

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

# BIRPI

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

UNION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE  
Conférence des Représentants, Comité Exécutif, Deuxième Session

INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY  
Conference of Representatives, Executive Committee, Second Session

(Genève, 26-29 septembre 1966)

(Geneva, September 26 to 29, 1966)

WORK PLAN FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION  
IN THE PATENT FIELD

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1. The Director of BIRPI received a letter and an aide mémoire, both dated June 30, 1966, from the Government of the United States of America. These texts are reproduced as annexes I and II to the present document.
2. The attached communications ask for a working party to be convened in order to discuss problems in the field of patents and draw up plans for future action.
3. The Director of BIRPI would be glad to convene such a working group and has provided for it in the draft program and budget (see document CCIU/IV/5).
4. He is of the opinion that when a list of priorities is to be considered, topics for possible inclusion in the agenda of the preparatory work for the Vienna Conference should be considered with particular attention.
5. As is known, the Government of Austria invited the member States of the Paris Union, during the conference of revision of Lisbon in 1958, to hold their next



conference in Vienna. Such a conference, it is believed, could usefully take place some time between 1969 and 1971. It could deal not only with the revision of the Paris Convention but also with the establishment of possible new Special Agreements on industrial property questions. Of course, once a first exchange of ideas has taken place in the working group, the Austrian Government would be specially consulted by BIRPI as to its preliminary thinking both on a target date and a tentative agenda.

6. The Executive Committee is invited to give its advice on the suggestions contained in the present document and its annexes.



= C O P Y =

UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Director:

There is enclosed an Aide-Mémoire on the subject of international patent cooperation which has been prepared by the United States Government. The Aide-Mémoire draws attention to certain critical patent problems which have emerged in recent years, and it takes note of the numerous efforts which are under way to resolve the pressing patent problems of both developed and developing nations. In the Aide-Mémoire the United States Government suggests that the Paris Union would seem to be the appropriate forum to review these efforts with a view to overall coordination.

The United States Government desires that the substance of the Aide-Mémoire be discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Representatives of the Paris Union which is to be held in September 1966. I have consequently been instructed to request you to circulate this Aide-Mémoire as a document for consideration by the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

Sincerely yours,  
(signed)

Charles H. Mace  
Minister

Enclosure: Aide-Mémoire

The Honorable  
G.H.C. Bodenhausen,  
Director,  
United International Bureaux for the  
Protection of Intellectual Property,  
32, chemin des Colombettes,  
Geneva.



AIDE -MEMOIRE

During the past two decades there has been unprecedented technological development and a great expansion of international trade. This has resulted in large increases of applications for patents by nationals of industrialized countries both at home and abroad. It is estimated that in 1965 about 650,000 applications were filed world-wide, representing an increase of more than fifty percent in ten years.

As a result of these developments, certain critical patent problems have emerged, especially for industrialized countries. One of the most important of these problems is that of the large backlogs of patent applications confronting countries which have an examination system. Duplication of effort contributes heavily to these backlogs in that about half of the estimated 650,000 applications filed world-wide last year were duplicates or substantial duplicates of applications filed elsewhere.

The United States Government notes that in the present difficult world-wide patent situation, numerous efforts are under way and others are being considered to resolve the pressing patent problems of both developed and developing nations. A resolution of these problems could result in cheaper, faster and more secure protection for inventions throughout the world with concomitant benefits to the inventors and the general public as well as to governments.

Further, the United States Government notes that there could be better coordination with respect to these efforts, both national and international, in order to avoid duplication of effort on the one hand and, on the other, to insure that vital subjects are considered.



The Paris Union being universal in scope realistically seems to be an appropriate forum to review these efforts with a view to overall coordination. This Government therefore would favor action by the Executive Committee authorizing the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI) to convene a "working party" of interested examining patent offices. Paris Union countries who do not have examination systems could, of course, attend. This "working party" would (a) review the present efforts being undertaken nationally and internationally; (b) consider what are the most important topics to be dealt with in the light of existing patent problems and; (c) establish a list of priorities for further consideration of these topics in order to move forward toward possible solutions to the problems of examining patent offices and for further action.

United States Mission,  
Geneva, June 30, 1966.