

1 July 1998

Press Release for the closing
of the twenty-eighth Session
of the Governing Council

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission concluded its twenty-eighth session today under the Presidency of Ambassador Gonçalo de Santa Clara Gomes of Portugal. The delegations of Kuwait and Iraq addressed the 15-member Governing Council at its opening plenary meeting.

The Governments of Iran, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria also addressed the Governing Council at its opening plenary meeting on the issue of the establishment of an escrow account to cover costs relating to monitoring and assessing environmental damage arising from the invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The Council considered the report and recommendations of the Panel of Commissioners concerning the sixth instalment of category "C" claims (individual claims for damages up to US\$100,000) comprising 71,042 claims filed on behalf of individuals by 74 countries and three international organizations. The Council approved the award of US\$739,730,850.90 compensation in respect of 64,425 successful claims included in the report. It is expected that the remaining category "C" claims (approximately 74,000 claims) will be reported in the seventh instalment of category "C" claims to the Governing Council early next year, thereby concluding the resolution of all the approximately 426,000 category "C" claims filed with the Commission. The processing of all category "A" and "B" claims has already been concluded.

The Council approved the recommendations of the Panel of Commissioners concerning the first instalment of "E2" corporate claims comprising four "unusually large or complex claims". The compensation awarded by the Council in respect of the four claims is US\$187,496,511.62.

The Governing Council appointed eight candidates nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to serve as Commissioners on the following panels:

1. A second "E3" Claims Panel (to consider part of the approximately 400 non-Kuwaiti construction/engineering corporate claims with a total asserted value of approximately US\$10 billion):

Mr. John A. Tackaberry (Chairman)

Mr. Pierre M. Genton (Member)

Mr. Vinayak P. Pradhan (Member)

2. "F3" Claims Panel (to consider 62 Kuwaiti Government claims with a total asserted value of approximately US\$68 billion):

Mr. Elihu Lauterpacht (Chairman)
Mr. Andreas J. Jacovides (Member)
Mr. Reiner Soll (Member)

3. "F2" Claims Panel (to consider approximately 70 non-Kuwaiti Government claims with a total asserted value of approximately US\$12.5 billion):

Mr. Francisco Orrego Vicuña (Chairman)
Mr. Hans van Houtte (Member)

A third member of the panel (Mr. Jen Shek Voon) has been appointed previously.

The Governing Council also discussed, in the course of its twenty-eighth session, a report from the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission covering the period between March and May 1998, as well as a number of issues relating to the processing and payment of claims. In this respect, the Council took note of a report from the Executive Secretary on information received from Governments and international organizations on the status of the distribution of payments to successful claimants and of refunds to the Commission of compensation received from the Compensation Fund that Governments had not distributed to successful claimants within the required time limits.

The Governing Council decided to hold its twenty-ninth session from 28 to 30 September 1998.