

of the organization. The Assembly is composed of all member states, and normally meets biennially. The first session was convened in 1959, and the tenth took place in November 1977.

The *Council* consists of representatives of 24 member states elected by the Assembly for a term of two years. It normally meets twice a year. It is IMCO's governing body between Assembly sessions. Canada has been a member of the Council since its first session in 1959.

The composition of the Council is as follows:

Category A — Governments of states with the largest interest in providing international shipping services (six representatives);

Category B — Governments of other states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade (six representatives);

Category C — Governments of states not elected under A or B that have special interest in maritime transport or navigation and whose election to the Council will ensure representation of all major geographical areas in the world (12 representatives).

The *Maritime Safety Committee*, which is open to all IMCO members, meets twice a year, elects its officers annually and adopts its own rules of procedure. This committee deals with all technical work, such as: aids to navigation; construction and equip-

ment of ships; rules for preventing collisions; the handling of dangerous cargoes; maritime-safety procedures and requirements; marine-casualty investigation; search and rescue; and any other matters directly affecting maritime safety. Canada has been a member since the first session of the committee.

The *Facilitation Committee*, which was created by the Council, meets annually and is open to all member states and states that are parties to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965. The purpose of this convention is to facilitate maritime transport by simplifying and reducing to a minimum the formalities and documentation requirements on the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged in international voyages.

The *Secretariat* of IMCO consists of 206 employees divided among five divisions, and is headed by a Secretary-General.

Membership

Present IMCO membership stands at 110 full members, with one associate member. The membership includes ship-owning nations, countries using shipping services and developing countries.