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UPOV

C/XIII/17

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: November 19, 1979

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Thirteenth Ordinary Session Geneva, October 17 and 18, 1979

DRAFT DETAILED REPORT

prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its thirteenth ordinary session in Geneva on October 17 and 18, 1979.
2. The session was presided over by the President of the Council, Mr. H. Skov (Denmark).
3. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex III.
4. The Council adopted on October 18, 1979, a report containing only the decisions it had taken (document C/XIII/16) but it was agreed that a more complete version of that report, covering also the main statements made during the discussions and not reflected in that report, would be issued later. The draft of such a detailed report is hereby submitted to the Council to be adopted at its next session. The parts of the report adopted on October 18, 1979, which are reproduced without change in the present draft report are indented.

Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was unanimously adopted as appearing in document C/XIII/1. Rev.

Present situation, problems arising and progress achieved in the legislative, administrative and technical fields

6. The Council noted the declarations made under this agenda item by the representatives of the member States, the representatives of the observer States represented in the session and the representative of the European Economic Community. Furthermore, the Council noted the contents of documents C/XIII/5, 6 and 7.

The main declarations made under that agenda item were as follows:

- (a) The representative of the Republic of South Africa said that in his country the UPOV Convention was applied to 83 species. Titles of protection were in force for 59 varieties and applications in respect of a further 69 varieties were under consideration. Foreign breeders had shown an increasing interest in obtaining protection for their varieties in South Africa. The first issue of the quarterly South African Plant Varieties Journal had been published in January 1979 and was based on the UPOV Model Plant Breeders' Rights Gazette. The South African

Plant Breeders' Rights Act would most probably be amended early in 1980. Once the Amendment Act became law his country would be in a position to ratify the Revised Text (1978) of the UPOV Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Revised Text").

(b) The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany said that protection had been extended to three further species. The Bundessortenamt (Federal Plant Varieties Office) would carry out tests itself for those additional species and would be prepared to test them for other member States of the Union. Existing bilateral agreements on cooperation in examination (hereinafter referred to as "bilateral agreements") with Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland had been extended and now covered 29, 21 and 13 species respectively. Extensions of the bilateral agreements with Denmark and the United Kingdom were under consideration. A total of 603 applications for protection had been received in the year ended June 30, 1979, against 601 in the preceding year. The Federal Republic of Germany felt that its preparatory work to enable ratification of the Revised Text should be coordinated with such work in other European member States of the Union and it therefore looked forward to progress being made at the November 1979 session of the Administrative and Legal Committee with the harmonization of national legislations.

(c) The representative of Belgium said that it had been possible, as a result of collaboration with other member States, to increase the number of species protected in his country from 27 to 58. So far, bilateral agreements had been concluded with France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands and informal agreements existed with Denmark and the United Kingdom. Since plant variety protection became effective in his country on October 23, 1977, some 179 applications for protection had been received and 106 titles of protection had been granted. The scope of protection afforded to agricultural and vegetable species had been extended by the Royal Decree of February 12, 1979, and now included not only seeds but also plants or parts of plants marketed with a view to their being planted. Regarding the genus Ribes, protection had been extended to interspecific hybrids. Draft legislation had been prepared to allow approval of the Revised Text and to modify his country's plant variety protection law. A draft of the Dutch official text of the Revised Text was being studied jointly by the authorities of the Netherlands and of Belgium.

(d) The representative of Denmark said that 93 applications for protection had been received in the current year. Protection had been extended to autumn and winter-flowering sub-species of Epiphyllum and to Kalanchoë. The bilateral agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany would be extended in the near future to include roses. Kalanchoë and Pelargonium, which had so far been tested for his country on an informal basis, would also be formally added to that agreement. It had been agreed informally with Belgium that Denmark would test varieties of red clover and white clover for that country.

(e) The representative of France said that some 2,400 applications for protection had been received since the UPOV Convention was applicable in his country. Applications were now being received at a rate of about 300 per annum, and were most numerous for maize lines and chrysanthemums. Titles of protection were in force for some 1,000 varieties and 130 of the first 200 titles granted were still valid. He would welcome information from other member States on the average life of titles of protection. France needed to amend its plant variety protection legislation to enable it to ratify the Revised Text. The opportunity would be taken to consider a number of provisions in the legislation which might be too closely dependent on industrial property legislation. He had listened with great interest to the hope expressed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the next session of the Administrative and Legal Committee. He thanked the Office of the Union for the work put into the draft UPOV Model Law, which would already be very valuable in preparation for the amendment of his country's legislation.

(f) The representative of Italy said that 171 applications for protection had so far been received and the first nine patents were about to be issued. A decree had been prepared to increase the number of species protected from 10 to 67. The Ministry of Industry would undertake the publication of a gazette containing relevant information on plant variety protection matters. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had already expressed a favorable opinion with regard to ratification of the Revised Text by his country.

(g) The representative of the Netherlands said that the progress stimulated by the creation and introduction of new varieties, and, in particular, the part played by plant variety protection, had been fully recognized in his country. The number of applications for protection received annually was stable except for ornamental varieties where it was increasing dramatically. Cooperation in examination was of great value in reducing testing costs but could result in increases in administrative costs and in the period required for decisions on applications. His country would therefore discuss with other member States, as necessary, the possibility of improving the efficiency of the system. With effect from September 1, 1979, the testing fee in his country had been increased to 1.100 guilders to cover tests during two growing periods. Protection would be extended to a few more species from November 1, 1979. Preparatory work towards ratification of the Revised Text had started but the eventual timing depended, of course, on his country's Parliament.

(h) The representative of the United Kingdom said that the past year had seen no major policy changes in plant variety protection matters in his country. Since 1965 a total of 3,209 applications for protection had been received and 1,609 titles had been granted, of which 846 remained in force. During the year ended March 31, 1979, there had been 413 applications and 155 titles had been granted. More titles would probably have been granted but for two outbreaks of white rust which had delayed the testing of chrysanthemum varieties. The main interest in his country was in the major agricultural and ornamental species. More than 300 applications had been received for each of the species wheat, barley, ryegrass, rose and chrysanthemum. He wished to assure member States for which his country tested chrysanthemum varieties that every effort was being made to clear the backlog caused by the outbreaks of white rust. Resources were, however, stretched to the limit. With regard to ratification of the Revised Text, it had been hoped to bring forward amending legislation in 1979 but it now seemed that parliamentary time was unlikely to be available until 1981. He endorsed the statement of the representative of the Netherlands regarding the value of plant variety protection. On the basis of almost 15 years' experience, that was evident in his country in the advance in the quality of marketed varieties and in the yields being achieved.

(i) The representative of Sweden said that amendments were being prepared to adapt his country's legislation to the Revised Text. The UPOV Convention was applied to almost all of the agricultural and vegetable species cultivated in Sweden and to 12 ornamental species. Since 1971 only some 450 applications for protection had been received. About 190 applications and titles of protection had been withdrawn or surrendered and there were only 130 titles in force. He believed the main reason for the limited use of the system in his country was a domestic one in that the testing fee which had been 200 Kronor in 1971 was now 2,400 Kronor.

(j) The representative of Switzerland said that during the two and a quarter years' existence of the Plant Variety Protection Office 35 applications for protection had been received. Five titles of protection had been granted and a further 11 were expected to be granted in November, 1979. He reported in detail on the anticipated extension of protection to further species from January 3, 1980, and on the planned scale of testing fees. That extension had been made possible as a result of the cooperation of the authorities in Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. A bilateral agreement was in force with the Federal Republic of Germany, another had been concluded with the Netherlands and one would soon be concluded with France. Formal agreements with Denmark and the United Kingdom were under discussion. At the last ordinary session of the Council the Netherlands had proposed that Switzerland should offer facilities for testing varieties of fennel. That proposal had borne fruit and France and the Netherlands had responded to such an offer. With regard to the Revised Text, proposals already existed to adapt the Plant Variety Protection Law and it was hoped that they would be passed at the March 1980 session of the Federal Assembly.

(k) The representative of Algeria said that his country was participating for the first time. It wished, above all, to gain an understanding of the mechanics of plant variety protection and would probably seek advice from the Office of the Union regarding the establishment of an effective system.

(l) The representative of Austria said that draft plant variety protection legislation was still under consideration by various government authorities. Although certain problems remained to be resolved, it had been found that such legislation could co-exist with his country's patent legislation. Some changes had already been introduced into the draft and it would be possible to adapt it to the Revised Text.

(m) The representative of Brazil said that he would report to his Government on the exchange of information, which he had followed with interest.

(n) The representative of Chile said that the Agriculture and Livestock Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, which had responsibility for seeds matters in his country, had taken an interest in the work of the Union even before the introduction of plant variety protection legislation in Chile. It appreciated the good working relationship that had developed and the valuable assistance that it had received in preparing its legislation, and aimed to join the Union. Regulations to implement Decree Law No. 1764 of April 1977 had been introduced in Decree No. 188 of June 1978. He reported in some detail on the structure of the Office of the Registrar of Property and on the scope of and access to plant variety protection. Protection was currently available in respect of all cultivated agricultural species. He cited: alfalfa, rice, barley, beans, maize, potato, sugar beet, red clover, triticum durum and wheat. The extension of protection to further species, including horticultural and fruit species, was being considered. Variety testing was carried out in conformity with the UPOV Test Guidelines. So far, 121 applications for protection had been received and 36 titles of protection had been granted in the current year. Relevant information was being published in a quarterly bulletin.

(o) The representative of Spain said that, following the favorable decision of the Council of UPOV in October 1978 on his country's application for accession, the UPOV Convention of 1961 had been submitted to Parliament for consideration. He understood that the main reason for the delay in depositing the instrument of accession had been the heavy pressure of parliamentary work in the current year. He hoped, however, that instructions to deposit the instrument would be received very shortly. The Spanish authorities had decided to delay signing the Revised Text until the Parliament's decision regarding the UPOV Convention of 1961 was known. If that decision was taken in time, Spain would sign the Revised Text: if not, it would follow the procedure established therein. Since December 1978, when plant variety protection legislation had entered into force in his country, three issues of the Official Bulletin of Plant Breeders' Rights had been published and the fourth was in preparation. Applications for protection so far totalled 204, of which 58 had been filed by Spanish breeders. For the time being, all the necessary variety testing work would be conducted in Spain but efforts would be made in the near future to establish bilateral agreements with member States of the Union. The first meeting of the Plant Breeders' Rights Committee would take place next week in Madrid and it was possible that the first proposals for the granting of titles of protection would then be made to the Minister of Agriculture.

(p) The representative of the United States of America said that his Government had determined that it could adhere to the Revised Text on the basis of the Plant Patent Act. It wished to adhere at the earliest possible opportunity and expected to deposit an instrument of acceptance, which would have the same effect as an instrument of ratification. On the other hand, the Plant Variety Protection Act required amendment to adapt it to the Revised Text. A Bill to that effect was pending in Congress and would probably be enacted only after the instrument of acceptance had been deposited. Once that Bill had been enacted, his Government would notify the Secretary-General of the application of the Revised Text to the Plant Variety Protection Act.

(q) The representative of Iraq said that Iraq, as a developing country, depended on the introduction of new foreign varieties. Those varieties were tested officially and only suitable ones were released. As yet there was no plant variety protection legislation in his country and it would be premature to participate in the activities of UPOV.

(r) The representative of Ireland said that it was an honor for him to announce that his country had signed the Revised Text on September 27, 1979, and hoped soon to be a member of the Union. The work of drafting plant variety protection legislation had been completed and the Bill was being presented to Parliament that day, which was the first day of the new session. In drafting the Bill his authorities had been influenced by the Revised Text. They had made use of the best aspects of various national laws and had found the draft UPOV Model Law of help. He wished to acknowledge the assistance and advice received from the Council, the Secretariat and a number of member States of the Union, in particular, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Belgium. It was intended to afford protection initially to wheat, oats, barley, ryegrass, potato and white clover.

(s) The representative of Japan said that the Seeds and Seedlings Law, which had been enacted in June 1978 in pursuance of his country's aim to join UPOV, had come into force on December 28, 1978. The Seeds and Seedlings Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries had been created in April 1979 to implement the system. There were currently 8 examiners and 28 staff and the number of examiners would be increased progressively. Already 271 applications for protection had been received, including applications from the United States of America and from the Netherlands. It was expected that the first 19 titles of protection would be granted in October 1979. The Seeds and Seedlings Law applied currently to 365 species and it was planned to increase that number. He was honored to report that the Japanese Ambassador had signed the Revised Text that morning. Japan planned to ratify the Revised Text as soon as possible and hoped that other States would also ratify it and make it effective.

(t) The representative of Morocco said that his Government considered the creation of a private, national plant breeding industry to be essential. A national catalogue of varieties had already been established as the first of a number of steps. As a result, rights in new varieties were recognized. In testing for distinctness, homogeneity and stability use was made of the UPOV criteria. The introduction of plant variety protection legislation was being studied and Morocco hoped to be in a position to join UPOV shortly.

(u) The representative of Norway said that plant variety protection legislation did not yet exist in his country. Private agreements had been concluded, however, with Swedish and Dutch breeders under which royalties were paid. Although breeding programs were small in scale and narrowly aligned to Norwegian requirements, it had been decided to introduce plant variety protection legislation and the first draft was almost completed. No decision had so far been taken regarding membership of the Union.

(v) The representative of New Zealand said that he wished to thank the Office of the Union for the great assistance given to his country. He had the honor to announce that New Zealand had signed the Revised Text on July 25, 1979, and intended to apply for membership of the Union early in 1980. At October 1, 1979, a total of 136 applications for protection had been received, including 108 applications from foreign breeders. Titles of protection had been granted in respect of 53 varieties and decisions were pending in respect of a further 64 varieties. Consideration was being given to extending protection to a further four species, namely, wheat, oats, swede and turnip. With effect from August 1, 1979, testing arrangements in his country had been changed. Tests were now conducted by breeders under the supervision of the Plant Varieties Office rather than by that Office.

(w) The representative of Poland said that he had the honor to report that the necessary preparatory work for the introduction of plant variety protection legislation had been completed. The draft law, which would also regulate the production, certification and commercialization of seeds, and the implementing regulations had been submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for approval. They should then be submitted to the Government and finally to the Chamber of Deputies. He thanked the experts of the member States of the Union, the Secretary-General and the Office for all the assistance given, which had enabled successive drafts of the Polish legislation to be adapted to the requirements of the UPOV Convention.

(x) The representative of Thailand said that he had followed with interest the statements made. He noted that his country had not previously been represented at a session of the UPOV Council.

(y) The representative of the Soviet Union said that protection was extended to all species cultivated in his country. At present there were some 2,000 varieties in cultivation. A draft law was under consideration regarding the cataloguing of varieties. There was a continuing interest in the technical aspects of testing and it was felt that variety identification on the basis of morphological characteristics was currently far from ideal.

(z) The representative of the European Economic Community said that the Commission of the European Communities placed great importance on the closest cooperation with UPOV. The guidelines for testing varieties for inclusion in the Common Catalogues had been brought more into line with the UPOV Test Guidelines. He hoped that it would be possible by means of continuing cooperation to avoid double effort. He noted that eight of the nine members of the Communities had signed the Revised Text.

Report by the President on the work of the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Consultative Committee; adoption of recommendations, if any, prepared by that Committee

7. The Council noted the report of the President of the Council.

7a. In particular, the Council unanimously adopted the recommendation formulated by the Consultative Committee at its nineteenth session that draft reports of future sessions of the Council and of Committees should be given an interim status on approval by a Chairman and one "justifier," being subsequently adopted, subject to any agreed amendments, at the next session of the relevant body. In that recommendation it had also been stated that no change was sought in the nature and style of reports and that member States should advise the Office of the Union in writing of any serious problems raised by the content of an interim report. When adopting the recommendation, the Council also unanimously elected as its "justifier" the Vice-President of the Council, Dr. W. Gfeller (Switzerland). That procedure was not, however, to be followed for the present report.

Report by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Union in 1978

8. The Council unanimously approved the report by the Secretary-General as contained in document C/XIII/2. It also noted with satisfaction that the following non-member States of UPOV had signed the Revised Text (1978) of the UPOV Convention: Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, United States of America. The Council noted with approval a proposal of the Secretary-General to the effect that the yearly reports will be supplemented by a report on the activities of the first seven or eight months of the year in which the Council meets in its ordinary (October) session.

Report by the Secretary-General on his management and the financial situation of the Union in 1978

9. The Council unanimously approved the report of the Secretary-General contained in document C/XIII/3.

Presentation of the report concerning the auditing of the accounts for 1978

10. The Council noted the report contained in document C/XIII/3, Annex B, and approved the accounts of the Union for the year 1978.

11. The Council expressed its warm thanks to the Government of Switzerland for the auditing of the accounts of the Union.

Progress of the work of the Administrative and Legal Committee

12. The Council unanimously approved the report on the progress of the work of the Administrative and Legal Committee as contained in document C/XIII/8. It also noted with approval the plans for the future work of that Committee as indicated in the said document.

12a. In introducing document C/XIII/8, the Vice Secretary-General--in the absence of the Chairman of the Administrative and Legal Committee--referred mainly to the UPOV Model Form for the Invoicing of Examination Costs (document C/XIII/8, Annex I), to the UPOV Model Form for the Designation of the Sample of the Variety (document C/XIII/8, Annex II), to the UPOV Model Plant Breeders' Rights Gazette (document UPOV/INF/5) and to the UPOV Form for the Transmittal of Observations on a Submitted Variety Denomination (document C/XIII/8, Annex III), which had all been established by the Administrative and Legal Committee in the preceding year. He mentioned that work had started on a Recommendation on Fees in Relation to Cooperation in Examination which had to be continued. As the main future tasks of that Committee he described the elaboration of a UPOV Model Plant Variety Protection Law, the harmonization of certain aspects of the national legislations on plant variety protection and the discussion on a possible closer cooperation among all or some UPOV member States.

12b. In the course of the discussion, the Office of the Union noted the wish to consider the preparation of a loose-leaf binder which would contain the UPOV Convention and all models, rules, guidelines and other important documents adopted under basic decisions taken by the Council. It also noted the wish that documents replacing previous documents should wherever possible state those former documents which they were replacing to enable the Delegates to dispose of the old documents. The Vice Secretary-General pointed out that such a method was already being used in some cases, for instance in document C/XIII/6, but that in other cases it was not always certain whether a new document replaced a previous document in all respect.

12c. The Delegates declared that in future only those models should be prepared which would really be used by all member States.

Progress of the work of the Technical Committee and of the Technical Working Parties

13. The Council unanimously noted with approval the progress of the Technical Committee and of the Technical Working Parties as reported in document C/XIII/9. Furthermore, it authorized the Technical Committee to publish the revised General Introduction to the Test Guidelines after the discussions to be held on the subject during the fourteenth session (November 1979) of the Technical Committee.

13a. In introducing document C/XIII/9, Mr. A.F. Kelly, Chairman of the Technical Committee, referred mainly to the discussions in that Committee on the testing of distinctness, homogeneity and stability and on the preparation of a revised General Introduction to the Test Guidelines. He also mentioned the discussions on the grouping of vegetables for naming purposes, other ways of cooperation in examination and the supervision of the work of the Technical Working Parties.

13b. Between the last ordinary session of the Council and the last session of the Technical Committee, of the five Technical Working Parties only the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops had met and had reported on its work to the Technical Committee. One of the several requests for advice on which the Technical Committee had decided was the question whether separate Test Guidelines should be established for rootstocks.

13c. As future tasks the Chairman of the Technical Committee mentioned the finalization of the revised General Introduction to the Test Guidelines, the discussion of certain basic questions arising from the work of the five Technical Working Parties, the examination of other forms of cooperation as well as the examination of the question how the principles agreed upon in the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties could be better applied in practice.

Report on the activities resulting from the Diplomatic Conference of 1978

14. The Council unanimously noted with approval the report on those activities as contained in document C/XIII/11. Furthermore, it noted the declaration of the Vice Secretary-General that the summary records were expected to be circulated for comments to the participants of the Diplomatic Conference early in 1980 and that the records would be issued at least in one language by mid-1980. They would be published in the other languages as soon as possible thereafter.

14a. In introducing document C/XIII/11, the Vice Secretary-General referred mainly to the following questions: the transmittal of the Post Conference documents to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Agriculture of the States which had been represented in the Diplomatic Conference of 1978, as well as of those States which had been invited to be represented but could not accept that invitation; the publication of the Brochure containing the Revised Text (1978) of the Convention in English, French and German (UPOV Publications 293 (E), (F) and (G)); the stage of preparation of the Italian, Spanish and Dutch translations of the revised Text to serve as a basis for establishing official texts in those languages and the stage of consultation of governments concerning those translations; the reminder sent to those States which attended the Diplomatic Conference that the possibility of signing the Revised Text would end on October 31, 1979; and the stage of preparation of the Acts of the Diplomatic Conference of 1978.

Examination and approval of the program and budget of the Union for 1980

15. Discussions were based on documents C/XIII/4 and C/XIII/14.

15a. In discussing document C/XIII/4, the Council paid particular attention to paragraph 12A(iii) regarding the provision for the appointment of an additional shorthand typist. The Secretary-General stressed that the Office of the Union could not fulfill the specialized tasks entrusted to it by employing a secretary on a part-time or agency basis. It was essential to have a full-time person who would acquire specific experience of the needs of the Office. A vote was taken and the proposal to appoint an additional shorthand typist was carried by nine votes for to one against.

15b. The plan to hold a UPOV Symposium in Latin America (budget item UV.09) in conjunction with the ninth Panamerican Seeds Seminar was in general favorably received. The Council was concerned, however, to ensure that the arrangements envisaged by the Secretariat of the Panamerican Seeds Seminars would enable UPOV to make an effective presentation of its work and of the concept of plant variety protection. The Council also discussed the number and type of speakers needed to ensure an effective Symposium but was unable to reach any firm conclusions in view of the uncertainty which existed regarding the intentions of that Secretariat. The Vice Secretary-General was asked to make the necessary investigations and to report to the next session of the Consultative Committee.

16. The Council unanimously approved the program and budget for 1980 as appearing in document C/XIII/4 with the following modifications:

(i) In item UV.02, the amount is reduced from 9,000 to 7,000 Swiss francs.

(ii) In item UV.05, the amount is reduced from 32,000 to 30,000 Swiss francs.

(iii) In item UV.09, the amount of 28,000 Swiss francs was eliminated and it was decided that, should the program outlined in that item materialize in 1980, the required expenses (approximately 28,000 Swiss francs) would be covered from the reserve fund. Final decisions as to the details of this matter would be made in the April 1980 session of the Consultative Committee.

17. Annex I to this report shows the amount of the contributions, and the share of each country in those contributions, for the year 1980, on the assumption that only the present ten member States would contribute in 1980. Should one or more additional States adhere to UPOV so that it or they would have to contribute for the year 1980, the share of each of the present member States would become smaller than what is indicated in the said Annex. The corresponding new figures, if any, would be communicated by the Office of the Union to all member States in due course.

18. Several delegations said that, after 1980, they would not be prepared to agree to any further real increases (as opposed to cost increases) in the UPOV budget unless such increases could be financed through an increase in the membership of the Union. The Secretary-General said that, as from 1981, the draft budgets would differentiate between "real" and "cost" increases.

Calendar of meetings in 1980

19. The Council fixed the calendar of meetings for 1980 as appearing in Annex II to this report.

19a. The main difference in the proposed dates as appearing in document C/XIII/10 Rev. resulted from the combination of the first sessions in 1980 of the Consultative Committee (shortened by one day), the Administrative and Legal Committee (shortened by one day) and the Subgroups of the Administrative and Legal Committee (previously: Consultants) in the week from April 14 to 18, thus saving not only the costs of two meeting days but also the travelling costs for several national delegates.

Admission of observers to the ordinary Council sessions and certain meetings of UPOV

20. The Council asked the Office of the Union to invite Portugal to the next ordinary session of the Council in addition to the States invited to the present session. Furthermore, the Council decided that all States that signed or would sign the Revised Text (1978) of the UPOV Convention should be invited to the future sessions both of the Council and of the Administrative and Legal Committee.

Examination of the application for accession submitted by the State of Israel

21. The Council unanimously accepted the application of the State of Israel to accede to the UPOV Convention of 1961 as amended by the Additional Act of 1972, as indicated in document C/XIII/12. Furthermore, it unanimously decided to allow the State of Israel to pay only one-half of the contribution according to Class V under the conditions provided for in Article II of the said Additional Act.

Other business

22. The Council decided that, if time permits, the Office would address a questionnaire to the member States in 1980 asking for data necessary for the preparation of a study on the usefulness of the protection of plant varieties. Such a study, or a separate study, would also contain information on the constitution, evolution and future plans of UPOV.

[Three Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES FOR THE YEAR 1980
(expressed in Swiss francs)

<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Member States</u>	<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>1980</u>
64,212	62,250	Belgium	1½	64,972
64,212	62,250	Denmark	1½	64,972
214,038	207,500	France	5	216,574
214,038	207,500	Germany, Federal Republic of	5	216,574
85,615	83,000	Italy	2	86,630
85,615	124,500	Netherlands	3	129,945
42,808	41,500	South Africa	1	43,315
64,212	62,250	Sweden	1½	64,972
64,212	62,250	Switzerland	1½	64,972
214,038	207,500	United Kingdom	5	216,574
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<u>1,113,000</u>	<u>1,120,500</u>		<u>27</u>	<u>1,169,500</u>
<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>		<u>==</u>	<u>=====</u>

[Annex II follows]

DATES OF MEETINGS IN 1980

Council

October 15 to 17

Consultative Committee

April 16
October 14

Administrative and Legal Committee

April 17 and 18
November 13 and 14

Subgroups of the Administrative and Legal Committee

April 14 and 15
June 23 to 25

Technical Committee

March 18 and 19
November 10 to 12

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

May 12 to 14, Wageningen (Netherlands)

Technical Working Party for Forest Trees

August 26 to 28, Hanover (Federal Republic of Germany)

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

April 27 to May 11, South Africa

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants

September 16 to 18, Lund (Sweden)

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

September 23 to 25, Lund (Sweden)

Symposium

to be arranged with the Panamerican Seed Seminar -
probably in November or December in Buenos Aires

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/TEILNEHMERLISTEI. MEMBER STATES/ETATS MEMBRES/VERBANDSSTAATENBELGIUM/BELGIQUE/BELGIEN

- M. J. RIGOT, Ingénieur en chef, Directeur au Ministère de l'agriculture, 36, rue de Stassart, 1050 Bruxelles
- M. R. D'HOOGH, Ingénieur agronome principal, Chef de service au Ministère de l'agriculture, 36 rue de Stassart, 1050 Bruxelles

DENMARK/DANEMARK/DÄNEMARK

- Mr. H. SKOV, President of the Council of UPOV, Chief of Administration, Statens Planteavlkontor, Virumgaard, Kongevejen 83, 2800 Lyngby
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