

This legislation barred chanceries from all residential areas except those areas zoned for medium high or high density uses. Suitable land in which chanceries may be constructed had already become difficult to find in the District of Columbia. The enactment of Public Law 659 increase the difficulty faced by foreign governments in finding appropriate sites for chancery construction, since considerations ranging from security requirements to the need for adequate parking often make high density areas unsuitable for chancery purposes.

The need for additional chancery sites is clear. Also clear is the responsibility of the Government of the United States to insure that the representatives of foreign governments can obtain adequate premises in the Nation's Capital for their official representation to the United States. This traditional responsibility of host governments under international law is set forth in Article 21 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, as follows:

"The receiving State shall either facilitate the acquisition on its territory, in accordance with its laws, by the sending State of premises necessary for its mission or assist the latter in obtaining accommodation in some other way."

The Department of State has attempted to alleviate the problem of finding sites for chancery construction by supporting proposals to set aside land in the District for this purpose.

In October 1965, the Department submitted to the Congress a bill that would have authorized the acquisition of approximately 50 acres of land in northwest Washington, north of Washington Circle to provide sites for chanceries and for offices of international organizations. However, because of the expenditure involved and the amount of relocation that would have been necessary, the bill was not acted upon by Congress. Revisions were later made in the proposal in order to reduce the cost and relocation involved. However, problems still remained, and the bill was not passed.

The legislation now before this subcommittee, H.R. 16175, offers, we think, an opportunity for the Government to establish the needed chancery sites without giving rise to the problems that have hampered consideration of other locations in the past.

H.R. 16175 would dedicate 34 acres of the site formerly occupied by the National Bureau of Standards to use as an international center.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of State to lease or sell to foreign governments or international organizations property owned by the U.S. Government in an area bounded by Connecticut Avenue, Van Ness Street, Reno Road, and Tilden Street. Property so transferred would be restricted to use for legation purposes or for the official use of international organizations. Improvements to the land such as streets, sidewalks, and water mains would be provided by the U.S. Government.

The bill would also authorize the Secretary of State to transfer to the Organization of American States without cost two pieces of land: an 8-acre tract in the National Bureau of Standards site for the construction of a new OAS headquarters complex, and the property at 17th and C Streets, Northwest, upon which the main building of the Pan American Union is located, and has been located for nearly 60 years.

Conveyance of the 8 acres in the NBS site would not be made until the OAS agreed to transfer to the United States, without cost, title