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ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL CONCERNING FEES, PRICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorandum by the International Bureau

1. An alternative to the proposal contained in document PCT/A/III/5, paragraph 7 could consist of the following:

(i) to raise the fees and prices, with effect from July 1, 1979, and January 1, 1980, respectively, by 30% in Swiss francs (which, expressed in US dollars would, because of the exchange rate between the two currencies having become 1.68 Swiss francs per US dollar instead of 1.51 Swiss francs per US dollar, correspond to a raise of approximately 17%, depending on the various kinds of fees and prices); for example, the basic fee would be raised from 250 Swiss francs to 325 Swiss francs (that is, from US\$165 to US\$194), and the designation fee would be raised from 60 Swiss francs to 78 Swiss francs (that is, from US\$40 to US\$47)

(ii) to decide that the new fees and prices would, barring unforeseen circumstances, remain in effect until the end of 1980 and that, latest in September 1980, the Assembly of the PCT Union would examine the question of fees, prices and any deficit-covering contributions;

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(iii) as far as any deficit arising before the end of 1980 and additional to the deficits covered by the contributions referred to in document PCT/A/III/5, paragraph 1, is concerned, to authorize the International Bureau to cover, provisionally, such additional deficit from loans (preferably internal loans).

2. It has been stated in document PCT/A/III/5 paragraph 4, that if the fees [and prices] remain unchanged until the end of 1980, the additional deficit until the end of 1980 would amount to 2,300,000 francs. If, instead of remaining unchanged, the fees are raised by 30% as from July 1, 1979, and the prices from January 1, 1980, this amount can be expected to sink to 1,600,000 Swiss francs.

3. One of the important consequences of such a decision would be that States would not be asked to contribute more for the period 1978 to 1980 than what they have already agreed to.

4. As far as the years 1981 and 1982 are concerned, deficits would continue unless the originally contemplated fees and prices are introduced as from January 1, 1981. No decision is requested now on the question whether the said level of fees and prices should be reached as from the said date. However, some estimates may be made as to the consequences of not introducing those fees and prices from that date. For example, if, as from January 1, 1981, the fees and prices were to be raised by 25%, the average deficits for 1981 and 1982 would be around 1,300,000 francs per year. Should this be the case, and should one decide to cover, in those two years (1981 and 1982) not only the deficits of those two years (totaling 2,600,000 francs) but also the one carried over at the end of 1980 (i.e., some 1,600,000 francs), then one would need $((2,600,000 + 1,600,000) \div 2 =) 2,100,000$ francs in deficit-covering contributions in each of the said two years (1981 and 1982). That amount would be almost the same as the average yearly amount (2,064,000 francs) of the deficit-covering contributions in 1978, 1979 and 1980 (see document PCT/A/III/5, paragraph 1). Naturally, if the number of international applications were to rise more rapidly than expected, or the costs were to rise less rapidly than expected, some or all of those deficits would not materialize in actual fact.¹ In any case, more accurate estimates could be given in September 1980, in the light of the trends that could be observed between now and then. In the meantime, if, in any given year, the number of international applications should be significantly higher or lower than presently expected, the expenditures would be higher or lower, respectively, than those budgeted.

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¹ These calculations do not take into account the recent danger signs of widespread and fee copying not only of the pamphlets but also of the Gazette entries, a matter closely related to the attitude hostile to asserting copyright.