

Interim Staffing and Initial Funding of the Secretariat

47. In order to facilitate the operation of the Secretariat prior to the permanent staff taking up their appointments, Australia offered to provide on a reimbursable basis staffing assistance for the Executive Secretary. Australia offered the services of two officers of the Australian Public Service for a period of up to six months in each case. Salaries and similar direct costs would be reimbursed by the Commission before the end of June 1983.

48. Australia also offered to provide funds to enable the Secretariat to commence operation and to function in the period before member states' contributions are received. The figure offered was equal to the total of the 1982 budget to be paid back before the end of June 1983.

The Commission accepted both Australian offers.