

INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUND

FONDS INTERNATIONAL D'INDEMNISATION POUR LES DOMMAGES
DUS A LA POLLUTION PAR LES HYDROCARBURES

ASSEMBLY -
2nd session
Agenda item 20

FUND/A.2/15
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION FOR MEETINGS
OF WORKING GROUPS OF THE FUND

Note by the Director

1. It is envisaged that the Assembly or the Executive Committee may wish, from time to time, to appoint working groups to examine specific matters. According to Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the official and working languages of the Fund are English and French. The question therefore arises as to whether both languages should be used at meetings of working groups.
2. The permanent secretariat of the Fund, as proposed in document FUND/A.2/3, does not have any translation or interpretation facilities of its own. This means that if interpretation and translation are required for meetings of working groups, the Fund would have to rely on the services of IMCO or other external assistance.
3. IMCO has informed the Fund that, in view of its own workload, it will not be able to provide translation and interpretation services for such working groups, as it does for meetings of the Assembly and Executive Committee.
4. Furthermore, according to IMCO experience, it is not possible to employ short-term French translators or typists in London.

5. The cost of employing one full-time French translator (P.4) would be approximately £ sterling 21,000 and a full-time French typist (G.4), £5,000. However, it is possible that the Fund would not be able to keep a French translator or typist fully occupied except during the preparation for, and at the time of, meetings.

6. As regards interpretation, it may be possible to employ interpreters on a short-term basis, but IMCO could seldom provide a room equipped with simultaneous interpretation facilities for meetings of working groups.

7. For these reasons, and in view of the costs involved, the Assembly may wish to decide that working groups should hold their meetings without interpretation and translation. The Assembly, in taking such a decision, would follow a well-established practice of IMCO and other organizations within the United Nations.
