

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION
ARTICLE XXIV OF THE CONVENTION

134. The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection, Mr R. Arnaudo (USA) presented the Report of the Committee (Annex G).

135. The Commission noted that the outstanding practical requirements for the implementation of the system had been agreed at the meeting and expressed satisfaction that the system was in operation for the 1989/90 season. It was acknowledged that the system would continue to be developed as experience in its operation was gained.

136. The Commission accepted the Report of the Committee and approved the documents and items required for inspections as set down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of its report. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to prepare appropriate quantities of the required items for distribution as soon as possible.

137. It was acknowledged that there might be some delay involved in passing the relevant information to masters of vessels, since the intention is to help communication between the inspector and the master and in some cases, the documents will have to be translated into the masters' languages. In any case, Members agreed to notify the Executive Secretary when the information had been passed to masters of vessels operating in the Convention Area.

138. Poland and Japan stated that the system would not become operational for them until the documentation in the Polish and Japanese languages had been transmitted to the masters of their vessels operating in the Convention Area. However, they assured the Commission that this would be achieved as early as possible so that inspections of their vessels could be effectively made in the 1989/90 season.

139. Other delegations pointed out that the Commission had already adopted the system of observation and inspection and that it was in force. However, they welcomed the statement of the two delegations relating to facilitation of inspections in the 1989/90 season.

140. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Mr Arnaudo, who had served as Chairman of the ad hoc Working Group which had begun the development of the system and as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the past two meetings. Spain was elected to succeed the USA as Chairman. The position of Vice-Chairman also became vacant and Australia was elected to fill this office.