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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

**INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION
STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Second Session : Geneva, April 6 and 7, 1972

INTERNATIONAL PATENT DOCUMENTS SERVICE: EXCHANGE FORMAT

Proposal of the German Patent Office

1. The German Patent Office has noted with gratitude the view expressed by the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) of ICIREPAT at its seventh session that the various ICIREPAT Committees should be at the disposal of the relevant bodies of the PCT to assist them in their work (cf. document IC/TCC/VII/14, paragraph 37). In light of the attention which has already been given to the subject of standardization of a magnetic tape layout for the exchange of bibliographic data relating to patent and like documents by the ICIREPAT Technical Committee for Computerization (TCCR), the German Patent Office proposes that the Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation request the International Bureau, as Secretariat of ICIREPAT and working in close collaboration with representatives of the proposed Vienna Institute, to make every effort to expedite the formulation of a recommendation regarding such standardization.

2. This matter is felt to be one of great urgency, since this standard magnetic tape layout could then be used by national Offices for supplying input data to the proposed Vienna Institute. This would be of particular importance for national Offices which are considering creating special input tapes for supplying data to the said Institute, since adoption of this standard format for input would eliminate the need for the said Institute to reformat the data received from these Offices. Further, early agreement on such a standard format, to be used as the distribution format by the said Institute, would expedite the work which must be undertaken in the various Patent Offices prior to their being able to make maximum and efficient use of the magnetic tapes which will be provided by the said Institute.

3. The Standing Subcommittee is hereby requested to consider this proposal and to invite the International Bureau to work out a timetable for preparing the above-mentioned recommendation, permitting submission of a draft recommendation approved by TCCR to the TCC in time for a decision by the TCC at its ninth session in December 1972. It is recognized that formulation of this recommendation might necessitate the holding of a further session of TCCR in 1972.

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