BUILDING FUND

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Building Fund set up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Eleventh Session reached a total amount of $60,000, consisting exclusively of savings.

2. The purpose of the Fund was to finance the construction of additional accommodation necessitated by the increase in the number of staff employed at the Secretariat.

3. Out of three plans submitted to the Budget Working Party in 1956 (see attached document dated 19 October 1956), plan B was chosen which provided for an additional wing to the Villa allowing to make full use of existing accommodation.

4. At the time the plan was adopted the total strength of the Secretariat amounted to forty-four. The strength increased in 1957 to forty-seven, in 1958 to fifty-three, and is expected to reach sixty-four in 1959. In addition, a number of temporary staff, experts and trainees have to be accommodated on a continuing basis.

5. It is at this stage a matter for conjecture whether or not the staff will have to be further increased in coming years and, if so, in what proportion. However, it must be recognized that in view of the increased responsibilities of the secretariat and the growing number of contracting parties such an increase in staff would seem probable.

6. Whilst the staff foreseen for 1959 and the additional personnel mentioned under 4 above can still be housed, be it with some difficulty, in the premises as they now exist, subsequent staff increases would make further extension and/or transformation, necessary.
7. This possibility had been foreseen at the time. However, the type and scope of any further construction or transformation can only be decided in the light of future developments.

8. In any case, it would seem prudent to make some modest financial provision in good time and the method of financing essential building, at least partly out of savings, would appear to be sound and in keeping with the method previously approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

9. In addition, it should be recognized that since the new wing recently constructed is the property of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (and not of the United Nations, like the rest of the Villa), financial provision for maintenance must also be made.

10. The level to which the Building Fund should be replenished will depend largely on the growth of the staff and should be decided by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on a year to year basis.