

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

7. The Commission received the Executive Secretary's Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (Annex D).

8. The following items of the Commission's Agenda had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

Examination of Audited Financial Statements for 1984

Review of Budget for 1985

Budget for 1986 and Forecast Budget for 1987

Review of Implementation of Retirement Benefit Regulation

Review of System for Applying Changes in Salaries and Allowances.

9. The Commission signified its acceptance of the financial statements for 1984 and agreed to the increase in the salaries allocation for the 1985 budget as suggested in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report.

10. In referring to the budget of the Scientific Committee the Representative of the United Kingdom drew attention to paragraph 11 of Annex 10 to the report of the Scientific Committee and requested that the 'Travel' line in the cost estimates should be read so as to bring it into conformity with sub-paragraph (v) of paragraph 5.7 of the Report of the Scientific Committee. Dr Beddington would organise the visits but would not necessarily participate in them himself. The provision of \$A6,800 would remain in the budget of the Scientific Committee.

11. Two opinions were given on the proposed Krill Simulation Study. One view was that the Scientific Committee should be asked to reconsider implementation of the project since the catch reports of krill have shown a considerable decline in recent years and the Scientific Committee had assigned the project a lower priority than fish stock assessment and certain other work of the Scientific Committee. In these circumstances the Krill Simulation Study should not be considered as an urgent matter. Furthermore, the employment of consultants is expensive and at this stage it would be better to encourage national scientists to develop their ideas, to make preliminary studies during the next year and to look at the proposal at the next meeting.

12. The other view was that because of the uncertainties as to the exact data requirements needed to monitor the fishery for krill there was a need to focus specialised effort on the subject so as to be prepared for the development of the fishery. In this context, the meeting was reminded of

Article II paragraph 3 of the Convention which refers to the prevention of decrease in the size of any harvested population and to Article XX paragraph 2 concerning the provision of statistics.

13. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee re-stated the importance placed on this study by the Scientific Committee and the need to proceed with this work. He pointed out that krill studies would be important in building our knowledge of the Antarctic ecosystem and in this respect will be linked with the work being undertaken by the ecosystem monitoring working group. He said that the Scientific Committee had taken care to propose a program of work which took account of priorities in implementing the objectives of the Convention. In doing this, they had also taken account of the need to keep expenditures down. He drew attention to paragraph 1, Annex 10 of the Scientific Committee's Report which emphasised that as far as possible savings would be sought.

14. The Commission adopted the budget as attached to the Executive Secretary's Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, (Annex D, Appendix 7).

15. Members of the Commission agreed that every effort should be made to avoid an increase in real terms of its budget as governments were committed to zero real growth in the budgets of international organisations. To assist in future examinations of the draft budgets of the Commission it was emphasised that detailed explanations of each item of expenditure must be included.

16. In considering items 31 and 32 of the Report (Annex D) relating to the review of the system for applying changes in salaries and allowances members of the Commission requested that the report of the review be made available to members as far in advance of the next meeting as possible so as to allow sufficient time for its examination.