

# Industrial Property

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## Contents

### WIPO MEETINGS

- Paris Union. Sub-Working Group for the Mechanization of Trademark Searches . . . . . 75

### PLANT VARIETIES

- Plant Variety Denominations and Trademarks. Note by the UPOV Secretariat . . . . . 76

### LEGISLATION

- Mexico. Decree to Amend the Industrial Property Law, 1972 . . . . . 77

### GENERAL STUDIES

- Industrial Property as a Factor in Technical Development and Economic Progress (Stephen P. Ladas) . . . . . 81  
— Practical Working of the New German Patent Law (Dietrich Lewinsky) . . . . . 86  
— Mexico's New System for Appellations of Origin (David Rangel Medina) . . . . . 91

### LETTERS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

- Letter from the United Kingdom (Gordon Grant) . . . . . 98

### NEWS FROM PATENT OFFICES

- United Kingdom . . . . . 100

### ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property. XXVIII<sup>th</sup> Congress . . . . . 101  
— International League Against Unfair Competition. XXII<sup>nd</sup> Congress . . . . . 104

### BOOK REVIEWS . . . . . 105

### CALENDAR . . . . . 106

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## PLANT VARIETIES

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### Plant Variety Denominations and Trademarks

Note prepared by the UPOV Secretariat

Under Article 6 of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, all protected plant varieties must be given a denomination. Article 13 of the Convention contains detailed provisions regarding, *inter alia*: the requirements as to the nature or character of the denomination itself (identifying power); the denomination's relationship with other denominations (it must differ from any denomination which designates another variety of the same or a closely related species) and with trademarks (a designation protected as a trademark is unacceptable as a denomination; it is permissible to add a trademark to the denomination); obligatory use of the denomination as the generic name of the variety when propagating material is offered for sale or sold; and the principle of having the same denomination in all member States of UPOV.

In spite of the very elaborate way in which Article 13 had been drafted, the authorities of the member States felt a strong need for more guidance in their task of approving proposed denominations, the more so because the aim of the Convention to have the same denomination in all countries requires a common approach to the question by the authorities of the member States.

It was therefore natural that, after the entry into force of the Convention and the establishment of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), one of the first objectives was to work out some principles on the requirements which the denominations would have to meet; accordingly, in October 1970 the Council of UPOV adopted some "Provisional Guidelines for Variety Denominations" and recommended the member States to apply these Guidelines when implementing Article 13 of the Convention.

These Guidelines contain provisions on the nature or character which the denominations must have in order to be approved by the authorities, the main background for these provisions being the desire to avoid denominations which have not sufficient identifying power and, consequently, are not suitable for use as generic names. In addition, the Guidelines prescribe what is to be understood by the expression "the same or a closely related botanical species" for the purpose of defining the varieties, the denominations of which must be different. Where no exception has been made, "closely related botanical species" are species belonging to the same genus, but in the case of some of the most important crops the genus has been divided into more classes or some genera have been merged.

After the publication of the Guidelines the professional international organizations forwarded suggestions and proposals for their amendment. The Council of UPOV therefore

decided that the Provisional Guidelines should be reconsidered by the Working Group on Variety Denominations, after a "hearing" of the professional organizations.

The Working Group met from December 5 to 7, 1972. On the second day (December 6) the "hearing" of the following international professional organizations took place: ASSINSEL (International Plant Breeders Association for the Protection of New Varieties), CIOPORA (*Communauté internationale des obtenteurs de plantes ornementales de reproduction asexuée*), FIS (International Federation of Seed Trade), IAPIP (International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property), and ICC (International Chamber of Commerce).

The essence, purpose and importance of the variety denomination were expounded in a discussion which lasted several hours. The result of the discussion can be summarized as follows:

Each new variety must, if protected, be given a denomination that is to be considered the generic name for that variety, the use of which is obligatory for any person who offers for sale or markets propagating material of the variety, even after the expiration of the protection. As a consequence the denomination cannot be a trademark, but it is permitted to add a different trademark to the denomination.

The purposes of the denomination and the accompanying trademark are entirely different. The denomination, being the generic name, indicates the variety as such as opposed to other varieties and independently of the origin of the actual lot of propagating material, whereas the trademark distinguishes the goods offered or sold by one enterprise from those of another.

In this connection it was pointed out that in most countries, in fact in all member States, important trials are carried out by government institutes or other impartial bodies for the assessment of the value of the varieties. The results of these trials are published with an indication of the variety denomination only and they constitute an important source of information for the growers and their advisors.

It is therefore important, in the case of simultaneous use of a denomination and a trademark, that the denomination should be of such a character that it is not overshadowed and its significance is not appreciably diminished by the trademark; it is particularly important to prevent the trademark from appearing to be the name of the variety itself.

This implies, in respect of the *use of the denomination* in connection with a trademark (which is not governed by the Guidelines), that it is recommended that member States should prescribe in their national legislation that, in advertisements, catalogs, price lists, labels, invoices and all other documents made available to the public, the denomination must always be visibly presented as such, in order to be distinguished from all other signs and indications, and that it must be clearly distinguishable and legible in all such documents.

In respect of the *character and nature of the denomination*, there was general agreement on the importance of the identifying power of the variety denomination enabling the denomination to be used as the generic name. This means that the denomination must be easy to pronounce and remember and must make it possible for a buyer of average attentiveness to identify the variety without risk of confusion. In other words, the user of seed and vegetative propagating material must have a fair chance to be able to order the correct variety on the basis of the information he has received from publications, meetings, trial demonstrations, talks with the advisor and the like.

Even if it was not felt necessary to require that the denomination be a "fancy name," a too "flat" denomination would not be sufficient. Words without any pre-existing meaning would be acceptable if they fulfilled the above requirements in respect of their identifying power. These requirements are hardly likely to be met if very short words are used (for instance, Qum, Bys and Quol), especially if they have no pre-existing meaning.

The professional international organizations had shown an understanding for the above-mentioned principles and considerations and the Working Group noted with satisfaction that a valuable dialog had been established.

In answer to a proposal by the professional organizations to the effect that it should be permissible to include non-word elements (especially figures) in a denomination, the Working

Group declared itself ready to reconsider the question of allowing the denominations of varieties used exclusively as the initial source for the production of other varieties (hereditary components) to be formed by the combination of letters and figures, if such combinations are established practice, and, in general, to include figures up to a certain maximum if they have a meaning. As examples of denominations where figures have a meaning, mention was made of the name of a king or of a queen followed by the respective number.

However, it must be borne in mind that the above-mentioned requirements as to the identifying power will still have to be met, and that the competent authorities in each case will have to assess the merits of a proposed denomination in this respect. This task may be difficult. The Working Group is therefore likely to maintain the existing provision according to which a denomination may not be formed by substituting figures for other figures of a denomination already in use or by adding figures to such denomination.

One of the professional organizations pointed out that the above-mentioned definition of "closely related species" had rendered the classes too narrow because it allowed the same denomination to be given to varieties of species which did not belong to the same class but which might well serve the same need; the organization therefore considered such practice unsatisfactory.

The Working Group took note of the wish for broader classes and undertook to study the question.

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## LEGISLATION

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### MEXICO

#### Decree to Amend the Industrial Property Law

(of December 30, 1972)

*Sole Section.* — In Part Three, Chapter I [of the Industrial Property Law]<sup>1</sup>, paragraphs (ii) and (xii) of Section 105 shall be amended; in the same Part Three a Chapter X shall be added, which shall include Sections 208-A to 208-Z; in Part Eight, Chapter II shall be supplemented by Section 258<sup>bis</sup>; the terms of the said changes are as follows:

<sup>1</sup> See *La Propriété industrielle*, 1944, p. 116.

### PART THREE

#### Chapter I

105. — The following may not be registered as trademarks:

(ii) names which have come into common use in the country to designate goods of the same nature or type as those in respect of which trademark protection is sought, except where such names are appellations of origin in terms of Chapter X of this Part;

(xii) proper or common geographical denominations and nouns and adjectives when these indicate merely the source of the products or are liable to confuse or mislead as to the

source of the products for which protection is sought. This paragraph shall not apply to names of places in private ownership when they are distinctive or not confusing and the owner's consent has been obtained, and to names which are appellations of origin protected by this Law, in terms of Chapter X of this Part.

### Chapter X

**208-A.** — “Appellation of origin” means the geographical name of a region or locality which serves to designate a product originating therein, the quality and characteristics of which are due exclusively to the geographical environment, including natural and human factors.

For the purposes of this Chapter, an appellation of origin shall be considered as such when, without referring to the name of a specific place, it is closely linked to such place by geographical, social, linguistic or cultural factors, in such a way that its characteristics or reputation are due exclusively to those factors.

**208-B.** — The protection afforded by this Law to appellations of origin shall arise upon a declaration issued by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce and shall render applicable the sanctions for illegal use, which shall include use in conjunction with terms such as “kind,” “type,” “make,” “imitation,” or other similar terms liable to lead to confusion in the mind of the consumer or to constitute unfair competition.

**208-C.** — The declaration of protection of an appellation of origin shall remain in force so long as the circumstances determining such protection are present; it shall cease to have effect only upon a declaration by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce issued in the cases of nullity, lapse and expiry provided for in this Chapter.

**208-D.** — The general declaration of protection of an appellation of origin may be made ex officio by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, or upon a request to the Secretariat made by any person or legal entity showing a legal interest. For the purposes of this Section, the following shall be considered to have a legal interest:

(i) natural persons or legal entities directly engaged in the extraction, production or preparation of the product or products which the appellation of origin is to cover;

(ii) guilds or associations of manufacturers or producers;

(iii) departments or agencies of the Federal Government and of the Governments of States or Territories.

**208-E.** — The application for a general declaration of protection of an appellation of origin shall be made in writing in triplicate; it shall be accompanied by evidence in support of the request, and shall contain the following particulars:

(i) the name, address and nationality of the applicant; if the applicant is a legal entity, it shall specify also its nature and the activities in which it is engaged;

(ii) the name of the appellation of origin, and the product or products which the appellation is to cover;

(iii) the legal interest of the applicant in obtaining the declaration of protection of the appellation of origin;

(iv) a detailed description of the products to be covered by the appellation, including the following particulars: composition or form, process of extraction, preparation or manufacture; the standards to which such extraction, preparation or manufacture will be subject shall be indicated when this is a determining factor in establishing the relationship between the appellation and the product;

(v) the place or places of extraction, production or preparation of the product in respect of which the appellation of origin is sought, with a description or demarcation of the territory of origin, taking into account topographical features and political subdivisions;

(vi) a detailed indication of the links existing between the appellation, the product and the territory, as appropriate;

(vii) any other particulars which may be considered necessary or relevant by the applicant, taking into account the nature or special characteristics of the product and the territory to be covered by the appellation of origin.

**208-F.** — On receipt of the application by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, and on payment of the examination fees, the documents submitted shall be examined.

If, in the judgment of the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, the documents submitted do not meet the requirements of the law and regulations, or in any way are not sufficient for the comprehension or analysis of any part of the application, it shall inform the applicant accordingly, in order that he may make the necessary clarifications or additions, allowing him for the purpose a non-renewable period to be determined in relation to the nature and circumstances of the case by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, which shall not exceed three months. If the applicant fails to comply in time with the provisions of this Section, the application shall be considered abandoned.

**208-G.** — Where the documents submitted meet the requirements of the law and regulations, the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall prepare an abstract of the application and shall publish such abstract in the *Diario Oficial* of the Federation.

The procedure initiated ex officio by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce to declare an appellation of origin protected shall begin on publication, in the *Diario Oficial* of the Federation, of a summary of the particulars and requirements as provided for in paragraphs (ii) to (vii) of Section 208-E of this Law.

**208-H.** — In the abstract referred to in Section 208-G above, mention shall be made of a period of 45 days from the date of publication in the *Diario Oficial* of the Federation, within which any third party showing his legal interest may make such observations or objections as he considers relevant and at the same time provide the appropriate supporting evidence.

**208-I.** — For the purposes of this Chapter, all kinds of evidence shall be admissible with the exception of admissions,

testimony and expert evidence which falls within the competence of the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce.

The Secretariat for Industry and Commerce may, at any time prior to the final declaration, make whatever investigations it considers appropriate and take whatever supplementary evidence it considers necessary.

**208-J.** — On expiry of the period referred to in Section 208-H and after verification of the evidence, the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall issue the final decision refusing or granting protection of the appellation of origin in accordance with this Chapter. No administrative appeal shall lie against the decision contained in the declaration.

**208-K.** — The declaration of the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce granting protection to an appellation of origin shall specify finally the elements and requirements provided for in Section 208-E of this Law and shall be published in accordance with Section 208-G.

**208-L.** — An appellation of origin which is the subject of a general declaration shall, once the latter has been issued, be registered at the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce and protected in accordance with the provisions governing trademark registrations.

**208-M.** — The terms of the declaration of protection of an appellation of origin may be amended at any time, either ex officio or at the request of an interested party, under the procedure laid down in Sections 208-F to 208-L above.

The corresponding application shall contain the particulars required under paragraphs (i) to (iii) of Section 208-E of this Law, together with a detailed indication of the amendments requested and the grounds for such request.

**208-N.** — The right to use an appellation of origin which has been the subject of a general declaration may be applied for by any person or legal entity that proves to the Secretariat that he or it satisfies the following conditions:

(i) he or it is directly engaged in the extraction, production or preparation of the product or products covered by the appellation of origin;

(ii) he or it carries on such activity within the territory of origin as specified in the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin;

(iii) he or it observes the standards laid down by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, in accordance with the laws governing the respective products, or specified in the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin;

(iv) any other conditions specified in the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin.

**208-O.** — For the right to use an appellation of origin, an application must be filed with the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce stating:

(i) the name, address and nationality of the applicant. If the applicant is a legal entity, it shall also specify its nature and the activities in which it is engaged;

(ii) the name of the appellation of origin and the products covered by it;

(iii) identification of the declaration of the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce which granted protection to the appellation of origin;

(iv) designation of the place in which the applicant carries out the extraction, production or preparation of the product;

(v) indication of the way in which the applicant meets the requirements and conditions laid down for the acquisition of the right to use the appellation of origin, as stated in the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin;

(vi) any other information which may be expressly specified in the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin.

**208-P.** — On receipt of the application for registration of ownership of the right to use an appellation of origin, the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall proceed as provided in Section 208-F of this Law.

When the documents submitted meet the requirements of the law and regulations, the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall, without more, take a decision on the registration.

**208-Q.** — Through the intermediary of the Secretariat for External Relations, the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall take the necessary steps to obtain international protection, under the relevant treaties, for registrations of appellations of origin in respect of which a general declaration of protection has been issued pursuant to this Law. For this purpose, the Government of the United Mexican States shall be deemed the owner of the appellation of origin and the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, its representative.

**208-R.** — Registration of the right to use an appellation of origin shall be in effect during five years from the date and time of the filing of the corresponding application at the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce. This term may be renewed for equal periods where the interested party so requests, subject to proof of the latter's continued compliance with the conditions and requirements which determined the grant of registration of ownership of the right to use the appellation of origin, and to payment of the corresponding fees.

**208-S.** — The owner of the right to use an appellation of origin shall be obliged to use the appellation of origin as it appears in the general declaration, on pain of forfeiture of his right, as provided in paragraph (iii)(b) of Section 208-W of this Law. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to changes which do not alter or affect the identity of the appellation of origin or which concern only its dimensions or the material on which it is printed, engraved or otherwise reproduced.

**208-T.** — The right to use an appellation of origin may be transferred in accordance with the ordinary law. However, the transfer shall not take effect until it is registered at the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, subject to proof that

the new owner meets the conditions and requirements provided in this Law for the acquisition of the right to use an appellation of origin.

**208-U.** — The owner of the right to use an appellation of origin may grant licenses for such use only to persons who distribute or sell his products. The license agreement shall not take effect until it has been approved and registered by the Secretariat of Industry and Commerce, subject to proof that the licensee meets the requirements provided for in paragraphs (iii) and (iv) of Section 208-N of this Law. It shall be ensured that the agreement contains a clause stating expressly that the licensee may use the appellation only together with a registered mark owned by the licensor which has previously been in actual use by the licensor within the national territory.

**208-V.** — The general declaration of protection of an appellation of origin shall cease to be in force as a result of:

(i) nullity, where the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin is issued contrary to this Law;

(ii) lapse, where during the three years following its publication in the *Diario Oficial* no applications for registration of ownership of the right to use the appellation of origin are filed;

(iii) expiry, where the circumstances and conditions which determined the issue of the general declaration of protection are no longer present.

**208-W.** — The registration of the right to use the appellation of origin shall cease to be in force as a result of:

(i) nullity, in the following instances:

(a) when it is granted contrary to this Law;

(b) if registration was granted on the basis of false indications or statements in the application, relating to the nature or quality of the product for which registration of ownership of the right to use the appellation of origin was obtained, to the designation of the place in which the applicant carries out the extraction, production or preparation of the product, or to the applicant's compliance with the conditions or requirements for ownership of the right to use the appellation of origin;

(ii) lapse, if registration is not renewed as provided in Section 208-R of this Law;

(iii) expiry, in the following instances:

(a) automatically, as a result of a declaration of nullity, lapse or expiry of the general declaration of protection of the appellation of origin;

(b) where the registered owner of the right to use the appellation of origin does not commence exploitation thereof within a period of two years from the filing date of his application for registration, or at any time discontinues such exploitation for a period of more than two consecutive years;

(c) where it is proved that the owner of the right to use the appellation of origin no longer meets the requirements laid down in Section 208-N of this Law.

**208-X.** — The administrative declarations provided for in this Chapter, concerning the cessation of the general declaration of protection of an appellation of origin or the cessation of registration of ownership of the right to use the same, shall be made by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce, ex officio or at the request of the interested party or of the Federal Public Prosecutor. The procedure applicable shall be that provided for in Sections 229 to 235 inclusive of this Law.

Owners of the right to use the appellation of origin may take part in the proceedings for a declaration of cessation of a general declaration of protection of an appellation of origin.

**208-Y.** — The protection of appellations of origin shall be governed, in so far as applicable and unless otherwise provided, by the rules laid down for trademarks.

**208-Z.** — In addition to the publications expressly provided for in this Chapter, declarations issued and registrations granted by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce shall be published in the *Industrial Property Gazette*, as shall any instrument amending or terminating the duration or effects of the rights granted with respect to appellations of origin.

## PART EIGHT — Criminal and Civil Liability

### Chapter II — Persons Infringing Other Industrial Property Provisions

**258<sup>bis</sup>.** — Any person who without authorization uses an appellation identical or confusingly similar to one in respect of which a general declaration of protection has been issued in accordance with Chapter X of Part Three, and applies it to identical or similar products, shall be guilty of the offense of illegal use of an appellation of origin.

Such a person shall be liable to a fine of from 1,000 to 100,000 pesos and imprisonment of from six days to six years, or to one of these penalties, at the discretion of the judicial authority.

Proceedings against illegal use of an appellation of origin shall be instituted ex officio and shall be subject to an administrative declaration by the Secretariat for Industry and Commerce that the offense has been committed, under the procedure laid down in Sections 229 to 235 of this Law.

### TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

This Decree shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Diario Oficial* of the Federation <sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> The Decree was published in the *Diario Oficial* of January 4, 1973.



*GENERAL STUDIES*



**Industrial Property as a Factor in  
Technical Development and Economic Progress**

By Stephen P. LADAS \*











**Practical Working of the New German Patent Law**

By Dietrich LEWINSKY \*









**Mexico's New System for Appellations  
of Origin**

By David RANGEL MEDINA \*











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*LETTERS FROM CORRESPONDENTS*

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**Letter from the United Kingdom**

By Gordon GRANT \*





to examine United Kingdom trade mark law. The Committee has begun its work and hopes to finish its enquiry by the end of 1973.

#### Industrial Designs

In the designs branch, the fall in the number of applications for registration which had been in evidence since 1966 was reversed in 1971, when 6,788 applications were received, as compared with 6,306 in 1970. However, the half-year figure for 1972 was 3,100, which may indicate a return to the downward trend previously noted. Moreover, now that Nigeria has followed other ex-British dependencies in setting up its own system of design protection, it may be that this will tend to reduce the number of textile design applications received in the United Kingdom.

#### International Cooperation

In international matters, our main preoccupation has again been the European Patent Convention, the negotiations

on which have made heavy demands on the time of our senior staff. On the Patent Cooperation Treaty, we are now participating in the work of the Interim Committees; and we continue to cooperate in work on the International Patent Classification and ICIREPAT. On the trade mark side, we have been involved in the preparatory work on the Trade Mark Registration Treaty, which will be considered at the Vienna Conference this year.

\* \* \*

To sum up, 1971 and the first half of 1972 was a period in which there were no major new developments, but in which the Office continued to improve its position in relation to the backlog of patent work. At the same time, the European Patent and the European Patent Office began to assume a more definite shape and will, clearly, increasingly make their influence felt in the life and work of the United Kingdom Office.

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## ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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### International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (IAPIP)

XXVIII<sup>th</sup> Congress

(Mexico City, November 12 to 18, 1972)

The above Congress of IAPIP was the first Congress of this Association ever held in a country of Latin America. It was a resounding success because, notwithstanding the enormous number of participants (approximately 1,100 delegates accompanied by 700 ladies), its organization was excellent, the discussions were interesting and the various receptions and excursions organized surpassed each other in splendor. The personal attendance to the minutest details of the President of IAPIP, Mr. Antonio Ruiz Galindo Jr., and of the Chairman of its Mexican Group, Mr. Antonio Correa, was highly appreciated by all participants and contributed considerably to the exceptionally congenial atmosphere of the Congress.

The World Intellectual Property Organization was represented at the Congress by its Director General, Professor G. H. C. Bodenhausen (who represented also the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties as its Secretary General) and by its First Deputy Director General, Dr. A. Bogsch.

At Congresses, where hundreds of participants attend each meeting, considerable skills must be displayed by the General Rapporteur or by special rapporteurs and perhaps even more so by the chairmen of the working sessions, if meaningful resolutions are to be adopted.

The resolutions adopted by the Mexico Congress are the following:

QUESTION 45 B

#### Value of Industrial Property for Technical Development and Economic Progress

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property,

*Recalling* that, at its Congress of Tokyo in 1966, it considered the problem of the relation of Industrial Property to technical and economic progress, especially for developing countries, recognized the need of adjustment of legislation to meet the special situation of such countries and expressed its willingness to collaborate for the accomplishment of this object; and

*Noting* that all peoples of the world have the right to adequate food, housing, clothing, schooling and medical care;

*Noting* that since the Congress of Tokyo the aspiration of a large part of the world to reach a sustained and satisfactory

economic development, which is a condition for satisfying such needs, has become more intense and pressing;

*Noting* that a decisive contribution to the attainment of this object is the creation or acquisition of appropriate technology and its application to such sectors of the economy as are best adapted to balanced growth in the particular circumstances of each country;

*Noting* that at least in the early stages of development most of the needed modern technology suitable to the conditions of developing countries cannot be transferred except from developed countries;

*Noting* that international cooperation between the holders of technology protected or not, by patents or by other means, and enterprises in developing countries is best achieved when the conditions are favorable to the recognition and protection of rights of Industrial Property, and as a counterpart of such recognition and protection, the owners of such rights may be subject to conditions preventing abuses in the exercise of the rights as a means of sharing in the responsibility for the economic and technical progress of developing countries;

*Noting* that this cooperation is favored by the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, which is the best existing international arrangement for the recognition and satisfaction of the interests and demands of both developed and developing countries, as shown by the adherence of 79 countries belonging to both categories of countries;

*Noting* that the Convention allows countries to adopt such national legal measures as may be deemed necessary or desirable by each country for the advancement of its technical and economic growth. Indeed each developing country in adhering to the Paris Convention may:

- (a) require working of patents within a fixed period;
- (b) provide for compulsory license for such working after such period and also at any time for reasons of important public interest;
- (c) prohibit restrictive clauses in License Agreements, likely to unduly impede competition and domestic economic progress and
- (d) provide for appropriate government control and approval of Industrial Property License Agreements;

Provided such legal and administrative measures should be applied flexibly and do not reach such excessive limits that they affect the substance of the Industrial Property rights and destroy the inducement for economic cooperation,

*Concludes:*

1. Decides to keep the present question on its agenda as an item of predominant importance and to continue the study under the broadest aspects.
2. Directs the appointment of a special committee for that purpose, to work in close cooperation with intergovernmental organisations, especially WIPO, and in private associations, in efforts directed towards the needs of developing countries.
3. Shall undertake such efforts as may persuade non-member countries to adhere to the Paris Convention.

#### QUESTION 51 B

##### Application of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of 1961

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property,

*Considering* that it has been invited to attend the meetings of the UPOV Working Party on Variety Denominations which will discuss the observations of a certain number of non-governmental organizations regarding the provisional guidelines for variety denominations;

*Considering* that the intention behind the provisions of Article 13(5) of the UPOV Convention clearly is that the denomination of a new variety should as far as possible be the same in all the Member-States;

*Considering* that it becomes increasingly difficult to find trademarks, which can freely be adopted and that plant breeders should not be subjected to the same difficulties in selecting variety denominations;

*Considering further* that Article 13(9) of the Convention provides that it shall be permitted in respect of a product to add a trademark or a trade name to the denomination of a new variety,

*Considering* also that no undue restrictions can be imposed regarding the use of a trademark by its lawful owner,

*Expresses as its opinion:*

(1) that the adoption of common rules for determining variety denominations is desirable with a view to harmonizing the application of Article 13 of the Convention in all Member-States, but that the present guidelines are too exacting in the conditions they impose upon variety denominations and should therefore be eased, more particularly in that it should not be necessary that the variety denomination consists solely of a word or words or of a combination of a word with letters and or figures, but it should be sufficient that the denomination consists of one or more syllables optionally combined with one or more figures or/and letters,

(2) that no obligation as regards the use of a trademark in addition to the variety denomination should be imposed other than the provision that the variety denomination must always be used in such a manner that it is clearly visible and legible, so that the buyer will not be confused with regard to the identity of a variety.

#### QUESTION 52 B

##### Revision of Madrid Agreement

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property,

**On the Central Attack**

*Noting* that many Conferences of Experts, as well as several meetings of the IAPIP, have failed to devise a generally acceptable method of Central Attack within the framework of TRT despite the desire of a substantial number of countries for a method of Central Attack;

*Noting* that the question will be settled at the 1973 Diplomatic Conference, whose participants will have the opportunity of proposing still further solutions to this question,

*Concludes* that the TRT system is inherently difficult to reconcile with any method of Central Attack, that additional study is unlikely to lead to a solution, and that potential members of TRT must decide for themselves, in the event that the Diplomatic Conference fails to adopt a provision for Central Attack, whether it is in the interest of their nationals to adhere to TRT without such a provision.

**On the Options Available to Member Countries (Art. 4(6) and 5(4))**

*Noting* that the text of TRT retains, in Articles 4(6) and 5(4), options whereby member countries may impose upon their nationals and residents the obligation to file or register first in their own countries, and may also exclude "self-designation",

*Emphasizes* that these options are inconsistent with the direct and independent filing with the International Bureau which is a basic principle of TRT and,

*Affirms* the Resolution of the Council of Presidents at Cannes opposing the inclusion of these options in TRT.

**On the Systems of Imposition of Fees (Rules 9 and 28)**

*Noting* that TRT relegates to Rules 9 and 28, the systems whereby the imposition of fees, and their distribution to the designated States, are fixed;

*Noting* that under Article 33 the Regulations may be amended by three-quarters of the votes cast, which may be as few as three-eighths of the member countries;

*Noting* that the question of fees is of vital importance to many countries and may determine their adherence to TRT,

*Affirms* the Resolution of the Council of Presidents at Cannes that the main provisions relating to the systems for the imposition and distribution of fees should be a part of the text of the Treaty itself.

**On the Limitation of the Number of Classes (Art. 13(2))**

*Noting* that Article 13(2) of TRT prohibits the imposition of a limit on the number of classes which may be covered in one international registration;

*Noting* the great concern repeatedly expressed on behalf of many countries that TRT might lead to a proliferation of trademarks and a cluttering up of national registers;

*Believing* that a limit on the number of classes which may be covered in one international registration would tend to deter excessive and unjustified claims, and that only a very small number of marks require protection in many classes,

*Affirms* the position adopted by the Council of Presidents at Munich, favoring a limitation on the number of classes which may be covered in one international registration, and believes that the limit ought to be three classes.

**On the Term for Refusing the National Registration Effect (Art. 12(2))**

*Affirms* the Resolution adopted by the Council of Presidents at Cannes to the effect that the term within which national registration effect may be refused under Article 12(2) should be twelve months.

**On the Change of Names and Addresses of Registrants (Art. 14)**

*Affirms* the Resolution adopted by the Council of Presidents at Cannes to the effect that Article 14 should provide for the recordal of changes of name and of address and, in general, declares that all changes affecting the identification as well as the identity of the owner of an international registration should be recorded, and

*Affirms* the Resolution adopted by the Council of Presidents at Cannes to the effect that new owners of international registration not qualified under TRT to own such registration should be given a two-year term within which to qualify.

**On the Effect of Renewal of an International Registration (Art. 16)**

*Favors* modification of the wording of Article 16 and the Commentary thereunder to make it clear that renewal of an international registration under this article does not affect the applicability of national law in regard to the validity of the national effect resulting from such renewal.

**On Collective and Certification Marks**

*Deeming* that differences in national definitions of collective and certification marks, and in the requirements applicable to such marks, render impractical the inclusion of these marks in TRT at the present time,

*Affirms* the decision of the Council of Presidents at Leningrad that collective and certification marks ought not to be included now as marks registrable under TRT.

**On the Suspension of the Requirements of Use (Art. 18(3))**

*Affirms* the Resolution adopted by the Council of Presidents at Cannes to the effect that the term during which national requirements for the use of a trademark are to be suspended under Article 18(3) should be five years.

**On the Conditions for Amending such Term (Art. 18(3) and 36)**

*Believing* the time limit fixed in Article 18(3) to be of vital importance, states that its amendment under Article 36 ought to be subject to the same rule of unanimity as that article provides for the term fixed in Article 12(2)(a)(i).

QUESTION 53 B

**Know-How**

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property,

1. *Approves* the doctrine submitted to the Congress in the Summary Report (*Rapport de Synthèse*) that Know-how is formed of knowledge and experience, acquired not only for the practical application of a technique but also for the industrial, commercial, administrative and financial conduct of an enterprise.
2. *Entrusts* the Executive Committee with the task of drafting the text of the provision which could be introduced in the Convention as a separate article.
3. *Recommends* the introduction of such doctrine into the national legal systems.

## QUESTION 54 B

## European System for the Grant of Patents

The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property,

1. *Approves* the action of the Council of Presidents.
2. *Entrusts* the Council of Presidents to pursue with the continuation of this action.
3. *And instructs* the Delegation, which will be appointed for the Munich Diplomatic Conference, to represent the views of IAIP.

## International League Against Unfair Competition

Twenty-Second Congress

(Geneva, May 21 to 25, 1972)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the International League Against Unfair Competition was held in Geneva under the chairmanship of Professor Edmond Martin-Achard, President of the Swiss Association for the Study of Competition and of the International League Against Unfair Competition.

The meeting was attended by participants from 20 countries and by representatives of public and private international bodies. WIPO was represented by Mr. J. Voyame, Second Deputy Director General.

The agenda of the Congress included general reports as well as various reports on questions submitted for continued discussion and on new questions. These reports could, after the discussions, be the subject of motions.

The following motions were accordingly adopted:

*Comparative Advertising*

It is not permissible to use untruthful information in advertising. Advertisers may emphasize the specific characteristics and advantages of their products or services in a fair and comprehensive manner without resorting to sensational claims. Disparagement of competitors is inadmissible; irrelevant allusions to competitors must be avoided.

Comparison with a competitor's product or service is permissible where it is objective and justified in order to inform the public or as a defense against prohibited comparisons.

It is desirable that national laws provide speedy and effective remedies to restrain abusive practices.

*Infringement of Trade Secrets in the field of Competition*

In the present state of most national legislations and under the international conventions, trade secrets as a whole do not enjoy sufficiently effective protection.

The International League Against Unfair Competition has a number of tentative definitions of a trade secret which, in its opinion, form a useful working basis.

Before a final definition can be proposed, the greatest possible number of concrete situations should be studied; this preliminary analysis should, at a second stage, enable a definition to be formulated.

Once this conceptual delimitation has been completed, a decision will have to be taken on the most suitable ways of protecting trade secrets (by such means as criminal or civil actions or professional measures).

*Protection of Indications of Source and Appellations of Origin*

The Congress expresses:

- its satisfaction to note the great progress that has been made in the field of the protection of appellations of origin and indications of source since the Vienna Congress;
- its desire to see this protection made more effective in countries where it is insufficient at present;

and recommends:

- accession to the Lisbon Agreement;
- the adoption of bilateral agreements providing for the protection of indications of source and appellations of origin;
- the improvement of national legislation and international conventions providing for the protection of appellations of origin and indications of source, where the protection resulting from existing provisions is not sufficient.

\* \* \*

At the end of the Congress, Professor Remo Franceschelli, of Milan, was appointed President of the International League in succession to Professor Edmond Martin-Achard.





- November 19 to 27, 1973 (Geneva) — Administrative Bodies of WIPO (General Assembly, Conference, Coordination Committee) and of the Paris, Berne, Madrid, Nice and Locarno Unions (Assemblies, Conferences of Representatives, Executive Committees)  
*Invitations:* States members of WIPO, or of the Paris or Berne Union — *Observers:* Other States members of the United Nations or of a Specialized Agency; intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations concerned
- November 26 and 27, 1973 (Geneva) — Lisbon Union — Council  
*Members:* States members of the Lisbon Union — *Observers:* Other States members of the Paris Union
- November 28 to 30, 1973 (Geneva) — Working Group on Scientific Discoveries  
*Invitations and observers:* To be announced later
- December 3 to 5, 1973 (Paris) — International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations — Intergovernmental Committee  
*Note:* Meeting convened jointly with the International Labour Organisation and Unesco
- December 3 to 7, 1973 (Geneva) — International Patent Classification (IPC) — Working Group II of the Joint ad hoc Committee
- December 3 to 7, 1973 (Geneva) — ICIREPAT — Technical Committee for Shared Systems (TCSS)
- December 5 to 11, 1973 (Paris) — Executive Committee of the Berne Union — Extraordinary Session  
*Note:* Some meetings with the Intergovernmental Copyright Committee established by the Universal Copyright Convention
- December 10 to 14, 1973 (Paris) — ICIREPAT — Technical Committee for Standardization (TCST)
- December 17 to 21, 1973 (Geneva) — Working Group for the Mechanization of Trademark Searches  
*Object:* Report and recommendations to a Committee of Experts on mechanized trademark searches — *Invitations:* Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America — *Observers:* Colombia, Benelux Trademark Office

## UPOV Meetings

- April 2 and 3, 1973 (Geneva) — Working Group on Variety Denominations
- April 4 and 5, 1973 (Geneva) — Consultative Committee
- June, 1973 (Avignon) — Technical Working Party for Vegetables
- July 2 to 6, 1973 (London) — Symposium on Plant Breeders' Rights
- October 9 to 12, 1973 (Geneva) — Council

## Meetings of Other International Organizations concerned with Intellectual Property

- April 28 to May 1, 1973 (Valencia) — International League against Unfair Competition — Study meetings
- May 3 to 5, 1973 (Brussels) — Union of European Patent Agents — General Assembly
- May 7 to 11, 1973 (London) — International Federation of Musicians — Congress
- May 20 to 26, 1973 (Rio de Janeiro) — International Chamber of Commerce — Congress
- May 21 to 25, 1973 (Paris) — Unesco International Copyright Information Centre
- May 22 and 23, 1973 (Malmö) — International Plant Breeders Association for the Protection of New Varieties — Congress
- June 26 to July 17, 1973 (Washington) — Organization of American States — Committee of Governmental Experts on Industrial Property and Technology Applied to Development
- September 10 to 14, 1973 (Stockholm) — International Federation of Actors — Congress
- September 10 to October 6, 1973 (Munich) — Munich Diplomatic Conference for the Setting Up of a European System for the Grant of Patents, 1973
- September 24 to 28, 1973 (Budapest) — International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property — Symposium
- October 28 to November 3, 1973 (Jerusalem) — International Writers Guild — Congress
- December 10 to 14, 1973 (Brussels) — European Economic Community — "Community Patent" Working Party

