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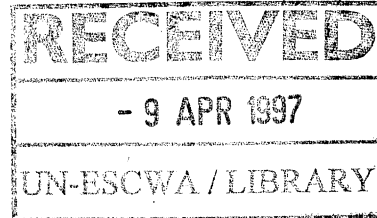
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Third Session

Doha, Qatar, 10 - 15 May 1976



SITE OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the secretariat

(Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda)

1. On 8 April 1976 the Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its willingness to host the site of the permanent headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia<sup>1/</sup>. The offer was communicated to the Secretariat of the United Nations, New York, which, on the basis of an unofficial English translation made the following initial observations, most of which were intended for the purpose of seeking more clarification rather than offering technical comments.
2. Although the plot of land earmarked by the Syrian Arab Republic seems valuable it would appear to be restricted in size - 20,000 square metres. An indication should be given as to whether parking space would be provided in addition to the 20,000 square metres' site. As indicated in paragraph 19 of E/ECWA/11/Rev.1, surface parking for a minimum of 250, but preferably for 500 cars, would be required, including access roads and landscaping. This would require an additional 20,000 square metres.
3. It would be useful to give an indication of the percentage of the construction cost that would constitute the proposed loan of 15 million Syrian pounds and whether the loan would cover half or less of the construction cost. Information was also requested as to the cost at 1976 prices in Damascus of

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<sup>1/</sup> E/ECWA/L.24

an office building and a conference building as mentioned in E/ECWA/11/Rev.1. The anticipated cost should include estimates of site development, as well as construction and administrative costs.

4. The United Nations Secretariat would also wish to know whether additional housing would be constructed. Furthermore, information would be appreciated of the readiness of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to bear the cost of site development and utilities, as well as architectural and engineering services.

5. The United Nations Secretariat would avail itself of further comments, if any, once the full text of the Syrian Arab Republic had been officially translated into English.

In response to the above observations, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has communicated to the secretariat of ECWA the following note verbale dated 4 May 1976:

" The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Syrian Arab Republic presents its best compliments to the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and, with reference to its note verbale No. 130/3-ECWA dated 22 April 1976, the Ministry requests the Office to inform the Executive Secretary of ECWA, urgently, by cable, of the contents of this letter in reply to his cable referred to in the above-mentioned note verbale:

' In reply to the questions included in the note verbale of the Office of the Resident Representative, Damascus, we wish to inform you of the following:

- 1- In accordance with a good construction study, a land of an area of twenty thousand square metres can meet the necessary requirements.
- 2- A good study of the construction blocks pertaining to the project allow parking spaces in the front and in the back of the buildings for a minimum of 300 cars. If there is

need for more space to park cars, it is possible to study the construction of a garage in the first or second basement. This garage can absorb the additional number of cars. A study can also be made for establishing maintenance workshops and stations for washing and lubricating as well as relevant storehouses, etc.

- 3- The Syrian loan of LS15 million is about 50 per cent of the total cost amounting to about LS30 million; it is worth noting that the prices of 1977 may rise above those of the current year.
- 4- The cost of site development, construction, administration, engineering and design operations and preparation of necessary studies for the area and its utilities are covered by the Syrian loan of LS15 million, taking into consideration that the estimated costs were based on  $25,000 \text{ m}^2 \times \text{LS}1,200 = \text{LS}30,000,000$ .
- 5- The construction of additional houses for employees can be carried out by the private sector.
- 6- Our delegation will inform the session meeting in Qatar of explanatory information.'

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to express to the Office the assurances of its highest consideration."