

Central America. The bibliography offers useful hints about relevant background reading materials for such negotiations. The future of economic integration or cooperation in Central America is of course dependent on the emergence of regional political stability.

INFORMATICS LAW

A commission has been established by the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (located at 23, viale Civiltà del Lavoro, 00144 Rome, Italy) to study the application of computer and other technology to legal information research (named by the Bureau as "informatics law" which is based on the French word "informatique") and the regulation by law of information data production and use.

The commission has recently issued a report on the *Considerations for the Study of Informatics Law* (Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics Documents on Informatics Law, Orange Series, DR. 01) which contains the outline of an ambitious international program for cooperation in the development of retrieval technologies for legal information, as well as recommendations for a suitable international legal regime dealing with the distribution of information. Discussion of these issues will be given a prominent place in the program of the 2d Intergovernmental Conferences on Informatics Strategies and Policies, organized by the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics for mid-1983.

NEW COMPANIES LEGISLATION IN AUSTRALIA

On 18 June 1981 the Companies Act 1981 (no. 89 of 1981) was assented to by the Australian Parliament. (Available from A.G.P.S., Canberra, A.C.T., Australia, 2600. Cat. no. 81 41174. Price: A\$ 15.20). The Act is expected to come into operation early in 1982. Nine Acts associated with the new national companies and securities legislation also received assent on 18 June 1981. New regulations under these Acts have also been made.

The best advice one can give to the foreign law librarian, who has an interest in Australian companies and securities law is to suggest that he/she subscribe to CCH Australia Limited's *Australian Company Law and Practice*. This new service will replace the CCH *Australian Corporate Affairs Reporter* by early 1982. The first volume of the ACLP is already available and contains the full text of all the relevant Acts together with practical commentary. The second loose-leaf volume is expected to be issued in December 1981 containing detailed explanations of the new legislation.

CCH has been issuing advance bulletins for the ACLP since October 1980. At the time of writing (1 October 1981) ten such bulletins had been published keeping the subscriber up-to-date.

One can subscribe to the Australian Company Law Library, which includes *Australian Company Law & Practice* and *Australian Company Law Cases*.

Further information about these services may be obtained from: CCH Australia Ltd., P.O. Box 230, North Ryde, NSW, Australia, 2113, or from any office of Commerce Clearing House, Inc.

THAILAND BUSINESS LAW

A variety of materials in English are published about the legal aspects of business in Southeast Asia. One of the latest works of this kind is the *Thailand Business Legal Handbook*. The 68-page publication is available from:

International Legal Counsellors Thailand Ltd.
Southeast Insurance Building
315 Silom Road
8th Floor
Bangkok 5
Thailand

The price is US \$10, and there is an additional mailing charge of US \$5.

AFRICAN LAW BIBLIOGRAPHY

In 1972 Professor Jacques Vanderlinden, a well-known African law specialist and currently Professor of African Law at the Free University of Brussels, published the *African Law Bibliography 1947-1966*. Praised by the reviewers for its detail and range of scope, the work became immediately recognized as the most comprehensive guide to the literature on African law for the period of its coverage.

Professor Vanderlinden is now announcing the publication of two further volumes in the bibliographic series. *African Law Bibliography 1967-1976* is expected to come out in the latter part of 1981; *African Law Bibliography 1977-1980* is already available. Work is also progressing on the compilation of an annual supplement for 1981 as the first installment in a continuing series of such supplements.

Following the scope of the original work, the two new volumes, as well as the annual supplements, will offer bibliographic information not only about books on the law and legal systems of more than fifty African