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BIBLIOGRAPHY ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

Report by the Secretary-General

1. A resolution of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, at its first session,<sup>1/</sup> provided that, "the Secretary-General should inquire whether one or more universities, research or similar institutions in the States Members of the United Nations would be willing to compile and disseminate a list of published books, articles and commentaries" on certain fields identified earlier in the same resolution. In this regard, the resolution had referred to existing and proposed "international conventions, model and uniform laws, customs and usages of a multilateral nature" in the following fields: (a) the law of sale of goods; (b) standard trade terms; (c) arbitration law; (d) negotiable instruments; (e) documentary credits and the collection of commercial paper.<sup>2/</sup>
2. A note by the Secretary-General submitted to the second session of the Commission reported<sup>3/</sup> that the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law

<sup>1/</sup> Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its first session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/7216), para. 60, sub-para. 7.

<sup>2/</sup> Ibid., para. 60, sub-paras. 4 and 5.

<sup>3/</sup> A/CN.9/24, para. 16.

had made arrangements for the preparation of bibliographic material for use by the Commission. Pursuant to this arrangement, a list of books and articles on international commercial arbitration, as a sample of the work in progress, was compiled and transmitted to the Commission shortly before the second session (A/CN.9/24/Add.1 and Add.2).

3. At the second session, the Commission observed that it was not in a position to consider the sample of the bibliography concerning arbitration law in detail and refrained, therefore, from making specific suggestions regarding the further preparation of such material.<sup>4/</sup>

4. As was noted in paragraph 1 above, the Commission requested that bibliographic material should include international sales, negotiable instruments and bankers' commercial credits. Bibliographic material in these fields has also been prepared in the manner described above, and will be distributed to the members of the Commission (A/CN.9/R.3).

5. In considering what further work of this nature should be undertaken, the Commission may wish to consider certain practical limitations to which such work is necessarily subject. Any one compiler will have a command of only some of the many languages in which such materials are published. The scope of foreign language materials in available libraries are a further limiting factor. Books and articles which are published in languages understood by a relatively small number of persons present special problems, for these materials are particularly difficult to find and classify, and the use of such materials may, for the most part, be limited to persons who already have access to indexes and other bibliographic tools in this language.

6. As was indicated in the report on the second session of the Commission, the above-described bibliographic work was contributed without compensation by the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law of Columbia University. It does not appear feasible to expect any institution to contribute such services indefinitely. Therefore, if the Commission were to decide that general bibliographic work should be continued, it would be necessary to consider whether funds to support this work could be made available by the General Assembly.

7. The Commission, if it decides that general bibliographic work should proceed, may wish to request its members to undertake to encourage research institutions in

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<sup>4/</sup> A/7618, para. 142.

their State or region to provide bibliographies of materials to which they have access. This would be of significant assistance in meeting some of the problems discussed in paragraph 5 above.

8. The Commission may also wish to consider whether a satisfactory alternative to the above would be to make available to interested persons the bibliographic material that would be compiled in the course of preparing analyses and studies of specific subjects on the Commission's work programme.

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