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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION (PCT UNION)

PCT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MATTERS

Third session, Second Part Geneva, September 17 to 21, 1990

DRAFT RULE 61.4

proposed by the United Kingdom

The present document contains a proposal, received from the Industrial Property and Copyright Department of the United Kingdom, for a draft Rule 61.4 concerning the publication of elections in the PCT Gazette.

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PCT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MATTERS -3RD SESSION - JULY 2-6, 1990 - DEMANDS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

I. Interested circles in the UK are concerned that information about the status of a PCT application which takes advantage of chapter II. and for which a denand and elections for international proziminary examination are field before the expiry of the 19th month following the priority date, cannot be obtained until national processing begins - at up to 30 months or more from priority. (If elections are made after 19 months the problem is less serious, since national processing begins earlier).

2. Ny department sympathises with the interests' concern. The UK delegation to the forthcoming meeting therefore requests that the following proposal for a new part rule should be considered:

61.4: "The international Bureau shall promptly publish in the Garette any election made prior to the expiry of the 19th month from the priority date."

Such a rule would not be ultra vires. Although the minutes of the Washington Conference confirm the present practice, the justifiable need for basic information suggests that a change in that practice would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely

ALEC SUGDEN