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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Sixteenth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 13 to 15, 1982ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR 1981

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1982

I. STATE OF THE UNION

1. On August 3, 1982, Japan deposited its instrument of acceptance of 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"). The 1978 Act, pursuant to Article 33(2) thereof, entered into force with respect to Japan on September 3, 1982. As of that date, the Union comprised 16 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
Ireland*	Sweden
Israel	Switzerland*
Italy	United Kingdom
Japan*	United States of America*

II. SESSIONS

2. The Council held its fifth extraordinary session on April 29, 1982, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Gfeller (Switzerland). All member States except Israel and Spain were represented. The session was entirely devoted to the consideration of the conformity of the Hungarian laws on the protection of plant varieties with the 1978 Act, following a request from the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the President of the National Office of Inventions of the Hungarian People's Republic for the advice of the Council in that respect. The Council unanimously took a positive decision on the conformity of the Hungarian laws with the provisions of the 1978 Act.

3. The Consultative Committee held its twenty-fifth session on April 28 and 29, 1982, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Gfeller (Switzerland). All member States except Israel were represented. The session was mainly devoted to the preparation of the fifth extraordinary session of the Council, to the examination of two draft agreements, one between the Swiss Federal Council and the Union to determine the legal status of the Union in Switzerland, and the other between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Union, and to the examination of a draft for revising the Rules of Procedure of the Council. The two agreements and the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Council have become necessary because of the change in the legal status of the Union brought about by the entry into force on November 8, 1981, of the 1978 Act.

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

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

III. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF UPOV AND STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

6. During the first half of 1982, the Vice Secretary-General received several visits from officials of the Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva. The visits related mainly to the deposit by Japan of its instrument of acceptance of the 1978 Act (see paragraph 1, above) and to matters connected therewith.

7. The Vice Secretary-General attended a meeting of the Vegetable Section of the International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL) in Geneva in March 1982. Mr. F. Schneider, Chairman of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Vegetables, also attended at the invitation of ASSINSEL. Immediately following that meeting, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. T.M. Clucas (subsequently elected Chairman of the Vegetable Section of ASSINSEL at that organization's Congress in May 1982).

8. At the end of March 1982, the Vice Secretary-General visited the competent authorities of the Hungarian People's Republic in Budapest, in connection with their request for the advice of the Council regarding the conformity of their national laws with the 1978 Act (see paragraph 2, above).

9. In May 1982, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. R. Kloepzig, Officer-in-Charge of the Development and Transfer of Technology Branch of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna. He informed Mr. Kloepzig on the work of UPOV and learned from him that UNIDO had been asked by a group of experts who had met in Vienna in February 1981 to review the implications of genetic engineering for developing countries.

10. The Vice Secretary-General participated in the Congress of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS), held at the end of May 1982 in Venice, Italy. 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 Venice.

11. In June 1982, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Professor Zhou Xi of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nanjing, Jiangsu, China, who is currently engaged in research work at the Swiss Station fédérale de recherches agronomiques de Changins, Nyon.

12. Also in June 1982, the Vice Secretary-General attended the opening and closing sessions of an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board of the European Co-operative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources, held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Office of the Union had also been represented throughout the meeting by a staff member.

13. In July 1982, the Secretary-General and the Vice Secretary-General were received at the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry in Bonn-Duisdorf, during the official visit of Dr. Bogsch, as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), to the Federal Republic of Germany.

14. In August 1982, the Vice Secretary-General visited the competent authorities of the French Republic in Paris, at their invitation. Following a general exchange of views with the authorities, he visited the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA), near Versailles, and some private breeding, research and propagation establishments in the Anjou region.

15. In September 1982, the Vice Secretary-General attended a ceremony in Hanover, Federal Republic of Germany, to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Federal Plant Varieties Office (Bundessortenamt) and the inauguration of its new headquarters. He delivered a short address on behalf of the Union.

16. Also in September 1982, the Vice Secretary-General delivered a lecture on UPOV and its work at a conference on breeders' rights for decorative cultivars, organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Southampton and held in Cambridge, United Kingdom. A lecture was also given by Mrs. U. Löscher of the German Federal Plant Varieties Office (Bundessortenamt), who is currently Chairman of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees, on the technical examination of new varieties in UPOV member States.

17. At the end of September 1982, the Vice Secretary-General participated in certain meetings of the thirty-fourth Congress of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and in particular in meetings of the Council, the Assembly of Delegates and the Committee for the Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights. He reported to the said Committee on the activities of UPOV.

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