

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

INDEXED

Washington, D. C.  
May 23-30, 1949

## TOPIC VII. QUARTERS FOR THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

## I. BACKGROUND

Until 1947 the Bureau was housed in the building of the Pan American Union where it occupied three rooms plus contiguous corridor space. It was obvious that this was quite inadequate, even without the inevitable expansion of activities.

The Pan American Union itself was so overcrowded that when, in September 1947, the Bureau and the Union jointly rented the building on Connecticut Avenue where the Bureau is presently located, the solution gave great relief to both organizations. The Union paid the major portion of the rent, since the change made it possible to release space in the main building and to move to the new premises a number of divisions of the Union which needed more space.

During 1948 the Bureau expanded its activities even further, particularly in the Division of Public Health and in the legal and procurement services. New personnel was added as the work increased, and in January 1949, the personnel of the Union vacated the building and released it entirely to the Bureau, thus relieving the situation momentarily. This breathing spell was short-lived, however, for with the moving to Washington of the World Health Organization, with personnel for the sections of Fellowships, Procurement, Travel, Accounting, Filing, and Information, the situation again became acute. The building is now overcrowded, even without persons to fill the positions left open by some of the World Health Organization personnel who did not choose to move from New York, and without additional staff required by the Bureau itself.

In order to carry out its primary functions more effectively, the Bureau considers it indispensable to increase its field activities. It is making a major move in this direction with the establishment of quarters at Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, to facilitate the work of the Aedes aegypti program in the Caribbean region, Mexico, and Central America. The Institute of Nutrition in Guatemala will begin full operation in July of this year, and it is contemplated that all other field programs will be expanded at an early date. In order to give full support to these field projects, the need for adequate quarters in Washington is mandatory.

## II. PLAN

It is planned to move the offices of the Bureau to suitable office accommodations commensurate both with the program and budget of the Bureau and with its function as Regional Office of the World Health Organization.

The problems involved in finding suitable rental space in Washington appear insurmountable. The construction of a building adapted to the needs appears to be the only solution.

In order to avoid burdening the member countries with additional contributions or using funds much needed for other purposes, a study of possible sources of income has been made. At present, the best plan seems to be to recommend to the Congress of the United States, and to other governments, the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in each of the American Republics, according to the proposal formulated in detail in Document OSP.CE7.W-13.

## III. RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Bureau recommends that the Executive Committee consider this problem and the proposed plan. He further suggests that the member countries be advised of this proposal, in order that they may present their views at the next meeting of the Directing Council to be held in Lima, Peru, in October 1949.

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