

WIPO



PCT/TAS/VI/11

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: November 8, 1976

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Sixth Session

Geneva, November 2 to 8, 1976

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee") held its sixth session in Geneva from November 2 to 8, 1976.
2. The members of the Interim Committee are those States--43 in number--which have signed, or acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), and, pursuant to a decision of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, any other country which pledges a special contribution to the PCT budget. There are three States, Australia, Cuba and Spain, which have qualified under the latter criterion. The following 26 States were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Iran, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. The following 17 States were not represented: Australia, Belgium, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Holy See, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Malawi, Monaco, Philippines, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo and Yugoslavia.
3. Three intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Interim Committee of the European Patent Organisation (EPO) and the International Patent Institute (IIB), were represented by observers.
4. The following seven non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI), Council of European Industrial Federations (CEIF), European Federation of Industrial Property Representatives of Industry (FEMIPPI), International Federation of Patent Agents (FICPI), International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA), Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE) and Union of European Professional Patent Representatives (UNION).
5. The number of participants was 69. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

OPENING OF SESSION

6. The session was opened by Mr. Klaus Pfanner, Deputy Director General of WIPO, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General of WIPO.

OFFICERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

7. The Interim Committee unanimously elected Mr. F. El Ibrashi (Egypt) as Chairman and Mr. A.G. Bahadian (Brazil) and Mr. J. Otero Solanes (Cuba) as Vice-Chairmen.

8. Mr. N. Scherrer, Counsellor, PCT Division, WIPO, acted as Secretary of the Interim Committee.

AGENDA

9. The Interim Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document PCT/TAS/VI/1.Rev.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PCT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

10. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/4.

11. The Chairman, underlining the importance of patent documentation in the framework of technical assistance projects for developing countries, expressed his appreciation to all members of the Interim Committee and other participants in its work who had so far contributed with offers of collections of documents, as well as to the International Bureau for its endeavors to dispose of offered material as expeditiously as possible.

12. The International Bureau informed the Interim Committee that approximately four million documents had been disposed of in the reporting period of one year since the previous session of the Interim Committee. It promised to pursue actively its efforts to dispose of the still available collections of patent documents in order to allow them to be shipped to requesting developing countries in as short a time as possible. Furthermore, it appealed to countries that had offered documents to extend, as much as possible, the time limits indicated earlier for keeping the documents available. Such extension of time was, in most cases, decisive for enabling all the necessary negotiations as to transportation and preparation concerning proper storage and use of the documents in developing countries to take place. Last, but not least, it renewed its plea to the members of the Interim Committee, and to the representatives from industry, for additional offers of patent documents. These would be welcome whatever their form (paper or microform), whether full text documents or abstracts, whatever the language, the period of time or the technical field covered.

13. The Delegation of Canada requested information on how transportation costs were covered and on the rationale followed when disposing of documents. The International Bureau explained that it endeavoured to fulfill requests from developing countries in the order they were received and according to the particular language handling capabilities of the country concerned. Requests received under a development cooperation project in the framework of WIPO's program would, wherever possible, be treated with priority. Transportation costs were usually the subject of negotiations whenever there were no funds available with the donor or the recipient. WIPO, itself, had no budgetary means to assume any transportation costs and could consequently cover them only exceptionally where special project funds, e.g., from UNDP, were available for that purpose. For this reason, it was particularly desirable that donors of documents provided their cooperation with respect to this aspect of the problem as well.

14. The Delegation of France recalled that its offer of abstracts of French patent documents, in the form of microfilm cassettes (see document PCT/TAS/VI/4 paragraph 15), was a standing offer without any time limitation, but that the part collections of unsold paper documents at the National Printing Office had to be availed of at short notice for operational

reasons. The Delegation said that it hoped that its microfilm collection could soon be used, no request having reached it so far. The International Bureau indicated the intention of taking advantage of the offer of one of these collections in the framework of the project for establishment of a documentation center for the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

15. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that its offer of part collections of patent documents (see document PCT/TAS/VI/4, paragraphs 16), which it kept updated, was not limited in time either. It indicated, in addition, that it might possibly be able to offer soon a complete collection of all published patent documents, including unexamined and examined patent applications, from 1957 to the present date.

16. The Delegation of Japan referred to its offer of collections of Japanese Patent Office Gazettes, as well as part collections of English language abstracts, without any time limitations, as indicated in paragraph 18 and Annex H of the document under consideration.

17. Delegation of Switzerland stated that it still kept at the disposal of developing countries two full collections of Swiss patent documents, constantly updated, and that, though the time limit for availing of those collections had been fixed at January 1, 1979, it expected to be soon in a position to communicate to the International Bureau an extension of that time limit.

18. The Representative of UNICE asked whether there would be any interest, perhaps for training purposes, in two specialized collections containing nearly 4,000 patent documents, besides abstracts, relating to the technological fields of pesticides and fertilizers which his firm (Hoechst) would be glad to offer. He would provide details to the Secretariat in case of interest. The International Bureau expressed its particular interest in preserving these two collections of patent documents and abstracts since they could most probably be used at least for training purposes if not also for search purposes.

19. The Delegation of Cuba stated its satisfaction at being able to participate in the work of the Interim Committee, the results of which it deemed very useful for the purpose of providing guidance for the organization of the activities of the Patent Office of its country. Its Office had already received earlier collections of patent documents from the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. Recently, its Office had received collections of patent documents of the Federal Republic of Germany (from 1957 to 1968, which it would like to see completed and updated on a continuing basis), of Switzerland (complete collection), of France and of Australia. The Delegation furthermore expressed the interest of its Office in receiving Austrian and Canadian patent documents, as well as Japanese patent documents, as far as English abstracts for the latter existed, as early as the beginning of 1977. This was particularly important in view of the objective of its Office to become an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT in the future. Furthermore, the Delegation referred, in this context, to the efforts of its country in sponsoring a sub-regional project for a Caribbean Documentation and Patent Information Center to be created for developing countries of the area.

20. The Delegation of Austria indicated the readiness of its Patent Office to furnish non-priority patent documents, on a microfilm basis, in the framework of PCT Technical Assistance projects.

21. The Delegation of Canada, referring to the policy followed by its Patent Office of changing over from paper documents to microform, indicated the possibility of having available a limited collection of documents covering the period 1948-1976.

22. The Delegation of Spain declared that it had examined attentively all the activities of Technical Assistance for developing countries being carried out by the Interim Committee. At this time, its Patent Office did not have any concrete plans on the subject, but it would endeavour to offer all the technical assistance it could in favor of the Latin American countries of Spanish language, especially in connection with the reorganization of the Industrial Property Offices in those countries, the holding of training courses on industrial

property matters and training in the use of the International Patent Classification. As to the latter, Spain was in the course of finishing the printing of the Spanish translation of the International Patent Classification and it would be ready to offer the translation to other Spanish-speaking countries.

23. The International Bureau expressed its warm appreciation for the participation of Spain as of this session in the work of the Interim Committee and welcomed, as particularly useful, the role Spain contemplated to assume in the framework of the PCT Technical Assistance program. The assistance envisaged for the developing countries of Latin America would, in strengthening the ties among countries of Spanish language, certainly have a positive influence towards providing the development of the necessary infrastructure for an effective system for the protection of industrial property in Latin America facilitating transfer of technology and industrial development.

24. It was decided to recommend that the International Bureau actively continue its efforts towards locating collections of patent documents available at present or expected to become available in the foreseeable future in national industrial property administrations, libraries, research centers and industrial enterprises of the more developed countries, and of channeling these collections to governmental institutions, mainly industrial property offices and documentation centers, in developing countries. In this way, the technical information contained in patent document collections could be expected to become accessible to the widest circle on a national or regional basis and, thus, contribute to the transfer of technology for the development of local industries in developing countries.

BRAZILIAN PROJECT

25. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/2.

26. In introducing this document, the International Bureau reviewed the progress that had been achieved so far and indicated what difficulties had been encountered and what work still had to be accomplished. As to progress achieved, it should be noted that a new patent handling procedure had been successfully introduced. The clerical operations concerning the processing of patent applications were now current, the backlog in this area having been eliminated. The recently inaugurated patent bank, containing over one million patent documents classified according to the International Patent Classification, was being actively used for patent search and for information to the public. Its expansion was expected to be considerable in 1977, as soon as tenant alterations were completed in the building where the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil had its offices (possibly early March 1977), thus allowing the introduction into the classified search files of further patent documents from the various numerical patent collections already provided through the Project. As to the third main item of Project activities, various training courses in the three main technical fields (chemical, electrical and mechanical) had been successfully completed and a nucleus of fully trained examiners was working at INPI. A persistent need for improvement in employment conditions, as well as a natural turnover of staff, had led to the need to recruit new trainees on a larger scale. The structural incorporation of INPI's staff recently accomplished, as well as other measures being undertaken by the Government to improve the employment conditions, were expected to allow a new cycle of intensive training in patent classification, searching and examination to be commenced in 1977. In this context, the International Bureau expressed its deep gratitude to all members of the Interim Committee which had, since the beginning of this large-scale technical assistance project, lent their support to it by providing documentation and/or the services of their specialists for training. Appreciation was also expressed for the excellent collaboration received from the side of the Brazilian Government Authorities, at all levels, and particular gratitude was added for the unflinching assistance and support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), both at headquarters as well as by its Resident Representative in the field, thus permitting this Project to be carried out in the framework of an efficient and close cooperation with all concerned.

27. The Delegation of Brazil underlined the high priority interest its Government continued to have in the implementation of this Project, the success of which would no doubt be beneficial not only for Brazil but also for the world industrial property community. The Delegation thanked all Offices for their continuing and extremely useful assistance, as well as the International Bureau and UNDP for their efforts devoted to the Project execution.

28. The Delegation of the Netherlands referred to the assistance it had provided by sending one of its examiners as a Project Expert. The Delegation regarded this assistance as also benefitting its Office since the experience brought back by this examiner was useful to its Patent Office in understanding the problems with which developing countries were confronted. It stated its willingness to provide similar assistance again in this as well as in other technical assistance projects.

29. The representative of UNDP expressed appreciation of the fruitful cooperation between UNDP and the International Bureau and confirmed the interest UNDP had in the successful implementation of the Project.

30. The Delegation of the Soviet Union informed the Interim Committee that the furnishing to Brazil of microfilms of collections of patent documents of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom was being implemented.

31. The Delegation of Japan, recalling its satisfaction at having been able to contribute the services of a computer specialist from its Patent Office, and expressing its readiness to continue to participate in the carrying out of training activities, and to furnish patent documents, informed the Interim Committee that the requested English language abstracts of Japanese patent documents of particular interest for developing countries had been shipped to Brazil in July of this year.

32. The Interim Committee noted with appreciation the activities carried out by WIPO during the reporting period and expressed its strong support for the continuation of the work on this Project on a high priority basis.

OAPI PROJECT

33. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/3.

34. The International Bureau informed the Interim Committee of the endorsement, by the Administrative Council of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), of the report of the mission carried out in 1975, which recommended the creation of a patent documentation and information service within the framework of OAPI. It also mentioned that the Project had been included in the draft Second Regional Programme of UNDP (1977-1981) for Africa and that negotiations were going on with the competent authorities of the European Communities with a view to obtaining assistance, in the framework of the Lomé Convention, which would permit a reduction of the local contributions to be made to the Project. Discussions with UNDP were directed to defining realistic dimensions for the Project, and it was envisaged that in 1977 a final decision on the financing of this important regional project for French-speaking African countries could be reached.

35. In response to a question whether members of OAPI had ratified or adhered to the PCT, and whether the PCT Technical Assistance Program should extend to countries not yet having done so, the Delegation of France recalled that the majority of OAPI member States had already ratified the PCT or adhered to it. The Project would certainly, on a long term basis, create the necessary infrastructure for OAPI to become an International Searching Authority under the PCT for French-speaking Africa. The Delegation of the United States of America noted in this context that some of the projects under consideration by the Interim Committee involved countries which had neither signed nor acceded to the PCT. In light of the broader mandate given to the Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation in the field of Industrial Property, the Delegation suggested that these programs be placed under the auspices of that Committee.

36. The International Bureau stated that projects concerning patent documentation centers or the establishment or modernization of patent offices in developing countries which had, as a long-range objective, the establishing of a PCT Authority for the country or region concerned fell naturally within the framework of activities of the PCT. While, of course, now, as long as the Treaty was not in force and the membership of the Interim Committee totalled 43 countries with a considerable number of developing countries a limitation to States party to the PCT was not possible, it seemed necessary, even after entry into force, at least during an initial period, to extend assistance to States indicating their interest in such assistance in order to prepare for membership. In this context, it recalled the decision of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union, as to membership in the Interim Committee, referred to in paragraph 2, above, according to which not only States having signed the Treaty or acceded to it, but also States pledging contributions were member States of the Interim Committee. It added that references in document PCT/TAS/VI/3 and other documents of this session to matters which were clearly not PCT-related activities, were included only for information purposes.

37. The Delegation of Cameroon pointed to the importance of the OAPI Project for all member countries of OAPI. Those countries followed attentively the developments in the preparatory stage and had a keen interest that this, as well as similar projects in other developing regions of the world, were successfully implemented. In relation to the OAPI Project, it expressed, in advance, its deep appreciation to UNDP and other financial institutions for their goodwill and cooperation. The Delegation was convinced that, notwithstanding present financial constraints, these institutions would be able to respond to expectations and supply the necessary financial means for project implementation. The Delegation stated its firm belief that the members of the Interim Committee and WIPO would provide all the assistance they could possibly render within the sphere of their respective activities, in order to promote the successful execution of the Project, and expressed its gratitude to the International Bureau for its efforts in preparing the implementation of the Project.

38. The Delegation of Ivory Coast agreed with the statements made, and the wishes expressed, by the Delegation of Cameroon and, thanking the International Bureau for the work done so far, appealed to the Representative of UNDP that assistance be granted with priority in order to make the OAPI Project soon a reality.

39. The Interim Committee decided that this Project be continued with its full support and associated itself in the appeal to UNDP to give preferential consideration to the financing of this Project.

PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECTS FOR ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTERS AND OTHER REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER CHAPTER IV OF THE PCT BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

40. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/6.

41. Several technical assistance projects being implemented or prepared by WIPO were reviewed.

42. The Delegation of Algeria, in this context, voiced the hope that WIPO might in future provide a higher number of fellowships and more comprehensive training than the three-month fellowships presently granted. The International Bureau stated its awareness of the significance of training for experts from developing countries. The funds available to WIPO under its Permanent Program were, however, quite limited. In this context, the International Bureau drew the attention of the Delegation of Algeria to the discussions that would follow in connection with the establishment of a training program as proposed by the Austrian Authorities (see paragraphs 60 to 67 below) from which more extensive training possibilities might result. The International Bureau greeted with interest every effort by developed countries in this direction and would welcome proposals similar to those made by the

Austrian Authorities.

43. The Delegation of the Soviet Union informed the Interim Committee of its activities of technical assistance to developing countries in providing them with patent documentation and free searches of national patent applications.

44. The Delegation of Iran asked whether it was possible for WIPO to send an expert mission to a developing country like its own, expressing a desire to have its national legislation and its Patent Office modernized with a view to facilitating accession to the PCT. The International Bureau stated its readiness to consider favorably such a request.

45. The Interim Committee noted with interest the information supplied by the International Bureau and urged it to continue its activities in the framework of Chapter IV of the PCT.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF TECHNICAL NON-PATENT LITERATURE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE OR ON VERY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

46. Discussions were based on documents PCT/TAS/VI/5 and 9.

47. In introducing these documents, the International Bureau highlighted the potential advantages derived from the supply of technical periodicals, free of charge, published by industrial enterprises to national patent offices, documentation centers or research institutions in developing countries. These advantages existed both for the donors as well as the recipients of the periodicals.

48. Developing countries (the recipients) would be brought into contact with existing technology in the various fields. Technological alternatives and new developments would become known to them and would allow them to exercise, in time, a choice which, although frequently inaccessible to them, existed in many cases.

Articles on technological subjects, as presented in technical periodicals, were more readable and frequently allowed a better understanding of certain disclosures in patent documents. The technical subjects covered by articles in periodicals were also usually broader in scope than descriptions in patent documents.

49. Industry (the donors) would create, through their periodicals, a dialogue of technical understanding with developing countries in their area of research, development or manufacturing not yet existing in many cases. There would be, in addition, an inherent element of advertisement, directly or indirectly, for the quality of their equipment, products or manufacturing processes. A present lack or insufficiency of information on those subjects could well be the underlying reason for many misunderstandings in their business relations with certain developing countries.

50. For the above reasons, a gradual systematic enlargement of the list of freely available technical periodicals would be a service of mutual benefit, fitting well within the framework of Article 50 of the PCT.

51. The Delegation of Egypt expressed its appreciation for the efforts being undertaken by the International Bureau and urged that this activity be pursued with the assistance of the members of the Interim Committee capable of doing so.

52. The Delegation of the Soviet Union informed the Interim Committee that, through contact with various Ministries and Departments responsible for different fields of technology, agreement had been reached to provide to developing countries through WIPO and, free of charge, technical journals in all those fields. A list of these periodicals was being established and would soon be transmitted to the International Bureau.

53. The Delegation of Brazil supported strongly the continuation of this work and suggested that an indication of the technical content of each periodical, in as concise a manner as possible, be made beneath the title of the periodicals in order to facilitate the choice by

developing countries. The International Bureau replied that it could be envisaged that the main fields of technology to which the periodicals pertain would be indicated. This was supported by the Delegation of France.

54. The Interim Committee noted with approval these expressions of interest and recommended that the International Bureau continue its work with respect to this item.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE USEFULNESS OF INPADOC SERVICES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

55. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/7.

56. The International Bureau informed the Interim Committee of the present status of INPADOC's data base, which is now one of the largest patent data bases in the world, and of the services presently offered by INPADOC. It was emphasized that INPADOC now offered, at a price of 1,111 US dollars, a new service on microfiche, namely the INPADOC Patent Gazette (IPG). This service offers, on a weekly basis, information on all data records received or inputted by INPADOC during the preceding week (amounting to approximately 16,000 records from 42 countries) and presented in three different ways, namely:

- (a) IPG-SNS: the Selected Numerical Service; an index containing all data records of that particular week (approximately 16,000) arranged in country and document number order. One microfiche, at least, is published for each country;
- (b) IPG-SCS: the Selected Classification Service; in this part of the IPG, the data records, provided they contain a valid IPC symbol, are arranged in IPC symbol order, each data record being listed as many times as IPC symbols are contained therein. For each document listed, all known "equivalences" are listed (equivalence: document claiming at least one priority in common with the new document);
- (c) IPG-SAS: the Selected Applicant Service; in this part of the IPG, the data records, provided they contain an applicant's name, are arranged in standardized applicant's name order. For each document listed, all known "equivalences" are listed (equivalence: document claiming at least one priority in common with the new document).

Every issue of the IPG contains (on one single microfiche) statistical data regarding the data records contained therein.

57. By separating the three components of the IPG each week, the recipient is able to build up progressively complete bibliographic cumulative indexes of:

- (a) all patent documents issued in up to 42 countries;
- (b) a systematic file according to IPC symbols (with equivalence of all documents--if any--cited in any given subdivision of the IPC);
- (c) a systematic file according to applicant's names.

For the SCS and SAS parts of the IPG, INPADOC offers cumulative services covering three, six, nine and twelve months of data, respectively, without, however, mentioning the equivalences, namely, the Patent Classification Service (PCS) and the Patent Applicant Service (PAS).

58. The Delegation of Cuba stated that the Office of its country cooperated actively with INPADOC within the framework of the Agreement between the State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries of the USSR Council of Ministers and INPADOC, which regulated the delivery of bibliographic data of the patent document published by the CMEA countries to INPADOC, and the counterpart delivery for those data. Recognizing the considerable potential of the INPADOC Patent Gazette (IPG) Service, the Cuban Office intended to subscribe to that Service in the near future. The Delegation urged that special

consideration be given to rendering the services of INPADOC at still lower costs to industrial property offices of developing countries and, in particular, to the sub-regional agreements and centers being established in developing regions of the world.

59. The Interim Committee noted the progress report, prepared by the International Bureau, and, with respect to paragraph 30 of the said report, urged developing countries to take advantage of the possibility that had been offered of testing, free of charge, services of INPADOC, or to inform the International Bureau of their requirements in that respect.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ENVISAGED ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIONALS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE USE OF PATENT DOCUMENTATION AS OFFERED BY THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES

60. Discussions were based on document PCT/TAS/VI/8.

61. The Delegation of Austria, in explaining the envisaged training program, underlined the importance of establishing the necessary infrastructure in developing countries in order to enable them to derive more benefit from the patent system and from patent documentation in particular. It confirmed the readiness of the Austrian Authorities to conclude an Agreement with the International Bureau of WIPO and expressed thanks for the assistance already given by that Organization in preparing the program of the training course.

62. The International Bureau informed the Interim Committee that the discussions referred to by the Delegation of Austria had shown that there might be difficulties on two important points. First, it appeared that, in providing training for nationals of developing countries in certain fields other than industrial property, the current practice of the Austrian Authorities was to pay the living costs of those taking part in the training but not to pay their travelling expenses. The present view of WIPO was that to follow this practice for the envisaged training program in the use of patent documentation would imperil the success of that program. The other possible difficulty in the negotiations concerned the arrangements, including financial arrangements, for lecturers and other outside experts required for the training course.

63. The Delegation of Austria indicated the possibility that its country could bear the cost of travelling for delegates coming from the countries which, according to a recommendation of the United Nations, were the least developed among the developing countries. It confirmed that discussions were taking place on this subject.

64. The Delegations of Argentina, Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Romania expressed to the Delegation of Austria their appreciation for the initiative taken and, in connection with this, the hope that the possibilities mentioned of finding a solution to enable also travel costs to be covered would become a reality soon. They underlined the importance of finding a practical solution to this problem, which was essential for the successful implementation of a meaningful training program in this field.

65. The three French-speaking Delegations referred to above expressed also the desire that a training course in French could soon follow the one in English envisaged for August 1977 and that any future program of training would, on a permanent basis, provide also for training in French. In response, the Delegation of Austria indicated that the possibility of such a course was under consideration.

66. The Interim Committee expressed its warm appreciation to the Government of Austria for the progress made and its strong hope that an Agreement would soon be concluded between WIPO and the Republic of Austria. On the question of travelling expenses, the Interim Committee expressed the view that the success of the envisaged training program would depend to a large extent upon a wide participation by developing countries and, therefore, upon the provision of funds to meet the travelling expenses of at least most of the participating nationals from developing countries, and that the Agreement between WIPO and the Republic of Austria should provide for such funds.

67. The Interim Committee noted that the patent training program for nationals from two developing countries, carried out by the Swedish Patent Office this year, was a valuable project and that the International Bureau had expressed its wish that the Swedish Patent Office would be able to continue the training program during 1977 as well.

PROGRAM OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR 1977

68. It was decided that, having regard to the existing program of the Interim Committee and the work in progress or already completed, the program of the Interim Committee for 1977 should include the following items:

- (1) Continuation of the work in connection with the survey of collections of patent documents available in the framework of PCT Technical Assistance projects for developing countries.
- (2) Continuation of the work on the Brazilian Project.
- (3) Continuation of the work on the OAPI Project.
- (4) Continuation of the work on project for establishing PCT-related patent documentation centers and other requests for Technical Assistance under Chapter IV of the PCT by developing countries.
- (5) Continuation of the work on the establishment of a list of technical non-patent literature obtainable free of charge or on favorable conditions by developing countries for PCT-related patent documentation centers.
- (6) Continuation of consultations between the International Bureau and INPADOC with a view to elaborating a test program on placing certain INPADOC services at the disposal of industrial property offices in developing countries, free of charge, and for a limited period of time.
- (7) Continuation of the work on carrying out a training program for nationals of developing countries in the use of patent documentation offered by the Austrian Authorities.

69. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Interim Committee at its closing meeting on November 8, 1976.*

[Annex follows]

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. ÉTATS/STATES

ALGÉRIE/ALGERIA

Mr. S. LEBDIOUI, Attaché au Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Alger

Mr. A.-R. BENDISARI, Mission permanente de la République algérienne, Genève

ALLEMAGNE (RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D')/GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)

Mr. U. C. HALLMANN, Regierungsdirektor, German Patent Office, Munich

Mr. N. HAUGG, Oberregierungsrat, German Patent Office, Munich

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Mr. L. O. MAASSEL, Patent Procedure Specialist, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C.

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Ms. E. PARRAGH, Deputy Head of Section, National Office of Inventions, Budapest

IRAN

M. L. ANSARI-MAHABADIAN, Chef de Bureau de la propriété industrielle, Téhéran

JAPON/JAPAN

Mr. K. HOSHIKAWA, Counsellor for PCT-TRT, Japanese Patent Office, Tokyo

Mr. T. YOSHIDA, Director, Japan Trade Center, Düsseldorf, Germany (Federal Republic of)

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