

PART II

**REPORT OF THE FIRST SPECIAL
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

REPORT OF THE FIRST SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

The First Special Meeting of the Commission was held on 8 September 1986 under the Chairmanship of Dr Orlando R. Rebagliati, (Argentina) Chairman of the Commission. The purpose of this meeting was to consider the notification of the Government of Brazil of the basis on which it was seeking membership of the Commission.

2. The following Members of the Commission were in attendance: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, European Economic Community, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Korea, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

BACKGROUND

3. On 1 August 1986 the Government of Brazil in accordance with Article VII, 2 (d) of the Convention notified the Depositary Government of the basis on which it sought to become a Member of the Commission. The notification and supporting information were communicated to Members by the Depositary.

4. Article VII, 2 (d) states that:

‘Within two months of receipt of such communication from the Depositary, any Member of the Commission may request that a special meeting of the Commission be held to consider the matter ... If there is no request for a meeting, the Contracting Party submitting the notification shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements for Commission Membership’.

5. In case of the notification of Brazil, the end of the two month period was 1 October 1986 and Brazil would have become a Member of the Commission after that date if no Members requested the convening of a special meeting.

6. However, the Government of Argentina requested that the Depositary Government convene a special meeting to consider the notification of Brazil and the opportunity of holding the meeting was taken during the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

7. The Commission bearing in mind the Guidelines adopted at the Fourth Meeting noted the extensive marine biological program being undertaken by Brazil in the Convention area with the general objective of gathering information on the key biological species, biomass estimates, species interactions and the physiological processes of the Antarctic marine ecosystem. The main focus of the program is in the Bransfield Strait and Admiralty Bay regions. The Commission also noted Brazil's contribution to the BIOMASS/SIBEX program (1983/84, 1984/85).

8. It was acknowledged that the research activities of Brazil are directly related to the marine living resources in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and that the papers presented by Brazil with its notification indicate that considerable achievements have been made towards the objectives of the program.

9. On this basis the Commission warmly welcomed Brazil into Membership of the Commission as from 8 September 1986.

10. The Commission agreed that in this particular case, an interpretation had been placed on the terms of the Convention so that Brazil could attend the Fifth Meeting. The interpretation had been unanimously supported on this occasion but Members agreed that it should not be taken as a precedent in the future.