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PCT/MIA/III/2 Add.2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: June 4, 1993

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)**

**MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES
UNDER THE PCT**

**Third Session
Geneva, June 21 to 25, 1993**

**OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS OF VARIOUS
DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. The Annex to this document contains observations on the filling in of some Forms for use by the International Preliminary Examining Authorities provided by the United Kingdom Patent Office.
2. These observations are hereby provided to all International Authorities for information and comments.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



Mr P Thomas
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Date : 4 May 1993

Dear Mr Thomas

PCT: INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

I would welcome your advice as regards the indications of novelty and inventive step in the statement in Box V of Forms 408 and 409.

If claims are considered to lack novelty on the basis of certain documents, what indication (if any) ought to be given as regards inventive step for the same claims on the basis of the same documents? For instance, on the attached example sheet, is it acceptable to report "No" for Novelty and "Yes" for Inventive Step for claims 1-10?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Kennell".

R C Kennell
Senior Examiner
Legal Division, Patents & Designs Directorate

WRITTEN OPINION		International application No. PCT/GB 92/	
V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement			
1. STATEMENT			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>11-17</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	<u>NO</u>
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-10/13-17</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims	<u>11-12</u>	<u>NO</u>
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-17</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS			
<p>Claims 1-10 do not meet the requirement for novelty having regard to the disclosure in Examples 5 and 6 of GB-A-2268123 (SMITH), at page 16 line 11 -page 17 line 35, of:</p> <p>(i) alternating layers of fibres of length 10 and 150mm, and 5 and 120mm respectively. These dimensions appear to be within the definitions of "short" and "long" at page 5 lines 18-35 (see also Box VIII below);</p> <p>(ii) fibrous materials (polyamide, polyester and polypropylene) within the ambit of Claims 2-7;</p> <p>(iii) layer thickness within the range prescribed by Claims 8-10.</p> <p>Claims 11 and 12 meet the requirement for novelty but do not meet the requirement for inventive step having regard to the disclosure in:</p> <p>GB-A-2270866 (BROWN LTD) - at page 1 lines 103-107 GB-A-2266147 (GREEN INC) - at page 3 lines 26-34 US-5117372 (WILLIAMS) - at column 6 lines 48-53</p> <p>of the alloys specified in these claims for the manufacture of barbed needles. It would appear obvious for the man skilled in the art to use needles made from such alloys in the methods of Claims 11 and 12.</p> <p>Claims 13-17 meet the requirement of novelty and inventive step. None of the cited specifications disclose or suggest needle configurations having the re-entrant portions required by these claims, although GB-A-2268123 and GB-A-2266147 disclose needles having a similar distribution of barbs along their length.</p>			

[End of annex and of document]