



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.5/659  
9 July 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eleventh session  
Fifth Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Modernization of the Palais des Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. During the tenth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General undertook to submit, in 1956, a plan for the improvement of the installations in the Palais des Nations necessary to meet present requirements and those of the foreseeable future.
2. Part I of the following report sets out an over-all plan for the modernization of the Palais des Nations, which the Secretary-General suggests might be accomplished in three main stages over the next eight years. The priorities given to the various improvements proposed are based on present indications of relative urgency.
3. Part II of the report contains, in more detail, the plans for the first phase (three years) of the programme of improvement and complete details of the improvements to be made in the first year, 1957. The estimated cost of the first phase is \$469,500, of which \$160,000 relates to the improvements proposed for 1957. No provision for the 1957 requirements was included in the 1957 estimates, pending completion of this report; accordingly the Secretary-General submits herewith revised estimates involving an increased provision under section 18 for 1957 in the amount of \$160,000.
4. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize the fact, noted in the report, that the plan for the improvements has been drawn up in consultation with the World Health Organization which is housed in the Palais des Nations and which makes substantial use of the conference facilities and with the International Labour Organisation which is also a major user of the conference facilities.

56-18860

## PART I

### A. INTRODUCTION

5. The Palais des Nations was built between 1929 and 1937. It was conceived in the light of the special requirements of the League of Nations. Its general layout and capacity conformed to the then needs of the League and those that could be foreseen at that time. Its interior fittings had not yet been completed, nor was it fully furnished at the time when, practically speaking, the League ceased its activities.

6. In 1946 the building was taken over by the United Nations and today it houses the European Office of the United Nations, including the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; in addition, it is the seat of the World Health Organization (WHO). The ICITO/GATT occupies a separate building in the precincts.

7. The Palais is a major conference centre for the United Nations. The ECE holds its meetings and those of its working groups there. The Economic and Social Council and some of its Commissions, the International Law Commission and numerous other committees also hold meetings at the Palais.

Most of the specialized agencies with headquarters in Geneva make considerable use of the facilities of the building for their conferences. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization hold their Annual Assembly there. Some years ago the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) began to use it for the annual meetings of its Executive Committee, and held its Congress there in 1955.

In recent years the Palais has also been the seat of other important conferences, such as the Geneva Conference on Certain Far Eastern Questions, the Conference of Heads of State, the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

At least one or more large non-governmental organization conferences are held in the Palais every year, e.g. in 1955 the Conference of NGOs interested in the Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination and the Sixth General Conference of Consultative NGOs.

The Palais has, in fact, become the main centre for international conferences in Europe.

## B. ACTIVITIES AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS

### Secretariat Staff

8. The changes since the days of the League of Nations have greatly increased the activity in the building. In 1938 the League of Nations had a total staff of about 750. In March 1956 a permanent staff of 1,323 worked in the Palais, including sixty-one for the High Commissioner for Refugees and 468 for WHO. In addition, during periods of heavy activity, some 150 to 200 persons are employed as temporary staff.

### Conferences and meetings

9. The number of conferences and meetings held in the Palais des Nations each year greatly exceeds those held in pre-war years and has shown a steady increase since 1946. Thus, in 1949 there were 1,913 meetings and the number went up to 2,656 in 1955.<sup>1/</sup> The Economic Commission for Europe and its subsidiary bodies held 723 meetings in 1955. In 1956 it is estimated that there will be a minimum of 2,650 meetings in the Palais, of which 820 are ascribed to ECE.

### Delegates, advisers, experts and observers attending meetings

10. An average of 150 to 200 delegates, experts and observers attend for medium-sized conferences during each working day, and for larger conferences the number is considerably greater. For example, during WHO General Assemblies about 700 persons in various capacities attend each day; and during the ILO General Conference, about 1,100. During medium-sized conferences it is calculated that an average of 1,500 persons, including the Secretariat, work daily in the building and the average rises to between 2,000 and 2,500 for large conferences, a number greatly in excess of that foreseen by the designers of the building. To give a general idea of the level of activities in the last two years it can be said that a total of 7,753 delegates and experts attended meetings in the Palais in 1954,<sup>2/</sup> and 11,929 attended in 1955.<sup>3/</sup>

---

<sup>1/</sup> Including 229 meetings held by the Conference on Atomic Energy, the Four-Power Conference and the Conference of Foreign Ministers. For statistical purposes, a meeting is considered as one half-day session.

<sup>2/</sup> These figures include 295 delegates for the Geneva Conference on Certain Far Eastern Questions.

<sup>3/</sup> These figures include 3,300 participants in the Atomic Conference and 235 delegates for the Four-Power meetings and the Sino-American Talks.

11. The number of delegations has increased, owing to new memberships and to the fact that some member countries have now resumed attendance at certain meetings. There tend also to be more delegates and experts in individual delegations. The plenary session of the ECE, for example, which had eighteen members and 118 delegates in 1947, has thirty members and 212 delegates in 1956; the WHO General Assembly comprised 400 delegates, experts and observers in 1950 and 536 in 1956; in 1947, the ILO General Conference was attended by 482 delegates, whereas 804 were present in 1956 together with over 500 members of the secretariat.

#### Permanent delegations

12. There are thirty-nine permanent delegations and three observers accredited to the European Office, of which eight rent twenty offices in a separate building in the precincts of the Palais.

#### NGOs, Press and Public

13. Over forty NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC have either an office or a permanent correspondent in Geneva and their representatives frequently have business at the Palais.

One hundred and forty representatives of the press are accredited to the European Office of whom about thirty are permanently there.

The public has shown a steadily increasing interest in the building and in the activities conducted there. In 1955, some 180,000 members of the public visited the Palais of whom about 39,000 attended meetings.

#### Service of Meetings

14. As is stated in paragraph 6 above, the number of conferences held each year has steadily increased since 1946. At the same time, demands on the conference services have also steadily grown heavier. Simultaneous interpretation is now the general rule, necessitating equipment for virtually all meetings. The growing number of meetings often strains to the utmost the conference space available. The same strain is felt in the reproduction and distribution services. In 1955, Documents Control handled over 65 million impressions<sup>4/</sup> for the United Nations and on behalf of the specialized agencies. This figure does not include printed documents.

---

<sup>4/</sup> Excluding Atomic Conference and Four-Power Meetings.

### C. IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY

15. Although, admittedly, the original conception of the building was a generous one at that time, its space and equipment do not correspond to today's needs. It is of course true that since 1946 numerous changes have been made to the Palais; a new wing and additional floors have been built to make room for WHO. Within the budgetary allotments available, improvements have been made in various parts of the building, such as ninety new offices created in space not formerly used, the installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment in two conference rooms and in the Council Chamber, the creation of additional storage space and the modernization of six out of twenty-five elevators, etc....

In 1956, special appropriations approved by the General Assembly were made available to modernize part of the air-conditioning plant, to install interpreters' cabins in two conference rooms and to transfer the reproduction services from the fifth floor to more suitable premises in the basement.

All these improvements, however, have been made to face emergencies which arose from time to time. They have not been sufficient to provide the appropriate conditions for efficiency.

16. Developments during the last two years have clearly emphasized the shortcomings of the Palais in the light of present needs. It is more and more difficult to cater for large conferences. Despite the improvements mentioned in paragraph 15 above, the position has now been reached where existing facilities for conferences - rooms, equipment, offices, reproduction of documents and storage space - are becoming inadequate; the furniture and equipment are insufficient; and the ancillary services such as restaurants, cafeteria, parking spaces, etc. cannot satisfactorily meet the increased demands made upon them.

17. The ILO and WHO which amongst the specialized agencies with headquarters in Geneva are the greatest users of the facilities of the Palais, have raised the question of its shortcomings at meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The conference area, in particular the Assembly Building, the only portion of the building which interests ILO, satisfies neither its present needs nor those which can be reasonably foreseen. It has been necessary each year

to take exceptional and makeshift measures in order to make use of available space. The WHO has similar problems and has furthermore requested improvements to the restaurant and cafeteria, the telephone service and storage space.

18. It is for these reasons that the Secretary-General feels that a general programme for the modernization of the Palais, which will take into consideration all the aspects mentioned above, should be undertaken.

#### D. PLAN FOR MODERNIZATION

19. The following plan endeavours to meet all the principal problems, with the important exception of the provision of extra office accommodation and, of course, repairs and replacements which are part of the normal maintenance of the Palais. It has been made in consultation with ILO and WHO. It has been divided into projects which can be realized step by step, taking into account the present situation and the developments in the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies which can be reasonably foreseen. Its essential purpose is to provide an adequate and efficient conference centre, as simple and as economical as possible to operate. In its formulation, two main problems have constantly been borne in mind:

The problem of adapting the available space to present and foreseeable needs; and

The problem of modernizing existing equipment in the most rational and economic manner to meet these needs.

20. The various projects envisaged can be grouped in the following categories:

- (a) Improvement of conference rooms;
- (b) Modernization of equipment;
- (c) Improvement of restaurant and cafeteria services;
- (d) Provision of additional storage space;
- (e) Improvements to the grounds.

(a) Improvement of conference rooms

21. The Assembly Hall, Council Chamber and Conference Rooms were planned in accordance with the level of occupation as foreseen in the League days when about 450 delegates met for the General Assembly of the League and each committee was composed of between 40 and 60 delegates and an equal number of experts: some additional margin for further growth was provided at that time. The Council Chamber has been remodelled and now has the capacity to seat United Nations Councils and conferences of up to 49 delegates at table, but the Assembly Hall, Conference Rooms and committee rooms have not been changed.

The Assembly Hall is no longer capable of seating all delegations to large conferences on the Ground floor and while the conference rooms are still sufficient in number they are no longer big enough to hold, with a reasonable degree of comfort, the larger conferences of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

22. As is explained in more detail in the paragraphs following in this section, it is now necessary to provide the extra accommodation and simultaneous interpretation facilities indicated in the following table which shows the actual and proposed accommodation for delegates, advisers, experts and observers in all conference rooms:

<u>Rocm</u>	<u>Present</u>			<u>Interpre-</u> <u>tation</u> <u>Equipment</u>	<u>Planned</u>			<u>Interpretation</u> <u>Equipment</u>
	<u>Dele-</u> <u>gates</u>	<u>Advisers</u> <u>and ex-</u> <u>perts</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Press</u> <u>and</u> <u>Public</u>		<u>Dele-</u> <u>gates</u>	<u>Advisers</u> <u>and ex-</u> <u>perts</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Press</u> <u>and</u> <u>Public</u>	
Assembly Hall	240	274	806	permanent wire equipment	446	546	806	permanent wire equipment
Council Chamber				- do -	unchanged			- do -
Conference Room								
III	50	80	72	equipment loaned by ILO	unchanged			permanent wire equipment to be installed
V	55	70	80	permanent wire equipment	unchanged			permanent wire equipment
VII	60	80	130	- do -	85	140	80	- do -
VIII	40	40	40	equipment loaned by ILO	unchanged			permanent wire equipment to be installed
IX	40	40	40	nil	unchanged			permanent wire equipment to be installed
XI	48	45	38	nil	unchanged			permanent wire equipment to be installed
XII	80	110	179	radio equipment	84	110	179	radio equipment
XIV	50	65	48	rented equipment	55	70	48	permanent wire equipment to be installed
XV	-	-	-	-	97	97	48	permanent wire equipment to be installed
XVI	-	-	-	-	90	100	66	permanent wire equipment to be installed

Note: Figures for accommodation are based on normal seating arrangements.



### Assembly Hall

23. All the large conferences held in recent years have shown that it was not possible to seat all delegates in plenary sessions under equal conditions in the Assembly Hall. The Hall has seats for only sixty delegations of four members each and on the ground floor there is also seating for 274 advisers and experts. All the specialized agencies which now use it have more than sixty members and more than 240 delegates.

24. A project has been studied to enlarge the ground floor of the Assembly Hall through structural alterations so that all delegations in plenary sessions are seated under equal conditions.

25. The main feature of this project, which would permit the accommodation of a total of about 446 delegates and 546 advisers, experts and observers on the ground floor, is the removal of the raised seats on the ground floor, of the cabins under the press galleries on either side of the hall and of the diplomatic gallery at the back of the Hall. The space thus created beneath the press galleries and beneath the public gallery (by the removal of the diplomatic gallery) would be added to the ground floor, which would extend to the outer walls of the Hall, taking in also part of the corridors which at present abut upon the Hall on either side, and the vestibule at the end. Cabins for interpreters etc. would be at the back at the sides of the present Diplomatic Gallery. The result would be a room in which about 1,000 delegates, advisers, experts and observers could be seated on the ground floor under equal conditions and in which the aesthetic conception of the present Hall would be preserved in its main features, if not indeed improved by the larger vistas created.

### Conference Rooms

26. None of the Conference Rooms at present in use in the Palais was built to seat more than eighty delegates and 110 advisers, experts and observers in reasonable conditions.

To face the increase in the number of delegates and the size of delegations, it has been necessary progressively to reduce the standards of accommodation. It has been possible to devise seating arrangements which more or less satisfy the demand for seats at table but this by adopting standards which are below those

normally considered acceptable and to the detriment of the arrangements made for seats for advisers and experts, who are often forced to sit at some distance from their delegates. In consequence, larger committees have to be seated with great difficulty in cramped conditions: in some cases delegates at table cannot be seen by the Chairman when they are speaking and cannot see him. Today the position has been reached where even under unsatisfactory conditions of seating, the conference rooms are no longer big enough.

Having regard to the normal composition of its Annual General Conference, ILO needs: two conference rooms with more than 130 places at table; four conference rooms with at least 100 places at table; two conference rooms with between sixty and eighty places at table; and two conference rooms with between forty and sixty places at table.

The WHO has an urgent need for two large conference rooms capable of seating at least 100 delegates at table and more than 100 advisers and experts under proper conditions.

27. A survey of all the conference rooms shows that these requirements could be met at a reasonable cost and without major structural alterations, by the following improvements to some of the present rooms.

#### Enlargement of Conference Room VII

28. Conference Room VII was originally planned to seat 140 delegates, advisers and experts. It is suggested that it could be enlarged to seat eighty-five delegates at table and to provide 140 places for advisers etc. This would not involve any change in the present simultaneous interpretation equipment but will require the purchase of new furniture.

#### Conference Room XII

29. Space on the Chairman's rostrum is so limited that it cannot accommodate the chair and the secretariat. Extra space can be gained by minor structural alterations. In addition to these alterations permanent interpreters' cabins should be erected.

#### Enlargement of Conference Room XIV

30. Conference Room XIV was originally planned to seat 115 delegates, advisers and experts. When it is in use all the equipment and furniture is either borrowed

or rented. It could be enlarged to seat fifty-five delegates at table and to provide seventy places for advisers etc. Simultaneous interpretation equipment, interpreters' cabins and furniture would need to be installed.

#### Conversion of Room XV

31. Room XV is situated on the first floor of the Library Building and was designed as a lecture room but has never been equipped. It is one of the largest rooms in the Palais and is used for seminars and in case of emergency for large meetings, especially during the annual conference of ILO. On such occasions the room has to be entirely equipped with rented or borrowed furniture and equipment.

It could be converted into a conference room to seat ninety-seven delegates at table, with places for ninety-seven advisers etc. This conversion would require minor structural alterations, and the installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment and furniture.

#### Conversion of Room XVI (Press Room)

32. In order to have a second large committee room it is envisaged that the Press Room on the fifth floor of the Assembly Building, which is now practically never used by the Press, could be converted into a conference room to seat ninety delegates at table, with places for 100 advisers etc. This conversion would require minor structural alterations and the installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment and furniture. When necessary this room could still be used for the Press.

#### (b) Modernization of Equipment

33. Modernization of equipment would necessitate improvements in the following fields: simultaneous interpretation installations, reproduction equipment and elevators.

#### Simultaneous interpretation equipment

34. Simultaneous interpretation has now become an indispensable technique at meetings and the demand for it in the Palais has sharply risen. At present in the Palais only the Assembly Hall, the Council Chamber, Room V and Room VII have permanent simultaneous interpretation equipment.

In two other rooms, mobile equipment on loan from the ILO is at present being used. Because of its character as portable equipment it is not altogether

satisfactory and from time to time it has to be withdrawn from the Palais des Nations when the ILO requires it. Moreover, it is understood that it may be completely withdrawn in the course of 1957 to be used as permanent equipment in the ILO building. The ILO will still have two portable sets which it will transport to the Palais for the annual conference, but there is no guarantee they can be used on a continuing basis throughout the year since they will constitute the only mobile reserve for the ILO. In addition, the Palais has at its disposal a set of wireless equipment.

For the other rooms it is necessary to hire equipment and to make temporary installations, which are expensive, often inefficient and sometimes unavailable.

The situation is not satisfactory. It is very difficult and often impossible to provide good service, especially during heavy conference periods. Delegates and specialized agencies have complained about the quality of the services.

35. Therefore, to improve the situation, the following changes would be necessary:

(a) Conference Rooms III, VIII, IX and XI

The installation of permanent six channel wire simultaneous interpretation equipment with one speaker's channel and five interpreters' channels, together with microphones, cables, head sets, etc. The interpreters' cabins are already installed.

(b) Conference Room XII

It is intended, for the time being, to continue to use the wireless equipment even though it is less efficient than a wire installation.

(c) Conference Rooms XIV, XV and XVI

The installation of permanent six channel wire simultaneous interpretation equipment with one speaker's channel and five interpreters' channels, together with microphones, cables, head sets, etc. Permanent interpreters' cabins will have to be constructed.

Reproduction services

36. As a result of the approval by the General Assembly last year of the necessary credits, the transfer of these services to suitable quarters will take place in 1956. Experience over a number of years and in particular during the last six months, when there has been serious overloading, with a resulting backlog of work, has emphasized the need for modernization of the equipment.

It has been decided to buy a collating machine with funds already available, which should help to reduce costs for labour and improve output.

37. A study is being made of the best way of increasing reproduction capacity. Preliminary results of this indicate that the enlargement of the present offset installation by a bigger press might be the best way of doing so. Such an installation, however, would prove economical and efficient only if kept running to capacity. The requirements of the European Office alone would not be sufficient to bring this about. The specialized agencies are experiencing difficulties similar to those experienced by the United Nations, and the question of a common offset service as the most economical way of meeting the situation is being explored with them.

#### Modernization of elevators

38. Most of the elevator installations, apart from the six which have already been modernized, are giving signs of wear as a result of the intense use made of them, and for safety reasons replacement of essential parts will inevitably have to be made during the next five years. Under these circumstances, therefore, it is clearly better not to renew obsolescent equipment of a pattern already twenty-five years old but to replace it at critical points of the Palais by modern installations of a more powerful, more rapid type capable of automatic operation.

It is contemplated that the following work be done:

(a) Elevator No. 7

Staircase No. 7 and elevator No. 7 are the main means of communication for delegates and staff between the Council Building and the conference areas. It is proposed to replace the existing single slow-speed elevator with a capacity of only six persons, by two faster ones each capable of carrying twelve persons.

(b) Elevators 16A and 16B and Freight Elevator 22

These elevators serve the second to eighth floors of the Assembly Building and are the only ones which can be used for the Restaurant and the new Cafeteria which it is proposed to install next to it.

It is proposed:

(i) to replace elevator 16A, which has a present capacity of only eight persons, by a more powerful elevator, and to install a similar elevator in the shaft for 16B, which already exists;

(ii) to transform freight elevator 22 into a fifteen-passenger elevator which could also be used for freight.

(c) Elevators 13 and 15

These elevators, which would serve the new Room XVI and the new Cafeteria, need to be replaced by larger and faster elevators.

(c) Improvement of Restaurant and Cafeteria Services

39. The Restaurant of the Palais is on the 8th floor of the Assembly Building. On the same floor, there is also a small Staff Restaurant. In 1948, a Cafeteria was installed on the ground floor of the Council Building. The accommodation available for meals is no longer adequate and much time of the staff is lost in waiting to be served. Moreover, the distance of the Cafeteria from the main Restaurant and kitchens has made its efficient operation particularly difficult. All meals must be prepared in the kitchens on the 8th floor of the Assembly Building and taken to the ground floor of the Council Building by trolleys and elevators.

The kitchen equipment facilities for cooking, dish-washing, refrigeration, etc. are at a low level and do not meet reasonable standards of hygiene and sanitation.

40. It is contemplated that:

- (a) the kitchen be modernized;
- (b) the Cafeteria be installed on the 8th floor of the Assembly Building near the central kitchen;
- (c) the present Cafeteria be transformed into a Snack Bar;
- (d) minor improvements be made to the Restaurant.

These improvements would raise the number of places for meals from the present 478 to 694, including the Snack Bar and would permit a quicker turnover in the Cafeteria.

(d) Provision of additional storage space

41. Most of the storage space is provided in the basement, much of which is of necessity occupied by technical installations such as heating and ventilation plants.

Great efforts have been made to find extra storage space in the building. The present situation is, however, far from satisfactory. In addition to the League's archives, documents and publications, and the United Nations documents, space must be provided for WHO and GATT documents and archives. As a result of the lack of room, stocks of documents are widely dispersed which makes the use of the existing space more and more difficult.

It is suggested that the present storage capacity, which is 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>, be increased by 12.1/2 per cent and to this end -

(a) a cellar in the sub-basement of the Library Building, the last available space in the Palais, which is not usable in its present state, be transformed into a storage room of 500 m<sup>3</sup> capacity; and

(b) that a storage place be constructed in the grounds of "Le Bocage", with a disposable storage space of 2,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

(e) Improvements to the grounds

42. As a result of present traffic conditions the Genevese authorities intend to remodel the Place des Nations and adjacent roads. In connexion with this it will be necessary for the United Nations to change the entrance gates.

Parking facilities, which are now limited to 500 cars, are now entirely inadequate and should be extended.

It is envisaged that:

(a) the entrance gates be modified in accordance with the plans of the Genevese authorities; and

(b) that further parking space be provided for 250 cars.

PART II

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

A. GENERAL

43. The Secretary-General believes that the programme for modernization of the Palais des Nations could be spread out over a period of years, and the planning which has taken place on this question has been based on completing the programme in three main stages over eight years. For budgetary credits, the Secretary-General would each year submit detailed justifications, plans and cost estimates for the next year's work. The projects would be completed in their relative order of priority as reviewed from year to year.

44. The First Phase

The first phase of the programme at an estimated cost of about \$470,000 would cover a period of three years and would include the following improvements:

- (a) the enlargement of Conference Room VII, installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment and furniture as required in Conference Rooms III, VII, VIII and XI; alteration to rostrum and installation of interpreters' cabins in Conference Room XII; (\$160,000)
- (b) the improvement of Restaurant and Cafeteria services; (\$156,000)
- (c) the modernization of reproduction equipment; (\$70,000)
- (d) the modernization of certain elevators; (\$80,000)
- (e) the conversion of the Library sub-basement into a store room. (\$4,000)

B. PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS DURING 1957

45. As stated above, it is the intention of the Secretary to submit for each annual budget particulars of the programme proposed for that year with all necessary details of the work involved.

46. The Secretary-General proposes that the work for the first year of the first step of the plan should be initiated in 1957. The target for this first year is to create on the third floor of the Assembly Building a set of conference



rooms with up-to-date equipment; enlarged to hold more delegates and advisers etc., in cases where alterations are not structurally difficult and unreasonably costly. The programme envisaged is a project, complete in itself, urgently required and which can be accomplished with what is thought to be a reasonable allocation from the annual budget. The work involves the enlargement of Conference Room VII, minor structural alterations to Conference Room XII and the installation of permanent equipment in Conference Rooms III, VII, VIII, IX, XI and XII: the main particulars and estimated expenditures are as follows:

A.	Enlargement of Conference Room VII, installation of permanent furniture, extension of and improvements to simultaneous interpretation equipment . . . . .	\$57,000
B.	Installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment in Conference Rooms III, VIII and IX . . . . .	\$49,600
C.	Permanent equipment of Conference Room XI . . . . .	\$35,400
D.	Equipment of and alterations to Conference Room XII . . .	\$18,000
	Total estimated expenditure . . . . .	<u>\$160,000</u>

Full details of work and estimated expenditures are contained in Annexes I-IV.

A. Enlargement of Conference Room VII

47. The Secretary-General proposes that as a first step towards providing more accommodation at the Palais des Nations, Conference Room VII be enlarged to seat 85 more delegates, advisers, etc.

This Conference Room was designed to seat under normal conditions 60 delegates, 80 advisers etc. and 130 members of the press and public. It is already equipped with permanent wire simultaneous interpretation equipment and the present air-conditioning system provides a sufficient reserve to permit an increase in the number of places without discomfort for the occupants.

48. It is proposed to enlarge the room by removing the raised seats at the back used by the press and public, by taking in as far as possible the access passages to these seats and the corridor between staircase No. 11 and Building "D", and to add the space thus gained to the ground floor for the extension of the seats for

delegates, advisers etc. A new seating arrangement would also gain more seats for delegates, advisers etc. Press and public would be accommodated in a gallery which would be built at the back of the room above the area added to the ground floor. The corridor between the ground floor of the Conference Room and Building "D" would remain.

With the extra space added to the ground floor Conference Room VII would be capable of accommodating under conditions of reasonable comfort

85 delegates - as against 60 at present, and  
140 advisers etc. - as against 80 at present.

In the new gallery there would be seats for 80 members of the press and public as against the present accommodation of 130 in the raised seats at the back of the room.

49. It is estimated that the work would cost \$57,000; the main particulars of which are contained in Annex I.

B. Installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment in Conference Rooms III, VIII and IX.

50. In accordance with the original plans for the Palais only the Assembly Hall was equipped with simultaneous interpretation equipment - the first in the world - of the permanent wire type, which is still in use. Since 1946 permanent installations of equipment of this type have been made in the Council Chamber and Conference Rooms V and VII. In 1955-56 interpreters' cabins were installed in Conference Rooms VIII and IX. In Conference Rooms III and VIII portable wire equipment on semi-permanent loan from the ILO is used. This is not very satisfactory in performance and from time to time ILO has to withdraw it for its own use elsewhere. When Conference Room IX has to be equipped, portable wire equipment either loaned by the ILO or rented is used. This equipment does not perform very well at times.

Simultaneous interpretation has now become the general rule and conference rooms without the equipment can rarely be used for meetings.

51. The Secretary-General considers that the equipment of conference rooms for simultaneous interpretation with up-to-date permanent apparatus should be

considered as a first priority and accordingly, proposes that the following work be undertaken in 1957, at a total estimated cost of \$49,600:

The installation of permanent 6 channel wire simultaneous interpretation equipment with one speaker's channel and 5 interpreters channels, together with microphones, cables, head set, etc. in the following Conference Rooms:

III - estimated cost . . . . .	\$18,600
VIII - estimated cost . . . . .	\$15,500
IX - estimated cost . . . . .	\$15,500

For full details see Annex II.

C. Permanent equipment of Conference Room XI

52. Permanent interpreters' cabins were installed in Conference Room XI in 1955/56. When simultaneous interpretation equipment is required for this room it must either be borrowed from ILO or rented and frequently is unsatisfactory. It is proposed to instal simultaneous interpretation equipment and furniture. The simultaneous interpretation equipment would be similar to that proposed above for the other conference rooms but with more microphones. This permanent installation could be made at an estimated cost of \$35,400.

For full details see Annex III.

D. Equipment of, and alterations to, Conference Room XII

53. The present interpreters' cabins in Conference Room XII are of temporary character, without soundproofing and with very bad ventilation. There have been numerous complaints about them. The Secretary-General considers that their replacement by properly constructed cabins of a permanent character is urgently required and he accordingly proposes that this work be undertaken at an estimated cost of \$14,060.

It is proposed to continue to use for simultaneous interpretation the wireless equipment already installed in this room.

54. Space on the rostrum in Conference Room XII is not sufficient to contain the Chair and the Secretariat. Adequate extra space can be gained by minor structural alterations.

The Secretary-General proposes that the rostrum in this Conference Room be enlarged through minor structural alterations at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

For full details see Annex IV.

\* \* \*

55. The following table shows what the position will be as regards the installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment in the Palais when the above programme has been completed:

<u>Room</u>	<u>Present equipment</u>	<u>Equipment when 1957 programme completed</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Assembly Hall	Permanent wire equipment	Permanent wire equipment	
Council Chamber	Permanent wire equipment	Permanent wire equipment	
Conference Room III	Portable wire equipment on loan from ILO	Permanent wire equipment	
Conference Room V	Permanent wire equipment	Permanent wire equipment	
	VII Permanent wire equipment	Permanent wire equipment	
	VIII Portable wire equipment on loan from ILO	Permanent wire equipment	
	IX Nil	Permanent wire equipment	
	XI Nil	Permanent wire equipment	
	XII Wireless equipment	Wireless equipment	
	XIV Nil	Nil	It is proposed that permanent equipment be installed as part of the second step of the over-all plan.
	XV Nil	Nil	
	XVI Nil	Nil	

ANNEX I

Enlargement of Conference Room VII

Details of work and estimated expenditures

1.	Major works; demolitions, construction of a new gallery including fixtures . . . . .	\$18,900
2.	Floor covering, fixtures and furniture . . . . .	\$22,400
3.	Alterations to ventilation ducts and improved ventilation of interpreters' cabins . . . . .	\$ 550
4.	Alterations to electrical installations . . . . .	\$ 850
5.	Extensions of, and improvements to, simultaneous interpretation equipment . . . . .	\$14,300

One new operator's control console  
Light signals between microphones and operator  
Programme switches  
Extra microphones, headsets, volume controls at each headset selector position, wiring and installation.

(It should be noted that the equipment in use was previously used at Headquarters and is partly IBM apparatus and partly apparatus developed at Headquarters)

---

\$57,000

\* \* \*

ANNEX II

Installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment  
 in Conference Rooms III, VIII and IX

\* \* \*

Conference Room III

Six channel wire system comprising one channel for speaker and five for interpreters.

Specifications and estimates for:

A.	<u>Equipment for controller and 5 interpreters' cabins:</u>	
	1 amplifier rack, 6 pre-amplifiers and 6 automatic volume controls . . . . .	\$ 3,375
	1 amplifier rack with 6 line amplifiers . . . . .	\$ 1,975
	1 console for direction and control of microphones with: signal lights, level meters, programme switches, volume controls . . . . .	\$ 1,565
	5 interpreters consoles with 2 positions and connecting cables . . . . .	\$ 1,460
	Telephone connexion between controller and interpreters.	\$ 225
	<u>Total for Conference Room III . . . . .</u>	<u>\$ 8,600</u>
B.	<u>Conference room equipment</u>	
	Microphones, microphone cables with intermediate distributor, headphone network with selectors, headsets, volume controls, selectors, all equipment and installation included . . . . .	\$10,000
		<u>\$18,600</u>

Conference Rooms VIII and IX

Six channel wire system comprising one channel for speaker and five for interpreters in each room.

\* \* \*

Specifications and estimates for:

A. Equipment for controller and 5 interpreters' cabins:

1 amplifier rack, 6 pre-amplifiers and 6 automatic volume controls . . . . .	\$ 3,375
1 amplifier rack with 6 line amplifiers . . . . .	\$ 1,975
1 console for direction and control of microphones with: signal lights, level meters, programme switches, volume controls . . . . .	\$ 1,565
5 interpreters consoles with 2 positions and connecting cables . . . . .	\$ 1,460
Telephone connexion between controller and interpreters. .	\$ 225
	<hr/>
	\$ 8,600

B. Conference Room equipment

Microphones, microphone cables with intermediate distributors, headphone network with selectors, headsets, volume controls - all equipment and installation included . . . . .	\$ 6,900
	<hr/>
	\$15,500
Total for Conference Rooms VIII and IX . . . . .	<u>\$31,000</u>

\* \* \*

ANNEX III

Permanent equipment of Conference Room XI

1. Installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment

Six channel wire system with one channel for speaker and five for interpreters.

\* \* \*

Specifications and estimates for:

A. Equipment for controller and 5 interpreters' cabins:

1 amplifier rack, 6 pre-amplifiers and 6 automatic volume controls . . . . .	\$ 3,375
1 amplifier rack with 6 line amplifiers . . . . .	\$ 1,975
1 console for direction and control of microphones with: signal lights, level meters, programme switches, volume controls . . . . .	\$ 2,500
5 interpreters consoles with 2 positions and connecting cables . . . . .	\$ 1,460
Telephone connexion between controller and interpreters. . .	\$ 225
	<hr/>
	\$ 9,535

B. Equipment in the Conference Room

Microphones, microphone cables with intermediate distributor, headphone network with selectors, headsets, volume controls - all equipment and installation included . . . . .	\$10,480
	<hr/>
Total	\$20,015

2. <u>Furniture</u> including rostrum, tables and chairs, movable and adjusted to gain the greatest seating capacity and mobility . . .	\$15,385
	<hr/>
	\$35,400
	<hr/>



ANNEX IV

Equipment of, and alterations to, Conference Room XII

1. Installation of interpreters' cabins

The work proposed consists of:

The fitting up of six cabins, five for interpreters, and one for recording radio commenting: the controller's console will be in the conference room:

(a) Demolition and dismantling of marble, floor covering, woodwork . . . . .	\$ 465
(b) Protection during demolition of fixtures not disturbed . .	\$ 350
(c) Construction: masonry for the new entrance, relaying of the marble, changes to ceiling beneath the gallery . .	\$ 1,000
(d) Carpentry, woodwork and painting . . . . .	\$ 465
(e) Adaptation of ventilation ducts . . . . .	\$ 465
(f) Alterations to electrical installations . . . . .	\$ 815
(g) Construction of 6 cabins under the gallery . . . . .	\$10,500
Total	<u>\$14,060</u>

\* \* \*

2. Alteration to podium

Demolition, construction, carpentry, painting, floor covering, electrical installations, adjustment of adjacent galleries . . . . .	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
---	-----------------

Total for Conference Room XII . \$18,060

\* \* \*

- SALLES
- DES ASSEMBLÉES ..... 3<sup>e</sup> étage
  - DES CONSEILS ..... 1<sup>er</sup> étage
  - N<sup>os</sup> I - III - V - XIV - XV ..... 1<sup>er</sup> étage
  - N<sup>os</sup> VII - VIII - IX - X - XI - XII ..... 3<sup>e</sup> étage

- P Parcs à autos  
Ascenseurs

- ▶ Portes principales avec leurs numéros

- (A) Conciergerie - renseignements : Rez-de-chaussée
- (B) Service médical - infirmerie : Soubassement
- (C) Agence COOK - salle B-1 : 1<sup>er</sup> étage
- (D) Finances, Personnel - bureau 231 : 2<sup>e</sup> étage
- (E) Banque : Rez-de-chaussée
- (F) Poste : Rez-de-chaussée
- (G) Télégraphe : Rez-de-chaussée
- (H) Entrée du cinéma : Rez-de-chaussée
- (J) Kiosque à journaux : Rez-de-chaussée
- (K) Bar et cafétéria : Rez-de-chaussée
- (L) Restaurants : 3<sup>e</sup> étage
- (M) Bibliothèque : 1<sup>er</sup> étage
- (N) Garage à bicyclettes et motocyclettes

