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Committee of the Whole

Tenth Session

Santiago, Chile, 12-14 February 1964

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GIFT PROGRAMME FOR THE  
UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has pleasure in submitting to the consideration of the Governments members of the Commission the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Gift Programme for the United Nations Building in Santiago, Chile.

The Committee was established by virtue of resolution 216 (AC.50) of the Commission, with the aim of co-ordinating and promoting a gift programme for the United Nations Building in Santiago, Chile. It is composed of representatives of Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica, and is assisted in the discharge of its functions by the ECLA secretariat and the architect of the building.

The members of the Committee will hold office until May 1964.

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1. At the tenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6-17 May 1963), several of the member Governments announced further donations to be added to those enumerated by the Ad Hoc Committee in its preceding report to the Commission (E/CN.12/676).
2. Since that date, other generous offers have been ratified or implemented, while some countries are dispatching the formalities required by the national constitutions concerned prior to informing the Committee of the amount of their contribution.
3. On 10 December last - the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the Ambassador of Canada in Chile handed over the sum of 10,000 dollars to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, by whom it was transmitted to the representatives of ECLA. The ceremony took place on the site donated to the United Nations, and the members of the Committee were able to note on this occasion the rapid progress that is being made in the work of construction of the building.
4. It is also gratifying to report that at a meeting of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, last December, the delegation of the Republic of Argentina officially stated that its Government had decided to contribute the sum of 35,000 dollars to the construction of the Building.
5. Another donation which the Committee has pleasure in announcing is that of the Government of Mexico, which has declared its intention of supplying building materials to a value of 20,000 dollars. The architect of the Building will draw up a list of suitable materials produced in Mexico, so that the Government of that country may select those it deems most appropriate.
6. The ECLA secretariat informed the members of the Committee that the building was expected to be completed by November 1965 at the latest.
7. The members of the Committee wish to take the opportunity afforded by the present session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA to express their gratitude for the generous response of the member Governments to the appeal formulated on 28 September 1962. The donations announced, and the recent decision of the United Nations General Assembly to make an additional allocation of 500,000 dollars in 1964, will enable work to continue on the new Building, which will be a magnificent centre for international meetings.