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UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS LABORATORY

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Economic and Social Council at its fifteenth session had before it a note by the Secretary-General^{1/} on the question of the establishment at the Headquarters of the United Nations of a Narcotics Laboratory, to replace on a permanent basis the laboratory facilities presently made available to the Secretariat chemists by the United States authorities.

2. The Council after considering the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General adopted resolution 477 (XV) which states, inter alia:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the cost of preparing and equipping a United Nations narcotics laboratory;"

.....

"5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To appoint an international committee of three chemical experts with a view to evaluating the progress made in developing methods to determine the origins of raw opium by chemical or physical means, and to arrive at conclusions as to whether the methods have been advanced to a point where they can be given practical application in the international field;

(b) To submit the above-mentioned report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its consideration;

^{1/} E/2372.

(c) To submit to the Commission a note on the cost of installing and equipping a United Nations laboratory at Geneva."

3. In accordance with paragraph 5 (c) of this resolution the Secretary-General, therefore, has the honour to submit the following estimate of the cost of installing and equipping a narcotics laboratory in Geneva, which has been prepared by the relevant services of the European Office of the United Nations.

4. In connexion with this estimate the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission a copy of the aide-mémoire of 14 September 1953 from the Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations:

"Economic and Social Council resolution 477 (XV) concerning the establishment of a United Nations laboratory for scientific research on narcotics refers, inter alia, to the probable cost of installing and equipping such a laboratory at Geneva.

"The Swiss federal and cantonal authorities would welcome the establishment of such an international narcotics laboratory at Geneva.

"Should the project take more definite shape, they would put forward specific proposals."

5. The Commission will recall that two estimates were submitted by the Secretary-General in document E/2372:

(1) Estimate "A" which provided simultaneous laboratory facilities for five chemists and allowed for the possibility of considerable expansion of the present programme, required a total expenditure of \$89,820;

(2) Estimate "B" which provided for a smaller laboratory suitable for the immediate needs of the programme and a possibility of limited expansion, with space for three or four chemists required a total expenditure of \$85,020.

6. The present estimate for a narcotics laboratory at Geneva is comparable with estimate B:

<u>Type of cost</u>	<u>Swiss Frs.</u>	<u>U.S. \$</u>
Basic Construction	26,476	6,186
Fixed Equipment	18,502	4,323
	<u>44,978^{1/}</u>	<u>10,509^{2/}</u>

7. The above figures are exclusive of the cost of laboratory apparatus, which was estimated at \$6,350 in estimate B.

8. The total estimate of type B for Geneva is accordingly approximately \$16,900.

^{1/} For further details, see the Annex.

^{2/} Converted at 1 U.S. Dollar = 4.28 Swiss Frs.

ANNEX

Plans for the installation of a laboratory on the
sixth floor of Building D, Palais des Nations

BUILDING AND FITTINGS

	<u>Swiss francs</u>	
1. Masonry	926	
2. Plastering	653	
3. Flooring	5,122	
4. Porcelain fittings	3,113	
5. Wallpaper	219	
6. Wooden fixtures	1,504	
7. Locks	1,350	
8. Painting	2,094	
9. Heating	310	
10. Ventilation	3,000	
11. Sanitary installations	5,140	
12. Lighting	4,570	
13. Power, points	}	
14. Telephone	300	
15. Extinguishers (5 CO ₂ 3 Kg.)	1,175	
16. Incidental items	<u>2,948</u>	32,424 Swiss Francs

PERMANENT FIXTURES

1. Cupboards	2,800	
2. Shelves	2,225	
3. Work bench	5,000	
4. Fixed tables	1,250	
5. Carpentry expenses	138	
6. Incidental items	<u>1,141</u>	12,554 Swiss Francs

Total 44,978 Swiss
Francs
