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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Sessions of the International Law Commission

(Note by the Secretary of Sub-Committee 9)

1. Point 5 of document A/C.5/SC.9/L.2 reads:

"Whether, in the event that the broad outline of the present Geneva pattern is maintained,

(a)

(b) Any overlap should be authorized between the session of the International Law Commission and that of the Council;"

2. The following is submitted as additional information for the assistance of the Sub-Committee:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on the programme of conferences (A/C.5/722, paragraph 20) contains a quotation from the 1957 report of the International Law Commission (A/3623, paragraph 34) in which a reference is made to "the remarks contained in paragraph 175 of [the Commission's] report for 1953". The following is the text of the latter paragraph:

"On the other hand, a ten weeks' session to be held in its entirety before the summer session of the Economic and Social Council would also be open to objection. It would have to begin towards the end of April 1954, and those members of the Commission who are university professors would not be able to attend meetings before 1 June at the earliest. The Commission would therefore be deprived of their co-operation for more than a month. Under these circumstances, the opening date of 17 May was accepted in order to reduce to the minimum both the overlapping with the Council session and the period during which the Commission would have to be without the presence of some of its members."

(b) Article 12 of the Statute of the International Law Commission, as amended by General Assembly resolution 984 (X) of 3 December 1955, provides as follows:

"The Commission shall sit at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva. The Commission shall, however, have the right to hold meetings at other places after consultation with the Secretary-General.
