

General Conference

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR DELEGATIONS

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the purpose of providing Governments with information of a general character which they may find helpful when planning their representation at the third regular session of the General Conference, which will open at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 September 1959, and is expected to last about two weeks. Should there be any other matter on which a Government would like particular information, the Secretariat will on request do its best to provide it.

2. A handbook containing more comprehensive information for the guidance of delegates and members of their staffs is being prepared. It will be issued about one week before the Conference meets and will be available to members of delegations on arrival in Vienna.

II. The Agency's headquarters and the Conference area

3. Most of the offices of the Secretariat are situated at Kärntnerring 11, Vienna I, to which address all mail should be directed. The telephone number is 52 45 25 and the telegraphic address is: INATOM VIENNA.

4. The General Conference will meet in the Neue Hofburg, Heldenplatz, Vienna I (telephone number 52 16 87), where the language and documents services, including the distribution facilities, are permanently located. Branches of the Secretariat responsible for serving the Conference will also move temporarily to this building for the session.

5. The offices of the Secretariat and the Neue Hofburg, which are separated from each other by a ten minute walk, are located in the centre of the city very close to most of the principal hotels and to the main shopping area.

III. Information Desk

6. On 21 September the Information Desk for the Conference will open in the entrance hall of the Neue Hofburg to provide delegations with any information they may need immediately after their arrival in Vienna. Arrangements will be made to show members

of delegations the locations of the Documents Centre, from where documents awaiting them may be collected, and of the Protocol Office which will issue the special passes they will need for the Conference.

IV. Credentials

7. Rule 27 of the General Conference's Rules of Procedure [1], provides that the credentials of a delegate shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member concerned. Credentials specifically for the third regular session of the General Conference are required for a delegate even if he is already accredited to the Agency in some other capacity, e.g. as a representative on the Board of Governors.

8. In order to comply further with Rule 27, the credentials of the delegate, as well as the names of the other persons constituting the delegation of the Member concerned should, if possible, be submitted to the Director General by 15 September 1959. In this connexion attention is drawn to the fact that the credentials of a number of delegates to the second regular session of the General Conference in 1958 were submitted late, in some cases even after the session had begun. This led to some difficulties, particularly insofar as the work of the Credentials Committee was concerned. It is therefore desirable for credentials to be submitted to the Director General as early as practicable and in any case not later than 15 September, unless special circumstances make this impossible.

V. Agenda and documents

9. The provisional agenda for the session is set forth in document GC(III)/72 and corrigendum 1. Documents relating to the various items are being prepared and circulated as they come off the press.

10. Should any Government, on or before 23 August 1959, request under Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure the inclusion of a supplementary item on the agenda, the item will, subject to the provisions of Rule 21, be placed on a supplementary list which will be circulated not later than 2 September. In this connexion attention is invited to Rule 20 which requires that a proposal for an item shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents or by a draft resolution. It would also greatly assist the Secretariat if Governments intending to introduce documents or draft resolutions relating to items of the provisional agenda could submit them as early as possible and hence facilitate their timely circulation.

VI. Times of meetings

11. The General Conference will usually meet, both in plenary and in committee, at 10.30 a.m. in the morning and at 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon.

VII. Journal

12. A Journal will be issued for the General Conference every day; publication will start a few days before the session opens and continue until it closes. The Journal will

[1] GC(II)/INF/16 and addendum 1.

give the programme of meetings, the agenda items to be taken at each meeting and announcements of general interest.

VIII. Facilities for translating, typing and copying

13. The Secretariat only has adequate facilities for translating, typing and copying such papers (memoranda, draft resolutions, etc.) as delegates may wish formally to introduce as part of the work of the General Conference, and which will thus become official documents. It will not be in a position during the session to translate, type or reproduce a large number of copies of other documentary material which delegations may need for their own purposes; and it is accordingly suggested that a delegation foreseeing the need for temporary facilities for such work should itself make the necessary arrangements in advance.

14. The Secretariat is ready to provide such assistance as it can in this connexion. Both staff and equipment can be obtained for short periods in Vienna, but it is emphasized that the necessary arrangements may take a few days to conclude. A typist can be engaged for about AS 130 per day or AS 17 per hour, and a stenographer for AS 156 per day or AS 20 per hour. Secretaries who can work in English or in French as well as in German are obtainable without much difficulty; those having a knowledge of other languages are scarcer. A typewriter can be hired for about AS 100 a month or pro rata for a shorter period, and a duplicating machine for approximately AS 690 per month or AS 175 per week.

IX. Public Information

15. Facilities will be provided during the session for the holding of press conferences, for radio and television recordings, and for the distribution of statements to information media.

X. General information about Vienna

A. Accommodation

16. Attention is invited to the Secretariat's note on hotel accommodation for delegations (GC(III)/INF/21), in which it was pointed out that since the session was being held during the tourist season in Vienna, it would be difficult to secure hotel accommodation unless reservations were made well in advance.

B. Travel to Vienna

17. Vienna is well served by air and rail communications. The airport (Flughafen Wien Schwechat) is about 20 kilometres from the centre of the city, and the air companies have arrangements for bringing passengers by coach to their respective town terminals, from where taxis are easily obtainable.

18. The following air companies operate services to Vienna, which may be either direct or require a change en route to a convenient connecting service, depending upon the place of departure:

Air Canada (TCA)
Air France
Austrian Airlines (AUA)
Belgian Airlines (SABENA)

British European Airways (BEA)
Bulgarian Airlines (TABSO)
Czechoslovak Airlines (CSA)
German Airlines (DLH)

Hungarian Airlines (MALEV)	Romanian Airlines (TAROM)
Iraqi Airways	Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM)
Israel Airlines (EL AL)	Russian Airlines (AEROFLOT)
Italian Airlines (ALITALIA)	Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS)
Middle East Airlines (MEA)	Swissair
Pan American World Airways (PAN AM)	Yugoslav Airlines (JAT)
Polish Airlines (LOT)	

19. Members of delegations who travel to Vienna by train will arrive at one of the following railway stations, depending upon where they begin their journey:

Westbahnhof, Europaplatz (Vienna XV)	Benelux Countries England France Germany Hungary Italy (via the Brenner Pass)	Portugal Romania Scandinavia Spain Switzerland
Südbahnhof, Ghegaplatz (Vienna X)	Bulgaria Czechoslovakia Greece Italy (via Venice)	Poland Soviet Union Turkey Yugoslavia
Franz Joseph Bahnhof, Julius Tandlerplatz (Vienna IX)	Berlin Czechoslovakia (Prague)	

Taxis are available at all these stations.

C. The weather

20. During September and October the weather in Vienna is usually mild with average day temperatures of 14.9°C (59°F) in September and 9.5°C (49°F) in October. There is normally a drop of about 10°C (18°F) between day and night temperatures during this period. Day temperatures may however rise to 30°C (86°F) during September and night temperatures can be as low as 1°C (34°F).

D. Transport in Vienna

21. Vienna has an extensive public transport system, mainly of trams (Strassenbahn) and to a lesser extent of buses. There is also a subway (Stadtbahn) which serves certain areas. Taxis are readily available, the basic fare being AS 5.40 with an additional charge which is of the order of AS 3.80 per kilometre. Waiting charges are AS 12 per hour. Taxi fares do not vary with the time of day or the number of passengers carried, but there is an additional charge for luggage of between AS 3 and 6. Tips are not included in the legal tariff.

22. Private cars can be hired by the week from several firms against payment of a deposit of AS 3 000. When a chauffeur is not provided, the minimum daily rate, for 80 kilometres within the city of Vienna, varies between AS 74 and AS 106 according to the type of car. For chauffeur driven cars the corresponding rate is AS 400 to AS 600 for 100 kilometres. In both cases, a charge varying between AS 1.30 and AS 2.30 per kilometre is payable for any additional use.