

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XVI Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



XVII Meeting

Washington, D. C.,
September-October 1965

Provisional Agenda Item 14

CD16/21 (Eng.)
20 August 1965
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT ON BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS FOR HEADQUARTERS

The Director has the honor to report further to the XVI Meeting of the Directing Council on the progress of the program for the construction of the permanent Headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization and the sale of the property owned by the Organization.

Sixty-three years of effort and planning for a permanent Headquarters building for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau culminated on 16 August 1965 with the occupancy of the new Headquarters building by the first group of staff members of the Organization. Plans called for the remainder of the staff to be moved to the new building by 23 August when the Bureau would be fully in operation at its new site.

Years of study by the Governing Bodies and the Secretariat and continuing negotiations of a decade had resulted in action in March 1960 when a bill was signed by the President of the United States authorizing the donation of the present site to the Organization. In May 1961 and October 1962 loans were made by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation which, with the proceeds from the Building Fund and those from the sale of the two buildings of 1501 and 1515 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., made possible the construction of the building.

The new Headquarters building is based on a design by Roman Fresnedo Siri, who was awarded the first prize in the hemisphere-wide competition held in 1961.

The properties at 1501 and 1515 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., the former temporary Headquarters, were sold in 1965 to the American Council of Education for \$1,125,000. The new owners are to take occupancy of the building on 7 September 1965. Authorization was given at the 52nd Meeting of the Executive Committee (Resolution XI) for the Director to borrow up to \$900,000 to finance construction until receipt of the final payment of the sale of these buildings on 7 September. It appears at this juncture that it will not be necessary to borrow, the rate of expenditure having been within the available cash balance in the Building Fund.

The XV Meeting of the Directing Council held in 1964 in Mexico, D.F., considered the possibility of the governments donating works of art reflecting the culture of their people for the adornment of the new Headquarters building and adopted Resolution XXVI charging the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations to study various methods connected with these donations and to establish rules and procedures for the acceptance or rejection of such donations. After discussing the matter with Mr. Fresnedo Siri, the architect, it was agreed that donations might consist of pieces of sculpture, paintings, tapestries or wall hangings and ceramics. The 52nd Meeting of the Executive Committee held in April of this year considered the matter and instructed the Director to inform the governments on the agreed upon specifications for the works of art they may wish to donate. This was done on 7 June by means of a circular letter to all Governments (Annex I).

To date response has been received from five Governments: Bolivia, British Honduras, Honduras, Perú, and Surinam.

In addition, a private individual and a business association have extended offers of objects of art. All offers will be considered by the Permanent Subcommittee and the Director, assisted by expert counsel.

Other Properties

The Director wishes to take this opportunity to report the following property transactions that have taken place in the field installations. In the past the Bureau rented property to house the office staff in Rio de Janeiro. The arrangement did not prove satisfactory and in view of this, the Bureau purchased a house at a cost of US\$58,000. In Buenos Aires, additional space was purchased on the floor of the office building presently occupied by the Zone Office. In Guatemala, the Zone Office is moving to another building where space was obtained on a rental basis. In Mexico the lease for the Office space was recently renewed.

For the information of the Directing Council copies of the minutes of the meetings held by the Permanent Subcommittee since the 52nd Meeting of the Executive Committee are attached (Annexes II, III, and IV).

Attached: Annexes



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1501 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C. U.S.A.

CABLE ADDRESS: OFSANPAN

IN REPLY REFER TO: CT/Doc-CL-15-65

7 June 1965

Sir:

At its XV Meeting held last year in Mexico, D. F., the Directing Council considered the possibility of the Governments donating works of art reflecting the culture of their peoples for the adornment of the new Headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization.

The Council adopted Resolution XXVI, which charged the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations to study various matters connected with these donations and to establish rules and procedures for the acceptance or rejection of such donations.

In accordance with these instructions the Subcommittee made a detailed study of the matter and discussed it with the architect of the building, Mr. Fresnedo Siri, who suggested that the donations might consist of pieces of sculpture, paintings, tapestries or wall hangings, and ceramics and recommended that the dimensions of these articles should be as follows:

Sculpture:	3' x 4'
	3' x 5'
Painting:	3' x 5'
	4' x 6'
Tapestries or wall hangings:	5' x 10'
	5' x 7'
	6' x 8'

At its 52nd Meeting held in Washington, D. C., from 19 to 23 April, the Executive Committee also considered the matter and instructed me to inform the Governments of the above-mentioned specifications for the works of art they might wish to donate.

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We should very much like the new building to be an expression both of the culture and of the art of the various peoples of the Americas. For that reason I should be very pleased to receive from the Government of your country a contribution which would be in accordance with the specifications mentioned above.

I should also like to draw your attention to the fact that the new building will be inaugurated towards the end of September, during the course of the XVI Meeting of the Directing Council.

I am, Sir,
Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Horwita', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Abraham Horwita
Director

CD16/21 (Eng.)
ANNEX II

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS

On Thursday, 20 May, a meeting was called of the Permanent Subcommittee by the Chairman. However, due to the lack of a quorum the meeting was postponed until 4 p. m. on Tuesday, 25 May 1965.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations met at
4 p. m. Tuesday, 25 May 1965.

Present:

Mr. Paul Byrnes (USA) Chairman
Mr. Francisco Borrego (Mexico)
Mr. Regis Novaes de Oliveira (Brasil)

The Subcommittee was assisted by:

Dr. Stuart Portner, Chief of Administration, PASB
Mr. Eugene Settino, Chief, Supply and Services Section, PASB
Mr. A. Cray, Construction Supervisor, PASB

The Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations, Mr. Paul Byrnes (USA), opened the meeting, which was called for the purpose of reviewing the status of the construction of the new building.

Dr. Portner discussed this matter in some detail. He pointed out that the critical date of occupancy has been set for 15 August 1965 in order that the secretariat may move in and be situated well in advance of the September meeting of the Directing Council. He informed the Subcommittee that in order to meet the deadline it was necessary to authorize overtime for the construction workers thereby permitting continued operation seven days a week. He then asked Mr. Cray to provide the Subcommittee with detailed information regarding the status of the operations.

Mr. Cray addressed the Subcommittee and discussed at length the current status of construction. He indicated that the plaster work was completed from the third to the ninth floors of the Secretariat Building with the tenth floor to be completed today. Upon completion of the tenth floor plastering it would be possible to install the wooden wall panels and place carpeting and furniture.

Mr. Cray then reviewed the situation of the meeting rooms. In view of the plan to work through this weekend, it would be possible to finish plastering by 31 May and to commence paneling of the meeting chambers within two weeks. During the month of June, the simultaneous interpretation system was to be installed, this operation would be followed by the installation of conference chairs and tables. In summary he felt that the major portion of the work in the building would be completed by 31 July and by 15 August movement into the new quarters could begin.

At this point, Mr. Cray indicated a problem area concerning marble ordered from Italy, which was in transit, and somewhat delayed. Mr. Brynes and Dr. Portner commented on efforts being taken to assure receipt of the marble in sufficient time.

Dr. Portner reviewed the need for authorizing overtime for the construction workers to ensure meeting the deadline. He indicated that the cost involved is minimal considering that to remain in our present quarters after 31 August would cost \$5,000 per month for rental and approximately \$40,000 to hold the meeting of the Directing Council at another location in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Brynes asked what the estimated cost of the overtime would be to which Dr. Portner indicated that a maximum of \$25,000 for past and future work could be anticipated, but it most probably would be less. He pointed out that this was not an unforeseen expense since such action must be taken into consideration in the construction business especially when a target date had to be met.

Dr. Portner then called the Committee's attention to the plan for the design and installation of a chandelier in the Council Chamber. The latest estimate indicated a cost of between \$70,000 and \$80,000 which Dr. Portner stated was completely out of order. It was planned to simplify the design to bring the cost down to something in the neighborhood of \$30,000-\$40,000.

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Portner briefed the Committee on the plans for eating facilities for the staff of the Bureau in the new building.

Dr. Portner said that only one thing might cause considerable trouble and that was the present rate of progress on the E Street Throughway which is the only access to parking in the building. It was agreed that an approach should be made to the District of Columbia officials concerned with the matter to see if it could be resolved.

Dr. Portner then informed the Committee that the Director had authorized the purchase of new furniture for the new Headquarters. He indicated that to move the present furniture, only a small portion of which was really adaptable as suitable for the new building, to the new location would have cost \$24,000. He estimated that approximately \$18,000 can be obtained by disposing of our present furniture and that another \$20,000-\$25,000 could be realized by the sale of old equipment. This would materially reduce the \$100,000 estimate of the cost of new furniture.

Dr. Portner explained that a dedication ceremony is planned for the week of the Directing Council and that the Ministers of Health of the Member Governments, the Ambassadors to the OAS, the President of the United States and other high dignitaries would be invited.

In conclusion, Dr. Portner suggested that the Subcommittee visit the premise. A tentative date was set for 3 June at 4 p.m., with the members meeting at the site of the building.

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Portner gave a brief review of the present situation of our field installations. He stated that in the past we rented space for our office in Rio de Janeiro which was not too satisfactory. However, the Bureau recently purchased property at a cost of \$58,000. In Buenos Aires, additional space was purchased on the floor of the building presently occupied by the Zone Office. In Guatemala, the Zone Office is moving to another building and the space was obtained on a rental basis. In Mexico the lease for the office space was just renewed.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Portner and Mr. Cray for their complete and most satisfactory report on the status of the new building.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Buildings and Installations met at the construction site of the new PAHO building on 3 June 1965 at 4.00 p.m., to inspect the building and evaluate the progress to date.