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Dr Manfred Reinke
Executive Secretary
Secretaría del Tratado Antártico
Maipú 757 Piso 4
C1006ACI - Buenos Aires
Argentina

By email: manfred.reinke@ats.aq and by post

Dear Dr Reinke,

New Chinese Base in Antarctica

The International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) is a scientific committee of ICOMOS which is a global non-government organization dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage. ICOMOS has close to a hundred national independent committees and been active in cultural heritage issues for the last fifty years.

IPHC comprises ICOMOS members from various nations active in heritage issues and sites in either the Arctic and/or the Antarctic. IPHC's value as a source of expertise has been recognised in the past by the Antarctic Treaty's Committee for Environmental Protection including in the final report of the ATCM XXXV-CEP XV, Hobart, June 2012.

We are writing as the ICOMOS executive to convey our concerns to Treaty nations around one aspect of China's new planned base at Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica. Specifically, that the proposed coordinates appear very close in location to Antarctic HSM 14 at Terra Nova Bay, the site of Scott's Northern Party's historic ice cave at Inexpressible Island.

IPHC is concerned that the Chinese may either not be aware of the existence or the importance of HSM 14. In particular:

- We query what impact the construction and operation of the new station may have on this HSM.
- We ask what measures China will take to avoid disturbance from construction workers and later researchers/technical staff on this historical site.
- We note In the CEE (p. 127) it is mentioned that one of the main goals for tourism on the island is visiting historical relics. Is such traffic of concern for the scientific program or the operation of the station due to the proximity of HSM 14 to the station?
- We note that it would be useful to have an additional map in the final CEE where HSM 14 is shown in relation to the planned construction site.

Given the significance of the location to Antarctica's heritage, IPHC would be grateful if these concerns could be circulated to the Committee for Environmental Protection.

IPHC also stands ready to lend its expertise in heritage matters relating to this Antarctic site with either the Chinese or other nations if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely



Julian Bickersteth
President



Susan Barr
Vice President



Nigel Watson
Secretary General