

WIPO



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INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

ASSEMBLY

Fifth Session (3rd Extraordinary)*

Geneva, June 9 to 16, 1980

COMPUTERIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT BY WIPO OF
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS UNDER THE PCT

Memorandum prepared by the International Bureau

1. The Assembly is invited to note that the PCT Management and Budget Consultants Group which was established by the Assembly at its fourth (second ordinary) session in September/October 1979 (see the report of the session, document AB/X/32, paragraph 39(iii)) and which met in Geneva from March 17 to 28, 1980, “express [ed] the view that computerization [of certain aspects of the administrative management by WIPO of international applications filed under the PCT] entails economies” and recommended that “the Assembly ... should, at its June 1980 session, authorize the commitment of funds necessary for the introduction of a computerized system.”
2. With regard to the Group’s desire that authorization by the Assembly of the commitment of funds be obtained, it is to be noted that in 1980 the funds desired to be committed for computerization (estimated at 300,000 Swiss francs in a feasibility study by an outside consultant on the basis of which the Group reached its decision regarding computerization) will not be covered in that year by savings arising from computerization; such savings (expected to exceed, in the period of 12 months following the completing of the implementation of the computerization, the funds desired to be committed and to increase

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with increases in the level of filings of international applications) would only start following the completing of the implementation of computerization in 1981. Notwithstanding the commitment of the additional amount of 300,000 Swiss francs, the accumulated deficit in the PCT budget, forecast at 1,600,000 Swiss francs by the end of 1980, the financing of which has already been decided by the Assembly at its session in September/October 1979, will not be exceeded.

3. The relevant passages of the report of the Consultants Group are attached to this document although the full report of the said Group, with revisions of the PCT budget for 1980 and 1981, will be submitted only to the September 1980 session of the PCT Assembly since budgetary matters are generally reserved for the September sessions. It is because the basis for savings expected to be derived from computerization should start as early as possible that, following the advice of the said Group, the above question is submitted to the present (June 1980) extraordinary session of the Assembly.

4. The Assembly is invited to note the intention of the International Bureau to commit funds in 1980 for the purpose of computerizing certain aspects of the management of international applications under the PCT.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PROPOSALS TO MODIFY THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT
OF PCT APPLICATIONS AT WIPO

1. Within the more general context of the medium-term PCT financial prospects, the Group of Consultants examined the proposal to computerize the administrative management of PCT applications. The Group made use of the presentation report by Hr. Lagesse and the feasibility study carried out by Mr. Allum, an outside consultant.
2. The Group of Consultants analyzed in detail the two reports and the proposal contained therein. It also visited the PCT Division and had lengthy talks with the Director of the Division and the Heads of Section.
3. Mr. Allum's report proposes the setting-up of a computerized PCT application management system at WIPO. The system would be used by the PCT Examination Section to update the files, monitor time-limits and generate the most frequently required communications. It would be used by the PCT Publication Section to prepare publication of the Gazette and the pamphlets. The PCT Fees, Sales and Statistics Section would obtain monthly statistics from the system. The outside consultant proposes a simple system configuration comprising data collection, display and printing terminals where needed and linked to the United Nations International Computing Centre (ICC) in Geneva.
4. The Group examined the proposals in the context of improving the management of PCT in order to reduce or limit the growth of PCT costs.

CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Group recommends that the proposed project be adopted and set up as soon as possible in view of the savings (in staff and other costs) that will result. The Group feels that the time saved for each filing emerging from the cost efficiency study is significant (6.15 hours for the computerized system against 9.9 hours for the current system) and would lead to economies justifying the setting-up of tile system.
6. It recommends that the system should follow the proposed plan:
 - (a) Use of the United Nations Computing Centre (after a study of the reliability of the Centre);
 - (b) Outside photocomposition;
 - (c) Establishment of a team comprising computer technicians and senior staff of the PCT Division for the setting-up of the system, with the assistance of an expert from EPO.
7. It recommends adherence to the following, timescale, as far as practicable:
 - (a) Completion of the detailed analysis in early June 1980;
 - (b) Setting-up of the examination subsystem in early October 1980;

- (c) Setting-up of the statistics subsystem in early November 1980;
- (d) Setting-up of the publication subsystem in early January 1981.

The Group feels however that this timescale is very ambitious and has therefore projected the expected economies for six months only in 1981.

8. The Group expresses the view that computerization entails economies and therefore recommends to the Assembly that it should, at its June 1980 session, authorize the commitment of funds necessary for the introduction of a computerized system.

[End of Annex and of document]