

Department of consumer and corporate affairs / Ministère de la consommation et des corporations

TO: FAC
FROM: ACRG
JUL 28 1970
ATT'N Mr. Blackburn

Ottawa 4, Ontario,
July 22, 1970.

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Mr. A.E. Ritchie,
Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
East Block,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

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55-19-4-Berne-VCC

Re: International Intellectual Property Meetings

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

From May 19-21 a Canadian Delegation consisting of

- Mr. F.W. Simons, Assistant Commissioner of Patents
- Mr. A.A. Keyes, National Film Board
- Mr. G.E. Pallant, Department of Industry, Trade & Commerce and
- Mr. J. Corbeil, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

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attended a meeting of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee in Geneva, to prepare a draft amendment to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

On May 19, Mr. J. Corbeil arranged for a meeting of the Canadian Delegation with Mr. G. Ignatieff, the Canadian Ambassador to the Canada Permanent Mission in Geneva, and several items were discussed.

At that meeting the Delegation pointed out that, in the past, Mr. J. Corbeil, Second Secretary, Canada Permanent Mission, Geneva, had attended many Intellectual Property Meetings with Canadian Delegations and had been very helpful during the meetings and between meetings; however Mr. Corbeil has now left Geneva.

There are many Intellectual Property Meetings scheduled for the future in Geneva and it would be very greatly appreciated if we could receive the same kind of assistance from the Canadian Permanent Mission in the future.

Future meetings are also scheduled for Paris and it would be appreciated if the same kind of assistance could also be given by the Permanent Delegation of Canada to Unesco in Paris.

Office of the Deputy Minister
Bureau du sous-ministre

FAC

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For some time now we have been aware that it would be in Canada's national interests to participate actively in international intellectual property meetings and attempt to secure membership on the executive and governing bodies of the international unions in these fields. With this in mind, our Department recently recommended that Canada ratify the WIPO Convention. This was approved by the Cabinet Committee on External Policy and Defence at a meeting on February 3, 1970 and ratification by Canada followed on March 16, 1970.

In the field of Copyright, Canada is one of the largest importers of copyrighted material in the world, so that copyright plays an economic role in the control of this commodity. On the other hand, proper protection for authors, composers and artists can play an important role in the development of English and French culture in Canada. In the same way, other aspects of intellectual property such as patents, trade marks and industrial designs, etc., are also very important from an economic point of view.

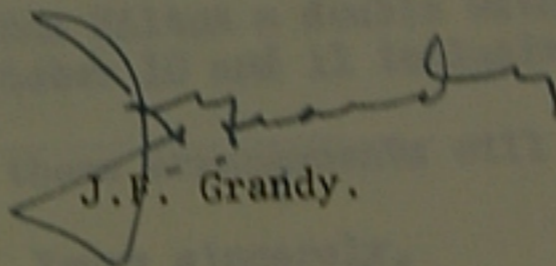
In the field of satellite communication, a field in which Canada is vitally concerned, copyright regulations and international agreements could greatly facilitate or greatly hamper future developments.

For these reasons, we think it is essential that Canada continue to participate actively in international meetings and conventions dealing with intellectual property in order that our national interests can be pursued and protected.

For these reasons we ask your assistance, particularly from the Canadian Permanent Mission in Geneva, and The Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO in Paris.

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



J.F. Grandy.