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TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. SYMPOSIA ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

1. The Commission, at its eighth session, requested the Secretary-General to:

"organize, in connexion with its tenth session, an international symposium on international trade law, and to seek voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations, foundations and private sources to cover the cost of travel and subsistence of participants from developing countries". 1/

2. At its tenth session, the Commission noted "that the second UNCITRAL symposium on International Trade Law which the Commission had planned to hold in connexion with its tenth session had to be cancelled for insufficiency of funds", and decided to recommend "to the General Assembly that it should consider the possibility of providing for the funding of the Commission's symposia on international trade law, in whole or in part, out of the regular budget of the United Nations". 2/

3. At its eleventh session, the Commission was informed, and took note of the fact, that the General Assembly had, at its thirty-second session, adopted resolution 32/145 of 16 December 1977, by which it requested the Secretary-General

"to study the problem of how adequate financial resources can be provided for the symposia on international trade law which are organized biannually by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, taking into account the availability of voluntary contributions and the relevant recommendation of the Commission adopted at its 185th meeting on 17 June 1977, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session". 3/

4. In response to this request, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the prospects for the financing of the UNCITRAL symposia (A/33/177). In that report, the Secretary-General, after examining four possible alternatives for financing such symposia, concluded that there appeared to be only the following two practical choices, if the symposia were to be continued:

"(a) to provide for the funding of a number of fellowships out of the regular budget of the United Nations as a last resort and to the extent of any shortfalls in voluntary contributions, and (b) alternatively, and with

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1/ Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its eighth session (1975), Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/10017), para. 113.

2/ Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its tenth session (1977), Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/32/17), para. 45.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/33/17), paras. 74-75.

a lesser degree of assurance, to authorize the Secretary-General to apply towards the UNCITRAL symposia, in whole or in part, as may be necessary, voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law not specifically earmarked by the contributors to some other activity within the Programme."

5. After considering the Secretary-General's report, and on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly, on 16 December 1978, adopted resolution 33/92 on the item entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its eleventh session", which provides in relevant parts as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"8. Expresses the view that the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law should continue to hold symposia on international trade law;

"9. Appeals to all Governments and to organizations, institutions and individuals to consider making financial and other contributions that would make possible the holding of a symposium on international trade law during 1980 as envisaged by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and authorizes the Secretary-General to apply toward the cost of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law symposia, in whole or in part, as may be necessary to finance up to fifteen fellowships for participants in the said symposia, voluntary contributions to the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law not specifically earmarked by the contributors to some other activity within the Programme."

6. The Secretary-General has construed the foregoing authorization to mean that voluntary contributions in 1979 and 1980 to the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law not otherwise earmarked for a different activity by their contributors may be allocated to the second UNCITRAL symposium. As of 15 May 1979, the total of such contributions so far made stands at approximately \$US 2,671 (paid) and \$US 800 (pledged).

7. In addition, a specific pledge of about \$US 1,000 to the UNCITRAL symposium has been received. There also appears to be a sum of just under \$US 3,000 remaining in the UNCITRAL symposium award from past contributions.

8. As regards the scheduling of the second symposium, it will be recalled that the Commission, at its eleventh session, decided to leave it to the Secretariat to propose a suitable date for the holding of the symposium based on an assessment of the current financial prospects. 4/ As to this, it would appear

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4/ Ibid., paras. 77-78.

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that, both for reasons of continuing insufficiency of funds and the fact that in addition to the Commission's thirteenth session there is also scheduled for 1980 the conference of plenipotentiaries to consider the draft Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, the earliest date for which the next UNCITRAL symposium could be scheduled would be in connexion with the Commission's fourteenth session, in 1981.

## II. FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

### A. Fellowships for lawyers and government officials from developing countries at commercial and financial institutions in developed countries

9. Following a suggestion made at the fifth session of the Commission, the Secretary-General, by note verbale, urged Governments of developed countries to ascertain whether commercial and financial institutions within their respective countries would be willing to receive interns from developing countries. 5/

10. In response to this note the Government of Belgium has for each of the past few years awarded two fellowships to candidates from developing countries for academic and practical training of six months' duration, organized under the auspices of a university in that country. Each year that these fellowships were offered, the Secretariat assisted the Government of Belgium in the publication of the offers and in the selection of suitable recipients. The Government of Belgium has informed the Secretary-General that it will offer two such fellowships also in 1979. The Secretariat will, as in the past, assist in the processing of such fellowships.

11. Also, during discussion of this item in the Sixth Committee, the representative of Poland indicated his Government's willingness to offer some fellowships to candidates from developing countries for academic and practical training in international trade law in Poland. 6/

### B. Internships at the International Trade Law Branch in New York

12. During the past year, one intern received practical training at the International Trade Law Branch of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations in New York under the United Nations/UNITAR programme in international law.

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5/ The initial responses of Governments of developed countries to this appeal were described in document A/CN.9/92, paras. 4-8.

6/ See Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its eleventh session, report of the Sixth Committee (A/33/349), para. 34.