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Mr Yo Takagi,  
Director, Inter-Office Information Services  
World Intellectual Property Organisation  
34 Chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
SWITZERLAND

8 June 1999

C.SCIT 2450 - 03

Dear Mr Takagi,

Re: Observer Status Within SCIT

The United Kingdom Patent Office has no objection to the Publishers of World Patent Information being granted observer status within the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union and the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT).

The Copyright Group appears to be a business or organisation providing services in the field, like thousands of others, and appears to represent only themselves and their clients. It is our view that granting observer status to this body may open the doors to granting observer status to firms and bodies of all kinds and could set an unfortunate precedent for the SCCR and other groups in which they might also claim an interest. In addition, granting observer status to the Copyright Group would appear to be inconsistent with the recent SCIT decision to refuse such status for Derwent. Accordingly, The United Kingdom Patent Office is unable to support the request from the Copyright Group.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Back