

operating procedures. Most of the draft memo of understanding drawn up by the task force in Ott has been adopted with minor amendments and additions. SGOP achieved unanimous recommendations on the following subj: chairmanship (monthly rotation beginning with Cda); (B) Working language (English); (C) Session of the Commission; (D) Minutes of sessions or mtgs (verbatim minutes are provided for); (E) Reports; (F) Establishment of cttees and other subsidiary bodies; (G) Teams (including provision for mobile capability); (H) Investigations: (I) Secretariat (including provision for a dirgen and at least one director from each other del); (J) Status and protection (including provision for sidearms); (K) Financial arrangements including compensation, payment and claims; (L) Accommodation, facilities, utilities, material, local staff; (M) Communications; (N) Supplementary arrangements. The Commission has approved of all these sections. The Candel was unable to obtain agreement in SGOP on the following: (A) Public mtgs; and (B) Public minutes. Both these unresolved issues were referred to the Commission where Cda conceded for practical reasons only, and not/not as a matter of principle, that Commission sessions would not/not normally be open unless all four dels agreed. The Candel, acting on instructions, pursued its arguments in favour of public minutes within the commission with the result that no/no decision was reached one way or the other because the Pol and Hungdels finally asked for time to consult their govts and nothing more has been heard from them. SGOP and the Commission also failed to agree on two other issues: (A) That local or sub-regional teams have the right to initiate investigations; and (B) that a section should be included in the operating procedures providing for liaison between the ICCS and Commissions in Laos and Cambodia. After some resistance all members of SGOP agreed on Mar12 that unanimous ICCS reports on items covered in Arts18(B) and (C) of the Agreement "shall be public docus". The Commission is expected to approve a recommendation to this effect next week. Notwithstanding the disagreed areas, we believe that the operating procedures which were finally worked out should prove useful as guidelines for the Commission.

5. Unanimity (Art18(F) of agreement, Art9 of Protocol).

To date, this Commission has failed to reach unanimity on five occasions at hqs. A number of instances where unanimity was impossible have also been reported by regional hqs. Our proposal to make minutes of the Commission's sessions public was strongly opposed by the Hung and Poldels who . . . requested time to consult with their govts. These dels were also opposed to the inclusion in the operating procedures of a section providing for liaison with innatl commissions in Laos and Cambodia, and to our position in the section on investigations that sub-regional teams had the right to initiate investigations. The Hung and Poldels refused to agree to investigation of the complaint dealing with the alleged installation of missiles at Khe Sanh and the Commission could not/not agree on the manner of forwarding the report on the Sa Huynh investigation. The Khe Sanh request illustrated that the Pol and Hungdels, when confronted with an issue which they regard as truly crucial, will not/not hesitate to block ICCS action. Where the Poles and Hungarians did not/not refuse to investigate RVN or USA complaints, it was usually after long debate that they agreed,