

## VI. TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

### Training and assistance: report of the Secretary-General (A/CN.9/293)

1. The symposia and seminars with which the secretariat has been associated since the date of the report on training and assistance presented to the nineteenth session of the Commission (A/CN.9/282) continue to reflect the considerable interest shown in the work of the Commission, and, as noted in the nineteenth session of the Commission,<sup>1</sup> especially in its work in the field of international commercial arbitration.

2. In its resolution 41/77 of 3 December 1986 on the report of the Commission on the work of its nineteenth session, the General Assembly:

“9. *Reaffirms also* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with training and assistance in the field of international trade law and the desirability for it to sponsor symposia and seminars, in particular those organized on a regional basis, to promote such training and assistance, and, in this connection:

“(a) Expresses its appreciation to those regional organizations and institutions that have collaborated with the secretariat of the Commission in organizing regional seminars and symposia in the field of international trade law;

“(b) Welcomes the initiatives being undertaken by the Commission and its secretariat to collaborate with other organizations and institutions in the organization of regional seminars;

“(c) Invites Governments, international organizations and institutions to assist the secretariat of the Commission in financing and organizing regional seminars and symposia, in particular in developing countries;

“(d) Invites Governments, relevant United Nations organs, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to allow the resumption of the programme of the Commission for the award of fellowships on a regular basis to candidates from developing countries to enable them to participate in such symposia and seminars;”.

3. The main activities undertaken in this field since the date of the report on training and assistance presented to the nineteenth session of the Commission (A/CN.9/282) are set forth below in the chronological order in which they have occurred or are expected to occur.

<sup>1</sup>Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its nineteenth session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/41/17), para. 268.

4. The UNCITRAL secretariat:

(a) Participated in the IXth Inter-American Conference on International Arbitration (30 April-2 May 1986, Miami, Florida), organized by the Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission and the International Commercial Dispute Resolution Center (of Florida). The Conference was attended by lawyers from most Latin American States and from Canada and the United States of America. Among the main topics discussed were the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration;

(b) Participated in the conference “East Meets West: Resolution of International Commercial Disputes in the Pacific Rim” (12-13 May 1986, Vancouver, British Columbia) organized by the Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, and the Government of British Columbia. The Conference was attended by lawyers from Canada, the United States of America and various Far Eastern countries. Among the main topics discussed was the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration;

(c) Participated in a conference on the work of UNCITRAL and the unification of international trade law (22 May 1986, Valencia, Spain), organized by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Valencia. The conference was attended by lawyers, professors and businessmen. The main topics of the discussion were the work of UNCITRAL in the area of international payments and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration;

(d) Participated in a seminar “Trade Data Transmission: A Uniform Code” (3-5 September 1986, Cambridge, England), organized by the University of Cambridge. The seminar was organized to discuss the legal problems in trade data transmission that might be ameliorated by a code of conduct for parties involved in such transmissions;

(e) Participated in the 21st Biennial Conference of the International Bar Association (15-19 September 1986, New York), which was attended by lawyers from many countries of the world. Among the topics discussed were the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, the draft uniform rules on the liability of operators of transport terminals and the draft legal guide on drawing up international contracts for the construction of industrial works;

(f) Participated in a conference on computer aided trade (15-17 September 1986, Paris, France), sponsored

by the Economic Commission for Europe, Commission of the European Communities, National Trade Facilitation Organizations of the European Communities, International Article Numbering Association, and Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The conference was attended by lawyers and businessmen. Among the topics dealt with at the conference were the activities of UNCITRAL relevant to computer aided trade;

(g) Participated in a seminar on legal aspects of foreign trade (13-17 October 1986, New Delhi), organized by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT in co-operation with the UNCITRAL secretariat. The participants were from ministries, trade promotion organizations, chambers of commerce and state trading organizations of India and neighbouring countries. Among the main topics were the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and UNCITRAL's texts on dispute settlement;

(h) Participated in a seminar on a possible reform of the arbitration law of the Federal Republic of Germany (7 November 1986, Bonn), organized by the German Institute for Arbitration. The seminar was attended by lawyers, professors and businessmen. The main topic was the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration;

(i) Participated in the Asian Regional Workshop on Industrial Co-operation and Trade Expansion through Buy-back Arrangements (12-16 January 1987, Bangkok, Thailand), jointly organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Association of State Trading Organizations of Developing Countries (ASTRO) and the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE). The Workshop was attended by officials and businessmen from Asian countries. Among the subjects discussed were legal aspects of buy-back arrangements;

(j) Participated in a conference on arbitration in Quebec, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Quebec National and International Commercial Arbitration Centre (15-16 January 1987, Quebec). The conference was attended by government officials, lawyers, professors and businessmen. Among the main topics was the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration;

(k) Continued to co-operate with law professors of the University of Vienna and the Economic University of Vienna in the organization of a lecture series under the title "Forum for International Trade Law/*Forum für internationales Wirtschaftsrecht*". The topics of the lectures by scholars and experts, including representatives at UNCITRAL meetings and members of the secretariat, were subject-matters dealt with by the Commission and other issues of international trade law. The lectures were attended by lawyers, professors, businessmen and legal officers residing in Austria and, where held at the time of an UNCITRAL meeting, representatives and observers from other countries. In the period covered by the present report, the secretariat contributed a lecture on the UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Electronic Funds Transfers (29 January 1987);

(l) Participated in a seminar on international contracts concluded by electronic means (3-4 March 1987, Madrid, Spain), organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Madrid in collaboration with the Institute of International Business Law and Practice of the International Chamber of Commerce. Among the main topics discussed was the work of UNCITRAL and of the United Nations in general leading to uniform practices in this field;

(m) Participated in a conference entitled "Electronic Banking: Tomorrow's Banks and Yesterday's Laws: Bridging the Gap" (9-10 March 1987, Brussels, Belgium). The conference was attended by bankers and lawyers from the region. Among the topics discussed was the legal framework for electronic banking, based upon the work in the UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Electronic Funds Transfers;

(n) Will participate at the XXVI Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association (9-15 May 1987, Buenos Aires, Argentina). The Conference is expected to be attended by many hundreds of lawyers from South and North America. Among the topics to be dealt with are the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980);

(o) Is co-operating with the Latin American Federation of Banks (Federación Latinoamericana de Bancos, FELABAN) in the organization of a symposium dealing with UNCITRAL texts on international payments which will take place from 1 to 3 June 1987 in Mexico City. The symposium will be attended by banking lawyers and law teachers from many Latin American countries. The subjects discussed will be the UNCITRAL draft Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes, the UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Electronic Funds Transfers and the work to be undertaken on the preparation of model rules for electronic funds transfers.

5. On occasions, members of the UNCITRAL secretariat gave lectures at Vienna to groups of law students or lawyers on topics related to the work of the Commission. The secretariat also contributed articles to legal periodicals on various aspects of the Commission's work.

6. Since the nineteenth session of the Commission, three interns received training with the UNCITRAL secretariat, and were associated with current projects of the Commission.

7. The UNCITRAL secretariat thanks the organizers of the conferences, seminars and meetings mentioned above for inviting the secretariat to participate in the conferences, seminars and meetings. On most occasions the expenses of the secretariat in participating were met in whole or in part by the organizers. The secretariat intends to keep in touch with Governments and organizations with a view to collaborating with them in organizing symposia and seminars.