



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND

SEVENTH INTERSESSIONAL
WORKING GROUP
Agenda item 2

FUND/WGR.7/20/4
26 April 1994

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INFORMATION TO CLAIMANTS

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation

- 1 The United Kingdom delegation proposes that states should prepare documentation to be handed to potential claimants in the event of an oil spillage.
 - 2 This documentation should provide claimants with the information they would need on how to make a claim for compensation and also what preventive or mitigating action they might take. As governments have negotiated an "insurance" scheme on behalf of their citizens, it is appropriate that they should advise the citizens of how best to use the scheme.
 - 3 One option for the form of this information would be a series of short leaflets, issuing progressively as the clean up operations get under way. These would provide the local community and potential claimants with a brief synopsis of the roles of the shipowner, his insurers, the IOPC Fund, the member state, local authorities and other organisations.
 - 4 Once a claims office has been established for any one incident, there should be a more comprehensive written guide to the mechanics of making a claim, including discussion of procedures, precedents and criteria.
 - 5 The United Kingdom's experience, during the operation to deal with the sinking of the Braer off the Shetland Islands, is that this information needs to be prepared in advance of any incident. There is insufficient time to prepare it once an oil spillage has occurred.
 - 6 Whilst the responsibility for writing documentation would rest with each state, any description of the operation of the IOPC Fund, or the criteria used for judging claims, would need to be agreed with the Fund. It may be best if the Fund agrees a standard description for the use of all states.
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