

*executive committee of
the directing council*



**PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

*working party of
the regional committee*



**WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

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PAHO FIELD OFFICE BUILDINGS

Barbados

During the 113th Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat reported that the Government of Barbados had decided to lease to the Organization the site now occupied by PAHO in Albergeldie to construct a new building for the Caribbean Program Coordination (CPC). Accordingly, the principal terms of the lease were agreed to by the Government and the Organization. Subsequently, an architect was selected, and detailed drawings and plans for the building were prepared.

As the plans proceeded, it became apparent that the PAHO site was high on the list of possible sites for a United Nations building in Barbados. Therefore, the PAHO lease negotiations were held in abeyance while a decision on that alternative was made. It now appears that the Albergeldie site cannot accommodate the facilities required by both PAHO and the UN and that the PAHO lease will be considered by the Cabinet of Barbados.

In the meantime, the architect's preliminary design has been presented to the zoning authority. Approval is expected in May 1995. The detailed drawings will be finalized once this approval is received. Invitations to bid for the construction of the building are expected to be sent in late May 1995.

Mexico

An acceptable site in the south of Mexico City has been offered by the Government of Mexico and negotiations for long-term lease of the site have been started. However, it has come to the attention of the Organization that a number of other

properties might become available soon. Given this situation, it has been deemed reasonable to delay a decision for six months in order to explore these and other possibilities.

Honduras

At present the PAHO office in Honduras leases three adjacent houses at a cost of \$40,800 per year. The functional space distribution in these three areas is not efficient. On the other hand, the availability of adequate office space in Tegucigalpa is limited and expensive. For nearly 10 years now, the PAHO office in Honduras has been housed in separate areas because of this lack of office space. In response to the demand, some office buildings are being constructed. The most desirable sites are sold or rented while still in construction. Over the last few years, there have been a number of representations to the Government requesting their help in solving the office space situation. In early 1994, the Municipality of Tegucigalpa offered several sites for possible donation or long-term lease to the Organization. A consultant's study indicated that one of these sites was suitable for the office building. Concurrently, a space study was performed, and construction estimates were prepared. These studies concluded that the construction of a 1,163 m² (12,900 square feet) building for the Organization would cost approximately US\$ 275,000. Since the Organization is currently paying \$40,800 annually in rent, the new construction would be amortized in less than seven years.

If approved by the Executive Committee, this proposal will be presented to the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, requesting the 25% contribution of the WHO Real Estate Fund.