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INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL MEANS OF VOTING

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 1957 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to arrange for the installation of mechanical voting equipment in the General Assembly Hall on an experimental basis for one year and to carry out additional work of a preparatory nature in one or two committee rooms so as to permit the eventual expansion of the system, without undue expense, if the experiment proved successful. In accordance with this authorization, a mechanical system was installed on a rental basis in the General Assembly Hall and certain preliminary work was accomplished in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 for a possible extension of the system. The rental fee was \$10,000 annually and the installation and preparatory work was completed at a cost of \$54,000. At its nineteenth session, the General Assembly had no opportunity of testing the experimental system. At the twentieth session, however, the system was tried out and the Secretary-General on 16 December 1965 submitted a report on the results of the experiment.^{1/}

2. At its 1407th plenary meeting, on 21 December 1965, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that the experimental use of the mechanical voting system in the Assembly Hall should be continued for another year. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its twenty-first session on the experience gained during the further experimental

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes,
agenda item 25, document A/6177.

period and on the possible extension of the system to other committee rooms. During the twenty-first session the mechanical equipment was used extensively, not only for plenary meetings but also, on a rotating basis, for meetings of the Main Committees. The use of the equipment during the session confirmed the ease of operation, speed and accuracy of mechanical voting. The provisions of the rules of procedure relating to the methods of voting were strictly observed and the voting machine was used only as a supplementary device designed to assist the delegations and the Secretariat.

3. At its 1486th plenary meeting, on 7 December 1966, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General for the use of the mechanical voting system in the Assembly Hall on a permanent basis and to postpone to the twenty-second session a decision on the possible extension of the system to the committee rooms.

4. The Secretary-General believes that the experience gained with the mechanical voting equipment in the General Assembly Hall has demonstrated the desirability of extending the system to one or two main committee rooms. Should the General Assembly share this view, the Secretary-General would propose to undertake in 1968 the preparation of engineering plans and the development, through international bidding, of firm cost estimates. At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would present detailed recommendations for the proposed installation and request the necessary budgetary authorization. This schedule would anticipate the completion of the project in 1969 before the opening of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

5. Accordingly the Secretary-General requests authorization to proceed with the development of plans for the installation of mechanical voting equipment in one or two main committee rooms.
