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INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
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PCT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Eleventh Session
Geneva, May 26 and 27, 1988

RECOMMENDATION BY THE IPC
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its sixteenth session, in March 1988, the IPC Committee of Experts considered whether the application of the IPC indexing codes should be made mandatory for the countries members of the IPC Union.

2. The Committee decided not to make the application of the IPC indexing codes obligatory, but made a recommendation to the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation to urge the authorities whose patent documents form part of the PCT minimum documentation to allot the said codes. The Annex to this document contains an excerpt of the relevant part of the report of the above-mentioned session (document IPC/CE/XVI/8).

3. The PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation is invited to consider the recommendation referred to in the preceding paragraph.

[Annex follows]

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ANNEX

EXCERPT FROM DOCUMENT IPC/CE/XVI/8

"INDEXING CODES POSSIBLY TO BECOME OBLIGATORY IN THE FUTURE

"22. The Committee, following the discussion at the third Advanced IPC Seminar (see document IPC/SEM/87/7, paragraphs 17 and 18) considered whether the application of indexing codes should be made mandatory.

"23. The Committee agreed that the basic concept of applying the indexing codes in a non-obligatory manner should be retained, at least for the near future, since the Committee felt that otherwise the obligation to allot the complete symbols of the IPC applied to the inventions would be too heavy a burden for some members of the IPC Union (see also paragraph 17, above).

"24. The Committee, bearing in mind that recognition of the value of the indexing codes in the process of searching was spreading amongst industrial property offices--and recalling that Recommendation No. 3 of the Committee, urging patent document issuing offices to also print, on those documents, the non-obligatory classification symbols and indexing codes relating to additional information, had been issued to all countries members of WIPO as WIPO Circular No. 816 on February 7, 1986, and that it would be considered whether to introduce in the "Guidelines for International Search to be Carried Out Under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)" a recommendation that the PCT International Searching Authorities allot the non-obligatory classification symbols and indexing codes to the international patent applications they classified, when those Guidelines would be revised (see document PCT/CTC/VIII/4, paragraphs 15 and 16)--agreed to recommend to the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation that the authorities whose patent documents form part of the PCT minimum documentation be urged to allot the indexing codes."

[End of Annex
and of document]