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NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND
ZUM SCHUTZ VON
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN

UNION INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA PROTECTION
DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

No. 13

May 1978

Geneva

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INFORMATION FROM UPOV

First Session of the Administrative and Legal Committee, April 1978

The Administrative and Legal Committee of UPOV, which has been established by the Council of UPOV during its eleventh ordinary session in December 1977, held its first session from April 17 to 19, 1978, under the chairmanship of Dr. D. Böringer (Federal Republic of Germany). All member States were represented. Of the non-member States invited, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Spain and the United States of America were represented by observers.

The Committee members, assisted by government trade mark experts, examined questions connected with the planned revision of Article 13 of the UPOV Convention. It reached agreement on another new text for Article 13 which is to be submitted as an additional alternative to the Diplomatic Conference to be held from October 9 to 23, 1978. This new text, which in itself contains some alternative solutions, will be distributed as document DC/4 to all recipients of the preparatory documents for the said Diplomatic Conference.

Seventeenth Session of the Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee of UPOV held its seventeenth session on April 20 and 21, 1978, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Skov (Denmark). All member States were represented.

The Committee had an exchange of views on the state of preparations for the Diplomatic Conference.

The Committee also considered the work of the Technical Working Parties and expressed its great appreciation for the results achieved so far while agreeing that these activities should be pursued with the same vigour and effort. The Technical Committee will see to it that these activities are conducted in the best and most economical way.

The Committee had a preliminary discussion on the outline of the UPOV program and budget for 1979.

Finally, the Committee had an exchange of views on the long-term development of the Union. In particular, it discussed suggestions to achieve a system of an even closer cooperation between--all or a special group of--member States. These suggestions had been inspired by developments in other fields, especially in the field of patents (see the address given by Mr. Pierre Chabrand at the FIS Congress at Poznan in May, 1975, in UPOV Newsletter No. 5, page 559, in which in particular the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the European Patent Convention were mentioned). The suggestions will be studied in more detail after the Diplomatic Conference.

Office of the Union: Change of Address

On June 8, 1978, the Office of the Union will move into the new WIPO Building. The new UPOV address will be as follows (change underlined):

34, chemin des Colombettes,
1211, Geneva 20

Between June 1 and June 7, the staff of the Office of the Union may be reached by telephone at the following number:

(022) 34.56.36

As from June 8, the telephone number will be:

(022) 999.111

INFORMATION FROM MEMBER STATES

France: Extension of Protection

By Decree No. 78-245 of February 23, 1978 (Journal Officiel of March 8, 1978, pages 952 and 953), amending Decree No. 71-765 of September 9, 1971, Fixing the List of Plant Species for Which New Plant Variety Certificates May be Issued as Well as the Scope and Duration of Breeders' Rights in the Case of Each Plant Species, protection was extended to further genera and species, on the one hand, and the scope of protection was extended to plants and parts of plants marketed for planting purposes in the case of certain genera and species, on the other hand.

The list of the genera and species covered by the Decree is given hereunder, as well as some details on the duration and scope of protection. The French common names (except those in brackets) appear in the above-mentioned Decree. English and German common names have been added by the Office of the Union, without any guarantee of exact concordance.

List of genera and species eligible for protection in France
Liste des genres et espèces bénéficiant de la protection en France
Liste der in Frankreich schutzfähigen Gattungen und Arten

<u>Genre, espèce, etc.</u>	<u>Genus, Species, etc.</u>	<u>Gattung, Art, usw.</u>	<u>Protection/Schutz</u>	
			<u>Duration</u> ¹	<u>Scope</u> ²
			<u>Durée</u> ¹ <u>Dauer</u> ¹	<u>Etendue</u> ² <u>Umfang</u> ²
Abricotier	Apricot	Aprikose	25	C
Amandier	Almond	Mandel	25	C
Aubergine	Eggplant, Aubergine	Eierfrucht	20	A
Avoine	Oats	Hafer	20	A
Begonia elatior	Elatior Begonia	Elatior-Begonie	20	B
Berberis (Epine-vinette)	Berberis	Berberitze	20	B
Blé dur	Durum Wheat, Macaroni Wheat, Hard Wheat	Durum-Weizen (Hartweizen)	20	A
Blé tendre	Soft Wheat, Bread Wheat	Weichweizen	20	A
Buddleia	Buddleia	Buddleie, Schmetterlingsstrauch	20	A
Cassis	Black Currant	Schwarze Johannisbeere	20	C
Cerisier	Cherry	Kirsche	25	C
Châtaignier	Chestnut	Edelkastanie	25	C
Chicorée frisée et Chicorée scarole	Endive	Winterendivie	20	A
Chrysanthème	Chrysanthemum	Chrysantheme	20	B
Cognassier	Quince	Quitte	25	C
Colza	Rape	Raps	20	A
Euphorbia fulgens	Euphorbia fulgens	Korallenranke	20	B
Forsythia	Forsythia	Forsythie, Goldflieder, Goldglöckchen	20	B

¹ In years/En années/In Jahren

² See explanations page 5/Voir les explications page 5 /Siehe Erläuterungen Seite 5

Genre, espèce, etc.	Genus, Species, etc.	Gattung, Art, usw.	Protection/Schutz	
			Duration ¹	Scope ²
			Durée ¹ Dauer ¹	Etendue ² Umfang ²
Fraisier	Strawberry	Erdbeere	20	E
Framboisier	Raspberry	Himbeere	20	C
Freesia	Freesia	Freesie	20	B
Gerbera	Gerbera	Gerbera	20	B
Glaïeul	Gladioli	Gladiole	20	B
Groseillier (à grappes)	Red and White Currants	Rote und Weisse Johannis- beere	25	C
Groseillier à maquereaux	Gooseberry	Stachelbeere	25	C
Haricot	Bean	Bohne	20	A
Hortensia	Hydrangea	Hortensie	20	B
Houblon	Hop	Hopfen	25	C
Iris (bulbeux et rhizomateux)	Iris (bulbous and rhizomatous)	Iris (zwiebel- und wurzel- stockbildend)	20	B
Juniperus (Genévrier)	Juniper	Wacholder	25	B
Lagerstroemia	-	-	20	B
Laitue	Lettuce	Salat	20	A
Lavande et Lavandins	Lavender	Lavendel	20	B
Lin	Flax, Linseed	Lein	20	A
Lis	Lily	Lilie	20	B
Mâche (Doucette)	Cornsalad, Lamb's Lettuce	Feldsalat	20	A
Maïs	Maize	Mais	20	A
Malus (Pommier) ornemental	Flowering Crab	Zierapfel	25	B
Nerium oleander (Laurier-rose)	Oleander, Rose Bay	Oleander	20	B
Noisetier (Coudrier)	Hazelnut, Filbert	Haselnuss	25	C
Oeillet	Carnation, Pinks, Border Carnation	Nelke	20	B
Orchidées	Orchids	Orchideen	20	B
Orge	Barley	Gerste	20	A
Pâturin des prés	Kentucky Bluegrass	Wiesenrispengras	20	A
Pêcher	Peach	Pfirsich	25	C
Peuplier	Poplar	Pappel	25	E
Piment (Poivron)	Pepper, Capsicum, Chili	Paprika	20	A
Poinsettia	Poinsettia	Poinsettie, Weihnachts- stern	20	B
Poirier	Pear	Birne	25	C
Pois	Pea	Erbse	20	A
Pomme de terre	Potato	Kartoffel	25	D
Pommier	Apple	Apfel	25	C
Prunier	Plum	Pflaume	25	C
Pyracantha (Buisson ardent)	Firethorn	Feuerdorn	20	B
Rhododendrons (y compris azalées)	Rhododendrons (including azaleas)	Rhododendron (ein- schliesslich Azalee)	25	B
Riz	Rice	Reis	20	A
Rosier	Rose	Rose	20	B
Ronces frutières	Blackberry	Brombeere	25	C
Saintpaulia	African Violet	Usambaraveilchen	20	B
Soja	Soya Bean	Sojabohne	20	A
Thuja	Thuja	Lebensbaum	25	B
Tomate	Tomato	Tomate	20	A
Tournesol (Soleil)	Common Sunflower	Sonnenblume	20	A
Vigne	Vine	Rebe	25	C
Weigela	-	Weigelia	20	B

¹ In years/En années/In Jahren

² See explanations page 5 /Voir les explications page 5 /Siehe Erläuterungen Seite 5

Scope of Protection/Portée de la protection/Schutzumfang

- A: Protection relates to seeds, as defined pursuant to Article 1 of Decree No. 68-955 of October 29, 1968, as well as to plants and parts thereof marketed for planting purposes.

La protection porte sur les semences, telles qu'elles sont définies conformément à l'article premier du décret No 68-955 du 29 octobre 1968, ainsi que sur les plantes ou parties de plantes commercialisées en vue de la plantation.

Der Schutz bezieht sich auf Saatgut gemäss Artikel 1 der Verordnung Nr. 68-955 vom 29. Oktober 1968, sowie auf Pflanzen und deren Teile, die zum Zwecke des Anbaus vertrieben werden.

- B: Protection relates to the whole plant or parts thereof, as well as to any reproductive or vegetative propagating material.

La protection porte sur tout ou partie de la plante de même que sur tous éléments de reproduction ou de multiplication végétative.

Der Schutz bezieht sich auf die ganze Pflanze oder Teile davon, sowie auf generatives oder vegetatives Vermehrungsmaterial jeder Art.

- C: Fruit-bearing varieties and rootstocks may be protected. Protection relates to any part of the plant to be used as vegetative propagating material, such as plants, grafts, cuttings, layers. It relates also to seeds as defined pursuant to Article 1 of the above-mentioned Decree or to the pips and stones of these species in cases where they may be used as seeds for the generative reproduction of the varieties.

Les variétés productives de fruits et les porte-greffes peuvent être protégés. La protection porte sur toute partie de la plante destinée à être utilisée comme matériel de multiplication tels que plants, greffons, boutures, marcottes. Elle porte également sur les semences, telles que définies conformément à l'article premier du décret susvisé, ou sur les pépins et noyaux de ces espèces dans le cas où ils sont utilisables à titre de semences pour la reproduction des variétés par voie sexuée.

Fruchttragende Sorten und Unterlagen können geschützt werden. Der Schutz bezieht sich auf alle Teile der Pflanze, die als vegetatives Vermehrungsmaterial verwendet werden sollen, z.B. Pflanzen, Pfropfreiser, Stecklinge, Senkreiser. Er bezieht sich gleichwohl auf Saatgut gemäss Artikel 1 der obengenannten Verordnung oder auf Kerne und Steine dieser Arten, falls sie als Saatgut für die generative Vermehrung der Sorte verwendet werden können.

- D: Protection relates to planting material to be used for the propagation of the species as defined pursuant to Article 1 of the above-mentioned Decree.

La protection porte sur les plants destinés à la propagation de l'espèce tels qu'ils sont définis conformément à l'article premier du décret susvisé.

Der Schutz bezieht sich auf Pflanzgut, das zur Vermehrung der Art bestimmt ist, gemäss Artikel 1 der obengenannten Verordnung.

- E: Protection relates to the whole plant or parts thereof to be used as vegetative propagating material.

La protection porte sur tout ou partie de la plante destinée à être utilisée comme matériel de multiplication.

Der Schutz bezieht sich auf die ganze Pflanze oder Teile davon, die als Vermehrungsmaterial verwendet werden soll.

Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany: Agreement on Cooperation in Examination

An Administrative Agreement providing for cooperation in the examination of varieties of certain plant species for distinctness, homogeneity and stability has been concluded between the Service de la protection des obtentions végétales (Service for the Protection of New Plant Varieties) of Belgium and the Bundessortenamt (Federal Plant Varieties Office) of the Federal Republic of Germany. It entered into force on January 1, 1978. Pursuant to that Agreement, the Bundessortenamt examines varieties of the following species on behalf of the Service de la protection des obtentions végétales:

<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>French Name</u>	<u>German Name</u>
Fragaria L.	Strawberry	Fraisier	Erdbeere
Populus L.	Poplar	Peuplier	Pappel
Rhododendron L.	Rhododendron, Azalea, Azaleodendron	Rhododendron, azalée	Rhododendron Azalee
Ribes nigrum L.	Black Currant	Cassis	Schwarze Johannisbeere
Ribes niveum Lindl.	White Currant	Groseillier blanc	Weisse Johannisbeere
Ribes sylvestre (Lam.) Mert et W. Koch	Red Currant	Groseillier rouge	Rote Johannisbeere
Ribes uva-crispa L.	Gooseberry	Groseillier à maquereau	Stachelbeere
Secale cereale L.	Rye	Seigle	Roggen
Triticum spelta L.	Spelt	Epeautre	Spelz

France and Switzerland: Agreement on Cooperation in Examination

The Comité de la protection des obtentions végétales (Committee for the Protection of New Plant Varieties) and the Groupe d'étude et de contrôle des variétés et des semences (Group for the Study and Control of Varieties and Seeds) of France, on the one hand, and the Bureau de la protection des variétés (Office for the Protection of Varieties) of Switzerland, on the other hand, have concluded an Administrative Agreement which entered into force on January 1, 1978, and under which the French authorities examine varieties of the following species on behalf of the Swiss authority:

<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>French Name</u>	<u>German Name</u>
Triticum aestivum L.	Soft Wheat, Bread Wheat (Spring and Winter)	Blé tendre (Froment de printemps et d'automne)	Weichweizen (Sommer und Winter)
Zea mays L.	Maize	Maïs	Mais

Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland: Agreement on Cooperation in Examination

The Bundessortenamt (Federal Plant Varieties Office) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Büro für Sortenschutz (Office for the Protection of Varieties) of Switzerland have concluded an Administrative Agreement which entered into force on January 1, 1978, and under which the Bundessortenamt examines varieties of the following species on behalf of the Büro für Sortenschutz:

<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>French Name</u>	<u>German Name</u>
Lolium spec.	Ryegrass	Ray-grass	Weidelgras

INFORMATION FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

XXXth AIPPI Congress in Munich

From May 12 to 20, 1978, the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI) held its XXXth Congress in Munich.

On May 19, 1978, the Association adopted a Resolution in which it expressed its appreciation for the convening of the Diplomatic Conference for the Revision of the UPOV Convention and its hope that the result of that Diplomatic Conference would be a further improvement and strengthening of the legal protection of plant breeders' rights.

In the operative parts of the Resolution, AIPPI proposes that the mandatory minimum protection under Article 5(1) of the UPOV Convention be extended, in the case of ornamental plants, to the marketed--final--product (i.e., cut flowers) in order to prevent breeders from being deprived of remuneration for their breeding efforts as a result of imports of such products from countries in which no plant variety protection exists. AIPPI refers to the comparable case of patent protection for chemical processes where it has become more and more fully recognized that such protection must include the final product.

If it proves to be impossible to include protection of the marketed product, in the case of ornamentals, in the revised UPOV Convention, the Association asks its national groups to urge that such protection be provided for under the national legislation.

The Resolution goes on to state the preferences of AIPPI for the alternative proposals for a revised text of Article 13 which are contained in document DC/4 (see page 2 above).

It is to be noted that during the discussion of the Resolution the proposals for Article 13 which are contained in document DC/4 and which were elaborated by the Administrative and Legal Committee of UPOV were regarded as a great step forward compared with the present situation.

GENERAL STUDIES

Plant Variety Protection in Switzerland:

a Comparative Legal Survey *

by W. Gfeller **

I wish to express my gratitude to the Directorate of the Swiss Gardeners Association for being kind enough to invite me and give me the opportunity to present you a comparative survey on Swiss law on plant variety protection. I gather from item 5 of today's agenda that you are well informed on the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention) of December 2, 1961. This Convention is the legal basis for the plant variety protection laws of all UPOV member States, and the effect of this is that only minor differences can be found in the laws of the various member States. There are nevertheless some differences in the application of the Convention on the national level of which I shall inform you, but these differences are all tolerated by the Convention.

Article 2 of the Convention leaves it to member States' discretion to grant breeders' rights either by a special right or in the form of a patent. Of the present ten member States of UPOV--Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Italy, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom--only Italy provides for plant patents. In Switzerland, plant breeders' rights are governed by the Federal Law of March 20, 1975, on the Protection of Plant Breeders' Rights which, together with the Ordinance on Plant Variety Protection of May 11, 1977, entered into force on June 1, 1977.

Article 5 of our Law on plant variety protection provides that protection is admissible and has to be granted for varieties which are new, stable and sufficiently homogeneous. The varieties must belong to a genus or species which has been included by the Federal Council in the List of Species. According to this List of Species, which appears in an Annex to the Ordinance on Plant Variety Protection, soft-wheat, maize, red clover, ryegrass and apple are eligible for protection. Thus four species and one genus are eligible for protection; in the Federal Republic of Germany 138, in France 54 and in the Netherlands 113 species and genera are eligible for protection. The smallness of the number of species eligible for protection in Switzerland is due to the fact that at the time of our joining UPOV we had just begun to protect plant varieties, and our task is now to build up and intensify our system of protection.

* Speech delivered at the session of the Committee for Novelty Protection of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) held at Zürich (Switzerland) on March 20, 1978, and reproduced with the kind permission of the author. Translated into English by the Office of the Union.

** Head of the Büro for Sortenschutz/Bureau de la protection des variétés (Office for the Protection of Varieties) of Switzerland.

A further requirement for the grant of plant variety protection is the existence of a variety denomination.

According to Article 6 of our Law on plant variety protection the variety has to be given a variety denomination. In addition to the conditions that the variety denomination must not be misleading, liable to cause confusion or contrary to public order, it is provided that the variety denomination must not consist solely of figures. This corresponds to provisions of the Federal Republic of Germany, namely Article 8 of the Plant Variety Protection Law of that State, in the version of January 4, 1977, which excludes designations consisting solely of figures. Article 8 of the German Law goes on to say that the variety denomination may consist of one word or several words, of combinations of letters and figures or of combinations of words and figures. In contrast to this, our Ordinance on Plant Variety Protection recommends that the variety denomination consist of one or of several words which are easy to pronounce and to remember and which are suitable for use as designations. According to the Arrêté of March 26, 1974, France permits combinations of letters and figures only if they have been given to varieties which exclusively serve for the production of commercial hybrids, which means that they are never commercialized as such; another condition is that this combination of letters and figures must be in common international use for varieties of that species. Thus France, unlike the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland, is in a position to exclude combinations of letters and figures.

Much more could be said about the effect of the plant variety protection than is in fact possible in the framework of this comparative survey. As far as the general effect is concerned, I will confine myself to saying that this effect is described in Article 12 of our Law on plant variety protection, which provides that, without the authorization of the owner of plant breeders' rights, nobody is allowed to produce, for the purposes of commercial marketing, to offer for sale or to market propagating material of the protected variety; however, I should like to draw your attention on Article 13 of our Law: Article 13 is based on Article 5(4) of the Convention which provides that each member State may in its national law grant a right to breeders of specific botanical species which goes beyond the right that is granted for example by Article 12. Switzerland has made use of this option and provides in Article 13 that nobody is allowed, without the authorization of the owner of the plant breeders' rights, to produce ornamental plants or cut flowers using plants or parts of plants which are normally not commercialized for the purposes of propagation. Paragraph (2) of this Article authorizes the Federal Council to extend this protection for specified species of ornamental plants to the marketed product, when this is in the interest of the owners of plant breeders' rights. The extended protection under paragraph (2) can be demanded only by Swiss holders of plant breeders' rights or by holders who are nationals of States which grant the same extended rights. A comparison with a number of member States shows that in Belgium Article 35(a) of the Law on Plant Variety Protection extends the scope of protection to ornamental plants or parts thereof which normally are not commercialized for the purposes of propagation, but without including the marketed product. Similar rules are contained in Article 15 of the German Plant Variety Protection Law and in Article 40 of the Dutch Seeds and Planting Materials Act of October 1966; only France, in Article 3 of Law No. 70/489 of June 11, 1970, on the Protection of New Plant Varieties, in conjunction with Item 7 of the Decree No. 71/765 of September 9, 1971, Fixing the List of Plant Species, extends the protection for roses and carnations to the whole plant or parts thereof as well as to all vegetative elements of reproduction of the variety in question. Thus, apart from Swiss nationals, only nationals of France will be authorized to demand protection according to Article 13(2) of our Law on plant variety protection, as soon as the Federal Council has applied the protection for roses and carnations to the marketed product.

Plant variety protection ends in Switzerland with the 20th full calendar year after the grant. For apple varieties, the Federal Council has prolonged the duration of protection to 25 years. The Federal Republic of Germany, in Article 18 of the Plant Variety Protection Law, has fixed the duration of the plant variety protection in the case of hops, potatoes, vines and their rootstocks, and tree species at 25 years, and in the case of all other species at 20 years. France grants a duration of 20 or 25 years while Belgium and the Netherlands provide for a duration of at least 15 years up to a maximum of 25 years, while for fruit trees, vines etc., a minimum duration of 18 years is provided for. In Sweden, the protection can last only 15 or 18 years, according to circumstances.

I now wish to give you a very condensed account of certain features of the plant variety protection in Switzerland. The right to the grant of plant variety protection and the right to a plant variety are transferable and may also be transferred by succession. Any holder of a plant breeders' right may authorize another

person to use the protected variety. Everybody whose application for the grant of a license has been rejected by the holder of plant breeders' rights without sufficient reason may apply to the civil court for the grant of a license. Protection is valid only to the extent that it is enforceable by the civil court. For this reason, our Law on plant variety protection provides that everybody claiming that his right to be granted plant variety protection or his right to a plant variety is threatened or infringed, may apply for a restraining injunction or the elimination of the illegal situation. The injured party has a right on damages only where the infringer has acted fraudulently. Even before the grant of protection, but only after the submission of the variety for plant variety protection, the applicant may apply for an injunction or for elimination of the illegal state of affairs. Our Law obliges the civil court to respect the manufacturing or trade secrets of the parties: in particular, evidence which would reveal such secrets may be made accessible to the other party only in so far as this is compatible with the maintenance of such secrets. Besides protection under civil law, the owner of a plant breeders' right also enjoys protection under criminal law. At the request of the person whose rights have been infringed, any person who intentionally and illegally produces propagating material of the protected variety for commercial marketing, offers or markets such material, or illegally makes repeated use of a protected variety for the commercial production of another new variety, or illegally uses commercially plants, or parts thereof, which are not commercialized for propagation purposes, for the production of ornamental plants or cut flowers, or, in case of an extension under Article 13(2) of the scope of protection to the marketed product, uses ornamental plants or cut flowers of this variety, may be punished by imprisonment for up to one year or by a fine. Only a fine is inflicted on a person who intentionally uses in advertising, on business papers or in connection with products which he has brought into circulation indications which create the impression that plant variety protection exists; a person who does not use the variety denomination in the commercial marketing of propagating material of the protected variety is similarly punished.

Finally, a word on the organization which has been established for plant variety protection in Switzerland: In addition to the Office for Plant Variety Protection in Berne, which among other things is competent for the grant of plant variety protection and the administration of the register for plant variety protection, and is attached to the Department of Agriculture, test stations have been established at the Federal Research Institutes in Changins, Wädenswil and Zürich-Reckenholz; they are responsible for the examination and supervision of varieties.

In the framework of this session, I have only been able to give a rough survey on our plant variety protection law; I hope nevertheless that it has afforded you an interesting overall view, and thank you for your attention.

OBITUARY

Mr. J.I.C. Butler

On May 9, 1978, Mr. Johan Izaak Cornelis Butler, Chairman of the Dutch Council for Plant Breeders Rights (Raad voor het Kwekersrecht), died in Wageningen at the age of 63. Mr. Butler was the Vice-President of the Council of UPOV and had been Chairman of the UPOV Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Examination.

Mr. Butler was one of the pioneers of UPOV and he participated in the Diplomatic Conferences which led to the conclusion of the UPOV Convention. From the very beginning he represented his country in the Council of UPOV and in many UPOV Committees. In his various functions he strongly advocated a worldwide vocation for the Union, especially in connection with the expected accession of the United States of America. It was under his leadership that the present cooperation in examination between plant varieties of member States was organized.

The passing away of Mr. Butler is a great loss for the administration of plant breeders' rights in the Netherlands and for UPOV. The Office of UPOV has lost one of its strongest promoters and a great friend.

Condolences have been expressed to the family and to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Netherlands by the President of the Council of UPOV and by the Secretary-General and Vice Secretary-General of UPOV.

CALENDAR

1. UPOV Meetings

1978

May 23 to 25 Zürich - Reckenholz	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
June 6 to 8 Hanover (Federal Republic of Germany)	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
June 20 to 22 Paris (France)	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants
September 5 to 7 Florence (Italy)	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
September 11 to 15 Geneva	Ad Hoc Committee on the Revision of the Convention
September 19 to 21 Melle (Belgium)	Technical Working Party for Forest Trees
October 9 to 23 Geneva	Diplomatic Conference
November 13 to 15 Geneva	Technical Committee
November 15 to 17 Geneva	Administrative and Legal Committee
December 5 and 8 Geneva	Consultative Committee
December 6 to 8 Geneva	Council

2. Meetings of Non-Governmental Organizations

May 30 and 31 Hamburg (Federal Republic of Germany)	International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (ASSINSEL), General Assembly
May 28 to 31 Hamburg (Federal Republic of Germany)	International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS), Congress
June 1 to 4 Scharnhorst (Federal Republic of Germany) and Klarskovgaard (Denmark)	Symposium for Grass Breeders (of ASSINSEL)

Headquarters

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