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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
Fourth session
Geneva, 29 March 1971

TIMING AND CONTENT OF THE UNCITRAL YEARBOOK

Report of the Secretary-General

I. THE COMMISSION'S DECISION AND ACTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. At its third session, held in New York from 6 to 30 April 1970, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted the following decision:^{1/}

"The Commission:

1. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To publish in 1970 the first volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; the Yearbook should contain the materials relating to the first three sessions of the Commission, and in general follow the arrangement set out in annex I of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a Yearbook, with due regard to the views expressed in the Commission during its discussion of the item;

(b) To submit to the Commission at its fourth session a report on the publication of a second volume of the Yearbook, and the financial implications thereof;

2. Decides to take its final decision concerning the contents of a second volume of the Yearbook at its fourth session."

^{1/} Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the work of its third session (1970), Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/8017), para. 209.

2. The Sixth Committee, after considering the Commission's report on the work of its third session, reported the following to the General Assembly:^{2/}

"28. Many representatives noted with appreciation that... the first volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law would soon be published in all working languages of the General Assembly. Several representatives stressed the importance of the continued publication of... the Yearbook in order... to make the work of the Commission more widely known beyond the forum of the United Nations.

"29. Some representatives expressed the view that these publications [the Yearbook and the Register of Texts] occupied the time of UNCITRAL's secretariat with editorial work and burdened the budget of the United Nations. These representatives expressed the hope that the cost of future publications would be substantially reduced."

3. Upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2502 (XXIV) with respect to the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its third session. In this resolution, the General Assembly noted "the forthcoming publication of... the first volume of the Yearbook...".

II. PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE YEARBOOK

4. The first volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law is expected to be published in March 1971. This volume contains the materials relating to the first three sessions of the Commission, and in general follows the arrangement set out in annex I of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of the Yearbook which was considered by the Commission at its third session.^{3/} It is expected that copies of this volume will be available for distribution at the fourth session of the Commission.

^{2/} Report of the Sixth Committee on the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its third session, document A/8146, paras. 28-29. Missions in para. 28 refer to the Register of Texts.

^{3/} Document A/CN.9/32/Add.1.

III. PROPOSED OUTLINE OF CONTENTS OF THE SECOND VOLUME
OF THE YEARBOOK AND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
THEREOF

5. The proposed outline of contents of the second volume of the Yearbook is set forth in annex I to this report. The second volume of the Yearbook will contain materials relating to the fourth session of the Commission, and in addition certain materials relating to the third session that were not available when the manuscript for the first volume was prepared.

6. The outline follows in general the pattern established for the contents of the first volume of the Yearbook. It will be noted that annex I does not call for inclusion of summary records of the Commission's meetings at the fourth session. However, the Secretary-General stated in an earlier report that "when in the future UNCITRAL undertakes to examine proposed legal texts in detail, the summary records will acquire special significance as travaux préparatoires".^{4/} The Commission may wish to note that with respect to Time-limits and Limitations (Prescription) and possibly the Uniform Law on the International Sale of Goods, the Commission is approaching that stage. Therefore, it may be appropriate to include in forthcoming volumes of the Yearbook summary records relating to those items, and other similar materials.

7. The financial implications of the publication of the contents of the second volume of the Yearbook, as outlined in annex I, are shown in annex II to this report. It will be noted that the number of copies required in each language follows closely the pattern established for the first volume of the Yearbook.

IV. PUBLICATION OF FUTURE VOLUMES OF THE YEARBOOK

8. It will be recalled that the General Assembly in resolution 2502 (XXIV) approved in principle the establishment of the Yearbook and requested the Commission to consider, at its third session, the timing and content of the Yearbook. In the same resolution the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to establish the Yearbook in accordance with the decisions and recommendations to be adopted by the Commission at its third session.

^{4/} Document A/CN.9/32/Add.1, para. 8.

9. As is noted in paragraph 1 above, the Commission, at its third session, decided only the timing and the content of the first volume of the Yearbook and requested a report on the publication of the second volume.

10. In the light of the experience gained in connexion with the first and second volumes, the Commission may now wish to decide the timing and content of future volumes of the Yearbook. If so, the Commission may wish to consider the following guidelines:

(a) The Yearbook should be published on a yearly basis and should appear as soon as practicable following the Commission's session to which the particular volume relates.

(b) The contents of future volumes should, in general, follow the arrangement that has been established for the first and second volumes.

(c) In selecting the materials for each future volume, the Secretary-General is requested to take into account the considerations of efficiency and economy that have emerged from the Commission's discussions on the item. In particular, the following should not be reproduced in the Yearbook:

- (i) documents of a preliminary nature or not of a continuing interest;
- (ii) studies and suggestions by Governments, organizations or individual representatives where they are conveniently summarized in a separate report or analysis;
- (iii) summary records of the Commission's meetings unless they would serve as the travaux préparatoires of a legal text.

ANNEX I

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS OF THE SECOND VOLUME
OF UNCITRAL YEARBOOK

Number of
pages
(Typewritten)

INTRODUCTION

1

PART ONE. REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION ON ANNUAL SESSIONS;
COMMENTS AND ACTION THEREON

I. Comments and action with respect to the Commission's
report on the work of its third session

A. Extract from the report of the Trade and Development
Board, United Nations Conference on Trade and
Development, 24 September 1969-13 October 1970 (A/8015)

1

B. Report of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 86 (A/8146)

13

C. General Assembly resolution 2635 (XXV) of 24 November 1970

2

II. The fourth session (1971)

A. Report of the Commission (A/)

80

B. List of documents not reproduced in this volume

1

PART TWO. STUDIES AND REPORTS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

I. International sale of goods

A. Uniform rules on substantive law

1. Analysis of comments and proposals relating to
articles 1-17 of the Uniform Law on the International
Sale of Goods (ULIS) (A/CN.9/WG.2/WP.6)

35

2. Report of the Working Group on the International
Sale of Goods, second session, 7-18 December 1970

40

3. List of documents not reproduced in this volume

1

B. General conditions of sale and standard contracts

Feasibility of developing general conditions of
sale embracing a wider scope of commodities:
Report of the Secretary-General (A/CN.9/60)

35

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Number of
pages
(Typewritten)

C. Time-limits and limitations (prescription)

1. Studies and proposals relating to a uniform law on limitations (prescription) (A/CN.9/WG.1/WP.1-8 and 10)	70
2. Analysis of above studies and proposals (A/CN.9/WG.1/WP.9)	30
3. Report of the Working Group on Time-limits and Limitations (Prescription), second session, 10-21 August 1970 (A/CN.9/50)	90
4. List of documents not reproduced in this volume	1

II. International payments

Negotiable instruments

1. Analysis of replies received from Governments and banking and trade institutions to the questionnaire on negotiable instruments used for making international payments: Report of the Secretary-General (A/CN.9/38/Add.1)	5
2. Analysis of replies concerning the possible content of uniform rules applicable to special negotiable instruments: Report of the Secretary-General (A/CN.9/48)	50
3. List of documents not reproduced in this volume	1

III. International legislation on shipping

1. Report of the Working Group on International Legislation on Shipping, first session, 22-26 March 1971 (A/CN.9/)	15
2. List of documents not reproduced in this volume	1

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BIBLIOGRAPHIES

1. Survey of bibliographies on international trade law (A/CN.9/L.20/Add.1)	20
2. Bibliography on UNCITRAL	<u>2</u>

Total number of pages	<u><u>500</u></u>
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ANNEX II

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PUBLICATION OF
THE SECOND VOLUME OF UNCITRAL YEARBOOK

Estimates of size and cost

	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Printed</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>French</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Russian</u>
No. of pages	500	200				
No. of copies			2,050	850	500	275
Cost of printing			<u>\$5,200</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total cost of printing						<u>\$18,200</u>
Estimate of possible gross revenue from sales:						<u>\$ 3,500</u>
