

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1286

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## ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SECRETARIAT

### Note by the Executive Secretary

(For consideration by the Council, 19-23 September)

1. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 9 of document L/1226 of 3 June 1960, as approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the eleventh meeting of the sixteenth session (SR.16/11, paragraph 11), the Executive Secretary has further explored the possibility of erecting an additional temporary office building in the grounds of the Bocage together with the financial and other implications.
2. In this connexion contact has been established with the appropriate department of the United Nations European Office and with the World Council of Churches, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Geneva municipality, all of which have had experience with temporary buildings of various types and constructions. The institutions mentioned enabled representatives of the secretariat to visit these buildings which proved helpful in reaching final conclusions.
3. Broadly speaking, the types of temporary building entering into consideration can be divided into two categories. The first comprises the purely temporary wooden huts intended to house staff on an emergency basis pending the completion of a permanent building. The second category consists of semi-permanent buildings which, whilst of simple construction, nevertheless provide a certain degree of comfort which would enable long-term occupancy in acceptable conditions.
4. This latter type of construction is frequently used in Switzerland for schools, office buildings, etc. etc. It was also used for more than ten years by the World Meteorological Organization to accommodate its secretariat.
5. After a thorough examination of all pertinent aspects, the Executive Secretary has reached the conclusion that, at the present stage, the latter type of construction would be most suitable for the needs of the secretariat.
6. On the one hand, the construction of such a building would not in any way prejudice or preclude a future decision to construct a permanent building once the status of the organization, its personnel establishment, the situation regarding conference facilities in Geneva and other pertinent factors have sufficiently

crystallized for CONTRACTING PARTIES to take such a far-reaching decision. On the other hand, if circumstances should cause the decision to be deferred the solution advocated would enable the secretariat to continue to work under entirely acceptable conditions for many years to come.

7. Additional advantages would be the retention, at least for the time being, of the Villa le Bocage as the main headquarters of the organization at a low rental and continued benefit of the capital investments made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1958 in constructing the new wing, and again in 1960 in constructing additional offices in the basement of the Villa.

8. The new building envisaged would consist of pre-fabricated standardized units allowing complete dismantling and re-assembling elsewhere. According to the manufacturers, about 70 per cent of the building materials would be recoverable.

9. The cost of the actual building, providing room for about seventy staff members, would amount to Sw.frs.780,000. In addition, approximately Sw.frs.200,000 would be needed to cover the cost of various installations not included in the above estimate.

10. The building would be erected in the grounds of le Bocage near the exit of the park. It would be intended to accommodate the Administrative and Financial Services, the Languages Unit, typing pools and documents service. As planned, it would provide a modest margin for further growth of the secretariat. Because of its special construction it could moreover be easily further extended at low cost should this prove necessary.

11. As regards the financing of this project, the Executive Secretary proposes that the Council authorize him to approach the Federal and/or Cantonal authorities with a view to negotiating an interest-free loan in the amount of one million Swiss francs to be re-imbursed out of budgetary appropriations in five yearly instalments of Sw.frs.200,000 over the years 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966.

12. The Executive Secretary also proposes that in view of the six months' delay required by the builders, the Council further authorize him to enter into firm commitments once the question of finance has been satisfactorily settled in accordance with paragraph 11 above.