

to the Pole and Byrd Stations must be carried out in October and November. It should be quite safe then but it reemphasizes again your own observations, Mr. Chairman, and those of your committee when you were there, that if we are looking toward continuity in Antarctic work, we must face up to the high desirability of an airstrip built on the rocks.

MR. MACDONALD. Has anything more been done at Cape Bernacchi?

DR. GOULD. I looked at it last year, as you may know. This year, Father Linehan, the seismologist whom you met, did go over and made a survey demonstrating that it is a feasible place to build an airstrip. The geology is all right and the glacier that is nearby has not moved in the last 50 years. There is little chance that anything would disrupt it and it seems as though it would be relatively snow free the whole year around.

The only question involved, Mr. Macdonald, is the cost.

MR. FLYNT. Is anyone prepared to make an estimate at this time?

DR. GOULD. I do not believe anyone could do more than pull a figure like two or three hundred million dollars out of a hat. It would be very expensive but if we are going to stay there a long time it is a highly desirable place not only for the airstrip but, of course, a more desirable place for a permanent camp than any other place we have.

THE CHAIRMAN. Dr. Gould, we have made some recommendations to the President, the State Department and to the National Security Office with reference to claims. We know that is a very sensitive issue but it is a very important one.

I am sure that you are not advised as to what, if anything, has been done.

I wonder if you would agree with me that it would be better to settle that particular problem or at least decide what policy is going to be pursued before such an undertaking is made.

DR. GOULD. I agree with you heartily, Mr. Chairman. As you may know, the whole situation on Antarctic claims has changed since we last talked about it as a result of the observation of the United Kingdom that they believed some kind of internationalization was the solution and the Prime Minister of New Zealand said New Zealand would go along with Great Britain. Some observation was quoted in the New York Times. He made the observation he did not see how the matter of future operations in Antarctica could be resolved except on some kind of international basis.

I agree with you, we must know what the future holds in store for us before we invest two or three hundred million dollars in the runway, important as it may be, not only for the scientific program continuing in Antarctica but, as you people have learned, from the whole broad aspect of trans-Antarctic flights, there ought to be one landing field there at least.

If there were such a landing strip at McMurdo Sound now there would not be any problem in trans-Antarctic flights.

THE CHAIRMAN. Has there been any determination here as to what organization would head this scientific work beyond 1958?

DR. GOULD. We are just in the process of discussing that now. As you know from your own observations, the arrangement we had at the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and