

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/3709  
13 December 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twelfth session  
Agenda item 50

OFFER BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE OF LAND IN SANTIAGO TO  
BE USED AS OFFICE SITE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jaime de PINIES (Spain)

1. By letter dated 9 September 1957 to the Secretary-General (A/3641/Add.1) the Permanent Representative of Chile on behalf of his Government offered to the United Nations a plot of land in Santiago to be used for the construction of a building in which all United Nations units now maintaining offices in Santiago could be housed. Prior to accepting this offer, the Secretary-General wished to have the approval of the General Assembly so that consequent upon this approval, he could make detailed plans for the construction to be submitted for subsequent approval by the General Assembly together with proposals for the financing of the project (A/C.5/712).
2. During the discussion in the Fifth Committee at its 639th and 640th meetings of the Secretary-General's report on this matter (A/C.5/712), Members were unanimous in expressing their warm appreciation of the very generous action taken by the Chilean Government in making available, free of charge, a plot of land to be used for the construction of a United Nations building in Santiago. It was also noted that through this praiseworthy initiative taken by the Government of Chile, the United Nations could realize the objective of common premises for all United Nations units operating in Santiago de Chile and thus improve their working conditions as well as the services which they render.

3. The representative of Paraguay summarized the many advantageous aspects of this project and on behalf of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.487) which read in part as follows:

The General Assembly,

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Considering, in the light of the details given in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/712), the indubitable advantages presented by the offer of the Government of Chile for improved conduct of the work of the United Nations in Latin America and the benefits to be derived from the proposal that the building should be financed by an interest-free long-term loan,

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1. Requests the Secretary-General to accept with thanks the generous offer of the Government of Chile;
2. Authorizes the Secretary-General to open with Governments members of the Economic Commission for Latin America such negotiations as may be necessary with regard to the financing of the United Nations building at Santiago, and to convene such meetings with representatives of those Governments as he may deem desirable;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session, in accordance with the proposals he has made, detailed plans for the construction of the building together with final financial arrangements.
4. In considering the proposals before the Fifth Committee, several delegations, while in full sympathy with the proposals of the draft proposal, expressed reservations which were of a procedural nature; they felt that it would have been helpful to have had the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the comments contained in the Secretary-General's report with reference to the building that might be erected on the site. On the other hand, it was pointed out that detailed proposals involving financial commitments were not now before the Fifth Committee, but in accordance with the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/712) and the eighteen-Power draft resolution, such detailed proposals would be placed before

the thirteenth session of the General Assembly. To ensure that the Advisory Committee's comments upon any forthcoming proposals would be available at the next session of the General Assembly, the representative of France suggested that the phrase "and such observations thereon as may be made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" might be added to the third operative paragraph of the draft resolution. This suggestion was accepted by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the sponsors.

5. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that authority was being sought at this session only to proceed with the development of architectural plans and financing arrangements; the General Assembly was not at this stage being asked to make financial commitments. He considered that the relatively small expenditure involved in preparing detailed construction plans could be covered in the normal appropriations for 1958. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained that as the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/712) had made clear that financial proposals were not now being presented, he did not feel that the Advisory Committee could usefully comment upon the matter at the present stage. Adoption of the draft resolution, as amended, however, would mean that no financial responsibility would be assumed by the United Nations until the General Assembly had had an opportunity of considering the further report which the Advisory Committee would prepare during 1958.

6. The United Kingdom representative considered that the objectives to be reached by the construction of a United Nations building in Santiago were of such importance as to deserve the widest measure of unanimity. He, therefore, welcomed the clarification given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and suggested the deletion from the third paragraph of the preamble of the eighteen-Power draft resolution the words: "and the benefits to be derived from the proposal that the building should be financed by an interest-free long-term loan". On behalf of the sponsors of the eighteen-Power draft resolution, the representative of Paraguay accepted the United Kingdom suggestion.

7. The draft resolution as amended was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

#### Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee has the honour to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution set out below.

OFFER BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE OF LAND IN SANTIAGO  
TO BE USED AS OFFICE SITE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The General Assembly,

Having regard to the reports of the Secretary-General (A/3641 and A/C.5/712) concerning the offer by the Government of Chile to transfer to the United Nations, free of charge, a plot of land in Santiago for the construction of a building to house United Nations and specialized agency offices located in Chile,

Taking note of resolution 138 (VII) of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which was transmitted to the Secretary-General for his consideration at the General Assembly's twelfth session, and the report of the ad hoc committee on a building for ECLA established within that Commission pursuant to the said resolution,

Considering, in the light of the details given in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/712), the indubitable advantages presented by the offer of the Government of Chile for improved conduct of the work of the United Nations in Latin America,

Considering that the construction of such a building will make possible the establishment of common services for the United Nations and the specialized agencies having offices at Santiago, which has been repeatedly requested at various meetings of United Nations organs concerned with administrative matters, and

Considering the need for effective measures to ensure that this plan is executed in the most satisfactory possible manner,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to accept with thanks the generous offer of the Government of Chile;
2. Authorizes the Secretary-General to open with Governments members of the Economic Commission for Latin America such negotiations as may be necessary with regard to the financing of the United Nations building at Santiago, and to convene such meetings with representatives of those Governments as he may deem desirable;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session, in accordance with the proposals he has made, detailed plans for the construction of the building, together with final financial arrangements and such observations thereon as may be made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

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