

Governing Council at its Ninth Session in May, 1981. It requested the Executive Director of UNEP to circulate the texts of the conclusions reached by the Working Group to all Governments for their comments; recommended that Governments consider them when drafting legislation or negotiating agreements on this subject, and requested the Executive Director to report on this subject to the Governing Council at its tenth session.

Work on a convention on liability and compensation in connection with the carriage of noxious and hazardous substances by sea continued in the Legal Committee of the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization. The Committee will take up this subject again at its 47th session in February, 1982, with a view to holding a diplomatic conference to conclude the convention in 1983 or 1984.

Bilateral

Formal negotiations on a transboundary air pollution agreement between Canada and the United States opened in Washington on June 23, 1981, pursuant to the Memorandum of Intent on transboundary air pollution signed by the two governments in August, 1980. The Memorandum pledged the governments to negotiate an air pollution agreement and established a committee structure to undertake preparatory work to be followed by formal negotiations. Committee reports on atmospheric modelling; impact assessment; emissions, costs and engineering assessment; and strategies development and implementation were submitted to the governments in February, 1981. The report of the Legal, Institutional and Drafting Work Group, which draws together available information on international law and domestic legal matters pertaining to the negotiation of a transboundary air pollution agreement, was completed in July, 1981.

The next round of negotiations will be held in Ottawa late in the year.