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Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. CARL H. BOBLETER, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT
ITS FIRST SESSION, 11 APRIL 1967

Mr. President,

May I, at the outset, express to you my very sincere and heartfelt congratulations on your election, which proves again the great confidence and esteem this assembly places in your abilities. Your election to this responsible office provides my delegation with the added satisfaction of being able to report to you, who, as Chairman of the Second Committee, contributed so much to the relevant decisions of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, on the progress made in the meantime with regard to the establishment of UNIDO in Vienna. My congratulations also go to the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur. We are confident that this bureau will contribute to a successful result of this session.

My delegation is fully aware of the importance and significance of this first session of the Board for Industrial Development, which marks the beginning of a new and extremely important era regarding the efforts of the United Nations and the world community as a whole to collaborate in solving the urgent and difficult problem of economic and social development.

The task of UNIDO is to encourage, promote and speed up the industrialization of the developing countries by setting to work national and international resources. Within the framework of the world-wide task of giving assistance to the developing countries the creation by these countries of their own industries is of the utmost importance. For it is not by mere financial aid that in the long run the economic

We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

strength of these countries can be improved; this can only be achieved if they establish their own industrial production facilities, which will give their people work and an income, and to the country as a whole the chance to increase its exports, so as to be able to pay for the necessary imports. It is this objective, a sound and promising development policy, to which the services of UNIDO will be devoted.

The Government of Austria has great confidence in UNIDO and is prepared to make every effort to give this newest organ of the United Nations the opportunity for a quick and effective start.

I am, therefore, Mr. President, very grateful to you for having proposed to take up item 8 on the agenda as the first substantive item, which offers me personally the opportunity to inform the Board about the measures taken by my Government, with regard to the establishment of the organization in Vienna.

Before doing so, may I express again the satisfaction and gratitude of my Government for the decision taken by the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The choice of Vienna for the headquarters of UNIDO represents not only a great honour for our country, but, in my opinion, also a recognition of the declared aims of my Government to serve as an international meeting place for which Austria, as a neutral State in the heart of Europe, provides all the necessary prerequisites. I hope we have so far lived up to your expectations and we will also in the future do everything in our power to provide all possible assistance to the United Nations and its organs.

Only two weeks after the closing of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, Mr. Abdel-Rahman, the Executive Director of UNIDO, Mr. Birckhead, the Administrative Director of this organization, and other United Nations officials came to Vienna to start negotiations with my Government and to discuss the practical arrangements for an early establishment of the organization in Vienna, as stipulated by the decision of the General Assembly. During this first visit the groundwork had been laid for all the major decisions and actions which had to be taken. During a second visit of a UNIDO team in March we were able to finalize all those questions which originally needed further study and preparation. I am, therefore, in the happy position to inform the Board that, subject to its approval, all measures have been taken to allow for a move of the organization to Vienna during this summer

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and that a satisfactory solution has also been found for the permanent headquarters of the organization.

Mr. President, allow me at this juncture to thank the Executive Director, Mr. Abdel-Rahman, for the very kind words he has found in his statement concerning our offer and the co-operation with the Austrian authorities. They are indeed extremely gratifying and encouraging for my Government. I must, however, add that the speedy progress in our negotiations was only possible due to the most co-operative, flexible and efficient attitude of the Executive Director and his staff who spared no efforts to find mutually satisfactory solutions for the various problems awaiting solution during a very short period of time.

As already mentioned, the Board has before it three documents concerning this item on our agenda. My intention is to provide you with a number of additional details regarding the progress report issued by the Secretariat in document ID/B/6. The two other documents, addendums 1 and 2, contain the draft headquarters agreement laying down the legal aspects concerning the status of the organization and its staff in Vienna.

With regard to the permanent headquarters of UNIDO in Vienna, several sites were originally proposed for the location of the permanent building. After consultations with UNIDO, the Government of Austria decided to construct, with the co-operation of the City of Vienna, a United Nations Centre in the Austrian capital. In addition to the headquarters buildings of UNIDO and the International Atomic Energy Agency it is also intended to erect an international conference centre at the same location which would be at the disposal of these two organizations and spacious enough for large-scale international conferences. The site for this United Nations Centre, called "Danube Park" lies on the shore of the river Danube and is adjacent to a large park. The plot, which has been provided by the community of Vienna, provides ample opportunity for future expansion. Besides its beautiful location, this site offers excellent communications to all parts of the city and is only minutes away from the very heart of Vienna.

The construction of the permanent headquarters building will be based on the requirements and specification to be provided by the United Nations. The Government of Austria agreed to construct this building and the necessary conference rooms at its own expense. Preliminary calculations indicate that the

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construction of this United Nations Centre, consisting of the headquarters buildings for UNIDO and IAEA, will cost roughly \$25 million. The buildings, which remain the property of the Republic of Austria, shall be leased to the United Nations for ninety-nine years for a nominal rent of 1,- Austrian Schilling, which equals four U.S. cents, per year. It is planned to commence first the construction of the UNIDO headquarters and provision has been made for completion of this structure within a maximum period of four years. Every effort will be made, however, to put this building at the disposal of UNIDO as soon as technically feasible.

As to the provisional headquarters, to which UNIDO will have to move pending the completion of the permanent buildings, annex 2 of document ID/B/6 contains the main elements of the arrangements envisaged. The Republic of Austria agrees to put at the disposal of UNIDO, at its own expense, the necessary office accommodation and conference facilities. The cost of the necessary adaptation, installation of utilities and modifications which might be required, including the cost of rental, will be borne by the Austrian Government.

The document I just cited might, however, create the wrong impression that UNIDO will have to split up its operations in various different buildings spread over the entire city of Vienna. I wish to correct this by giving you the following details which, due to further negotiations after the publication of the present document, do not fully coincide with the indications given therein. As the main base UNIDO will occupy a modern office building only recently completed which provides at present room for approximately 450 officials of the city of Vienna. This building will be vacated and fully adapted to UNIDO's needs for occupancy in summer 1967. The building, called "Felderhaus", has an ideal location next to the City Hall in the centre of Vienna, separated only by a park from the monumental main boulevard circling the city of Vienna, the "Ringstrasse". In view of the increase in UNIDO's staff to be expected for the immediate future, the Government of Austria agreed to construct, on a nearby plot and to the specifications of UNIDO, an office building which would be available by autumn 1967 and which could be enlarged as need arises. In view of the very promising contacts between officials of UNIDO and IAEA concerning future collaboration in the administrative and technical field, the Austrian Government has also provided

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additional space in the Imperial Palace, where IAEA currently operates its printing facilities thus allowing UNIDO to establish its documentation centre there. This arrangement seems to be particularly suitable also in view of the fact that future meetings of the Board will most probably be held in the International Conference Centre located in the same area within the Imperial Palace, which will facilitate the servicing of these meetings. The space in the Vienna Rathaus located opposite to the "Felderhaus", which has been mentioned in the document as an additional possibility, will under these circumstances only be used to provide space for the archives. Fully adequate provisions are therefore available to allow UNIDO to commence its work and operations during summer 1967.

In order to facilitate the problems connected with the move of the staff from New York to Vienna, preparations are also under way to provide the necessary housing and schooling facilities. Arrangements have been made to put at the disposal of UNIDO the necessary housing facilities which will satisfy the immediate needs of its personnel. Most satisfactory negotiations have also taken place with officials of the American School, the British School and the Lycée Français in order to secure the acceptance of children of UNIDO staff members in these schools. Also available in Vienna to UNIDO staff members is a Russian language school, as had been indicated in the original Austrian offer submitted to the General Assembly. The city of Vienna has, moreover, offered additional space in order to enable these schools to accommodate a greater number of students. The Austrian schools are, of course, all open to the children of UNIDO staff members.

These, Mr. President, are, in short, the arrangements made for the establishment of UNIDO in Vienna. I express the hope that the Board will give its approval to these provisions. If any delegation wishes, however, to receive further details on any given point, I am happy to give additional information.

Before closing my remarks I would like to draw the attention of the Board to the addendum of document ID/B/6 which contains the text of the headquarters agreement between the Republic of Austria and the United Nations. This agreement contains the legal provisions concerning the status and the privileges and immunities of the organization and its staff. In this agreement the Government of Austria is prepared to offer privileges and immunities exceeding by far those laid down in the "Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations".

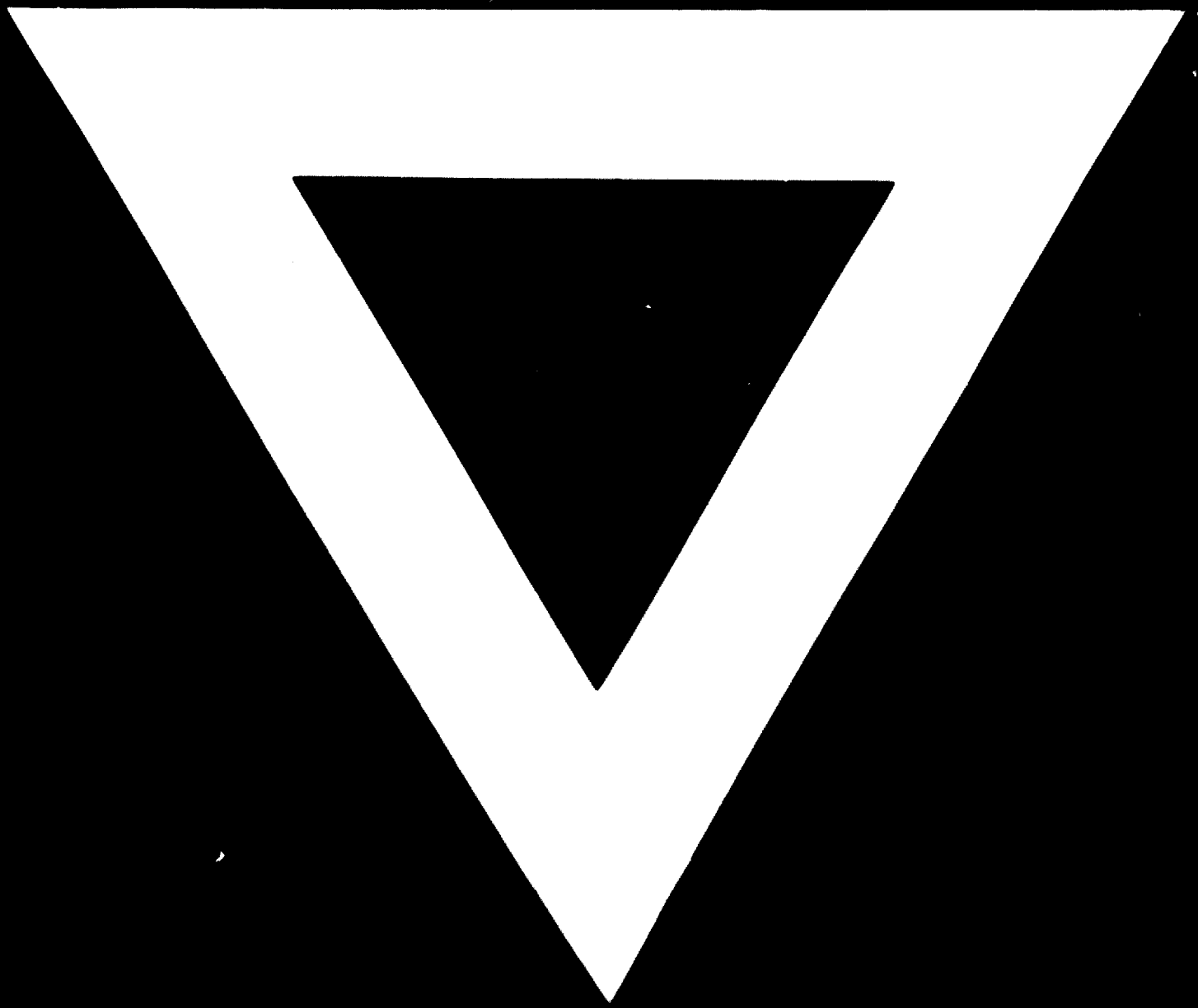
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The text which is now before you is acceptable to the United Nations as well as to my Government. An exchange of notes, contained in annex 2 of the above-mentioned document, aiming at clarifying certain provisions in the draft agreement is also before you and negotiations on this topic are completed.

The Government of Austria has the intention to start, immediately after the termination of our present debate, with the process of ratification. Secretary-General U Thant has kindly agreed to honour the occasion of the entering into force of the agreement by his presence in Vienna at a date still to be determined before the actual move of the organization to Vienna.

Mr. President, Austria and the people of Vienna are looking forward to the establishment of UNIDO in our capital. We are confident that this organization will fulfil its eminent purpose in stimulating the industrialization of the developing countries throughout the world. My country stands ready to help wherever it can to achieve the ultimate goal of overcoming the barriers, which tend to divide the north from the south and the industrialized countries from those in the process of economic development.





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