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SAÍDO

Comissão Preparatória das Nações Unidas

Londres em 25 de outubro de 1945.

Nº 20

Preparativos para a Assembléa Geral das Naçoes Unidas.

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Senhor Ministro,

Não quero perder minuto em remeter a Vossa Excelência o primeiro papel que se distribúe em Londres sôbre a reunião da Comissão Preparatória das Naçoes Unidas e a reunião, em 4 de dezembro, em Central Hall, Westminster, da Assembléa Geral das Naçoes Unidas.

2. O propósito anunciado do Govêrno britânico era de fazer reunir-se a Assembléa Geral no histórico Westminster Hall - e isto dá a medida da importância que se empresta à reunião. Mas contra tal decisão se apresentou o poderôso argumento de que a Assembléa se realizará em dezembro e de que Westminster Hall não pode ser aquecido. Por isso a mudança para Central Hall.

3. Para as duas reuniões, espera-se a chegada a Londres de 2300 pessôas e, por isto, foi organizada especialmente no Foreign Office um "Conference Department", o qual terá o dever de provêr sôbre hospedágem dos delegados e de facilitar-lhes a vida

A Sua Excelência o Senhor P. Leão Velloso,

Ministro de Estado interino das Relações Exteriores.

B.

vida nesta cidade, em que as cousas são ainda difíceis.

4. As prioridades para chegar até cá devem ser solicitadas pelos membros da Delegação brasileira à Embaixada britânica no Rio de Janeiro DF.

5. O clima de Londres, durante o mês de dezembro, é reconhecidamente húmido. Entretanto, não se conhecem nesta cidade temperaturas extremas. Assim, é preciso que os membros da Delegação brasileira venham munidos de vestimenta forte, trazendo cada pessôa tudo de que possa necessitar. Aquí, não é possível comprar qualquer cousa e o que se encontra está à venda por prêços inaccessíveis. Não existe guarda-chuva ou capa impermeável para comprar.

6. Fora isso, creio de meu dever contar que um quarto duplo com banheiro custa em qualquer hotel de primeira classe vinte dólares (£5) por dia. E os cômodos, mesmo em hotel de primeira, são extraordinariamente difíceis de encontrar e, durante a Assembléa Geral, só se pode esperar que a situação ainda se faça mais angustiosa do que já é. E', portanto, necessário que, para conseguir acomodações adequadas, seja o Embaixador Moniz de Aragão prevenido com a maior antecedência possível da data em que os brasileiros chegarão a Londres.

Tenho a honra de renovar a Vossa Excelência os protestos da minha respeitosa consideração.

C. de Freitas Vaux

Press Release
No.27
23rd October 1945.

PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Reception of Delegates for the General Assembly

This Conference has been arranged because various members of the Press have expressed interest in the plans for the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations. These plans are still rudimentary, but journalists may be glad to know something about the proposed arrangements.

It is hoped that the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations will meet at Church House on 8th November. Its plenary meetings will be held in the wartime House of Commons. On 4th December, if present plans can be carried out, the first General Assembly of the United Nations will be held in Central Hall, Westminster. Mainly because of the difficulty of heating, the original project to use Westminster Hall will almost certainly have to be abandoned. Plans are already in hand for adapting Central Hall to make it a fitting centre for the World Assembly. Technical arrangements to this end are the responsibility of the Ministry of Works.

It is anticipated that several hundred delegates and experts will be coming to London for the Preparatory Commission and anything up to 2,000 for the General Assembly. A great task of organisation lies before those who are responsible for receiving and accommodating these visitors. It is expected that many of the 50 odd United Nations will send their Foreign Minister as chief delegate, and it is hoped that Mr. Bevin will lead the U.K. Delegation. Other leading statesmen, diplomats, and economic and legal experts will accompany their chiefs.

Technical arrangements for both Conferences, together with all Committee meetings, servicing by Secretariat, reproduction and distribution of documents running into millions of words, interpreting and translating, Press facilities and Public Relations, etc., will be the responsibility of the United Nations. Reception, accommodation and entertainment of delegates will be provided by the new Conference Department of the Foreign Office under Colonel G.R. Codrington, O.B.E.,M.C.

Delegates wishing to use British travel facilities to reach London from abroad, will apply through the local British Embassy or Legation to the Ministry of War Transport. Others will come by any alternative service they may prefer. On their arrival, accommodation will be provided for them, if so desired, by the F.O. Conference Department. Finding rooms in over-crowded London is a problem which admits of no easy solution. To begin with, the Foreign Office does not yet know how many visitors to expect. Cables were sent some time ago to all the United Nations asking for information on this point, but half of them have not yet replied. This greatly complicates the whole problem of negotiation with hotel proprietors, etc. and speedy information is essential. One well-known London hotel is refusing 600 applications daily, and all are booked up far in advance.

An appeal for private hospitality has already been launched by the Travel Association of Great Britain and some arrangement on these lines may prove to be the best solution when it is known precisely what we shall need.

Most de-requisitioned buildings are unsuitable for conversion to hotels in the time available and H.M.G., while able to requisition hotels and equipment, has no powers to requisition staff, and is moreover anxious not to alienate a hard-working industry whose cooperation is essential.

Transport to and from the Conferences will be provided by cars and drivers supplied by the Army, Navy and Air Force. It is also proposed to appoint a special Liaison Officer from one of the Services to each delegation, choosing whenever possible an officer with some experience of the country with whose nationals he will be working.

At war-time conferences in various parts of the world British Marines acted as guards, doorkeepers, messengers, etc. About 150 Marines will be detailed for the same services during the General Assembly.

Our visitors will be interested to see something of the effects of war on London, the rebuilding plans and the switch-over to peace-time conditions in Britain's great industries. It is hoped to organise tours for this purpose and to show them, possibly by air trips, such industrial enterprises as shipbuilding yards, aircraft factories and locomotive works. Special demonstrations of scientific inventions like Radar and Television may be arranged.

A suggestion has been made that a West End cinema should be set aside for the period of the Assembly in order to show outstanding British films free of charge to all holders of an Assembly pass.

It is hoped to enlist the co-operation of the W.V.S. to help our visitors on excursions to the London shops and on visits to places of special interest to them. Certain English families are proposing to open their homes in the evening to foreign visitors who wish to see something of English domestic life.

Cable and Wireless have offered to transmit personal messages from delegates to their own homes free, provided that the country of destination also foregoes its charges.

The G.P.O. have agreed to mark the choice of London for the meeting place of the United Nations by stamping all letters posted in London during December with a specially designed United Nations cancellation mark.

The health of our visitors will be looked after by the provision of First Aid Rooms at Church House and Central Hall and by the preparation of a list of doctors recommended to any delegates who may require medical advice.

There will be no attempt at ostentatious entertaining. Our visitors will receive emergency ration cards with a leaflet explaining to what these entitle them and how the British rationing system works. It will be our endeavour to extend a warm welcome to every visitor, and at the same time not to send him or her away with a distorted impression of life in post-war England.

It is hoped that visiting journalists who so desire may be accommodated in the homes of London pressmen, thereby obtaining closer contacts and a better cross-section of London life than they would be likely to enjoy if left to themselves.