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## THE UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY: GIFT OF THE FORD FOUNDATION

### Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Niaz A. NAIK (Pakistan)

1. The Fifth Committee considered, at its 732nd meeting held on 29 October 1959, the item entitled "The United Nations Library: gift of the Ford Foundation". The Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/4231) and a draft resolution submitted jointly by the following forty-five Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela.
2. Introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General dwelt on the manifold advantages which would accrue to the United Nations from the splendid generosity of the Ford Foundation. Even in 1950, when the Secretariat moved into the new Headquarters, the present library building was regarded as inadequate. Apart from the aesthetic incongruity of the exterior, the structure of the building was not adapted to library use or conducive to efficient administration. Furthermore, the progressive growth of the collections since that time, combined with a sharp increase in the demands for services, had strained the physical capacity of the Library.
3. From the outset, much thought had been given to the problem. Finally, in June 1959, the Trustees of the Ford Foundation, in approving a request

submitted by the Secretary-General, generously agreed to make a grant to the United Nations of \$6,200,000 representing, with interest accruing thereon, a sum sufficient to cover the cost of constructing, furnishing and equipping the new Library in accordance with the highest modern standards of functional utility and convenience. Unused funds would be returned to the Foundation.

4. The new building would provide facilities that were sorely needed both in relation to present demands (representing, by comparison with 1955, an increase of more than 50 per cent in reference and loan services) and in relation to the expanding use of the Library, which undoubtedly would be witnessed for some years to come.

5. The Secretary-General's representative added that the financial implications for the United Nations were relatively slight. For 1960, expenditure connected with the temporary housing of the Library was estimated at \$114,000, while \$54,000 would be required in 1961 for the removal into the new building and for related expenses. There would, however, be certain offsetting items: first, as regards the year 1959, a saving of \$60,000, representing the balance of the appropriation for repairs to the present building which was no longer required; and secondly, a reduction of \$88,500 provided for the present building in the 1960 budget estimate (comprising \$52,000 for operating costs, and \$36,500 for repairs).

6. As requested in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session regarding the level of library resources and services that should be made available to ensure that the new Library might be used to the best advantage. Generally, as indicated in paragraph 30 of the Secretary-General's report, an increase of 25 to 30 per cent in the present staff appeared to be called for, and an approximate doubling of the present annual acquisition level of \$50,000. There would also be a slight rise in maintenance and custodial costs.

7. Delegations jointed in acclaiming the generosity of the Ford Foundation, whose munificent and timely gift made it possible to build a new library worthy of the United Nations and in keeping with the responsibilities which the Organization had assumed. The work of the Ford Foundation was known to all, for its philanthropy was not bounded by the frontiers of any State. Its efforts

were directed to advancing the welfare of mankind and promoting peace and understanding among the peoples of the world, and it was in that spirit that the Foundation had made so liberal a contribution to the work of the United Nations. In so doing, the donors had testified to their faith in the ideals and aims of the Organization.

8. Many representatives also referred with appreciation to the untiring efforts which the Secretary-General and his associates had for many years exerted on behalf of the project, and to the able manner in which they had brought it to fruition.

#### Decisions of the Fifth Committee

9. The Committee unanimously adopted:

(a) A proposal of the United Arab Republic to insert the following text as the penultimate paragraph of the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.577):

"7. Requests the Secretary-General, as an expression of the gratitude and appreciation of the Member States for the gift of the Ford Foundation, to place a memorial stone inscribed 'Gift of the Ford Foundation' at the main entrance of the Library";

(b) The draft resolution (A/C.5/L.577) as a whole, as amended.

#### Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

10. The Fifth Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

THE UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY: GIFT OF THE FORD FOUNDATION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/4231) announcing a gift of \$6,200,000 from the Ford Foundation for the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new building to house the United Nations Library on the Headquarters site,

Being convinced of the importance and permanent value of the gift in contributing to the effectiveness of the work undertaken by the United Nations,

/...

1. Decides to accept the gift;
2. Extends to the Ford Foundation its highest appreciation for the gift and the spirit which prompted it;
3. Approves the general plan for the construction of the new Library Building as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General;
4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to proceed with the construction, furnishing and equipping of the building at a cost not to exceed the amount of the gift, i.e. \$6,200,000 plus accumulated interest, to enter into contracts for such construction, furnishing, equipping or other work as may be necessary for these purposes, and to return to the Ford Foundation such funds as may not be used;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session regarding the level of library resources and services that should be made available to ensure that the new Library might be used to the best possible advantage;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit this resolution to the Ford Foundation as an expression of the gratitude and appreciation of the General Assembly;
7. Requests the Secretary-General, as an expression of the gratitude and appreciation of the Member States for the gift of the Ford Foundation, to place a memorial stone inscribed "Gift of the Ford Foundation" at the main entrance of the new Library;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the progress made under this resolution.

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