

22 MAY 2002

**DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

**SERVICE ALLOWANCE**

**STATEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF SERVICE ALLOWANCE THE TRIBUNAL WISHES TO INDICATE THAT IT STANDS READY TO HEAR SERVICE ALLOWANCE ON THE LISTED DATE OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2002 BUT AGREES, WITH RELUCTANCE, TO THE DEFERRAL OF THIS MATTER.

THE DEFERRAL IS A MATTER OF REAL CONCERN TO THE TRIBUNAL GIVEN THAT WE WERE ADVISED IN NOVEMBER 1999 THAT THIS MATTER WAS TO BE REVIEWED AS PART OF THE ADF ENTERPRISE PRODUCTIVITY ARRANGEMENT: 1999 – 2002, THAT IN THE 2000 TWO YEARLY REVIEW THE ADF STATED THAT THE ALLOWANCE WAS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL IN 2001 AND FURTHERMORE AT THE REQUEST OF THE ADF FIRM DATES WERE SET FOR THE TRIBUNAL TO HEAR THE MATTER IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

FOR THE FUTURE THE TRIBUNAL EXPRESSES ITS EXPECTATION THAT COMMITMENTS AND UNDERTAKINGS IN ENTERPRISE PRODUCTIVITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ADHERED TO UNLESS THERE ARE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE.

WE HAVE SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE FEDERATIONS VIEW THAT THE HEARING SHOULD BE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND IN THIS REGARD SEEK FROM THE ADF ADVICE OF A PROPOSED DATE FOR HEARING.

THE TRIBUNAL WOULD EXPECT THAT ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH ADF MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT ABOUT THE DEFERRAL WILL INCLUDE THE TRIBUNAL'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE DELAY.