

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3097
14 December 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Tenth session
Agenda item 41

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mauro MENDEZ (Philippines)

1. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly at its 530th plenary meeting held on 30 September 1955 regarding the allocation of agenda items, the Fifth Committee, at its 528th meeting held on 9 December 1955, considered a report (A/2948) by the Secretary-General on the Headquarters of the United Nations. The Fifth Committee also had before it the seventh report (A/2997) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the tenth session.
2. In his report, the Secretary-General had given information on construction progress and on the remaining projects to be completed, on the extension of the restaurant and cafeteria facilities, and on gifts which had been received. The Secretary-General had further reported that, as compared with the total income of the Headquarters construction fund of \$67,102,566, expenditures and unliquidated obligations as of 31 July 1955 amounted to \$66,594,527. It was estimated that the balance of \$508,039 would meet the cost of outstanding projects and leave a small surplus to be surrendered.
3. The Advisory Committee, in its report, while agreeing with the Secretary-General as to the date of 31 August 1956 which he had proposed for the closing of the construction programme, noted that it had been anticipated in 1954 that a final accounting would be possible at the end of 1955. The Committee was therefore of the opinion that the revised completion date should be regarded as final.

4. In the course of the discussion in the Fifth Committee, a number of delegations raised questions with regard to particular facilities in the building. The representative of the Secretary-General undertook to explore the possibilities of meeting a number of the points raised, and informed the Committee of the efforts which had been made to meet certain problems, in particular, the question of increased working space for delegates and increased telephone facilities in the General Assembly area. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the expansion of the restaurant and cafeteria facilities had been carried out.

5. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics drew attention to the observation of the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 5 of its report, to the effect that, in relation to the proper functioning of the Headquarters premises, the outstanding projects varied in importance, and that an appropriate criterion for each project might be whether, failing a surplus in the construction account, it would have been found indispensable to seek additional funds. He expressed the view of his delegation that the Headquarters construction account should have been closed at the end of 1955, and that funds for any further construction projects should have been sought through regular budget appropriations.

6. The Fifth Committee decided, by 39 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the observations of the Advisory Committee thereon, and request the Secretary-General to make no further commitments against the Headquarters construction account after 31 August 1956. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following draft resolution:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report (A/2948) of the Secretary-General on the Headquarters of the United Nations, and of the observations thereon (A/2997) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its seventh report to the tenth session of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make no further commitments against the Headquarters construction account after 31 August 1956.
