

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Legislation has been submitted to the Congress by the Secretary of State to authorize the use of a portion of the old Bureau of Standards site for chanceries and the Organization of American States. The text of the bill is as follows:

A BILL

"To authorize the transfer, conveyance, lease, and improvement of, and construction on, certain property in the District of Columbia, for use as a headquarters site for the Organization of American States, as sites for governments of foreign countries, and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that in order to facilitate the conduct of foreign relations by the Department of State in Washington, District of Columbia, through the creation of a more propitious atmosphere for the establishment of foreign government and international organization offices and other facilities, the Secretary of State is authorized to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer to foreign governments and international organizations property owned by the United States in the Northwest section of the District of Columbia bounded by Connecticut Avenue, Van Ness Street, Reno Road, and Tilden Street, upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe. Every lease, contract of sale, deed, and other document of transfer shall provide (a) that the foreign government shall devote the property transferred to use for legation purposes, or (b) that the international organization shall devote the property transferred to its official uses, including supporting facilities.

"SEC. 2.(a) 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 to a parcel of land not to exceed eight acres, to be selected by the Secretary of State, within the area described in section 1 of this Act. The deed conveying such property shall provide that the Organization of American States shall use the

property solely as a site for a headquarters building and related improvements, and shall contain such other terms and conditions as he may prescribe.

"(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) If 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., sec. 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."