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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Eighteenth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 17 to 19, 1984

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1984

Memorandum of the Secretary-General

I. STATE OF THE UNION

1. In the first nine months of 1984, two member 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 Israel by the deposit, on April 12, 1984, of its instrument of accession and the Netherlands by the deposit, on August 2, 1984, of its instrument of acceptance. The number of States bound by the 1978 Act as of September 30, 1984, was thirteen.

2. On September 30, 1984, 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-ninth session on April 6, 1984, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Rigot (Belgium). The session was mainly devoted to a detailed discussion of the program needs and finances of the Union and possibilities for further rationalizing the work of the Council or UPOV and its committees, and to preparations for the celebration in 1986 of the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the UPOV Convention.

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

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

III. CONTACTS WITH STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

6. In January 1984, the Vice Secretary-General participated in a meeting of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), held in Berlin and, in March, in a meeting between AIPH and the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Fruit Tree and Ornamental Varieties (CIOPORA), held in Paris. The discussions mainly concerned growers' contracts. No agreement has been reached so far between AIPH and CIOPORA on that question, and it is understood that negotiations are continuing.

7. In May 1984, the Vice Secretary-General participated in the sixtieth Congress of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS), held in Copenhagen. At that Congress, James W. Chaney (Agrigenetics Corporation, United States of America) was elected as the new President of FIS. Simon J. Sluis (Royal Sluis, Netherlands) took over the chairmanship of the Vegetable Seed Section, Goetz von Engelbrechten (Lochow-Petkus, Federal Republic of Germany) that of the Cereal Seed Section and James L. Carnes (International Seeds Inc., United States of America) that of the Forage Seed Section. Also at that Congress, FIS awarded for the first time the "FIS World Seed Prize." The award was made to Johnson E. Douglas, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Colombia, who compiled and edited the book "Successful Seed Programs; a Planning and Management Guide."

8. Immediately following the FIS Congress, the President of the Council of UPOV together with the Vice Secretary-General participated in the Congress of the International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL), also held in Copenhagen. One of the major subjects discussed at that Congress was the impact of genetic engineering on plant breeders' rights. Also at that Congress, two motions addressed to UPOV were adopted: one, relating to maize hybrids, will be considered by the Technical Committee at its next session in November this year and is reproduced in the Annex to document TC/XX/7; the other, relating to variety denominations, will be considered by the Council at its current session and is reproduced in Annex III to document C/XVIII/9 Add.2.

9. In September 1984, the Vice Secretary-General read a paper on "Minimum Distances between Varieties" at the Plant Variety Rights Conference organized by the Faculty of Law, Southampton University and held in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Some eighteen papers were read at the Conference. Among the speakers were Ms. J. Allfrey of the UK Plant Variety Rights Office, Mr. R. Royon, Secretary General of CIOPORA and Dr. R. Macer of the Plant Royalty Bureau.

10. Also in September 1984, the Vice Secretary-General read a paper on "The naming of plants under the UPOV Convention" at the International Symposium on Intraspecific Classification of Wild and Cultivated Plants organized by the Systematics Association and held in Oxford, United Kingdom. Twenty-eight papers were read at the Symposium. The speakers included Mr. F.H. Goodwin, Controller of the UK Plant Variety Rights Office, Dr. J.T. Williams, Executive Secretary of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and four of the speakers at UPOV's 1983 Symposium on Nomenclature, namely Ir. W.A. Brandenburg, Mr. C.D. Brickell and Mr. F. Schneider.

11. Also during the period under review, a number of persons visited the Office of the Union to inform themselves on plant variety protection matters. The following visits were of particular note:

(i) in February 1984, the Vice Secretary-General received a visit from Mr. P.M. Thomas of the Policy Branch of the Australian Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Office, Woden, who informed him that the Senate Standing Committee on National Resources had completed its report on the Plant Variety Protection Bill. The report has been published in May under the title "Plant Variety Rights" by the Australian Government Publishing Service in Canberra (ISBN 0644 029250);

(ii) in May 1984, he was visited by Dr. R.B. Wynn-Williams of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand, and exchanged views with him on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources adopted the previous November by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

(iii) also in May 1984, he was visited by Dr. E.J. Fuentes, Head of the Technical Seed Unit at the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, who was accompanied by Mr. P. Barros, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Chile in Geneva, and there was a continuation of the discussions on the possibility of Chile becoming a member of UPOV;

(iv) in August 1984, he was visited by Mr. Ozeki, a journalist with the Japanese newspaper "Asahi Shimbun," who intended to write one or more articles on the subject of genetic engineering and plant breeders' rights;

(v) also in August 1984, Dr. R. Troost, Secretary to the Horticultural Seed Trade Association of the Netherlands (NTZ) visited him to introduce his successor Dr. J.A.J.M. Geertman.

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be clearly documented and supported by appropriate evidence. This ensures transparency and accountability in the financial process.

In the second section, the author outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. It details the steps involved in gathering information from different sources and how this data is then processed to identify trends and patterns. The goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of affairs.

The third part of the document focuses on the implementation of new strategies and initiatives. It describes the specific actions being taken to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The author also discusses the challenges faced during this process and how they are being addressed through careful planning and execution.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It highlights the areas where further attention is needed and provides a clear path forward for the organization. The author expresses confidence in the team's ability to overcome any obstacles and achieve the desired outcomes.