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HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The following information concerning the construction of the Headquarters of the United Nations and its financing is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 780 (VIII) adopted on 9 December 1953.

I. CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

2. As previously reported to the Assembly, the major construction work on the Headquarters was completed almost two years ago, and the buildings fully occupied and put to regular use by the various organs. During the past year, a number of improvements have been made, such as additional facilities for delegations which have been provided in the General Assembly building; sound-proofing in certain work areas; additional seating arrangements in the Council chambers and certain of the conference rooms; improvements in the heating and ventilating system; and the completion of interior painting and decorating.

3. The City of New York has completed the ornamental fence around the site; it also finished during the present year the work on the United Nations Plaza traffic tunnel. The basic landscaping of the site is virtually finished. The contractors responsible for the work will have completed it by the end of this year, although drought conditions prevailing in New York during the autumn of 1953 and throughout the spring and early summer of 1954 have retarded the planting and full development of the landscaping of the grounds and delayed final acceptance of the work.

4. Under arrangements made early in the Headquarters planning and construction period, the United Nations assumed an obligation to demolish the pier at 46th Street in the East River and to rehabilitate the entire water bulkhead from 42nd Street to 48th Street. The work was to have been done early in 1954, but the presence off the pier at 46th Street of a derelict sunken ship, the result of a marine accident, has made it impossible to carry out this responsibility. The ship has now been removed. It is expected that work on the bulkhead will be started soon, and will be completed in the first half of 1955.

5. Other projects which remain, in order to complete the building and to perfect its facilities, include re-development of the podium wall decoration scheme in the General Assembly auditorium; modification of the public area in the first-basement level of the General Assembly building; development of the warehouse and permanent storage facilities; elimination of water leakage; adjustments in elevator equipment; and modifications in certain technical facilities.

II. EXPANSION OF RESTAURANT AND CAFETERIA FACILITIES

6. By resolution 786 (VIII) of 9 December 1953, the General Assembly authorized the expenditure of \$565,000 for the expansion and improvement of the dining-room and cafeteria facilities. During the early months of 1954 several studies and designs were made. The objectives of the plan were to provide increased seating capacity in both the dining-room and the cafeteria, improved access to the dining-room and a separation of restaurant facilities for delegations and the public.

7. By May 1954, a suitable plan had been designed which included the provision of an additional escalator from the third to the fourth floor in order to improve access to the restaurant area and to facilitate circulation at peak periods. The east side of the dining-room and cafeteria wall is to be extended approximately 21 feet (6.4 metres) along the entire length of the

250-foot terrace (107 metres). The west side of the dining-room area is to be extended 14 feet (4.3 metres) by 102 feet (31.4 metres). The seating capacity of the restaurant will be increased by approximately 200 and that of the cafeteria by about 225 seats. Additional private dining-rooms and better accommodations have been planned. Consideration has also been given to developing appropriately the outside walls of the same area.

8. A contract for the construction has been finalized and preliminary work has been undertaken. The major part of the construction will be postponed until after the ninth session of the General Assembly, but it is expected that the project will be finished by the middle of 1955.

III. GIFTS

9. A number of gifts from Governments, individuals and organizations have been accepted and installed at Headquarters. For the most part, these have consisted of interior furnishings and art objects as announced in earlier reports.

10. The gifts which have been received and installed, or formally accepted, during the year under review include paintings from Pakistan, stone from Israel, rugs from Afghanistan, furniture from Thailand, a statue from Yugoslavia, a tapestry from Belgium, a ceremonial bell from the Japanese Association for the United Nations and cherry trees from the Lasker Foundation.

11. Mural paintings from a number of countries, a decorative Foucault pendulum from the Netherlands, and carpeting from the Women's Organization of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America are expected to be received within a few months.

12. A special stage platform which can be used in the General Assembly auditorium for musical and other special events has been made possible through a generous gift from the head of a private corporation.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

13. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, at its sixth session, approved the Secretary-General's request for authorization to incur expenditures not to exceed \$3 million in excess of the original \$65 million Headquarters construction budget adopted in 1947.

14. Of this amount, \$2 million was appropriated in the 1952 and 1953 budgets. Authorization for the remaining \$1 million was cancelled in 1953 at the Secretary-General's request, when it became apparent that the construction costs could be kept within \$67 million.

15. The Headquarters construction accounts have been audited by the Board of Auditors through 31 December 1953. At that date, net expenditures amounted to \$66,164,925. As of 31 August 1954, net expenditures were \$66,436,636, compared with total funds of \$67,102,566 derived from the loan from the United States Government, \$65,000,000, appropriations by the General Assembly, \$2,000,000, and donated funds \$102,566. The amount available for further expenditures was thus \$665,930 of which \$25,000 represents a donation for a specific project as noted in paragraph 12. It is anticipated that the projects mentioned earlier in the present report can be completed with the funds available. A final accounting and a complete financial report can, it is expected, be made at the end of 1955.

16. A sum of \$5 million has been paid to the Government of the United States of America in accordance with the provisions of the Headquarters loan agreement, leaving a balance of \$60 million still to be paid.

V. DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17. The Secretary-General submits the following draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Headquarters of the United Nations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its tenth session a further report on the construction of the Headquarters.