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PCT/CTC/I/4

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# WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION

(PCT UNION)

## PCT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

First Session

Geneva, September 19 to 22, 1978

REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

1. The PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the PCT/CTC") held its first session in Geneva from September 19 to 22, 1978. Following the Decision Establishing the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information and Dealing with Related Matters, the session of the PCT/CTC was held jointly with the second session of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information (hereinafter referred to as "the PCPI").

2. The following members of the PCT/CTC were represented: Brazil, Central African Empire, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Madagascar, Senegal, Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Patent Office (EPO) (12). Representatives of the following States were present as special observers: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain (10). Algeria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Zambia (8) were represented by observers. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), the International Federation for Documentation (FID), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Patent Documentation Center (INPADOC) and the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) were also represented by observers. The list of participants is attached as the Annex to this report.

3. The session was presided over by the Chairman of the PCPI, Mr. J. Dekker, Netherlands. Mr. P. Claus, Director, Patent Information Division, WIPO, acted as Secretary of the session.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The provisional agenda contained in document PCT/CTC/I/1 Rev. was unanimously adopted.

TASKS OF THE PCT/CTC IN 1979

5. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/I/2, which contained tasks for the PCT/CTC in 1979 proposed by the International Bureau and based on the summary of technical activities of the former PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation as contained in document PCT/TCO/VIII/2 Rev.

6. The PCT/CTC decided that the tasks listed in document PCT/CTC/I/2 should be considered by the Working Group on Planning of the PCPI (hereinafter referred to as "the Planning Group") at its next session for possible action in 1979 or the years thereafter.

7. Those tasks are as follows:

PCT Minimum Documentation "Patents"

(a) the exploration of methods of maintaining the inventory of patent documents issued since January 1, 1920, up to date as regards recently published patent documents;

(b) the maintenance of the inventory of previously reported gaps in the search files of PCT International Searching Authorities and measures to remove the said gaps;

(c) the exploration of the feasibility of establishing and regularly updating the list of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(c) (vi) in a machine-readable form with a view to obtaining computer listings of such documents, e.g., on microfiche, at regular intervals;

(d) the continuation and, if possible, completion of a machine-readable inventory (starting with the year 1970) of English-language abstracts of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(e) and proposal of a method of regularly updating such an inventory.

PCT Minimum Documentation "Non-patent Literature"

(e) consideration of measures to maintain the list of minimum "non-patent literature" up to date both as regards the current specific details of each technical journal, e.g., title, publishing authority, as well as steps necessary to maintain the minimum list truly comprehensive in coverage as useful sources of technical references so as to take account of possible changes of the editorial policy associated with the technical journals and assessing the need to add to the list any newly published technical journal title;

(f) assessing the feasibility of studying the benefits of cooperation among the PCT International Searching Authorities and other interested organizations in the exchange of information, e.g., in a machine-readable form, concerning:

- (i) bibliographic identification data of disclosures contained in the PCT Minimum Documentation "non-patent literature" relating to suitable technological information for incorporation in search files,
- (ii) IPC information appropriate to the disclosures under (i),
- (iii) possible ways in which the work involved in (i) and (ii) can be shared between the PCT International Searching Authorities and other interested organizations, e.g., on the basis of different organizations being responsible for defined technical areas or on the basis of country of publication of the technical journal,
- (iv) an inventory of disclosures contained in the PCT Minimum Documentation "non-patent literature" organized according to the IPC and suitable for inclusion within:

- the CAPRI Project, to thus form part of the PCT technical assistance to developing countries
- the "common search file."



8. The PCT/CTC, in taking the decision set forth in paragraph 6 above, noted:

(a) that the International Bureau had so far maintained the inventories referred to in paragraph 7(a), 7(b) and 7(d) as deemed necessary and to the extent possible;

(b) that, with respect to the task referred to in paragraph 7(e), the International Bureau had been entrusted by the Planning Group with the clerical revision of the list of non-patent literature which is part of the PCT Minimum Documentation according to PCT Rule 34.1(b)(iii) (see also document PCPI/PLAN/II/8, paragraph 21(e)).

Consequently, the International Bureau was requested to continue to maintain the said inventories in the future as it had done in the past.

9. With respect to the various tasks listed in paragraph 7 above, the following comments and observations were made by the participants in the session and by the International Bureau (paragraphs 10 to 22 below).

Ad Task 7(a)

10. The International Bureau pointed out that the inventory of published patent documents was up to date only at the end of 1976 and that there was a need to maintain the inventory up to date in respect of currently issued patent documents, particularly in respect of patent documents consecutively numbered upon issue, since gaps occur in the sequence of numbers.

11. The Representative of the EPO questioned the usefulness of continued work on the inventory of published patent documents since Patent Offices should normally check themselves the integrity of their files and said that his Office could see little need for a centralized inventory.

Ad Task 7(b)

12. The International Bureau suggested that a survey, involving little work, could be made to identify progress since 1976 in relation to the gaps reported in the existing inventory.

Ad Task 7(c)

13. With respect to task 7(c), the International Bureau said that inventories of the documents contained in the sorted collections of patent documents published by Austria and Canada, put at the disposal of the International Searching Authorities in accordance with PCT Rule 34(c)(vi), existed in one form or another and that it was proposed to compile and distribute one single and regularly updated inventory.

14. The Representative of the EPO and the Delegation of the UNITED KINGDOM considered that the production of a single inventory in a machine-readable form was likely to be expensive and probably not justified.

15. The Observer from INPADOC said that technically it would be possible to produce a machine-readable inventory out of INPADOC's data base. However, the costs involved in producing such an inventory would be very high and this project should, therefore, be considered very carefully.

Ad Task 7(d)

16. The International Bureau explained that the "inventory" meant here was merely a list of the serial numbers of patent documents having English-language abstracts according to PCT Rule 34.1(e) together with a reference where such abstracts had been published and not to the text of such abstracts. The International Bureau further informed the PCT/CTC of the recent decision of Derwent Publications Limited, London, not to proceed with the production of 16mm. rollfilms containing the text of English-language abstracts of Japanese and Soviet patent documents published by Derwent because the number of potential customers fell substantially below the viable minimum set up earlier.

17. The Delegation of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY stated that English-language abstracts of Japanese and Soviet Union patent documents were of great interest to the PCT International Searching Authorities and other Patent Offices. Any inventory should also include references to the English-language abstracts published by the Japanese Patent Office in "Patent Abstracts of Japan."

Ad Task 7(e)

18. The International Bureau stated that the proposed task was different from the mere clerical updating of the list of the PCT Minimum Documentation "Non-patent Literature." The assistance of the PCT International Searching Authorities and Patent Offices was needed to elaborate a procedure for conveying information to the International Bureau. The Delegation of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that in its view the task should be discussed in the PCPI Working Group on Search Information.

Ad Task 7(f)

19. The International Bureau stated that this proposed task should be seen as a continuation of the valuable work done in cooperation with the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, in connection with the Patent Associated Literature (PAL) system.

20. The Representative of the EPO reminded the PCT/CTC that the PCT International Searching Authorities were required only to subscribe to the journals forming the PCT Minimum Documentation "Non-patent Literature," that they were free to organize this search material in any way they wished and that they were obliged to keep this material in their search files for only five years.

21. The Delegation of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY informed the PCT/CTC that a bibliography, including the IPC symbols of 10,000 non-patent literature items contained in the search files of its Office, was available in the form of a printed publication from Verlag Dokumentation KG, Munich.

22. The PCT/CTC concluded that the proposed study was not of great urgency.

NEXT SESSION

23. The PCT/CTC noted that its second session, a joint session with the third session of the PCPI, was scheduled to take place from October 22 to 26, 1979.

OTHER BUSINESS

24. At the request of the Delegation of SWEDEN, the International Bureau provided the latest available statistics in respect of the number of PCT applications filed:

Pursuant to Article 12 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), record copies of 167 international applications were transmitted to the International Bureau by receiving Offices during the period from June 1, 1978 (the date of commencement of the filing of international applications under the PCT), to September 15, 1978. The said applications were transmitted by the following Offices: Brazil (1), France (18), Germany (Federal Republic of) (20), Sweden (37), Switzerland (14), United Kingdom (12), United States of America (52), European Patent Office (13). The average number of States or groups of States in respect of which a designation fee was paid was 4.27.

25. This report was unanimously adopted by the PCT/CTC at its closing meeting on September 22, 1978.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

(in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States)/  
(dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais des noms des Etats)

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- Mr. A. SUGDEN, Principal Examiner, The Patent Office, London

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- Mr. P.J. TERRAGNO, Director, Office of Search Systems, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C.

II. MEMBER ORGANIZATION/ORGANISATION MEMBRE

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