

Headquarters Agreement

34. The Commission considered the question of a comprehensive Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Commission. The Chairman of the Commission reported on informal consultations which he had conducted at the request of Heads of Delegations in an effort to develop an agreed text. The Chairman circulated a draft Headquarters Agreement which had been produced at the informal consultations and on which a wide measure of agreement had been achieved. It was apparent, however, that two principal issues remained to be resolved. These related to the issue of visas for representatives, experts, and staff members and to the establishment of permanent representation to the Commission.

35. While the Commission noted that progress had been made towards a generally acceptable comprehensive agreement the pending issues could not be resolved at this meeting. Therefore, it was decided that the draft should be used as a basis for further negotiations between the Government of Australia and members of the Commission between sessions. It noted that the interim agreement which had been concluded between the Government of Australia and the Commission would expire at the end of 1983 and agreed that the interim agreement be extended until the entry into force of a comprehensive agreement. The Australian representative confirmed that the Government of Australia would continue to accord privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Report of the First Meeting of the Commission.