

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/CN.9/228

17 June 1982

ENGLISH

Original: ENGLISH

28381

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW  
Fifteenth Session  
New York, 26 July - 6 August 1982

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Commission, at its fourteenth session, 1/ agreed that it should continue to sponsor symposia and seminars on international trade law. It was considered desirable for these seminars to be organized on a regional basis. In this way, it was felt, a larger number of participants from the region could attend and the seminars would themselves help to promote the adoption of the texts emanating from the work of the Commission. The Commission welcomed the possibility that regional seminars might be sponsored jointly with regional organizations. The Secretariat was requested to make such arrangements as it found desirable in this regard.

2. By its resolution 36/32 of 13 November 1981, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance, in particular for the developing countries, of the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law concerned with training and assistance in the field of international trade law and welcomed the initiatives being undertaken to sponsor regional seminars jointly with regional organizations, such as the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and the Inter-American Juridical Committee. The resolution also invited Governments, relevant United Nations organs, organizations, institutions and individuals to assist the secretariat of the Commission in financing and organizing symposia and seminars.

3. The Inter-American Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States (OAS) has included in its 1982 annual seminar the subject of international sale of goods. The programme for the Ninth Course on International Law, to be held from 2 to 27 August 1982, in Rio de Janeiro, includes a lecture and a discussion on the subject. The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) and the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods (New York, 1974) have been chosen for the seminar because of the likelihood of their coming into force in the near future.

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1/ Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fourteenth session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/36/17), para. 109.

4. The Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) has also agreed to organize, jointly with the UNCITRAL Secretariat, two-day seminars on trade law subjects in conjunction with its annual sessions, whenever feasible. This arrangement will enable delegates attending the meetings of the AALCC's Sub-Committee on International Trade Law Matters to participate in the seminars.

5. The UNCITRAL Secretariat also co-operated with the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, the American Arbitration Association, and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry by participating in a symposium on international commercial arbitration which was held from 4 to 5 March 1982, in Stockholm. This symposium was organized to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the entering into force of the "Optional Arbitration Clause for Use in Contracts in USA-USSR Trade 1977", under which the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce is to administer arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. At this symposium, one day was devoted to the activities of the Commission in the field of settlement of international commercial disputes.

6. With respect to the financing of the training and assistance programme, a contribution of \$US 3,000 was received from the Government of Yugoslavia.

7. In addition, some bar associations have informally indicated their willingness to provide lecturers, at their expense, to service seminars which are to be held in developing countries. The Secretariat is also negotiating with a particular Government, which has funds for educational institutions in developing countries, to assist in the financing of regional seminars on a regular basis.

8. While the possibility of holding independent seminars is remote unless substantial financial contributions are received, the Secretariat is exploring various possibilities of collaborating with organizations and institutions in the organization of seminars of two to three-day duration on various aspects of international trade law. Such seminars could also be used as a forum for the promotion of legal texts emanating from the work of the Commission.

9. During the past year, one intern received practical training at the UNCITRAL Secretariat under the United Nations/UNITAR fellowship programme in international law.