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Tenth session

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The following information concerning the construction of the Headquarters of the United Nations and its financing is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 877 (IX) of 4 December 1954.

I. CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

2. During the past year a number of improvements have been made in the space and furnishings for the increased convenience of delegations and final treatment given to most of the landscaped areas.

3. The City of New York has completed its various obligations undertaken originally in agreement with the United Nations. Final work on the removal of the pier at 46th street and the rehabilitation of the bulkhead (water-front) was done early in this year.

4. The largest single construction project carried out in 1955 with Headquarters construction funds was to convert space in the basement area for use as a permanent warehouse to meet the needs of various services.

5. In 1954, the Secretary-General reported to the Assembly that studies were being made with a view to the re-development of the podium wall in the General Assembly Hall and the modification of the first basement in the north end of the General Assembly building. These two projects have not been undertaken in 1955, but will receive high priority in 1956. Apart from these items a few less

expensive projects, including alterations and wiring of several conference rooms, alteration of the meditation room, provision of a memorial plaque for those who died in the service of the United Nations, installations to prevent leaks and minor tidying-up operations, will be undertaken in 1956.

II. EXTENSION OF RESTAURANT AND CAFETERIA FACILITIES

6. By resolution 786 (VIII) of 9 December 1953, the General Assembly authorized the expenditure of \$565,000 for the expansion and improvement of the dining-room and cafeteria facilities. It was not possible to complete the work in 1954 and, by resolution 881 (IX) adopted on 14 December 1954, the General Assembly provided that the appropriation should remain available throughout 1955 to meet obligations arising from contracts made before the end of 1954. The work has now been completed. The seating capacity in the restaurant and cafeteria has been increased, while private dining-rooms and general arrangements are greatly improved.

III. GIFTS

7. The Secretary-General has received further gifts from Governments, individuals and organizations. Those which have been installed, or formally accepted, during the year include floor coverings from the Women's Organization of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the Foucault Pendulum from the Netherlands, Indonesian statues, and daffodil bulbs from the Lasker Foundation.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

8. Of the total of \$67 million authorized for the construction and furnishing of the Headquarters buildings, \$65 million was borrowed from the United States of America, and \$2 million was appropriated in 1952 and 1953. In addition \$102,566 has been received as donated funds. Thus far, \$7 million has been repaid to the United States Government in accordance with the provisions of the Headquarters loan agreement, leaving a balance of \$58 million outstanding.

9. The audited accounts to 31 December 1954 showed expenditures and unliquidated obligations totalling \$66,488,322. By July 1955, the total had reached \$66,594,527 compared with a total income of \$67,102,566. The balance of \$508,039 will meet the cost of outstanding projects and should leave a small surplus to be surrendered.

10. The Secretary-General proposes that 31 August 1956 should be set as the final completion date for Headquarters construction. No commitments or obligations would be made after that date. From the balance then available, funds would be reserved to meet outstanding commitments, and any balance surrendered as miscellaneous revenue in the budget. Any further balance finally left after liquidation of all obligations would similarly be surrendered, probably in 1957.

V. DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11. The Secretary-General submits the following draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Headquarters of the United Nations;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to make no further commitments against the Headquarters construction account after 31 August 1956.
