



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 25

INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL MEANS OF VOTING

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By resolution 1957 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to arrange for the installation of mechanical voting equipment in the General Assembly Hall on an experimental basis for one year and to carry out additional work of a preparatory nature in one or two committee rooms so as to permit the eventual expansion of the system, without undue expense, if the experiment was successful.
2. In accordance with that authorization, a mechanical system was installed in the General Assembly Hall and certain preliminary work was accomplished in two main committee rooms for a possible expansion of the system. At its nineteenth session, the General Assembly had no opportunity of testing the experimental system. At the twentieth session, however, the system was tried out and the Secretary-General, on 16 December 1965, submitted a report on the results of the experiment.^{1/}
3. At its 1407th plenary meeting, on 21 December 1965, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that the experimental use of the mechanical voting system in the Assembly Hall should be continued for another year. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its twenty-first session on the experience gained during the further experimental period and on the possible extension of the system to other committee rooms.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 25, document A/6177.

4. During the twenty-first session, the mechanical equipment has been used extensively, not only for plenary meetings but also, on a rotating basis, for meetings of the Main Committees. As in 1965, the provisions of the rules of procedure relating to the methods of voting have been strictly observed and the voting machine was used only as a supplementary device designed to assist the delegations and the Secretariat. The use of the equipment during the session has confirmed the ease of operation, speed and accuracy of mechanical voting.

5. In the light of these results, the Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly should approve the use of the mechanical voting system in the General Assembly Hall on a permanent basis. The Secretary-General has already made provision, in section 10, chapter II, of the budget estimates for 1967, in an amount of \$10,000 for such use. Thus, in the event that the General Assembly should approve this recommendation, there would be no additional financial implications for 1967.

6. In connexion with the General Assembly's request that the Secretary-General should report on the possible extension of the system to other committee rooms, the Secretary-General recommends that a decision on this matter should be postponed to the twenty-second session.
