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HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the tenth session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report on the construction of the Headquarters of the United Nations (A/2948) which the Secretary-General has submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 877 (IX) of 4 December 1954.

2. Part IV of that report shows the following financial situation as at 31 July 1955:

<u>Income</u>	\$
Amount advanced by the Government of the United States of America under the 1948 Loan Agreement	65,000,000 ^{1/}
Amount appropriated by the General Assembly (resolutions 592 (VI) of 4 February 1952 and 674 (VII) of 21 December 1952)	2,000,000
Donations	<u>102,566</u>
Total available for the construction and furnishing of the Headquarters premises	67,102,566
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Total of expenditure incurred and unliquidated obligations	<u>66,594,527</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	508,039

^{1/} The balance of the loan outstanding for repayment during the years 1956 to 1982 amounts to \$58 million, which will be met by annual appropriations in the regular budget.

3. Of the sum remaining available for obligation at 1 August 1955 (\$508,039), a part will be used for the projects that have already been reviewed by the General Assembly (A/2778, paragraph 5);^{2/} these comprise decorative alterations to the podium wall of the General Assembly Hall, a structural modification of the public area in the north basement of the Assembly building, the elimination of water leakage, and the installation of additional wiring for simultaneous interpretation in two conference rooms.
4. The Advisory Committee is informed that other projects, additional to those mentioned in the Secretary-General's report (A/2948, paragraph 5), include the adaptation of a section of the lobby in the Secretariat building for use as an exhibit area, the completion of work on the fountain, the installation of a refreshment counter in the public area of the General Assembly building, and improvements to the air-conditioning system in the second and third basements of the premises, which were not originally intended for the accommodation of staff.
5. It is evident that, viewed in relation to the proper functioning of the Headquarters premises, these several projects vary widely in importance. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, an appropriate criterion for each project is whether, failing a sufficient surplus on the account, it would have been found indispensable to seek additional funds for the inclusion of the project in the construction programme. In view, however, of the technical considerations that enter into this matter, the Committee limits itself to the suggestion that, were an order of priority to be applied on the basis of essential need, an appreciable, rather than a small, surplus might possibly result (A/2948, paragraph 9).
6. The execution of certain of the projects, in which adaptation of space or structural alteration is involved, will give rise to problems affecting the dignity and amenities of the premises. The Committee has received assurances that full regard will be paid to this important consideration when detailed plans are being studied.

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 40.

7. The Secretary-General has proposed 31 August 1956 as the completion date for the construction programme. While agreeing to this proposal, the Advisory Committee notes that it had been anticipated during 1954 that a final accounting would have been made by the end of the present year (A/2778, paragraph 15). The revised completion date should therefore be regarded as final and not liable in any circumstances to further extension.
