

2616 (XXIV). United Nations accommodation in Bangkok and Addis Ababa*The General Assembly*

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General dealing with United Nations accommodation in Bangkok⁴⁶ and Addis Ababa⁴⁷ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁴⁸

2. *Concurs* in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, contained in paragraphs 29 to 35 of its report;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind those observations and recommendations, to proceed in accordance with the proposals contained in his reports.⁴⁹

1837th plenary meeting,
17 December 1969.

2617 (XXIV). Study of the nature of the increases in the level of expenditure in the United Nations regular budget*The General Assembly,*

Noting the concern expressed by some Member States regarding the expansion in the level of the United Nations budget,

Mindful of the need for intensified efforts to bring about the most economic and efficient utilization of the resources of the United Nations in the light of the normal expansion in the activities of the Organization,

Convinced that it is inappropriate to control growth in programmes through limitations on budgetary levels, particularly at a time when new areas eminently suited for international co-operation and action continue to emerge,

Conscious of the need to have a clear and objective picture of the various factors that have contributed to the expansion of the United Nations budget in the past,

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session an economic and financial analysis of the nature of the increase in the activities, staff and budget of the United Nations, clearly distinguishing between the increase in money terms and that in real terms, taking into account, to the extent possible, *inter alia*, the following factors:

(a) The reduction in the purchasing power of the amounts contributed by Member States to the regular budget of the United Nations as a result of a general rise in the cost of goods and services and the rise in the cost of living at the locations of principal United Nations offices;

(b) The correlation between:

(i) The rise in the contributions to the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as well as to international programmes within the United Nations system for promoting the economic development of the developing countries, and

(ii) The rise in the level of national budgets with particular reference to the rate of expansion of the national administrative establishments and the level and growth of the gross national product of States contributing more than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations;

(c) The growth in the traditional and the new fields of activity of the United Nations in carrying out its responsibilities in promoting international co-operation in the areas of economic and social development;

(d) The extent of the increase in the United Nations regular budget as a result of:

(i) The increase in the membership of the Organization;

(ii) The increase in the number of working languages;

(iii) The wider experience and higher qualifications of personnel now required by the Organization, particularly for its development work, because of the growing complexity and interdisciplinary character that the developmental problems have come to acquire.

1837th plenary meeting,
17 December 1969.

2618 (XXIV). New construction and major alterations to existing premises at United Nations Headquarters*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 2487 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 entitled "Proposed new construction and major alterations to existing premises at United Nations Headquarters", in which it authorized the Secretary-General to proceed, at an estimated cost to the United Nations of \$250,000 in 1969, with the preparation of detailed plans and specifications on which reliable cost estimates could be based,

Noting the subsequent report of the Secretary-General⁵⁰ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁵¹ on proposed new construction and major alteration to existing premises at United Nations Headquarters,

Recognizing that there is currently an acute space shortage at Headquarters, as well as at many other major United Nations locations, and that the existing circumstances preclude any immediate relief except through new construction,

Convinced that the assistance of the host country is urgently needed to help resolve the considerable difficulties which exist for delegations and staff in New York in acquiring and retaining suitable and moderately priced office and residential accommodation in convenient locations,

Aware that many factors must be considered in determining the optimum locations at which additional construction should be undertaken, including the inter-relationships between the organizational units of the United Nations, inflationary pressures, including cost-of-living factors, and the like,

Convinced also that all the possibilities of relocating units of the United Nations now or in the near future, in the context of the existing need to build at all

⁴⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1264.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1265.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, document A/7806.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, documents A/C.5/1264, para. 15, and A/C.5/1265, para. 23.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, documents A/C.5/1246 and Add.1.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, document A/7835.

major United Nations locations, have not yet been fully explored,

Expressing its appreciation to those other sources that have indicated or may indicate a willingness to bear a substantial cost of the proposed Headquarters construction,

Welcoming the assurances given by the Government of the United States of America, as the host country of the United Nations Headquarters, that it will immediately seek accession to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to proceed with the execution of the Headquarters project on the basis set forth in paragraph 26 of his report,⁵² taking into account the related observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;

2. *Further decides* that the United Nations budgetary appropriations for the purpose of the Headquarters project should not in any circumstances exceed \$25 million, to be spread over a period of ten years beginning in 1971;

3. *Notes with interest* the report of the Secretary-General⁵³ on space requirements and development over the next twenty years, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a further study of the optimum distribution of Secretariat functions between United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United Nations Office at Geneva and any other location which may be appropriate, bearing in mind not only the construction projects in progress or envisaged, but all other pertinent factors as well, and requests him to submit the study to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session;

⁵² *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1246.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1263.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a systematic inquiry into the possibility and desirability of relocating all or part of certain units of the United Nations, bearing in mind the efficiency of the operations of the Secretariat, and for this purpose to employ the early years of the coming decade, in effective consultation with the appropriate government authorities, in choosing potential locations for United Nations units other than in already established major United Nations centres;

5. *Decides accordingly* that, before further construction—beyond that authorized by this and prior decisions of the General Assembly—takes place in New York or Geneva, a full inquiry shall be made into the possibility and desirability of relocating units elsewhere;

6. *Urges* the host country to undertake an examination of those conditions which adversely affect the delegations and staff of the United Nations in New York and to consider taking all the necessary measures to alleviate the effect of such conditions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reconstitute and convene on a regular basis the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, so that there will be a continuous interchange of views and exploration of problems between the diplomatic community, the Secretariat and the Government of the host country on matters of mutual interest, and to report the results thereof to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session and annually thereafter;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at the beginning of its twenty-fifth session, on all developments in connexion with the present resolution.

*1837th plenary meeting,
17 December 1969.*

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Other decisions

Reports of the Economic and Social Council

(Item 12)

At its 1837th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1969, the General Assembly took note of chapters XII and XIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.⁵⁴

Budget estimates for the financial year 1970

(Item 74)

Resolution relating to article 66 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the annex thereto

(Item 94 (c))

At its 1825th plenary meeting, on 8 December 1969, the General Assembly, having adopted the draft resolution and decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in its report,⁵⁵ decided, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee:⁵⁶

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7603 and Corr.1)*.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 94 (a) and (c), document A/7797, paras. 19 and 20.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, document A/7830, para. 19.