article on the Antarctic. Perhaps I did not express myself clearly enough?

Of course one could – as Mr. Goldblat apparently prefers – discuss and moralize on the degree of exclusiveness or openness of the Antarctic Treaty. That, however, was not my point. My purpose was to demonstrate why it makes scant sense to tie the issue of relative 'exclusiveness' together with the issue of possible violations of the non-militarization arrangement by third parties.

I suggest Mr. Goldblat re-read my rejoinder carefully. Hopefully, he would then not fail to recognize the nature and the scope of my objections to certain notions propounded in his article.

A further discussion along the lines suggested by Mr. Goldblat should be superfluous.

Sincerely  
Gunnar Skagestad

# Letters to the Editor

## *The Antarctic*

Dear Editor,

In a rejoinder to my article on the Antarctic, published in Volume 4, 1973 of your *Bulletin*, Mr. Skagestad criticizes me for considering the Antarctic Treaty as an arrangement 'primarily prohibiting militarization of the area'. He also disagrees that the Treaty is marked with exclusiveness, a term used by me to describe the inequality of the parties.

As far as the first point is concerned, I fail to see how Mr. Skagestad could have got the impression that this was my view. I think I have made it abundantly clear that the main feature of the Treaty is the declaration of the Antarctic as an area to be used for peaceful purposes only, and that this declaration has been *reinforced* by the prohibition of any measures of a military nature. Nevertheless, it is worth stressing that the Antarctic Treaty has come to be generally considered as a first post-war multilateral arms-control measure, even if its main purpose has been to promote international cooperation in scientific investigation of the Antarctic. I think it would be wrong to disregard this aspect of the Treaty, or to minimize it, as Mr. Skagestad seems to do.

As regards the second point, I regret not to have been impressed by the arguments advanced by Mr. Skagestad. It is true that United Nations membership is *now* almost universal, but it was not when the Treaty was signed and when its founders arrogated to themselves the right to decide who is entitled to become party. But the 'close' nature of the Treaty is more patent when it comes to the decision-making procedure. The latter, as is known, rests in the hands of those parties which are technologically and economically capable of establishing a scientific station in, or dispatching a scientific expedition to, the Antarctic. Other parties are not even allowed to *participate* in consultative meetings. The existence of a 'selected club' of decision-makers could perhaps be justified with regard to matters of purely scientific character, when only active participants in scientific investigations could bring in meaningful contributions. But it is not warranted when arms-control

measures of universal importance to the peace are discussed. Parties less fortunate in the technological sense could and should have a say in these matters. By the way, active scientific participation is probably not the only criterion for the membership in the 'club', as Mr. Skagestad seems to imply. What would happen – may I ask – if any of the founder members of the Treaty stopped participating in scientific investigations, whatever the reason might be. Would it be deprived of its present privileges? It certainly would not.

I submit that an arrangement providing for two categories of parties, of which only one enjoys full rights, would be unthinkable in any treaty with arms-control provisions, concluded under the present political circumstances.

Extremely weak are also Mr. Skagestad's arguments about the difficulties to handle a body larger than that consisting of 12 members. Has there not been enough experience in handling organisations with a membership exceeding 100?

Mr. Skagestad seems to be happy with the structure of the Antarctic Treaty. I am not.

Jozef Goldblat  
SIPRI, Stockholm

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