

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



109th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1992

Provisional Agenda Item 5.4

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NEW PAHO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Status Report

At the XXXV Meeting of the Directing Council, the Secretariat presented a report on the new Headquarters Building (CD35/26). This status report is intended to provide additional information on developments since that time.

In September 1991 a new site in Bethesda, very close to the original site, became potentially available. The new site, referred to in this document as the Bethesda II site, was viewed by representatives of the countries composing the Three-Country Working Party and found to be acceptable in principle. Since September 1991 the Organization has entered into formal negotiations with the institutional owners of the Bethesda II site. This process has proven to be slower than expected. Nevertheless, the property concerned, containing approximately 14 acres, meets the Organization's requirements in virtually every respect.

After considerable discussion this spring, the institutional owners' attorney signed a letter of intent agreeing to a timetable for negotiating an agreement, including a purchase price, no later than 15 September 1992. If agreement is reached, a contract of sale could be concluded by 1 October 1992. While it is, of course, still possible that these negotiations will not successfully resolve the question of price, the institutional owners have committed themselves to a fixed schedule, and that is an encouraging sign.

Once the Secretariat has received a firm, definite proposal, including price, the Three-Country Working Party will be convened, probably in mid-September 1992, to make recommendations to the Executive Committee for its meeting at the end of September 1992.