

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

covered by the ordinary criminal law in the country in which it was committed. But offences are not considered to be political when they are committed outside a 'conflict area', and when the victims are not connected with the aims or objectives pursued by the offenders.

Co-operation with INTERPOL is based on actions taken by the police forces in the various member states, operating within their own national boundaries and in accordance with their own national laws. All member states are provided with the same services and have the same rights, irrespective of the size of their financial contributions to the Organization.

On 15 Oct. 1996 INTERPOL obtained Observer status in the United Nations General Assembly. This decision recognized the long-term policy of co-operation between INTERPOL and the United Nations, undertaken in an effort to avoid duplication of manpower and resources in the fight against international crime and to ensure that the two organizations pursue a common strategy.

Headquarters: Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France.

Website: <http://www.interpol.int>

Secretary-General: Ronald K. Noble (USA).

INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (IMSO)

Founded in 1979 as the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to establish a satellite system to improve maritime communications for distress and safety and commercial applications. Its competence was subsequently expanded to include aeronautical and land mobile communications. Privatization, which was completed in April 1999, transferred the business to a newly created company and the Organization remains as a regulator to ensure that the company fulfils its public services obligations. The company has taken the Inmarsat name and the Organization uses the acronym IMSO. In Oct. 1999 the Organization had 86 member parties.

Organization. The Assembly of all Parties to the Convention meets every two years. There is also a 22-member Council of representatives of national telecommunications administrations as well as an executive Directorate.

Headquarters: 99 City Road, London EC1Y 1AX, UK.

Director of the Secretariat, IMSO: Jerzy Vonau.

Chief Executive, Inmarsat Ltd: Michael Storey.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INTELSAT)

Intelsat was founded in 1964 to own and operate the worldwide commercial satellite communications system. Costs are borne by members in proportion to their usage of the system. 19 Intelsat satellites in geosynchronous orbit provides a global communications service. It has 143 member states.

Objectives. To provide international telephone and TV services, a digital data transmission service (Intelnet), a business service (IBS) and domestic telecommunications services.