

BUREAUX INTERNATIONAUX
RÉUNIS POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE, SUISSE

BIRPI

UNITED INTERNATIONAL
BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

SECOND COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE

DEUXIEME COMITE D'EXPERTS GOUVERNEMENTAUX CONCERNANT DES QUESTIONS D'ORDRE STRUCTUREL ET ADMINISTRATIF

Geneva, May 16 to 27, 1966 — Genève, 16 - 27 mai 1966

STATEMENT BY MR. HARVEY J. WINTER ASSISTANT HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

As you know, the United States Government has fully supported the modernization of BIRPI in all of the various meetings on this matter. We believe this modernization of BIRPI can best be accomplished by the formation of the proposed International Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) and the restructuring of the administrative provisions of the various BIRPI conventions and agreements along the lines of the proposals generally approved by the 1965 Committee of Experts.

The establishment of the IPO is most important not only in the world of today but also in the world of tomorrow. Today it is important for the developing countries who do not belong to either of the two basic conventions, the Paris and Berne Conventions, that is, "third countries". The inclusion of third countries in the IPO and in the Conference of that body is important both from the standpoint of the interests of third countries and the interests of the member countries of the Unions. It is in the IPO - and I stress in the IPO - that there is the expertise and experience in the field of intellectual property necessary for the resolution of the complex problems of third countries in this field.

Why is the establishment of the IPO important in the world of tomorrow? Well, the developing country of today is the developed country of tomorrow. When the need for the Conference as a forum for third countries decreases, we will still need an International Intellectual Property Organization because intellectual property will be even more important in the world of tomorrow.

It is quite clear to the U.S. Government that we need an organization which has its own separate identity as an organization devoted to intellectual property - that is - the IPO. We believe that the IPO ultimately will play the same distinguished role in the intellectual property field as the International Labour Organization is playing in the labour field. Further, we believe the IPO can do this efficiently and economically.

As Mr. Braderman indicated at our opening session, the United States supported the earlier draft of a Convention for the World Intellectual Property Organization. This Convention gave more powers to the Conference and dealt with certain limited matters concerning the Paris and Berne Conventions. However, as we all know, as a result of the concern of a few governments, a carefully drafted compromise was worked out which limits the powers of the Conference and clearly preserves the autonomy and independence of the Paris and Berne Conventions. A substantial majority of the governments present at the 1965 meeting, including the United States, accepted this compromise then and we accept it today. We came to this meeting with the hope that all governments would be prepared to accept this reasonable compromise.

We are now at the crossroads in the movement toward our common goal of better and more effective intellectual property protection. Certainly, the achievement of this goal is in the best interests of all countries without regard to differences in political, social or economic systems. The IPO will provide the framework for international cooperation needed to advance toward our common goal. Therefore we support - and urge others to support - the establishment of the IPO.