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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
GENEVA

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE

(Fourth Session, Geneva, April 25 to 30, 1973)

MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION: NON-PATENT LITERATURE

INSPEC PROJECT

Progress Report by the International Bureau

1. It is recalled that, at the first session of the Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Standing Subcommittee") the representative of INSPEC ("Information Services in Physics, Electrotechnology, Computers and Control", operated by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London) presented a proposal for a system to facilitate access by national Offices to selected areas of non-patent literature ("Patent-Associated Literature" (PAL) System). The full text of the proposal was distributed to the participants and was summarized in document PCT/TCO/SS/I/6.

2. It is further recalled that at its third session, the Standing Subcommittee discussed a progress report on developments regarding the proposals made (documents PCT/TCO/SS/10 and 11) as well as new proposals formulated by INSPEC and transmitted to members of the Standing Subcommittee in August 1972 under cover of WIPO Circular No. 1492.

3. In accordance with the declaration made by Mr. Barlow, Director, INSPEC, at the third session (document PCT/TCO/SS/III/23, paragraph 48), INSPEC transmitted to all members of the Standing Subcommittee the details of an introductory service in a document entitled "Specification for the introductory services", dated November 11, 1972, as well as a "letter of intent" soliciting subscriptions to such a service.

4. According to information received from INSPEC, letters of intent to subscribe to the service were received from only two prospective subscribers and as three were needed the service was not initiated in 1973.

5. In March of this year representatives of the International Bureau and INSPEC met at INSPEC headquarters in London in order to review the existing situation. In light of that discussion, changing economic conditions, and significant progress in overcoming the copyright problem, INSPEC has issued a new document (INSPEC PAL/6) entitled "The Pal System--A Progress Report, April 1973". The document sets forth a summary of the negotiations to date and a discussion of the copyright situation, and advances the possibility of introducing the Pal System Services in 1974 should three letters of intent from prospective subscribers be received by August 1, 1973. The document also details an alternative service which would provide full text copies but not abstracts of the selected articles.

6. The International Bureau transmitted the new document (INSPEC PAL/6) to all members of the Standing Subcommittee under cover of WIPO Circular No. 1668 dated April 17, 1973.

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