gold atoms bonded to PPh_3 [10], the quadrupole pair at 0.91 mm/sec is assigned to peripheral gold coordinated to i-PrNC (see Table 1). The new cluster is clearly closely related to $[Au_9(PPh_3)_8]^{3+}$ with two PPh_3 ligands replaced by 2 i-PrNC. The formation of $[Au_9(PPh_3)_6\ (i\text{-}PrNC)_2]^{3+}$ from $[Au_8(PPh_3)_7]^{2+}$ and i-PrNC looks somewhat puzzling, but the interconversion of Au_9 and Au_8 clusters is well known in other reactions [1].

The addition of primary amines to gold(I) isocyanide complexes leads to the formation of formamidine complexes [6—9]. The magnitude of the ν(CN) shift is significant for the reactivity of the isocyanide ligand; although the shift of 60 cm^{-1} for the $[Au_9(PPh_3)_6\ (i\text{-}PrNC)_2]^{3+}$ seems low, the compound reacts with primary amines to carbene cluster compounds. Further details of this reaction will be reported later.

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JOURNAL OF ORGANOMETALLIC CHEMISTRY, VOL. 253 (1983)

AUTHOR INDEX