



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8564
22 March 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
Item 21 of the preliminary list*

INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL MEANS OF VOTING

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its twenty-second session, authorized the Secretary-General to develop plans for the installation of mechanical voting equipment in one or two main committee rooms. 1/ In a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, 2/ the Secretary-General explained the steps he had taken to solicit internationally bids for the rental or purchase of mechanical voting equipment and the reasons why, owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the bids received, further study of the matter was required.
2. In a further report, submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, 3/ the Secretary-General proposed, in the light of both technical and financial factors, that the United Nations should design, construct and install its own mechanical voting system which would be specifically suited to the particular needs of the Organization. He considered that the project would take two years to complete at an estimated cost of \$80,000.
3. By resolution 2519 (XXIV), the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General on the understanding that, before any expenditures were incurred, a demonstration model would be completed and the technical accuracy of the design established.

* A/8700.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 25, document A/6870.

2/ Ibid., Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 22, document A/7330.

3/ Ibid., Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 26, document A/7737.

4. In a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session (A/8374), the Secretary-General advised that tests of such a model had been made in January 1970 with satisfactory results and that a voting machine had then been constructed and installed in Conference Room 3. He stated that, while he was satisfied that the machine met the requirements of mechanical voting as provided in the rules of procedure, he wished it to be considered as experimental. It was his intention to review the use of the machine after the twenty-sixth session in order to ascertain whether, on the basis of experience, changes would appear to be desirable. A summary account of the actual cost of the project up to 31 August 1971, amounting to about \$76,000, was also provided, accompanied by the recommendation that any unexpended balance of the \$80,000 appropriation should remain available into 1972 to permit any modifications needed in the equipment.

5. The General Assembly subsequently decided to defer consideration of this item until the twenty-seventh session.

6. As a result of the experience gained in the operational use of the voting machine during the twenty-sixth session, certain modifications of the equipment were made at an additional cost of some \$4,000. The Secretary-General is gratified that it was possible to develop a mechanical voting system at considerably less cost than commercial alternatives and he is satisfied that the design of the equipment is well-suited to the particular needs of the United Nations.
