

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/1121

7 February 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eighth session

Item 51 of the Provisional Agenda

LOCATION OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Memorandum submitted by the Chinese and United Kingdom Delegations

Since the Economic and Social Council decided at its Seventh Session to hold its Ninth Session in Geneva and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in consequence recommended the appropriation of the necessary funds for this purpose, the position in regard to the programme of meetings of the United Nations in 1949 has been materially altered by the decision of the General Assembly to hold the second part of its Third Session at Lake Success, opening on 5 April.

2. This decision of the General Assembly will in effect mean that one or other of the major organs of the United Nations is, in addition to the Security Council, in session, with only short intervals between them, throughout the year 1949. This will in itself impose a considerable strain on national delegations and on both the substantive and the administrative sections of the Secretariat in preparing the necessary documentation and making administrative arrangements for such a close series of meetings. It has indeed already been suggested that, in order to arrange a programme which is in fact possible of execution, it may be necessary for the Council in certain cases to waive the six-week rule governing the submission of reports by Commissions and Sub-Commissions.

3. In bringing this situation to the attention of the Eighth Session of the Council the delegations of China and the United Kingdom wish to suggest that it would be unwise in the circumstances outlined above to dislocate work unnecessarily at a crucial stage by holding the Ninth Session of the Council away from Headquarters. A transfer of a substantial proportion of the Secretariat across the Atlantic at a time when they will be carrying a peak load of work cannot, it is submitted, be in the best interests of efficiency. The long absence of the Secretariat from Headquarters, due to the location of the Council's Seventh Session in Geneva and the first part of the General Assembly's Third Session in Paris, has been noticeable in the late submission of documents due for consideration at the Council's Eighth Session, and the double trans-Atlantic move of delegations and the

/Secretariat

Secretariat, which location of the Ninth Session in Geneva would necessitate would be bound to lead to a repetition of the inconvenience experienced at the Eighth Session, if not to its actual increase.

4. It should perhaps be pointed out that under Rule 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council is master of decisions as to the location of its Sessions, subject only to approval by the General Assembly in cases where additional expenditure is involved and funds have to be appropriated. The appropriation of funds for a stated purpose does not constitute an instruction to the Council to spend these funds, unless a specific Resolution of the Assembly so indicates. In the case of the location of the Council's Ninth Session, no directive was issued by the General Assembly and a subsequent decision by the Council to meet in Headquarters would appear to be entirely within its competence under Rule 6 and would not necessitate subsequent reference to the Assembly, since no additional expenditure is involved but rather a saving of money.

5. It is therefore suggested that the Economic and Social Council should, in view of the changed administrative position since the matter was last considered, now decide to hold its Ninth Session at Headquarters.
