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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
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Annual Meetings

Need for Annual Meetings

At the 51st Annual Meeting of the Commission, held in Grenada, May 1999, the Finance & Administration Committee considered the question, arising from the Administrative Review carried out the previous year, of whether the Commission needs to meet annually. A number of views were expressed and New Zealand suggested that the Secretary make a list of the range of issues likely to impact on the decision on Annual Meetings and to report on this next year. The Commission agreed that the Secretary should prepare a document and circulate it during the year so the Commission could be ready for action at the next meeting.

The Secretary now encloses a copy of the document he has developed in response to this proposal, which will be available as Paper IWC/52/15 for discussion at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Commission to be held in Adelaide, Australia, 3 – 6 July 2000.

53rd Annual Meeting – 2001

Venues for Annual Meetings are best arranged at least two years in advance, due to the difficulties of securing appropriate accommodation at shorter notice, and no Contracting Government has invited the Commission to meet in its country in 2001. It therefore falls to the Secretariat to locate and book a suitable venue in the U.K. (*Rule of Procedure B.1*).

Following consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat is actively investigating UK venues (Aberdeen in May/June and London in July) which would be available in 2001. Final confirmation rests with the 52nd Annual Meeting in Adelaide in July this year, but a provisional booking must be made very soon to avoid the risk of failing to secure a suitable venue at all.

Therefore, if a member Government does have an invitation for 2001 in mind it is essential that the Secretary is informed by **29 February 2000**, otherwise we will proceed with making arrangements for the meeting to be held in the UK.

Dr. R. Gambell
Secretary to the Commission

