

OTHER BUSINESS

135. The delegation of Poland expressed concern at the length of some meeting documents and hence the time required for their preparation and translation prior to distribution at the Meeting. In particular he referred to the Report of the Scientific Committee, and suggested that the volume of the report might be reduced by including only comments of the Committee on the results of the various working groups, and excluding extensive reproduction of their texts. If Working Group reports were translated and published, the Commission could be referred to these reports by the Scientific Committee. This would result in a considerable saving in time and cost involved in the translation and production of the Scientific Committee's annual report.

136. The delegation of the UK shared this concern and asked the Chairman of the Scientific Committee to comment. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee pointed out that a major portion of the Scientific Committee Report consists of original material reflecting its discussions rather than of simple reproduction of sections of Working Group reports. He indicated his intention to discuss the problem further with the Conveners of the Working Groups and the Secretariat during the intersessional period.

137. The delegation of Chile, recognising the increase in the workload of the Commission, suggested that Members should be encouraged to make better use of the intersessional periods for discussing the Commission's activities through direct bilateral contact between Members or through the Executive Secretary. The proposal was widely supported.

138. The Executive Secretary was invited to report on staffing within the Secretariat in view of the increasing workload. The Executive Secretary reminded the Commission that the permanent full-time staff of the Secretariat was the same as it was when the Commission was established five years ago. Since that time, the role of the Commission had developed and expanded to become fully operational. This expansion has been accompanied by an increased demand on the Secretariat services. To meet this demand, additional casual staff have been employed, particularly during the annual meetings. Some of the tasks being undertaken however, are of a long-term nature and need trained staff familiar with the Secretariat equipment and procedures. These tasks have been undertaken by casual employees that have been working for the Commission for some considerable time. There was definite value in retaining these employees and some arrangement may have to be reached to provide them with longer term job security. The problem has been partially addressed by the Commission's decision to allow a four year contract of employment in the General Services category and agreement to provide a contract this year for one of these employees.

139. In connection with Members' Contributions to the 1988 budget, the delegation of Japan asked that a calculation of specific amounts of contributions by countries or by groups of countries be included in the Report of the Commission. In reply the Executive Secretary explained that specific values may be calculated only after the end of the current financial year. In the meantime, nominal values could be presented. It was found helpful to do so.

140. The United States referred the Commission to its paper on 'The Potential Effects of Ozone Depletion over Antarctica' (CCAMLR-VI/BG/13) and noted that the Scientific Committee had addressed one aspect of this problem in paragraph 16.4 of its report as well as in documents SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/17 and SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/21. The U.S. informed Members of the recent adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the 1985 Vienna Convention For The Protection Of The Ozone Layer. That agreement established specific mechanisms to control emissions of ozone-depleting substances. The Commission noted the importance of this issue to Antarctic marine living resources, but the delegation of France expressed the opinion that this matter seemed to be more appropriate to the concerns of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

141. The Observer from Peru informed the Commission that the first Antarctic Expedition of Peru was planned for January – March 1988. The expedition aims to achieve a better understanding of the Antarctic marine ecosystem in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula and Bransfield Strait. The Chairman on behalf of the Commission warmly welcomed this news and thanked the Observer from Peru.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSE OF MEETING

142. The Commission adopted the Report of its Sixth Meeting and the Chairman closed the Meeting.