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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

First Session
Beirut, 3 - 8 June 1974
Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

SITE OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Executive Secretary

The following communications were exchanged between the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations in connexion with the subject matter of this item of the agenda.

1. Note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon to the Economic Commission for Western Asia, reference No. 1006/8 dated 19 March 1974:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and has the honour to inform him that the Council of Ministers has taken a decision on 27 February 1974 approving the appropriation of a parcel of land of an area of fifty thousand square metres for the construction of a Centre for International Conferences and the office building of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The Council of Ministers has further decided, in principle, to loan the United Nations, without interest, half the construction costs of the said

building which will be used by the Economic Commission provided that the amount will be refunded to the treasury in annual instalments.

The Ministry seizes this opportunity to express to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia its deep appreciation and respect."

2. Note verbale from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reference No. 84/201/10b, dated 19 March 1974:

"The Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, referring to the Secretary-General's note No. 201/10B/28 of 26 January 1974, has the honour to inform the Secretary General that the Council of Ministers of Lebanon has decided to appropriate new parcels of land of an area of fifty thousand square metres for the construction of a Centre for International Conferences and of the office building for the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

The Council of Ministers has further decided, in principle, to loan the United Nations half of the construction costs of the new building for the above-mentioned Economic Commission.

The Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations submits this preliminary information to the attention of the Secretary-General and avails himself of this opportunity to express to the Secretary-General his highest esteem."

3. Note verbale from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, reference No. AD/122/BEIRUT, dated 26 April 1974:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations and with reference to the Secretary-General's note of 26 February 1974, has the honour to inform the Permanent Representative that the United Nations has now completed a preliminary study of the future space requirements of

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the offices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies now situated in Beirut and of the projected requirements of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The space requirements of the Economic Commission for Western Asia are based on certain assumptions regarding its growth and it will be necessary to re-examine them following the consideration of its proposed work programme at the first session of the Commission in June.

Should it be decided by the appropriate legislative bodies of the United Nations that the permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia be located in Beirut, the United Nations estimates that a building with a gross area of twenty-six to twenty-seven thousand square metres would be required. The cost of such a building has been estimated at approximately twelve million dollars on a preliminary basis.

In his letter of 27 November 1972 to the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut regarding this project, the Minister of Foreign Affairs requested that the United Nations provide the Government of Lebanon with a detailed list of requirements of the various United Nations offices in terms of space and conference accommodations as well as estimates of future expansion. The study referred to above contains preliminary information on this subject. The Secretary-General has the honour to enclose two copies of this report and to ask that they be transmitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in fulfilment of its request."

4. A second note verbale from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, reference No. AD/122/BEIRUT, dated 26 April 1974:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his note 84/201/10b.

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of 19 March 1974 regarding the decisions of the Council of Ministers to appropriate land to permit the construction of an office building for the Economic Commission for Western Asia and to loan the United Nations half the cost of its construction.

The Secretary-General requests that the Permanent Representative convey to the Council of Ministers the appreciation of the Secretary-General for this generous offer.

The Secretary-General has been informed that the Economic Commission for Western Asia has received a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 19 March 1974 on this subject, and that a meeting was held on 19 April 1974 at the Presidential Palace attended by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was indicated that certain additions and clarifications to the Government's offer might be forthcoming with regard to the Government's financial support of the temporary and permanent headquarters of the Commission and its staff. The Secretary-General has the honour to inform the Permanent Representative that the question of the permanent site of the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia has been included in the provisional agenda of the Commission's first session which opens on 3 June 1974. The Secretary-General would appreciate it if the Government of Lebanon could inform him prior to 3 June of the full details of the Government's offer in order that it may be included in the Commission's consideration of that item of the agenda."

5. Note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon to the Economic Commission of Western Asia, reference No. 855/8, dated 4 May 1974:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and with reference to the Commission's memorandum of 28 February 1974 regarding the Headquarter's Draft Agreement between the United Nations and the Lebanese Government, the Ministry

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of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Executive Secretary that the Lebanese Government agrees, in principle, to the Draft Agreement proposed by him, with the addition of the following paragraph to Chapter 38:

- c- "Without prejudice to the independent and proper working of E.C.W.A., the Government may, after consultation with the Executive Secretary, take all precautionary measures with regard to national security".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs seizes this opportunity to express to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia its deep appreciation and respect."

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