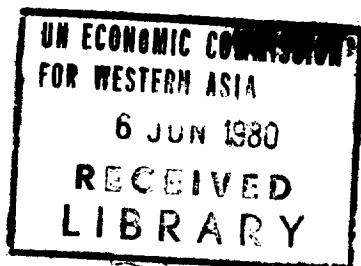




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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Seventh session
19 - 24 April 1980
Baghdad, Iraq

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Establishment of a branch office of the Commission
in Beirut

(Note of the Executive Secretary)

1. The Executive Secretary received a note verbale dated 26 February 1980 from the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lebanese Overseas which reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lebanese Overseas presents its compliments to the Economic Commission for Western Asia and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of its note of 15 February 1980 concerning the seventh annual session of the Commission which will be held in Baghdad between 19 and 24 April 1980.

"Upon perusal of the provisional agenda appended, it would appear that no mention has been made of the question of the establishment of a branch office of ECWA in Beirut, despite the fact that in paragraph 30 of the sixth session report of the Commission (1979) submitted to the Economic and Social Council and adopted by the Council (E/1979/49/Add.1),

it was proposed that this matter would be considered and decided upon at the coming session of the Commission.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would appreciate it if the secretariat would place this matter on the agenda of the seventh session.

"The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to extend to the Commission the expression of its highest consideration."

2. Paragraph 30 of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, cited above, provides as follows:

"30. The Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution concerning the move of the secretariat to its permanent headquarters at Baghdad. (For the full text of the resolution, see chap. I above, draft resolution 67(VI).) During the discussion of the matter by the heads of delegations, it was proposed that a branch office of ECWA be established on a permanent basis at Beirut and that the proposal be examined and decided upon at the Commission's next session. Reference was also made to the staff and workers employed by the Commission who, for family and financial reasons, might find difficulties in transferring to Baghdad. It was suggested that the Commission, on humanitarian grounds, should make every possible effort to secure employment for them."

3. Pursuant to article 7 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Commission, this matter was introduced in an additional list of items (E/ECWA/89/Add.1) to be included on the provisional agenda (E/ECWA/89) of the seventh session.
