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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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BRAZILIAN PROJECT

Progress Report prepared by the International Bureau

- 1. The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee"), at its third session, held in Tokyo from October 24 to 27, 1973, discussed a progress report on the Brazilian Project (see document PCT/TAS/III/4) and noted with appreciation the successful completion of the preparatory stage of the project and the fact that its implementation had started. This progress report deals with the developments concerning the project which have occurred since the last session of the Interim Committee.
- 2. The project implementation started with the arrival of the Project Manager in Rio de Janeiro on October 14, 1973. Shortly thereafter the first experts recruited by WIPO for the project took up duty, dealing with the initiation of the training program in the fields of patent classification, search file organization and systems analysis.
- 3. In agreement with the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (hereinafter referred to as "INPI"), the scope of all project activities was defined in more detail and general guidelines were established for carrying out each of these activities. Brazilian counterpart personnel from the INPI staff were assigned to assist the Project Manager and the experts recruited by WIPO. A new program of training activities was elaborated, taking into account the consideration of first acquiring some experience, in particular in the field of training activities, before starting with a greater number of training courses.

- 4. The new training program provided for a continuous series of training courses, starting with a course in classification according to the International Patent Classification (IPC), and followed first by a course in searching of patent applications and thereafter by a course in the examining of patent applications. All courses are divided into the three broad technical fields of chemistry, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. A specially qualified expert at the level of a senior patent examiner was included in the program with the task of elaborating training guidelines, taking into account the particular legal and technical aspects inherent in the new Brazilian patent law. This work was performed in close cooperation with the training expert responsible for the establishment of the nucleus of a training department inside INPI.
- 5. Since one of the central elements of the modernization project is the initial bank of technical information, special efforts were directed to establishing as early as possible a usable nucleus of a search file of patent documents which could also serve for training purposes. For that purpose, a search file expert was employed for six months during the initial stage of the Project. His task was to develop, in close cooperation with the systems analysts, a system for a centralized file of patent documents according to the IPC and in numerical order.
- 6. The present documentation of INPI consists of complete numerical collections of patent documents, or substantial parts of such collections, which have been generously donated by the following countries: France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Patent Office of the United States of America provided free of charge the US patent documents needed to establish a complete search file on certain technical fields specially selected for training purposes. The distributing of the patent documents contained in these collections over the newly created search file established according to the finest subdivisions of the IPC is carried out with search file inventory lists which have been provided in machine-readable form free of charge by the German Patent Office. Thanks to this assistance, it has been possible to file already several hundred thousand documents in the search files and to create more complete search files for some technical fields which are particularly important for training purposes.
- 7. The recruitment of the variety of experts needed for this project was not in all cases very easy but has been very much facilitated by the cooperation of the Offices putting the experts at WIPO's disposal. In particular, without the highly appreciated assistance of the German Patent Office, the International Patent Institute, the Swedish Patent Office and the United States Patent Office, which detailed highly qualified experts for a series of assignments to Brazil, the execution of the project would not have been feasible. A number of further applications to work as experts under the project have been received both from the said Offices and from several other Patent Offices. While it has not yet been possible to offer an appointment to more than a few experts from the Offices mentioned above, it should be kept in mind that the project is still at the beginning of its first phase and that a number of further experts will be needed. This will certainly require the recruitment of experts also from other Offices which have so far not participated in the project.
- 8. Since the headquarters of INPI were intended to be gradually transferred to Brasilia, the project activities started both in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia and it was planned to concentrate them in Brasilia as soon as the transfer of INPI was sufficiently advanced. However, according to information recently received, the Brazilian Government decided in August 1974 not to move INPI to Brasilia but to concentrate, as of January 1, 1975, all its operations in Rio de Janeiro. This will allow the project activities also to be concentrated from now on in Rio de Janeiro.
- 9. On July 2, 1974, a review of the whole project took place in Brasilia by the three parties involved, namely, the Brazilian Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WIPO. The representatives of WIPO explained the training programs, described the results of the systems analysis and outlined the progress made with the establishment of the search file. The representatives of UNDP and the Brazilian Government expressed their general satisfaction with the project and thanked WIPO for its efficient performance in executing the project. The Resident Representative of UNDP, whose office has given to

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WIPO and its experts all possible support in all phases of the Project, gave assurance of his further assistance and readiness to increase the UNDP input, in particular if additional manmonths for experts should be needed.

- 10. In conclusion, it can be stated that all project activities are well under way and that the reporting period was one of high performance. It is to be expected that the Project implementation will continue in full swing and will profit from the concentration of activities in one place, in Rio de Janeiro, as of January 1, 1975.
 - 14. The Interim Committee is requested to take note of this report and to provide its advice, if any, on the continuation of the Project.

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