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UPOV

CAJ /XV/ 6

ORIGINAL: French

DATE: March 13, 1985

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Fifteenth Session
Geneva, March 27 and 28, 1985PREPARATION OF THE SECOND MEETING
WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. By letters of March 7 and 8, 1985, Mr. H.H. Leenders, Secretary General of the International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL) and of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS), proposed that the following items should be added to the agenda of the second Meeting with International Organizations:

i) Scope of the protection offered by plant breeders' rights as defined by the UPOV Convention;

ii) Absence of protection possibilities for a great number of species in quite a number of countries;

iii) Distribution of UPOV documents (not being of a strictly internal character) to the international organizations of plant breeders.

2. Those proposals were explained as follows:

i) Concerning the first item, new multiplication techniques made it necessary to review the scope of protection under the UPOV plant breeders' rights system;

ii) Concerning the third item, it had been noted from an article published in the specialized press that five UPOV member States which had undertaken, on the basis of bilateral agreements, to examine varieties for other States had submitted to the competent UPOV bodies proposals that were now being discussed in the UPOV Council. As the members of ASSINSEL--the breeders of agricultural and horticultural crops--were very much involved (after all, the discussions were on where their varieties would be tested for plant breeders' rights purposes), and therefore interested, ASSINSEL wished to once more make the request that documents and proposals of the kind referred to above be made officially available to the international professional organizations concerned, in order to keep them fully informed through the official channels and enable them to express their views at a stage early enough to be considered by UPOV. ASSINSEL was of the opinion that it was essential for a good cooperation between the international organizations of plant breeders and UPOV that those organizations were made independent from secret sources for the documents and the information on UPOV matters. ASSINSEL considered that to be more in conformity with the role played by ASSINSEL for at present nearly 50 years in the field of plant variety protection--the same consideration applying also to CIOPORA.

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