INTERSESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Under Item 33 of the Eleventh Session agenda, to be taken on Friday, 16 November, the following four questions will require to be dealt with:

(a) to take note of the report of the Intersessional Committee on action between the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions (L/548), and to approve the recommendation on "Distribution of SECRET documents") in paragraph III,

(b) to renew the arrangements for the administration of the Agreement as adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 3 March 1955 (BISD, Third Supplement, pages 9 et seq.),

(c) to approve the proposals of the Heads of Delegations for expediting the work of the sessions (document to be issued), and

(d) to elect an Intersessional Committee.

For the election of the Intersessional Committee a ballot paper is attached. The criteria upon which the contracting parties should base their votes is set out in paragraph 12 on page 200 of BISD, Volume II. Other considerations concerning the composition of the Committee will be found in paragraph 45 on page 246 of the Third Supplement, which reads in part:

"... contracting parties nominated for membership should agree to provide adequate representation, and it should be a condition of acceptance of membership that those contracting parties would undertake to send as representatives persons appropriately qualified ... Acceptance of membership in the Committee implies acceptance of the responsibilities involved in such membership ... Contracting parties ... before accepting nomination ... should consider whether it would be possible for them to make the necessary arrangements to ensure adequate representation."

The Committee is to comprise seventeen members. At the Ninth and Tenth Sessions it was suggested by the Chairman that the distribution of members might be:

Two countries from North America
The United Kingdom
Three countries from Northern and Western Europe
Three countries from Central and Southern Europe

Spec/233/56
Three countries from amongst the countries of Latin America, and
Three from amongst the countries of Asia, and
Two of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and
the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The seventeen contracting parties which receive the highest number of
votes will be elected, provided each receives eighteen or more votes, that
is, more than a simple majority of the contracting parties.

The ballot papers should be ready to be placed in the ballot box when
this item is taken on Friday afternoon. This date is suggested rather than
Saturday in order to ensure that the counting of the votes will be completed
before the close of the Session.