



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

In accordance with the decision of the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Executive Committee has been instructed to establish a three-country working group to assist the Secretariat in preparing a specific detailed proposal for a new Headquarters Building (Resolution CSP23.R22).

The use of a three-country working group was the successful approach taken during the process to replace the old Governor Shepherd Building (now 2121 Virginia Avenue). It is suggested, therefore, that the Executive Committee may wish to ask three governments to appoint permanent representatives to the working group. The three countries could be any from the Region and not necessarily from those presently represented on the Executive Committee. The use of the word "permanent" here is intended to mean "for the duration of the process." Changes in membership of the Executive Committee over time would not affect the representation of the three countries chosen.

Each of the three countries appointed as members of the Working Group would in turn be asked to select an appropriate representative and to inform the Director in writing of his or her name and professional background. Each representative would have to be available to travel to Washington from time to time to meet with the Secretariat and to assist in the development of specific proposals for the Executive Committee.

The first priority of the Working Group is a review of the potential sites. The Government of the United States has had a number of informal discussions with the Secretariat and has suggested some possibilities. These and others need to be examined in detail. Another item which can commence is the drafting of a preliminary budget for the new building, regardless of site. While clearly it is not possible to design a building having a specific site, it is possible to begin preliminary budgeting without reference to an exact location.

It is hoped that the three countries participating in the working group could inform the Director of their representatives by 31 October. Assuming for the moment that sufficient detailed data can be collected by the end of October, it is anticipated that the working group would have its first meeting in November with the Secretariat. Progress after that date will obviously depend in considerable measure on future developments, but the goal would be to have specific and detailed proposals ready for consideration and decision by the 107th Meeting of the Executive Committee in June 1991.