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Report of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee

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[3 August 1981]

1. An informal intersessional meeting of the Drafting Committee was held in Geneva from 29 June to 31 July 1981 in accordance with the decision taken by the Conference at its 149th meeting on 16 April 1981.

2. There were 204 meetings of the language groups open to all delegations, 17 meetings of the co-ordinators of the language groups under the direction of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and 5 meetings of the Drafting Committee as a whole. Representatives of 43 delegations participated in the meetings. The Drafting Committee maintained its previously established informal working methods, supplemented more than heretofore by informal consultations on certain provisions of Part XV of the draft convention.

3. In accordance with the time-table proposed at the 149th plenary meeting, the Drafting Committee directed its attention exclusively to Part XV and annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of the draft convention during the first three weeks of its meetings, and gave consideration also to Part XI, section 6, during the last two weeks of the intersessional meetings.

4. The volume and juridical complexity of the provisions in Part XV and the annexes relating thereto posed drafting problems of a different order from those which faced the Committee in its consideration of other Parts of the draft convention. The Committee had to deal with two main problems raising juridical, technical and linguistic issues: the internal co-ordination of the various provisions of this Part and the annexes relating thereto; and the co-ordination between these provisions and their counterparts in Part XI, section 6, of the

draft convention. This task of internal co-ordination absorbed much of the time of the Drafting Committee during this informal intersessional meeting of the Committee.

5. The language groups were able to complete the textual review of sections 1, 2 and 3 of Part XV and the annexes relating thereto and section 6 of Part XI. The co-ordinators completed consideration of sections 1 and 2 of Part XV and then gave consideration to the related provisions of section 6 of Part XI in order to comply with the time-table decided on by the Conference.

6. The Drafting Committee is now submitting a series of proposals to the informal plenary Conference on sections 1 and 2 of Part XV and section 6 of Part XI. These recommendations are set out in addenda 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this report. Other matters regarding these Parts are still under review.

7. It is recommended that the language groups of the Drafting Committee meet as frequently as possible during the first week of the resumed tenth session of the Conference with a view to early completion of their work on section 3 of Part XV and annexes V, VI, VII and VIII, Parts XVI, XVII, the preamble, article 1 and Part XI.

8. It is further recommended that a decision be reached in plenary at an early stage concerning those parts of the draft convention to which the Drafting Committee should give priority during the resumed tenth session of the Conference. It is recommended also that sufficient time and the necessary facilities be provided for the Drafting Committee to enable it to expedite its work during the resumed tenth session.

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Study on the future functions of the Secretary-General under the draft convention and on the needs of countries, especially developing countries, for information, advice and assistance under the new legal régime

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