

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO,REPUBLICOF

In a letter dated September 17, 2001, to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Controller of the Intellectual Property Office, at the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, in Port of Spain advised as follows:

“Re: The Second Session Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

I refer to the above subject and enclose for you a completed questionnaire. This was very easy to complete because unfortunately no legislation exists in Trinidad and Tobago to protect Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. When the Copyright Act, 1997 was drafted several provisions were included to protect our traditional knowledge and folklore. The Honorable Minister then took a decision to remove all the said provisions and work with the International Community to create an International Instrument to protect Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Legislation will then be developed based on the outcome of that said Instrument.

A case study was done by WIPO. (Copy of the said report is attached for ease of reference). A regional seminar is scheduled to take place in February, 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago to continue to encourage these discussions with the hope that Member States will come close to an agreement on the provisions of an International Instrument to protect Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.”

[The Case Study Referred to has been published in the Final Report of the WIPO Fact - Finding Mission on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge].