

14th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Washington, D. C.  
20-22 September 1951

Topic 9: PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Background

The XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference, after due consideration, agreed that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau headquarters should remain in the United States (Res. XXI). Resolution XXII authorized the Director to undertake the study of and planning for a permanent building for the Bureau, in consultation with the appropriate technical bodies, and to report the results thereof at a future meeting of the Executive Committee.

A report was made to the 13th Meeting of the Executive Committee by the Director covering this subject, part of which points out the difficulties anticipated in obtaining building materials due to the world emergency conditions (Document CEL3/16). The Executive Committee at its 13th Meeting in Resolution XVII resolved (1) to request the Director to explore further the problem of constructing a permanent headquarters building, and (2) to instruct the Director to make periodic progress reports to the Executive Committee on this subject.

In compliance with the wishes of the XIII Pan American Sanitary Conference and the 13th Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Director submits the following report:

On 20 March 1951 the Director sent a letter to the U. S. Department of State requesting specific information on the offer made by the U. S. Delegation with regard to the property to be made available by the United States to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau as the site for the permanent headquarters. The following letter was received from the Department of State in answer thereto:

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON  
July 26, 1951

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 20, 1951 requesting specific information on the offer made by the United States Delegation to the 1949 and 1950 Conferences of the Pan American

Sanitary Organization to provide the Pan American Sanitary Bureau with a site for the construction of a building to serve as permanent headquarters of the Bureau.

The property contemplated in the offer is a triangular tract of land at the extreme southwest corner of the grounds of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. It comprises a total of approximately 4-3/4 acres with a frontage on Rockville Pike of roughly 300 feet, decreasing to a point about 800 feet to the west. The tract is within 500 feet of the entrance to the National Naval Medical Center and within half a mile of the center of Bethesda.

With regard to conditions for use of the property, it will not be possible to state precisely what these will be until the offer is approved by the Federal Security Agency and the Congress has passed legislation authorizing the donation. For the same reason the offer made by the United States Delegations cannot be considered as formal at this time.

Upon notification by the Bureau that it wishes to have the land made available, the Department will request the Federal Security Agency to approve the offer and initiate the necessary legislation.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of State:

/s/ John D. Hickerson  
Assistant Secretary of State

The Director  
of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau  
Washington, D. C."

In view of the above information, the Director requests the Executive Committee to examine the property offered by the Government of the United States to determine the suitability of the property as the location for the construction of the permanent headquarters for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

#### Proposed Resolution

After examining the property contemplated in the offer by the United States Government, the Executive Committee may wish to adopt one of the two following resolutions:

WHEREAS:

It is the desire of the governing bodies of the Pan American Sanitary Organization that the site for the construction of a permanent headquarters building for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau be located within the United States;

In order to formalize the offer made by the United States Delegation, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau must notify the United States Department of State of the Bureau's desire to have the property contemplated in the offer made available to the Bureau; and

After examining the property to determine its suitability as the location for the headquarters of the Bureau,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the selection of the property offered by the United States Government as the site for the construction of the permanent headquarters of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and to request the Director to carry out the necessary negotiations between the Bureau and the United States Government in order to effect the authorization for this donation.

2. To recommend that the Directing Council approve the action taken by the Executive Committee at its 14th Meeting.

Alternate Resolution

1. To request the Director to inform the Government of the United States of the decision reached by the Executive Committee based upon the Committee's investigation of the property contemplated in the offer and to express to that Government the Executive Committee's desire to receive another offer of land that may be more suitably located as the site for the construction of the permanent headquarters for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

2. To recommend to the Directing Council that the action taken by the Executive Committee at its 14th Meeting be approved.