PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Some progress has been made in the provision of permanent accommodation for the Regional Office. The Government of India has undertaken to construct a new building in the Indraprastha Estate, where a plot of about one acre has been allotted. This plot of land is not sufficient, and further consideration is being given by the Government to the possibility of allotting an additional adjacent piece of land.

The Public Works Department of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply appointed an architect who has prepared the preliminary designs, which have been provisionally approved by WHO. In order to assist the architect, the Organization invited him to go to Manila at the Organization's expense to make a detailed inspection of the permanent building which has been constructed in that city for WHO's Regional Office for the Western Pacific. In Manila, the architect was able to have meetings with the architect of the Western Pacific Regional Office building, and useful suggestions resulted regarding plans to meet the functional needs of such an office, which the Organization hopes will be carried out in the construction of the permanent building of the South-East Asia Regional Office. Meetings have been held with members of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, including structural engineers, electrical engineers and officials of ancillary services. It is hoped that the questions pending will be cleared up shortly and that actual work on the site will start before the end of the year.

As the new building will be the Regional Office of the Member States of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization, it is the Regional Director's hope that each Member State will contribute to the internal artistic decorations and special furnishings with a view to including in the building typical examples of the art and culture of all the countries of the South-East Asia Region.

Member States are invited to consider providing by gift some of the following:

(1) Murals in the Reception Hall, Conference Hall, Committee Room, Delegates' Lounge and Canteen;
(2) Conference tables and chairs for the Conference Hall and/or for the Committee Room and Library;

(3) Complete furnishing and interior decoration of the Delegates’ Lounge;

(4) Carpets for the Conference Hall, Committee Room, Delegates’ Lounge, Library etc.;

(5) Special items of sculpture, wood carving, bronzes, paintings, etc., according to the particular skills and cultural traditions of the Member States of the Region.

The Regional Committee may wish to take note of the above proposals with the understanding that the Governments concerned will be approached by the Regional Director for such contributions.