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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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ACQUISITION OF PCT--MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION (PATENT DOCUMENTS) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report prepared by the International Bureau

1. Experience gained by the International Bureau has shown that one of the major problems to be solved in technical assistance projects for developing countries which provide for the establishment of a patent documentation center, such as the project at present being carried out in Brazil is the procurement of collections of patent documents.
2. Patent documents have been recognized by developing countries as being one of the major sources of technical information, and their easy availability is of prime importance and need to these countries when taking decisions in the field of transfer of technology.
3. Patent documents which are currently issued can, of course, be obtained under bilateral agreements with the issuing patent Offices. But which Patent Offices have presently available one or more complete sets of their recently issued patents which could be put at the disposal of developing countries? Furthermore, which Patent Office keeps, if any, collections of backlog patents which are ten, twenty or more years old?
4. It would seem that in some cases backlog patent collections do become available, e.g., whenever a transformation of a paper copy collection to micro-form is decided, and sometimes such collections are destroyed for lack of any real need to use them otherwise or because of storage problems.
5. With the present document the International Bureau should like to bring to the attention of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance that, besides the project for Brazil which is now underway, various further requests for assistance from developing countries for the establishment of patent documentation centers are being studied by the International Bureau or to be expected in the near future, for which the need for patent collections will materialize in due course.

6. The International Bureau would like to receive information regarding any collection of patent documents which is available, or may become available in the foreseeable future. Such information would be of extreme importance for the planning of the responses to be given to the various requests for assistance referred to above. It should be clarified that not only complete collections of patent documents are of interest, but also those collections which cover a certain number of years, or certain fields of technology only.

7. The Interim Committee is requested to advise the International Bureau on what would be the best way to take stock of the availability of collections of backlog and/or current patent documents which could be put at the disposal of interested developing countries in the frame of technical assistance projects and to secure for the benefit of such projects collections of patent documents which might otherwise be destroyed.

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