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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 the honour to communicate to the Governments members of the Commission the report submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Gift Programme for the United Nations Building in Santiago for the consideration of the delegations taking part in the tenth session of the Commission.

The Committee was established under resolution 216 (AC.50) adopted by the Commission at the eighth session of the Committee of the Whole with a view to co-ordinating and promoting the Gift Programme for the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile. It is made up of representatives of Brazil, Costa Rica and Chile, the ECLA secretariat and the architect of the Building acting as advisers.

The members of the Committee will serve until May 1964.

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

1. The Ad Hoc Committee established by the Economic Commission for Latin America by virtue of resolution 216 (AC.50) to co-ordinate and promote a gift programme for the United Nations Building in Santiago, Chile, decided on 12 February 1963, in agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of ECLA, to set up a sub-committee with instructions to visit various Latin American countries and hold conversations with the authorities in connexion with the Gift Programme.
2. On 14 February 1963 the Ad Hoc Committee sent a communication to the Governments members of the Commission informing them that, in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, work had started at the beginning of 1963 on the construction in Santiago of the Building which will house the permanent headquarters of ECLA, together with the other United Nations offices and those of the specialized agencies currently operating in Chile.
3. In this communication attention was drawn to the Note submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, pointing out that the Assembly's decision to proceed with the construction on the basis of the original plan makes it all the more necessary that Member States should assist by making gifts in kind or cash contributions, in order to cover or reduce the deficit anticipated. In this connexion the Note indicated that by mid-February 1963, the Government of Chile had resolved, in addition to its previous contributions to facilitate the construction of the Building, to include in its budget for 1964 the sum of 465,000 escudos, as a special contribution to help meet the deficit. Similarly, reference was made to offers contemplated by the Governments of British Guiana, Belize (British Honduras) and Ecuador. The Committee regretted that no other specific offers had been received, although there was informal knowledge of the desire of some countries to make contributions which had not as yet materialized.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee stated in the above-mentioned communication that the situation with respect to work on the Building and the amount and nature of the donations received or offered would be examined by the Commission at its tenth session to be held in May 1963. It also said that the ECLA secretariat as well as the architect and the building firm considered that although cash contributions could be accepted at any stage of the construction, it was desirable from all points of view that offers in kind should crystallize during the Commission's session in May, since it is essential to know within a specific time-limit what construction items will be actually available so that the necessary steps can be taken to ensure that they can be duly incorporated during the execution of the work.

5. After referring to the letter sent to the Ad Hoc Committee by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,^{1/} the communication of 14 February informed member Governments that a sub-committee had been established, of which the members were Mr. Othon do Amaral Henriques, First Secretary, representing the Ambassador of Brazil to Chile, Mr. Fernando de Alencar, who is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, and Mr. Jorge Viteri de la Huerta, Chief of the ECLA Information Services. This Sub-Committee would visit a number of Latin American countries with the aim of informing the authorities concerned of the United Nations' hopes with respect to the Gift Programme, and of the Committee's desire that these hopes would be fulfilled.

6. In fulfilment of the mission entrusted to it by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Sub-Committee made a tour during March 1963 that included visits to the following Latin American capitals: Lima, Quito, Bogotá, San Salvador, Mexico, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, in that order. On its return to Santiago the Sub-Committee submitted a report to the Ad Hoc Committee on its activities, and this is summarized below.

7. During their tour the members of the Sub-Committee had interviews with Ministers and Under-Secretaries of State, and with other high officials of the countries visited, to whom they gave a detailed account

^{1/} See annex to document E/CN.12/675.

of the problem of the financial deficit that had arisen in connexion with the construction of the United Nations Building in Santiago, and the need to rely on generous gifts from member Governments in order to solve the problem satisfactorily.

8. In broad terms, the authorities visited instructed that they welcomed this step, and the appeal by the Secretary-General and the ECLA Ad Hoc Committee; but in most cases they indicated that problems of an economic and financial nature did not permit any contribution from their respective Governments at present - especially in dollars; they would nevertheless study the possibility of making gifts in kind, purchased in local currency by the Government or obtained by making approaches to representatives of domestic industry.

9. In connexion with this last point, the members of the Sub-Committee informed the government authorities that the relevant resolution adopted by the Commission also envisaged the possibility of donations from the private sector, and that certain Latin American industries might perhaps be interested, for prestige reasons, in giving products that could be incorporated in the United Nations Building in Santiago.

10. Furthermore, since donations in kind might involve high transport costs to Santiago, Chile, the conversations in question touched on the desirability that as far as possible official offers should also include such costs, or else that an attempt should be made to obtain free transport of such gifts in kind by using the services of transport enterprises that were controlled by member Governments. If such donations were made, it would also be appropriate for member Governments to facilitate their transport to Chile by exempting them from all duties and other charges that entered into the cost of transport to Chile.

11. In all the capitals visited, the authorities interviewed by the members of the Sub-Committee stated that they would inform the Commission as soon as possible of the final decision taken by their respective Governments with respect to the Gift Programme.

12. It should be noted that the conversations relating to the possibility of making gifts in kind centred on the suggestions contained in the special brochure prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee with the collaboration of the

ECLA secretariat and the architect of the Building, and duly distributed to the member Governments. These suggestions will also be placed before the industrial sector when action is taken to obtain private donations, and will be supplemented by more detailed information and specifications, to be supplied by the architect of the Building through the ECLA secretariat to any Governments that deem it necessary.

13. Although it would be premature as yet to attempt to specify the nature and amount of the donations that may possibly be obtained as a result of official action initiated or intensified since the Sub-Committee's tour, some indication may be given - in alphabetical order of countries visited, and for purely informative purposes - of the gist of the conversations held between the official authorities and the members of the Sub-Committee.

Argentina. The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Sub-Committee that, in consultation with the Minister for Economic Affairs and the appropriate sections of the Office of the President of the Republic, arrangements were being made for a definite contribution of gifts in kind, especially marble, although perhaps some other items may be offered, such as carpets, the decision as to the most useful type of donation being left to the discretion of the Ad Hoc Committee and the architect of the Building;

Brazil. The Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Sub-Committee that he was negotiating a donation which would consist in the planning and execution of the landscape gardening project for the parks and gardens on the site granted to the United Nations by the Government of Chile for the erection of the building. This donation would be supplementary to that already made by the Government of Brazil to the Government of Chile, in implementation of which the Brazilian landscape gardener Roberto Burle-Marx had prepared the project for the ornamental layout of the Parque Vitacura;

Colombia. Pursuant to a decision adopted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister at its head will approach representatives of Colombian industry with a view to obtaining gifts in kind, especially curtains and ornamental tiles for the Building;

Ecuador. The

Ecuador. The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the members of the Sub-Committee that the Government of Ecuador had decided to contribute the sum of 10,000 dollars in cash;

El Salvador. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering the possibility of a gift in kind, probably in co-operation with Salvadorian industry; it also declared its readiness to hold consultations with the appropriate authorities in the other Central American countries to study the feasibility of a joint donation, in which the industrial sector of the area as a whole might also participate;

Mexico. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the members of the Sub-Committee of its intention to negotiate with the Ministry of Finance a cash contribution which could be invested in the purchase of items produced by domestic industry; in addition, with the co-operation of the Department of Industry and Commerce and the Governors of the Banco de México, the possibility would be studied of enlisting the voluntary co-operation of Mexican industry with respect to such items as glass, locksmithery, furniture, metal shelving and other equipment;

Peru. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its willingness to arrange for a donation in kind, probably of mahogany parquet flooring for the library of the Building;

Uruguay. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the members of the Sub-Committee of its intention to arrange for a gift in kind, possibly in co-operation with Uruguayan industry, consisting of such items as carpets, marble or curtains;

Venezuela. In consultation with the Co-ordination and Planning Department of the Office of the President of the Republic and other State departments, the Minister for Foreign Affairs is considering the possibility of a gift in kind, in co-operation with domestic manufacturing activities especially the cement industry.

14. It should be noted here that in the discharge of their mission in the various capitals visited, the members of the Sub-Committee enjoyed the close co-operation of the Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the Directors of the United Nations Information Centres functioning in the countries concerned. In most of the countries

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visited, these officials accompanied the members of the Sub-Committee during the interviews held in each capital, and will maintain contact with the respective official authorities at their request and collaborate in the negotiations to determine the exact nature of the possible donations being considered. Similarly, the Sub-Committee was given every assistance by the Chilean diplomatic missions in the countries listed.

15. In addition to the negotiations undertaken by the members of the Sub-Committee, the ECLA secretariat has continued to maintain contact with those Governments Members of the United Nations - whether members of ECLA or not - that have expressed their interest in contributing to the Gift Programme. Furthermore, the ECLA secretariat has received communications from some Member Governments which are approaching foundations and other private groups, with a view to their participation in the Programme.

16. Lastly, it should be stressed that if the economic and financial problems with which many of the Latin American countries are faced have prevented them on this occasion from offering cash contributions, the gifts in kind now under study, if they all materialize in time, will help to ensure the attainment of the Committee's primary objective - the reduction of the estimated deficit on the construction of the Building. They would also have the merit of giving the Building an even more representative character in relation to the functions it is intended to fulfil, since within the architectural structure products of the various regions and industries of Latin America would be harmoniously blended. Needless to say, the international character of the Building would be enhanced if these Latin American donations could shortly be supplemented by additional gifts, in cash or in kind, contributed by the other States Members of the United Nations, in copious and generous response to the appeal made in this connexion by the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations,