

TREATIES—PROPOSED POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

That:

- (1) a Joint Standing Committee on Treaties be appointed to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses and proposed treaty actions and related Explanatory Statements presented or deemed to be presented to the Parliament;
 - (b) any question relating to a treaty or other international instrument, whether or not negotiated to completion, referred to the committee by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament, or
 - (ii) a Minister; and
 - (iii) such other matters as may be referred to the committee by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe;
- (2) the committee consist of 16 members, 6 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any minority group or independent Member, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or independent Senator;
- (3) every nomination of a member of the committee be notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (4) the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time;
- (5) the committee elect a:
 - (a) Government member as its chair; and
 - (b) non-Government member as its deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee;
- (6) at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting; (7) in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote;

- (8) three members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House;
- (9) the committee:
 - (a) have power to appoint not more than three subcommittees each consisting of three or more of its members, and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine; and
 - (b) appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only;
- (10) in addition to the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (9), the chair and deputy chair of the committee be ex officio members of each subcommittee appointed;
- (11) at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting;
- (12) two members of a subcommittee constitute the quorum of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House;
- (13) members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum;
- (14) the committee or any subcommittee have power to:
 - (a) call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced;
 - (b) conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit;
 - (c) sit in public or in private;
 - (d) report from time to time; and
 - (e) adjourn from time to time and sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives;
- (15) the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Standing Committees on Treaties appointed during previous Parliaments;
- (16) the provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.