

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XI Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XI Meeting



Washington, D.C.  
September, 1959

CD11/24 (Eng.)  
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Topic 17: REPORT ON BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS FOR HEADQUARTERS AND ZONE OFFICES

During the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference (San Juan, 1958) the chief of the United States delegation stated that his Government would seek legislation at the next session of Congress for the purchase of a site for the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization, in a central part of the city of Washington. 1/ Resolution XXIX instructed the Director "to continue negotiations with the United States Government with the objective of solving at the earliest possible time the matter of a site for the headquarters of the Bureau; to prepare suggestions on the financing of, and construction plans for, the permanent headquarters building; and to report thereon to the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee, so that a proposal may be submitted to the XI Meeting of the Directing Council for consideration." 2/

The Director submitted a report to the last meeting of the Executive Committee and has the honor to present a further report of progress with regard to a site for a new headquarters building for the Pan American Health Organization.

The Director has been informed that on 19 August 1959 the United States Senate approved legislation authorizing the acquisition of land at Virginia Avenue, E Street, 22nd and 23rd Streets, Northwest, in downtown Washington, D.C., for donation to the Pan American Health Organization. The United States House of Representatives has before it similar legislation. As of this date, the House has not acted on this legislation.

The site selected for donation meets the basic requirements established by the governing bodies as regards central location and easy accessibility to agencies of the United States Government, other international agencies, embassies, hotels, and transportation stations. The plot contains 45,644 square feet and will be sufficient for a building of a height

1/ Official Document PASO 27, 359

2/ Official Document PASO 27, 37

of an estimated 90 feet, or 7 floors. Such a building could provide approximately 150,000 feet of general office space and 22,000 feet of space for conference and meeting requirements.

Some consideration of possible methods of financing the new headquarters building has taken place, but definite suggestions on this matter cannot be formulated until after the site is made available and architectural plans are developed. Detailed cost figures are not possible at this stage of planning, but on the basis of prevailing costs in Washington for similar structures it is estimated that a building of about 172,000 square feet for general office and conference needs will cost approximately \$4,000,000.

The Pan American Health Organization now has \$215,053 in its Building Fund. In addition, \$23,524 is set aside for architectural fees. It is estimated that \$526,000 can be realized through the sale of the property now owned by the Organization at 1501 and 1515 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.

The Director will report to the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee on the progress of the acquisition of a site. Until the site is made available it would appear premature to recommend action on plans for architectural or construction work.

In view of the foregoing, the Directing Council may wish to consider a resolution along the following lines:

Proposed Resolution

The Directing Council,

Having examined the Director's report on buildings and installations for headquarters and zone offices (Document CD11/24); and

Having noted the action taken by the Government of the United States regarding land for the headquarters site of the Pan American Health Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation to the Government of the United States for the measures taken in connection with the donation of land to the Pan American Health Organization for the construction of a headquarters building.

2. To instruct the Director to continue to inform the Executive Committee on the developments in this matter.