

ANNEX VI

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE REGIONAL CENTRE
FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

(Agenda item 6.3(c))

Delegation of Israel

The delegation of Israel indicated that, "it understood paragraph 35 of the draft report of Committee I */ to mean that the Government of Tunisia accepts that all the parties to the Barcelona Convention will be able to attend all meetings and conferences and participate in all the Centre's activities without discrimination on political or other grounds" and that it also interpreted it to mean that "the Government of Tunisia ... will issue all representatives of the Contracting Parties the necessary visas to enable them to attend meetings and conferences in good time and that it will take the necessary steps so that all information concerning the Centre's activities will be circulated without hindrance to all the Parties".

Delegation of Tunisia

"In reply to the interpretation of one delegation concerning the last sentence of paragraph 35 of the report of Committee I, */ the delegation of Tunisia wishes to make clear that that delegation is free to interpret the statement of the Tunisian delegation as it wishes, but its personal interpretation commits only itself and is in no way binding on the delegation of Tunisia.

The Tunisian delegation stands by its initial statement, as reproduced in the last sentence of paragraph 35 of the report of Committee I, */ and thus rejects any unilateral interpretation of the content of the statement."

Statement by the Representative of the Executive Director

In response to a question concerning the application of paragraph 35 of the report of Committee I, */ the representative of the Executive Director replied that: "The text as now proposed would read: 'that all Contracting Parties will take part in the activities of the Centre'. This text is very clear. It has been simplified to the point where it does not require interpretation and therefore it would be easy to establish whether this text is being adhered to or not. In our view, this is satisfactory, but, of course, in the view of the secretariat and in the view specifically of the Executive Director, now that the issue is before them, it is for the Contracting Parties to declare whether they feel satisfied with the text. This is the most important thing".

*/ Appearing as paragraph 69 of the report of this Meeting.