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REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

This Committee, the principal juridical body of the OAS, held a regular meeting from March 11 to April 9, 1971 at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. During the course of the sessions, the following documents were approved: draft statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; a report on the revision, updating and evaluation of the Inter-American conventions on industrial property; a special report to the first regular session of the OAS General Assembly concerning various juridical matters; the annual report to the OAS General Assembly and a Final Act. These papers, published as documents of the General Assembly, were submitted to the first regular session of the Assembly held in San José, Costa Rica, April 14 to 23, 1971.

The Committee also approved a study on the following item on its agenda: “Draft conventions on bills of exchange and checks of international circulation.” The OAS General Secretariat has published all the documents approved by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in March-April 1971.

Industrial Property

The report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on this subject is divided into six chapters and contains, among other things, a general analysis of the Inter-American, subregional and international conventions on industrial property. It points out that so far, only nine member states of the OAS — Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and United States — are parties to the

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author in his personal capacity.
Paris Convention of 1883, as revised and amended by later instruments. This convention established what is called the Paris Union.

The Committee further points out that the inter-American conventions on patents of invention, industrial and design models have adopted legal principles of world-wide application contained in the Paris Convention, and have applied them in the protection of industrial property within the respective region. However, unlike the Paris Union, the inter-American system has lacked the mechanism for revision and improvement that gives the Union the necessary flexibility to adapt itself to the changes in the international scene which affect the industrial property system. While the Paris Convention of 1883 has been rejuvenated and modernized through a series of supplementary treaties, the last of which was signed in Washington on June 19, 1970 (Patent Cooperation Treaty), the inter-American conventions have remained unchanged for over half a century and have become outdated, not so much as regards their positive content, but because of their failure to regulate in significant areas.

The report also states that "As a consequence of the technological inferiority of the Latin American countries, the volume of inventions they have been able to contribute to technical progress has been smaller than that of other countries better equipped in their technological infrastructure, administrative organization, and the necessary resources for encouraging industrial creativity. That is why the countries of the Americas have been preponderantly importers of products and techniques invented abroad, and in turn have exported a minimum percentage of industrial products created through their own initiative. In the industrial property registers of the countries of Latin America not even 5% of the total patents registered are national patents; the remaining percentage represents foreign inventions or the so-called "revalidated patents."

On the other hand, the Committee affirms that at the present time the main target of inter-American cooperation is the rapid development of the member countries of the inter-American system, particularly in their economic aspect, and the transfer of technology from the more highly developed countries has shown its value in the process of industrialization. The Committee calls attention to the fact that the inter-American conventions do not establish an organization like the Paris Union, responsible for a continuing revision and improvement of legal instruments and of the policies for hemispheric cooperation in relation to industrial property. The lack of permanent bodies is, in the view of the Committee, one of the deficiencies that can be attributed to the conventional system of patents in the American hemisphere. Among several gaps in the inter-American conventions, the Committee mentions the omission of legal
protection and the transmission of technical knowledge, usually referred to in industrial circles as "know-how".

In its conclusions, the Committee suggested that a group of government experts should be convened to study problems connected with industrial property and their relationship to the development of the countries of the inter-American system. Also, that subsequently, an inter-American specialized conference should be convened. The Committee indicated that the group of experts should give priority to the eleven points synthesized as follows: 1. Rights and obligations deriving from patents; measures designed to prevent abuse of rights; obligation of patent holders to exploit their patents industrially, and terms for the initiation of exploitation; 2. Duration of patents; 3. Juridical status of patents of confirmation or revalidation; 4. Conditions and exceptions for the granting of patents; 5. Possibility of preparing a model law on patents; 6. Possibility of establishing an American regional patent similar to the one that is being proposed in the European Economic Community; 7. Institutions, organs and standards that should be established to foster and promote the transfer of technology to the developing countries of America; 8. Possibility of establishing an inter-American union; 9. Structure and functions of an inter-American union for the protection of patents; 10. Services that the union might offer to member states; 11. Means of fostering and promoting the transfer of technical "know-how" concerning patents.

Finally, the Committee submitted a draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Study on Bills of Exchange and Checks

Another paper prepared by the Committee during its last meeting was a study on "Draft conventions on bills of exchange and checks of international circulation."

This document deals mostly with the problem of checks, and refers to several phases of the work of UNCITRAL on negotiable instruments. It refers also, among other things, to the initiative of the Latin American Federation of Banks (FELABAN) to create a Latin American Traveler's Check. It also mentions the Meeting of Governors of Latin American Central Banks, which appointed a special committee which met in Mexico in February 1970. This Special Committee offered several recommendations which would apply in the event an agreement on the Latin American Traveler's Check was reached.

It was recommended, that the document should be known as the "Latin American Traveler's Check"; be issued in U. S. dollars by a central bank; and, have a uniform standard format. Other recommendations
dealt with matters pertaining to the issuance and circulation of the document.

In the final part of its study, the Inter-American Juridical Committee appended a resolution in which it requested the Secretary General of the OAS to transmit to the Permanent Council for its information the Opinion that it had approved in 1968 on the subject of documents of credit, as well as the present study, and to the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP) the same documents for its comments. It also requested the Secretary General of the OAS to distribute the documents among the Governments of the Member States for any comments which they might care to make.

**Action by the Permanent Council of the OAS**

The Committee on Juridical-Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the OAS, through a working group, made an analysis of the two aforementioned documents of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and submitted a report to the Council, accompanied by a draft resolution.

At a meeting held on June 30, 1971, the Permanent Council approved resolution CP/RES/46 (46/71) in which it took note of the study of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on "draft conventions on bills of exchange and checks of international circulation." It further requested the Secretary General of the Organization, in view of the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 48 of the General Assembly, and in accordance with the resolution of the Inter-American Juridical Committee adopted on March 26, 1971, to transmit the aforementioned documents of the Committee to the governments of the Member States and to CIAP. The Permanent Council also requested the governments of the Member States to send to the General Secretariat of the Organization any comments and observations they might care to make on the said documents, no later than January 31, 1972. The same was requested of CIAP. Furthermore, the Council asked the governments of the Member States to voice their opinion in due course as to including in the draft agenda of the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (convoked by resolution Ag-48), the item of draft conventions on commercial documents in Latin America or of bills of exchange and checks of international circulation.

The General Secretariat of the OAS has already sent notes to the Delegations of the OAS Member States in connection with the matters dealt with in Resolution 46 of the Permanent Council.
August-September Meeting

The Inter-American Juridical Committee plans to hold a regular meeting in August-September 1971. The agenda for this meeting includes, among others, the following items: Law of the sea; treatment of foreign investments; study of the inter-American treaties and conventions on peaceful settlement of controversies; legal measures for the protection and conservation of artistic and historical property; jurisdictional immunity of States; bills of exchange and checks of international circulation; international regime of corporations in relation to regional economic integration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

The first regular session of the OAS General Assembly was held in San José, Costa Rica, April 14 to 23, 1971. All Member States of the OAS participated in this session, and almost all were represented by their Ministers of Foreign Affairs as heads of their delegations. There were observers from two American States which are not members of the OAS and from eleven non-American States. There were also observers from the United Nations and four of its specialized agencies; from five OAS specialized agencies and six inter-American organizations. Secretary General U Thant addressed the Assembly at the inaugural session, and the OAS Secretary General spoke at the first plenary session.

According to its Rules of Procedure, the work of the Assembly was distributed among the following Committees: First Committee (Juridical-Political Matters); Second Committee (Economic and Social Matters); Third Committee (Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters); Fourth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Matters); General Committee; Committee on Credentials, and Style Committee. Some of the committees created working groups to cooperate in the study of topics assigned.

During this session the General Assembly approved 37 resolutions, that is, AG/RES. 25 (1-0/71) to AG/RES. 61 (1-0/71). All the resolutions are preceded by the symbol AG and after the number of the resolution there is in parenthesis an indication of the first regular session held in 1971, that is (1-0/71). These symbols are not repeated here. The 37 resolutions have been published by the General Secretariat of the OAS in the four official languages of the Organization.
A report on the resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly during its first regular session follows:

**Limitation of Military Expenditures**

In the preamble of Resolution 26, the General Assembly of the OAS recalled that in Chapter VI of the Declaration of Presidents of America signed in 1967 at Punta del Este, Uruguay, the Latin American Presidents expressed their intention to avoid those military expenditures that are not indispensable for the performance of the specific duties of the armed forces. The rationale was to apply the maximum resources available in Latin America to economic development and social progress.

In the operative part of the resolution, the Assembly recognized that the requirements of economic development and social progress make it necessary to apply the maximum resources available in Latin America to these ends, without prejudice to the national security demands of each country. The Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to study, in the manner it deemed advisable, the meaning and scope of Chapter VI of the Declaration of the Presidents of America. It also requested the Permanent Council to submit a preliminary report to the governments of the Member States directly concerned so that, on the basis of their comments, a report may be submitted to the General Assembly well in advance of its second regular session.

**Science and Technology in Latin America**

The General Assembly resolved to convocate a Specialized Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Latin American Development, the cost of which should be financed by a $300,000 contribution from the Government of the United States of America, the host country, and any other voluntary contributions which might be received for that purpose (Resolution 29).

**Education of Women**

The OAS General Assembly convoked the Inter-American Specialized Conference on the Integral Education of Women (Resolution 30).

In the preamble, this resolution indicated that the Fifteenth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women recommended holding an inter-American Specialized Conference on the Integral Education of Women, and requested the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC) to consider the matter and to make a recommenda-
tion to the OAS General Assembly. Both the CIECC and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIECC accepted the recommendation that the said specialized conference be held. It is also indicated in the preamble, that the overall development of our people demands active and effective participation of all sectors of the population, for which the training and integral education of women is essential, without prejudice to the programs offered in the region for the education of men, and that the vital importance of the matter and the urgent need to attain harmonious development in Latin American countries calls for the adoption of educational methods throughout the Hemisphere that will permit the harmonization of national programs which aim at Latin American development and integration.

**Administrative Tribunal**

In Resolution 35, the General Assembly created the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS, and empowered the Permanent Council of the Organization to adopt the pertinent statutes and constitute the tribunal. It requested the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution at the second ordinary session of the Assembly.

The Permanent Council of the OAS, at its session held on July 16, 1971 adopted the statutes of the Administrative Tribunal.

**Year of Tourism in the Americas**

In resolution 37, the General Assembly resolved to sponsor the celebration of the Year of Tourism in the Americas. It urged the General Secretariat of the OAS to set up the adequate coordinating machinery, so that the events planned to celebrate the Year of Tourism in the Americas should be, as far as possible, the result of the collaboration between the Member States, the General Secretariat of the OAS, and the international agencies and entities connected with the tourist industry in the Hemisphere.

**Private International Law**

For several years the Inter-American Council of Jurists and the Inter-American Juridical Committee have made studies and recommendations for the revision of the Code on Private International Law (the Bustamante Code) adopted in 1928 in Havana at the Sixth International Conference of American States.

The Inter-American Council of Jurists ceased to exist with the entry into force of the Protocol of Buenos Aires amending the OAS Charter,
but the Inter-American Juridical Committee is still very much interested in this subject.

The first regular session of the OAS General Assembly took up the subject. On the basis of a proposal presented by the Delegation of Colombia, the Assembly adopted a resolution convoking an Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law "to be held before 1974, at the place and on the date to be determined by the Permanent Council of the Organization."

The Assembly recommended to the Permanent Council that it prepare the draft agenda and rules of procedure for this specialized conference. To cooperate with the Council, the General Secretariat was instructed to consult with the governments concerning matters that should be included in the agenda. (The General Secretariat has already sent notes to the Governments for this purpose). Furthermore, the Assembly recommended to the Inter-American Juridical Committee that it prepare the studies, reports and draft conventions necessary for the use of the said Conference. It also recommended to the General Secretariat of the OAS that it prepare background and technical documents in order to facilitate the work of the Conference.

In the preamble of Resolution 48 it is stated that in July 1966, the General Secretariat of the OAS asked the governments of the Member States for their opinions of the convocation of this specialized conference on Private International Law, recommended by the Inter-American Council of Jurists in 1965. The request was reiterated in 1967 and 1969. It is indicated that the majority of the governments of the Member States expressed favorable opinions regarding the convocation of the Conference and that several had indicated that the Conference should deal in particular with international trade law through the formulation of special conventions.

**Permanent Observers to the OAS**

This matter was dealt with by the first special session of the General Assembly held in June-July 1970. At the first regular session in San José, it was decided by the General Assembly to establish the status of Permanent Observers to the OAS. The Assembly entrusted the Permanent Council with the task of determining the criteria and the time in which to implement this resolution.

**Industrial Property**

Acting on a report and draft resolution submitted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the General Assembly, in Resolution 51,
considered that it is necessary to review and update the inter-American conventions on industrial property, to adapt them to legal, scientific and technological advances, thus contributing to the development of the American countries. The Assembly resolved to convene a meeting of governmental experts on industrial property and on the application of technology to development, giving priority to the topics set forth in Chapter V of the report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the subject. This meeting is to be held at the Headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat on a date to be set by the Secretary General following consultation with the governments of the Member States. The conclusions of the group of experts are to be transmitted to the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

The resolution further entrusted the Inter-American Juridical Committee with preparing, on the basis of the conclusions of the group of experts, one or more draft inter-American conventions to be submitted to the governments of the Member States at least three months before the holding of the specialized conference also convoked by the same resolution. In the resolution, the General Assembly resolved to convene an Inter-American Specialized Conference on Industrial Property to consider the documents prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee and to adopt the convention or conventions that it deemed advisable. Finally, the resolution expressed that it is understood that such conventions shall not affect any subregional agreement or convention to which an American state may be a party. The Conference shall be held at a place and on a date to be determined by the Permanent Council in due course.

Coordination Among the Three Councils of the OAS

Coordination is a matter of great concern in the OAS, especially after the revised Charter entered into force in February 1970. At its meeting in Costa Rica, the General Assembly determined to establish a Committee on Coordination integrated by representatives of the three OAS Councils—the Permanent Council (CP), the Economic and Social Council (CIES), and the Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC)—whose purpose is to establish the necessary coordination with regard to: a) inter-activities of the Councils; b) meetings and conferences sponsored by the OAS; c) matters of common interest relating to the organisms, agencies, and entities of the OAS, and d) other matters of common interest or requiring common action.

In resolution 52 the Assembly stipulated that the Committee may make recommendations or suggestions to the Councils or to the Secretary General. The Assembly also pointed out that it is desirable that the
recommendations or suggestions of the coordinating committee reflect the consensus of its members.

The General Assembly also instructed the Permanent Council that, when the necessary coordination has not been obtained, and the case requires exceptional urgency, it adopt the appropriate coordinating measures set forth in Article 52.b of the Charter. The coordinating committee was directed to present to the General Assembly at its second regular session an operations report, containing the points of view of the Councils. The General Assembly, on the basis of the report, shall decide if it is necessary to change the membership and functions of the coordinating committee.

Human Rights

The General Assembly took cognizance of the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Resolution 53). In the same resolution the Assembly recommended to the governments of the Member States that they take measures to disseminate and make known the inter-American instruments on human rights, and that they furnish the Commission with the information that it may request, particularly concerning the progress made toward the attainment of the goals set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. It suggested to the governments of the Member States that they study the possibility of considering the following recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: a) that they consider requests for information from the Commission within a reasonable period of time; b) that, when appropriate, they assist the Commission in observing events within their territories.

The Assembly also recommended to the governments of the Member States that they consider adopting measures to strengthen the economic situation of their peoples, so as to achieve a vigorous national economic development, based on true international cooperation and a fair exchange of goods, which are the essential bases for building an American community of men and women free from fear, poverty and oppression. It also invited the governments of the Member States that have not already done so, to consider the advisability of signing the American Convention on Human Rights approved at San José, Costa Rica, on November 22, 1969.

Inter-American Peace System

In Resolution 54, the General Assembly indicated that it is advisable to consider strengthening the inter-American system for the maintenance of peace, especially since the American Treaty on Peaceful Settlement
(Pact of Bogotá) has not yet been ratified by all the Member States of the OAS. It resolved to instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee to study, in the light of the provisions of Article 26 of the OAS Charter, the treaties and conventions in the inter-American system for the maintenance of peace based on the experience acquired in their implementation. It further requested the Inter-American Juridical Committee to present its report to the governments of the Member States at the earliest possible date, and in the light of the observations made by these governments, to submit its conclusions to the General Assembly of the OAS.

Inter-American Juridical Committee

As stated in another section of this report, the Inter-American Juridical Committee submitted some documents for the consideration of the General Assembly.

In Resolution 55, the General Assembly took cognizance of the Annual Report of the Committee and expressed its thanks for the work accomplished. The Assembly transmitted to the Permanent Council, in compliance with Article 91.f of the Charter, the Draft Statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee prepared by the Committee in March-April 1971. It also requested the Preparatory Committee to include consideration of the Draft Statutes of the Committee, with the pertinent observations made by the Permanent Council in this regard, on the agenda of the second regular session of the General Assembly. In the same resolution the Assembly dealt with the problem of the social benefits and increase in the salaries of the Committee's Secretariat.

As previously reported, the subject of industrial property was dealt with by the Assembly in Resolution 51.

The recommendation contained in the special report of the Committee relating to certain juridical matters was referred to the Preparatory Committee of the Assembly.

Cooperative Relations Between the OAS and the UN

In Resolution 57, the General Assembly approved the standards on cooperative relations between the OAS and the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and other international and national organizations.

These standards contain 25 articles divided into the following main chapters: Purpose, definitions, relations with intergovernmental and semi-official organizations, relations with governmental organizations, relations with non-governmental organizations, relations of the inter-American specialized organizations, functions of the General Secretariat.
Created by the Inter-American and Social Council (CIES) in 1963, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) has functioned within the inter-American system since that date. In the last few years, proposals have been made to establish the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference.

By Resolution 8-M/69, CIES recommended to the Council of the OAS the establishment of an Inter-American Specialized Telecommunications Conference as a permanent series, in accordance with the request formulated in Resolution CITEL 66/68, and reiterated in Resolution CITEL 89/69. CITEL, by resolution 116/70, adopted a draft organization plan for the conference.

The Government of Venezuela offered to host the first Inter-American Telecommunications Conference. CIES, at its meeting held in Punta del Este in March 1971, approved the draft organization plan of the said conference, which had been adopted by CITEL, and renewed its request for the convocation of the conference.

With this background, the General Assembly in Resolution 58 decided to convocate the First Inter-American Telecommunications Conference to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, September 5 through 11, 1971. It gave provisional approval to the draft organization plan of the Conference adopted by CITEL. The Assembly agreed to review the contents of the plan within the terms of Article 75 of the OAS Charter at its second regular session, to be held in 1972, taking into account the experience gained at the first conference and other factors related to its organization. “Evaluation of the organization plan of the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference” was included in the agenda of the second regular session of the General Assembly.

Institutional Aspects of the Activities of CIES

In Resolution 59, the General Assembly directed the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES), in accordance with the authority vested in it by Article 95.b of the OAS Charter, to coordinate all the economic activities of the Organization. Also, a), to adopt appropriate measures to guarantee the full exercise of its powers with regard to the orientation and coordination of the activities of its subordinate organs, and b), to define the priority areas of its activities, taking into account, in particular, the need to: i) intensify the expansion of the foreign trade of the developing Member States; ii) provide continuity for the initiatives and action measures taken to this end; and iii) report to the General
Assembly on the results achieved. The Assembly also directed CIES to review the functions of its subordinate organs with a view to adopting measures for the improved and rational distribution of work among them, and to program its activities and those of its subordinate organs in terms of concrete goals for attaining the economic and social objectives of the Charter of the OAS.

Trade Expansion

Resolution 60, adopted by the General Assembly in San José, deals with trade expansion. The preamble of the resolution, after mentioning Articles 2.e, 29 and 37 of the OAS Charter, stated, among other things, the following: The accelerated expansion in the exports of the developing Member States, especially the exports to the developed countries, is of fundamental importance in obtaining supplementary resources for the expansion and diversification of production and the implementation of national economic and social development programs. The Member States have been working on this matter for over ten years, at the world wide, inter-American, regional, and subregional levels so as to establish principles and carry out activities that will enable international cooperation to make an effective and decisive contribution to the accelerated expansion of exports of the developing member states and the elimination of restrictions thereon. These efforts have resulted in the establishment of objectives and action plans designed to bring about vital changes in economic and trade relations between developed and developing countries. It also stated that it is essential to accelerate the transfer of technology to, and its dissemination in, the developing Member States, particularly that which will contribute to the expansion of exports.

In the operative part of the resolution the General Assembly addressed the governments of the developed countries, requesting that they urgently adopt special measures, mechanisms, and standards to foster expansion of the export trade of the developing Member States of the OAS and to ensure implementation of the strategy for the United Nations Second Decade of Development. Among the most important measures that should be adopted are: a) conduct negotiations in competent international forums, with a view to establishing a program to eliminate progressively the barriers and restrictions that affect the exports of the developing countries, and thus add to the gains which will result from the implementation of the general system of preferences. Such a program should deal with restrictions that affect agricultural commodities and other basic products of special interest to the developing Member States of the OAS; b) implement the general system of preferences at the earliest possible date in 1971; c) not to distort the general
system of preference that was agreed upon for the exclusive benefit of the group of developing countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; d) step up the transfer of technology and financial assistance for the expansion of the exports of the developing countries; e) consider, more favorably, as heretofore, an equitable policy of price stability and improvement regarding the basic products of the developing countries; f) take the initiative to terminate the preferences extended by developing countries to some developed countries.

Furthermore, the General Assembly urged the governments of the developed countries: a) to avoid adopting protectionist trade measures that might adversely affect the exports of the developing countries, b) not to take any measures which might constitute a violation of standstill commitments with the developing countries.

On the other hand, the Assembly urged the countries engaged in negotiations for the expansion of the European Economic Community to take into account the need not to affect adversely the exports of developing countries, and in particular to provide dependable markets in the expanded community for the exports of those developing countries members of the OAS, which are the traditional suppliers of the countries being integrated into the community.

The Assembly urged the government of the United States, among other things, to give prompt attention to the requests that, in relation to trade with the United States, the developing member countries stated in the Consensus of Viña del Mar, and in the resolutions of the ninth special meeting of CECLA; not to adopt protectionist measures that might unfavorably affect the export trade of the developing Member States; to support at the international and inter-American levels, more equitable mechanisms and measures with respect to the trade of the developing member states.

Other Resolutions of the OAS General Assembly

Other resolutions adopted at the first regular session of the OAS General Assembly dealt with the following matters: participation in the OAS by Member States that have not yet ratified the Protocol of Buenos Aires (Res. 25); analytical study of the general activities of the Organization; partial replacement of the Inter-American Committee of CIECC (Res. 27 and 28); emigration of professional and technical personnel from the Latin American countries; strengthening of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIECC; possibility of establishing an office for youth within the Inter-American System (Res. 31 to 33); financial condition
of the Organization; additional functions of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary affairs (Res. 34 and 36); provisional standards governing operation of the General Secretariat; financial basis of the program-budget of the Organization; vote of appreciation to non-member countries of the Organization; program-budget and quotas of the Organization 1971/72; program evaluation; policy concerning stipends for OAS fellowships (Res. 38 to 43); date of the second regular session of the General Assembly (Res. 44); application of the principle of rotation as regards selection of the site for the regular sessions of the General Assembly; standards for inter-American specialized conferences; standards for the implementation and coordination of the provisions of the Charter of the OAS relating to inter-American specialized conferences (Res. 45 to 47); authorization of publication of minutes of the Meetings of Consultation (Res. 49); annual schedule of conferences and meetings of the OAS (Res. 56).

Resolution AG/RES. 61 (I-0/71), the last to be adopted by the General Assembly at its first regular session, instructed the Permanent Council to examine the resolutions and documents that could not be studied by the Style Committee of the Assembly.

CECON

The second meeting of the Special Committee on Consultation and Negotiation (CECON) of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 23 March 1971. During the course of the meeting, CECON approved several recommendations and resolutions on the following matters: Continuation and functions of the Ad Hoc Group of Trade to deal with tariff and non-tariff barriers and related matters, prior consultation between the United States and the Latin American countries on sugar and footwear, joint action, protectionism, sanitary and health regulations; a system for obtaining information on untying credits of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Agency for International Development; maritime transport; tourism; and export development.

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has published volume I of its Yearbook, for 1968-1970. This
very useful publication is divided into three main parts and covers the period from the creation of UNCITRAL to the end of the third session of the Commission in April 1970. Part one: history, the creation of UNCITRAL; part two: reports of the Commission on its annual sessions, comments and action thereon; part three: studies and reports on specific subjects. At the end of the volume there is a bibliography on UNCITRAL.

Part three contains studies and reports on several subjects, such as: International sale of goods; uniform rules on substantive law, uniform rules on choice of law, general conditions of sale and standard contracts, incoterms and other trade terms, time-limits and limitations (prescription) in the field of international sale of goods; international legislation on shipping; International payments; negotiable instruments, banker's commercial credits; international commercial arbitration.

**Editor's Note:** The following items of Regional and International interest were added by the staff in the absence of Mr. Zanotti from the country.

**PANAMA CANAL TREATY**

High-level talks between the United States and Panama are presently under way with a view to negotiating a new treaty covering operations of the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal Zone. A draft treaty in 1967 placed the Canal under U.S.-Panama administration of a joint governing board integrated by five persons appointed by the President of the United States and four by Panama until 1999, when the Canal would be turned over to Panama. Panama later objected to the draft on the grounds that it felt the United States would have a decided majority on the governing board. During the present talks this issue will be discussed as well as two draft treaties covering maintenance of the U. S. military bases in the U. S.-administered Canal Zone, and the possible construction of a new sea-level canal through Panama.

**HYDROLOGICAL BASINS PACT**

Argentina and Chile have ratified an agreement — the Santiago Pact on Hydrological Basins — for the mutual utilization of their adjacent rivers. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries, representing their respective governments, agreed on the basic regulations which will constitute the basis for the convention. The regulations, which will enter into force immediately, cover:

1. Equitable and reasonable use of river and "lake" waters.
2. Avoidance of pollution in any form in their fluvial and lacustrine systems, preserving in the same manner the ecological resources
of their common basins in the zones over which the parties have jurisdiction.

3. Usage of the waters in the areas adjacent to international rivers.

4. Recognition of the right to use, within their respective territories, the waters of their common international lakes and rivers, in accordance with their respective needs and as long as such usage does not constitute an appreciable danger to the other.

5. A state intending to use the waters of a common lake or continuing river, will furnish the other with work plans and program of operations.

6. A party shall inform, within a reasonable period of time not to exceed five months, of any aspects of the project or program which might cause it appreciable damage. In such a case, it will point out the technical reasons and estimates on which its objections are based and will offer suggestions as to modifications of the project or program of operations, with a view to avoiding such damage.

7. Differences shall be submitted to the decision of a mixed technical committee. Should the technicians disagree they will send a report to the interested governments giving their viewpoints. The governments in turn shall endeavour to find a solution by diplomatic channels or by any other means mutually agreed upon, seeking at all times to reach a friendly and equitable solution.

8. The Parties shall exchange hydrological, meteorological and cartographical data, on the following basis:

   a. Already processed data shall be systematically circulated and exchanged through publications,

   b. unprocessed data, whether they be observations, readings or graphical records, shall be exchanged or furnished upon request by the Parties, and

   c. States shall endeavour, as far as possible, to gradually exchange the results of their measurements in the various basins in order to facilitate the make-up of the different systems.
BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

It has been announced that the governments of Argentina and Chile have reached an agreement for the prompt solution of the Beagle Channel dispute after a two-day conference held in Santiago by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries. The dispute originated in 1904 when the first claims were made regarding the direction of the current. Argentina claims that the Channel's current should be determined by the deepest point near the coast of the Chilean island of Navarino, thus leaving the three islands in dispute in Argentinian territory. On the other hand, Chile claims that the direction of the current is the navigation route used through the Channel's northern sector next to the Argentina Tierra del Fuego. In this manner the three islands are on the south and are a part of the Chilean zone of Navarino. In December 1968 Chile unilaterally requested British arbitration on the Beagle question. Initially, the Argentine Government refused to accept British arbitration proposing instead that the question be submitted to the International Court at The Hague. However in 1970, the Argentine Government accepted British arbitration when it was assured that there would not be a British justice on the Arbitration Tribunal. (There is a pending dispute between Argentina and Great Britain regarding the Malvinas or Falkland Islands.) Existing difficulties have been eliminated and it is hoped that the respective agreement will be implemented through regular diplomatic channels.

BRAZIL'S WHEAT AGREEMENT

Brazil has deposited in Geneva its intent to take part in the new World Wheat Agreement starting July 1, for a three year period. Brazil subscribed to the 1962 Wheat Agreement, but not to the 1967 agreement.