

(b) The conveyance authorized by section 2(a) of this Act shall not be made until the Organization of American States has agreed that it will transfer or convey, without monetary consideration, all right, title, and interest of the Organization of American States in the building and other improvements on the property known as lot 802 in square 147 in the District of Columbia to the United States as soon as the site referred to in section 2(a) is developed for use as a headquarters. The agreement provided for in this subsection shall be in such form as may be satisfactory to the Secretary of State.

(c) It is so requested by the Organization of American States, and with funds provided in advance by the Organization of American States, the Administrator of General Services is hereby authorized to design, construct, and equip a headquarters building for the Organization of American States on the property conveyed to it pursuant to section 2(a) of this Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of State is hereby authorized to transfer or convey to the Organization of American States, without monetary consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property known as lot 800 in square south 173 in the District of Columbia and the buildings and other improvements on such property for use by the Organization of American States.

SEC. 4. The Act of June 20, 1938 (D.C. Code, 1967 ed., secs. 5-413 to 5-428) shall not apply to buildings constructed on property transferred or conveyed pursuant to sections 1, 2(a), or 3 of this Act: *Provided*, That each transferee or grantee of property so transferred or conveyed shall comply with all other applicable District of Columbia codes and regulations relating to building construction, equipment, and maintenance. Plans showing the location, height, bulk, number of stories, and size of, and the provisions for open space and offstreet parking in and around, such buildings shall be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, and plans showing the height and appearance, color, and texture of the materials of exterior construction of such buildings shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to the construction thereof.

SEC. 5. The construction, reconstruction, relocation, and rebuilding of (a) public streets and sidewalks, (b) public sewers and their appurtenances, (c) water mains, fire hydrants, and other parts of the public water supply and distribution system, and (d) the fire alarm system, which are within the area described in section 1 of this Act and which are occasioned in carrying out the provisions of this Act, shall be provided by the Secretary of State, in coordination with, and without cost to, the District of Columbia.

SEC. 6. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

The first witness this morning on this important legislation will be the Honorable Leonard C. Meeker, Legal Adviser, Department of State.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LEONARD C. MEEKER, LEGAL ADVISER,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ACCOMPANIED BY STEPHEN GIBSON,
SPECIAL ASSISTANT**

Mr. MEEKER. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to appear before this subcommittee on behalf of the Department in support of H.R. 16175.

This bill, if enacted, would solve two problems of long standing. First, it would provide sorely needed chancery sites in the District of Columbia and second, it would provide an adequate headquarters site for the Organization of American States. My colleague, Ambassador Linowitz, will discuss the need for a new OAS site following my initial statement.

The Department of State and other agencies of the Federal Government have sought over the past 3 years to find a suitable tract of land within the District of Columbia to be sold or leased to foreign governments for the construction of chanceries. These efforts have been prompted in part by the enactment, in October 1964, of Public Law 659 of the 88th Congress.