



Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 44

## BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1960

## World Health Organization Headquarters accommodation

Thirty-eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/810) drawing attention to the resolutions adopted by the Twelfth World Health Assembly and the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) at its twenty-fourth session on the subject of the construction of a headquarters building for WHO and related matters. Of particular interest to the General Assembly are the provisions in these resolutions dealing with the question of "a suitable reimbursement to the World Health Organization by the United Nations" for the WHO investment in the Palais des Nations in consideration of releasing the space which WHO now occupies in the Palais.
2. It will be recalled in this regard that, pursuant to an agreement entered into in 1950 between the United Nations and WHO, the latter provided Swiss francs 4,425,763 for the extension of the Palais, of which amount Swiss francs 3,000,000 represented a grant made by the Swiss authorities for the purpose of facilitating WHO's accommodation in Geneva. In consideration of the funds provided by WHO, the United Nations leased the new premises to WHO for ninety-nine years at a nominal annual rental of one Swiss franc.
3. The Advisory Committee gave preliminary consideration to the matters in question in the course of its 1959 summer session, and again in conjunction with its examination of the 1960 budget of WHO. In its report on the administrative

budgets of the specialized agencies for 1960 (A/4257, para. 73), the Committee noted that consultations were still in progress between the Secretary-General and the Director-General of WHO, and deferred its comments and recommendations pending the submission to the General Assembly in due course of a detailed report on the subject by the Secretary-General. Earlier, during its session at Geneva in April 1959, the Committee had the opportunity of discussing with the Director-General of WHO various aspects of the proposed move of WHO to new premises, with special emphasis on the question of common services.

4. The details of the arrangements under which WHO has occupied space in the Palais des Nations are set out in some detail in the Secretary-General's note (paras. 3-5). The arrangements in question are such that the question of a reimbursement to WHO by the United Nations needs careful study in terms largely of practical considerations, inasmuch as the two organizations have, in the main, a common membership.

5. It appears from the Secretary-General's note that the progress of the new headquarters plan had been delayed by difficulties encountered by the Swiss authorities in finding a suitable site. This problem has now been resolved and the Conseil d'Etat of Geneva formally notified WHO on 16 November of its decision to place at the disposal of that organization a building site in the immediate vicinity of the Palais des Nations.

6. The Advisory Committee shares the Secretary-General's doubts whether, in the above circumstances, the General Assembly is in a position to reach any conclusion at its present session concerning the question of any reimbursement to WHO for its investment in the Palais. The Committee accordingly concurs in the proposal of the Secretary-General that the matter should be further studied when all factors pertinent to the final accommodation of WHO have matured sufficiently, in consultation, as necessary, with the Advisory Committee, and that a fuller report (or reports) should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session.

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