

25 June 1998

Press Release for the Opening of the
twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission will hold its twenty-eighth session from 29 June to 1 July 1998 under the Presidency of Ambassador Gonçalo de Santa Clara Gomes of Portugal.

The Governing Council will consider the appointment of two new panels of Commissioners, one panel to address corporate claims and one panel to address Government claims, as well as the appointment of the Chairman and a member of another panel of Commissioners dealing with Government claims. The Commission currently has eight panels of Commissioners : two dealing with individual claims; four dealing with corporate claims; and two dealing with Government claims.

The Council will consider the report and recommendations of the Panel of Commissioners concerning the sixth instalment of individual claims for damages up to US\$100,000 (category "C" claims) concerning 71,042 claims filed by 74 Governments and three international organizations. The Commission has received approximately 420,000 claims under this category, more than two thirds of which have already been resolved in the previous five instalments with the total amount of compensation awarded exceeding US\$2.1 billion.

The Governing Council will also consider the report and recommendations of the Panel of Commissioners concerning the first instalment of "E2" corporate claims involving four large corporate claims for a total amount sought by the claimants of over US\$2 billion. Issues relating to the processing and payment of claims, including reports from Governments on the distribution of payments received from the Compensation Fund and on the status of refunds to the Commission, will be discussed by the Council during the session.

The Council will also discuss a report from the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission in the period March to May 1998. The report covers the issues of selection of Commissioners; claims processing; the selection of claims to be assigned to panels of Commissioners; and matters of administration and management.