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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Seventeenth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 12 to 14, 1983ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR 1982

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1983

I. STATE OF THE UNION

1. In the first nine months of 1983, three States expressed their consent to be bound by the Revised Act of October 23, 1978, of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (hereinafter referred to as "the 1978 Act"), namely France by the deposit, on February 17, 1983, of its instrument of ratification, Hungary by the deposit, on March 16, 1983, of its instrument of accession and the United Kingdom by the deposit, on August 24, 1983, of its instrument of ratification. The number of States bound by the 1978 Act as of September 30, 1983, was eleven.

2. Hungary, by the deposit of the said instrument of accession, became a member State of the Union on April 16, 1983. On September 30, 1983, the Union comprised the following 17 member States (parties to the 1978 Act are indicated by an asterisk):

Belgium	Netherlands
Denmark*	New Zealand*
France*	South Africa*
Germany (Federal Republic of)	Spain
Hungary*	Sweden*
Ireland*	Switzerland*
Israel	United Kingdom*
Italy	United States of America*
Japan*	

II. SESSIONS

3. The Consultative Committee held its twenty-seventh session on April 28, 1983, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Gfeller (Switzerland). The session was mainly devoted to the preparation of the Meeting with International Organizations which will be held on November 9 and 10, 1983, and to a detailed discussion of two proposals for the development of a new color chart for use by the examining authorities of the member States.

4. As far as the work of the Administrative and Legal Committee is concerned, reference is made to document C/XVII/9.

5. As far as the work of the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties is concerned, reference is made to document C/XVII/10.

III. CONTACTS WITH STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

6. In January 1983, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), held in Berlin.

7. In March, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting of the Committee of Agriculture (COAG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held at FAO headquarters in Rome, at which COAG discussed a plan submitted by FAO, following an initiative from Mexico, for the establishment of an international gene bank and for the preparation of an international convention on plant genetic resources. The meeting had also been attended by a number of experts from UPOV member States.

8. In May, the Secretary-General and the Vice Secretary-General participated in the thirty-second Congress of the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (IAPIP), held in Paris to celebrate the centenary of the signing in 1883 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Whilst in Paris, the Vice Secretary-General paid a visit to the new premises of the French Plant Variety Protection Office.

9. In June, the Vice Secretary-General participated in the Congress of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS), held in Budapest. He also participated, with the President of the Council of UPOV, in the Congress of the International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL) which had immediately followed the FIS Congress, also in Budapest.

10. Also in June, the Vice Secretary-General visited Ottawa to participate in sessions of the twentieth Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), and to discuss at the Canadian Department of Agriculture the progress of the bill for the introduction of plant breeders' rights in Canada and the possible future membership of that country in UPOV. He proceeded from Ottawa to San Francisco to participate in the Annual Convention of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), at which ASTA celebrated its centenary and marked the retirement of Harold S. Loden, its Executive Vice-President. In connection with that Convention, he also participated in a session of the Joint Committee of ASTA and the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders (NCCPB).

11. In July, the Vice Secretary-General participated in sessions of the thirty-fifth Congress of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), held in Munich, and in particular in the session of the Committee for the Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights.

12. During the period under review, a number of persons visited the Office of the Union to inform themselves on plant variety protection matters. The visit, in August, of representatives of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) was of particular note. Those representatives came for advice since they were preparing a campaign on the need for conservation of plants and for genetic diversification.

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