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Technical Assistance

14 October

1 letter S. Lall (Conference and General Services)

— to H.L. Keenleyside (Technical Assistance Admin.)

CGS 64/2/01

14 October 1953

Mr. H. L. Keenleyside, Director-General, Technical Assistance
Administration

S. Lall, Assistant Secretary-General, Conference and General
Services

Purchase of Equipment in Australia

1. Following our conversation and the receipt of your memorandum of 9 October, I have come to the conclusion that I have no alternative but to agree to your request that certain items of equipment required for Technical Assistance Administration projects should be purchased in Australia. This matter was considered by the Committee on Contracts at a meeting held on 8 October, and it was their recommendation that these items be purchased in Australia at prices not to exceed those for equivalent U.S. equipment by more than 10% on an overall basis; and that if any individual item is higher by more than 25%, that such purchase should be referred back to the Committee for its specific approval.

2. However, in view of the fact that you have certified that this expenditure will serve the interests of the Technical Assistance Administration program better than any other arrangement, I have advised the Purchase and Transportation Division that we may proceed with these purchases on the following basis as outlined in your memorandum;

- (1) that the purchases are made in accordance with the established procedure by Brigadier Frank Field, the UNICEF Purchasing Officer, in cooperation with the Australian Government;
- (2) that the average cost of the purchases will not exceed by more than 25% Brigadier Field's estimate of the cost of similar articles in the United States;
- (3) that in the case of any single major item that Brigadier Field estimates may exceed this ratio, the expenditure will not be authorized until the case in point has been referred to Headquarters in New York.

3. I must reiterate, however, that although I have the nominal responsibility of approving all United Nations purchases, I have no alternative but to accept your recommendation in cases such as this one where it appears we must purchase goods from a member country at higher prices than we might have to pay elsewhere or be faced with the alternative of losing the funds that have been appropriated under the stipulation that they must be spent in that country. I feel that the decision that I have taken is in accordance with the conclusions reached when this matter was discussed at the Secretary-General's meeting on 3 February 1953.

cc: Secretary-General, Mr. Price, Mr. Mapes

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