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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Letter dated 4 April 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a "Memorandum on the inclusion of Vienna in a pattern of conferences and on the accommodation of additional units of the United Nations Secretariat in Vienna".

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and the attached memorandum circulated as a document of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly under item 76 of the preliminary list (Pattern of conferences).

(Signed) Peter JANKOWITSCH  
Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the United Nations

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\* A/9600.

ANNEX

Memorandum dated 18 March 1974 on the inclusion of Vienna in a  
pattern of conferences and on the accommodation of additional  
units of the United Nations Secretariat in Vienna

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its inaugural general policy statement before Parliament on 5 November 1971, the Austrian Federal Government confirmed its policy of encouraging the holding of international conferences in Austria and of attracting international institutions to settle in Vienna.

2. In the implementation of this policy, the Austrian Federal Government recently decided to take a series of initiatives, which are designed:

(a) To enable the United Nations to hold more conferences and meetings of its organs and of principal organs of the specialized agencies in Vienna by offering new conference facilities;

(b) To invite the United Nations to consider favourably the possibility of accommodating additional units of the United Nations Secretariat in Vienna by offering new facilities on favourable non-commercial terms. These initiatives are set forth in greater detail and discussed in a more general context in the sections below.

## II. AVAILABLE CONFERENCE FACILITIES

3. With the present range of conference facilities in Vienna, large diplomatic conferences as well as smaller and medium-sized international conferences, meetings, symposia etc. can be held at the same time. During the period between 1968 and 1973, the following large-scale intergovernmental conferences were held in Vienna:

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Conferences	Approximate number of participants
United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties, first session (1968)	500
United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1968)	500
United Nations Conference on Road Traffic (1968)	400
United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties, second session (1969)	400
United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Protocol on Psychotropic Substances (1971),	400
Eighteenth General Assembly of ICAO (1971)	600
Vienna Diplomatic Conference on Industrial Property (1973)	400

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4. The General Assembly decided at its twenty-eighth session that the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations should be held at Vienna early in 1975 (resolution 3072 (XXVIII)). In its resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (resolution 3067 (XXVIII)) the General Assembly referred to the fact that the Government of Austria has offered Vienna as the site for the Conference in 1975. The conference facilities presently available in Vienna fully meet the requirements for the accommodation of a conference with the participation of up to 150 delegations.

5. Some of Vienna's conference facilities are described below:

(a) The Hofburg Conference Centre (Festive Hall for 480 delegates and 200 observers, New Hall for 270 delegates and 80 observers, Hall of Ceremonies for 200 delegates and 50 observers, as well as approximately 50 offices and additional office space for documentation and telecommunication purposes), which will be extended in the near future by the inclusion of two large conference halls and several offices, at present being made available by the Government of Austria for the Conference on the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe;

(b) The Kongresshaus Wien (conference hall for 500 delegates and 200 observers, an additional hall for approximately 100 delegates, as well as further smaller meeting rooms and 15 offices).

6. When there are no sessions, the Board of Governors' Room, which can accommodate 150 delegates, at the Provisional Headquarters Building of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the property of the Austrian Government) has always been put at the disposal of the Austrian Government for international conferences. Furthermore, in the Provisional Headquarters Building of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, a conference room with equipment for simultaneous interpretation for 35 delegates is available. As this conference room is only temporarily required for UNIDO meetings, it could also be used for other smaller meetings of United Nations bodies.

7. As a rule, an advance booking of six months is sufficient for large congresses (more than 300 participants), provided that the dates envisaged are somewhat flexible. Conferences with fewer participants or of less than two weeks' duration can be booked on shorter notice. This situation will be further improved after the completion of new conference facilities presently under construction or in the planning stage.

8. In this context, it should be mentioned that a large Austrian Conference Centre will be built in the immediate vicinity of the Permanent Headquarters Buildings of the International Organizations at Donaupark. This Centre, which will meet the most modern standards of conference techniques, is designed to make it suitable primarily for intergovernmental conferences and to accommodate meetings up to the size of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

### III. INCLUSION OF VIENNA IN A PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

9. In addition to the large-scale diplomatic conferences mentioned above, the following conferences and meetings of United Nations organs and of principal organs of the specialized agencies were held in Vienna during the last few years:

- 1968 - Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
  - Governing Council of UNDP
  - General Conference of IAEA
  
- 1969 - Working Group on Housing and Urbanization (ACC)
  - Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
  - Symposium on Radiation Damage in Reactor Material (IAEA)
  - Expert Group Meeting on the Agricultural Machinery Industry in Developing Countries (UNIDO)
  - Meeting on the Promotion of Specific Industrial Projects (UNIDO)
  - General Conference of IAEA
  - Development Meeting on the Manufacture of Telecommunications Equipment, including Low-cost Receivers for Sound Broadcasting and Television (UNIDO)
  - Expert Group Meeting on the Utilization of Non-ferrous Scrap Metal in Developing Countries (UNIDO)
  
- 1970 - Symposium on the Handling of Nuclear Information (IAEA)
  - Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
  - Symposium on Plant Protection Resources: Their Improvement through the Application of Nuclear Techniques (IAEA)
  - Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (established under Human Rights Commission resolution 2 (XXIII))
  - General Conference of IAEA
  - National Committee for United Nations Technical Assistance Recruitment (UNIDO)
  - Founding Meeting of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (UNIDO)
  - Expert Working Group Meeting on the Production of Panels from Agricultural Wastes
  
- 1971 - Colloquium for Senior Officials in the United Nations System (UNITAR)
  - Seminar on the Development of the Leather and Leather Products Industries in Developing Countries (UNIDO)
  - United Nations/ECE Meeting of Group of Experts on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
  - Interregional Seminar on Technical and Financial Co-operation (UNITAR)
  - General Conference of IAEA
  - Second Interregional Seminar on Problems of Government Auditing (United Nations/International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions)

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- 1972 - Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
- Ad Hoc Committee for the Follow-up of the Report of the Group of High-level Experts on a Long-range Strategy for UNIDO
  - General Conference of IAEA
  - Seminar on Human Rights and Scientific and Technological Development (United Nations)
  - Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
  - Seminars and meetings of experts (UNIDO)
- 1973 - Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
- Ad Hoc Committee for the Follow-up of the Report of the Group of High-level Experts on a Long-range Strategy for UNIDO
  - Working Group on Leather Industry Development in Developing Countries (UNIDO)
  - General Conference of IAEA
  - Technical Meeting on the Selection of Wood-working Machinery (UNIDO)
  - Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
  - Ad Hoc Committee on Co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

10. As could be seen above, many conferences and meetings of United Nations organs and of principal organs of the specialized agencies were held in Vienna during the last five years. In view of the conference facilities mentioned in section II above it can be stated that, on the basis of given possibilities, the preconditions exist for the inclusion of Vienna in a pattern of conferences.

#### IV. SITUATION AFTER COMPLETION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BUILDING (DONAUPARK) IN 1978

11. Within the framework of the Donaupark project, an International Conference Building (not to be confused with the Austrian Conference Centre mentioned in section II above), is under construction and is expected to be ready for use in 1978, the year of completion of the Permanent Headquarters Buildings for IAEA and UNIDO. The following conference rooms will be available in the International Conference Building:

- (a) Two conference halls with a capacity of 329 seats at tables (359 seats in rows);
- (b) One conference hall with 174 seats at tables (339 seats in rows);
- (c) Eight conference halls each with 98 seats at tables (155 seats in rows) out of which four can be transformed by removing mobile partitions into two larger halls with each 196 seats at tables.

12. The International Conference Building will have all the auxiliary space necessary for modern conferences, as the suggestions of United Nations experts were

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fully taken into account at the planning stage. In addition, there will be several press offices, with a total space of 210 square metres. A total area of 1305 square metres of office space has been reserved specifically for conference staff.

13. On the basis of suggestions by experts, efforts have been made to provide additional office space which could be put at the disposal of participants. It is now being planned to make available an additional 700 square metres of office space. The total office space (2,000 square metres) would provide up to 150 offices for use by conference staff and delegates.

14. The United Nations calendar of conferences for 1973 (A/8790/Add.1, annex I) shows that only approximately 15 of the 152 meetings listed were attended by more than 300 delegates. Consequently, more than 90 per cent of meetings of such size could be accommodated in the International Conference Building after 1978.

15. With regard to the inclusion of Vienna in a pattern of conferences, the Austrian Federal Government has made the following offer to the United Nations:

"The Austrian Government is prepared to put the International Conference Building presently under construction in the Donaupark at the disposal of the United Nations for conferences and meetings of its organs and specialized agencies on the understanding that, in establishing the conference calendar, priority will be given to the requirements of IAEA."

#### V. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

16. In pursuing its policy hitherto, the Government of Austria will continue until the completion of the International Conference Building at the Donaupark scheduled for 1978, to defray in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) the actual additional costs of conferences held in Vienna over and above the costs involved were the conferences held in Geneva as far as these costs are not covered by the United Nations regular budget and except in cases where the respective substantive unit of the United Nations Secretariat is transferred to Vienna. As to financial arrangements from 1978 on these will have to be considered at a later stage in the light of the definitive status of the International Conference Building and other eventual changes in the presence of the United Nations in Vienna.

#### VI. ACCOMMODATION OF ADDITIONAL UNITS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IN VIENNA

17. With respect to the accommodation of additional units of the United Nations Secretariat in Vienna, the Austrian authorities have recently decided to offer accommodation for additional units of the Secretariat comprising a total number of several hundred persons. While the specific conditions for the accommodation of such units of the Secretariat will have to be agreed upon between the United Nations and the Austrian Federal Government, Austria is prepared to offer to the United Nations favourable conditions on a non-commercial basis.

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18. If required, Austria is also prepared to provide temporary accommodation for smaller units of the United Nations Secretariat before the completion of the Permanent Headquarters Buildings in 1978.

#### VII. AVAILABILITY OF HOTELS AND SCHOOLS

19. The number of beds in hotels in categories A 1, A and B at present available in Vienna is approximately 11,000. During the high season, this number is increased by another 4,000 beds by using modern student hostels as hotels. In 1974, a modern hotel with 520 beds and, in 1975, the Vienna Hilton (1,400 beds) will be completed. Together with other hotels under construction, more than 20,000 beds in hotels in superior categories will be available in 1975. Conference participants may also be accommodated in hotels situated in the immediate vicinity of Vienna. It may be recalled that similar arrangements exist at other international conference sites. Baden, a spa near Vienna, where approximately 1,500 beds are available, may be mentioned as an example.

20. For the convenience of participants of conferences in Vienna the City of Vienna has established a special office with computerized booking facilities for hotel accommodation. If necessary, additional help is being provided by the Foreign Ministry, Office for International Conferences and Organizations.

21. Taking into account the constantly increasing number of foreign diplomats and international officials living in Vienna, the Austrian Federal Government has decided to make a substantial contribution to the expansion of the foreign-language schools (the American International School, the English Language School and the Lycée français) under the explicit condition that they will accept an additional number of children of international civil servants assigned to Vienna.

#### VIII. LANGUAGE SERVICES

22. The increasing lack of qualified language services, particularly in certain language combinations, constitutes a general problem which may have to be met by a joint United Nations effort.

23. Experience gained at conferences in the past has shown that the language personnel needed in Vienna could be recruited on relatively short notice either locally or from the European interpreters' pool.

24. As the Austrian authorities are however aware of the increasing shortage, they are making efforts to find new possibilities for recruiting additional qualified language personnel for conferences in Vienna.



## IX. CONCLUSION

25. In the light of the outline presented above, it is evident that the necessary pre-conditions exist for the inclusion of Vienna in a pattern of conferences and that Austria is ready to accommodate additional units of the United Nations Secretariat.

26. To this effect, the Government of Austria, with regard to the inclusion of Vienna in a pattern of conferences has offered to put new conference facilities at the disposal of the United Nations (see paragraph 15 above).

27. As pointed out in section VI, accommodation can be made available in Vienna for additional units of the Secretariat comprising a total number of several hundred staff members.

28. While the specific conditions for the accommodation of such units of the Secretariat will have to be agreed upon between the United Nations and the Austrian Federal Government, Austria is prepared to offer to the United Nations favourable conditions on a non-commercial basis.

29. If required, Austria is prepared to provide temporary accommodation for smaller units of the Secretariat before the completion of the Permanent Headquarters Buildings in 1978.

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