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# AFRICA HALL

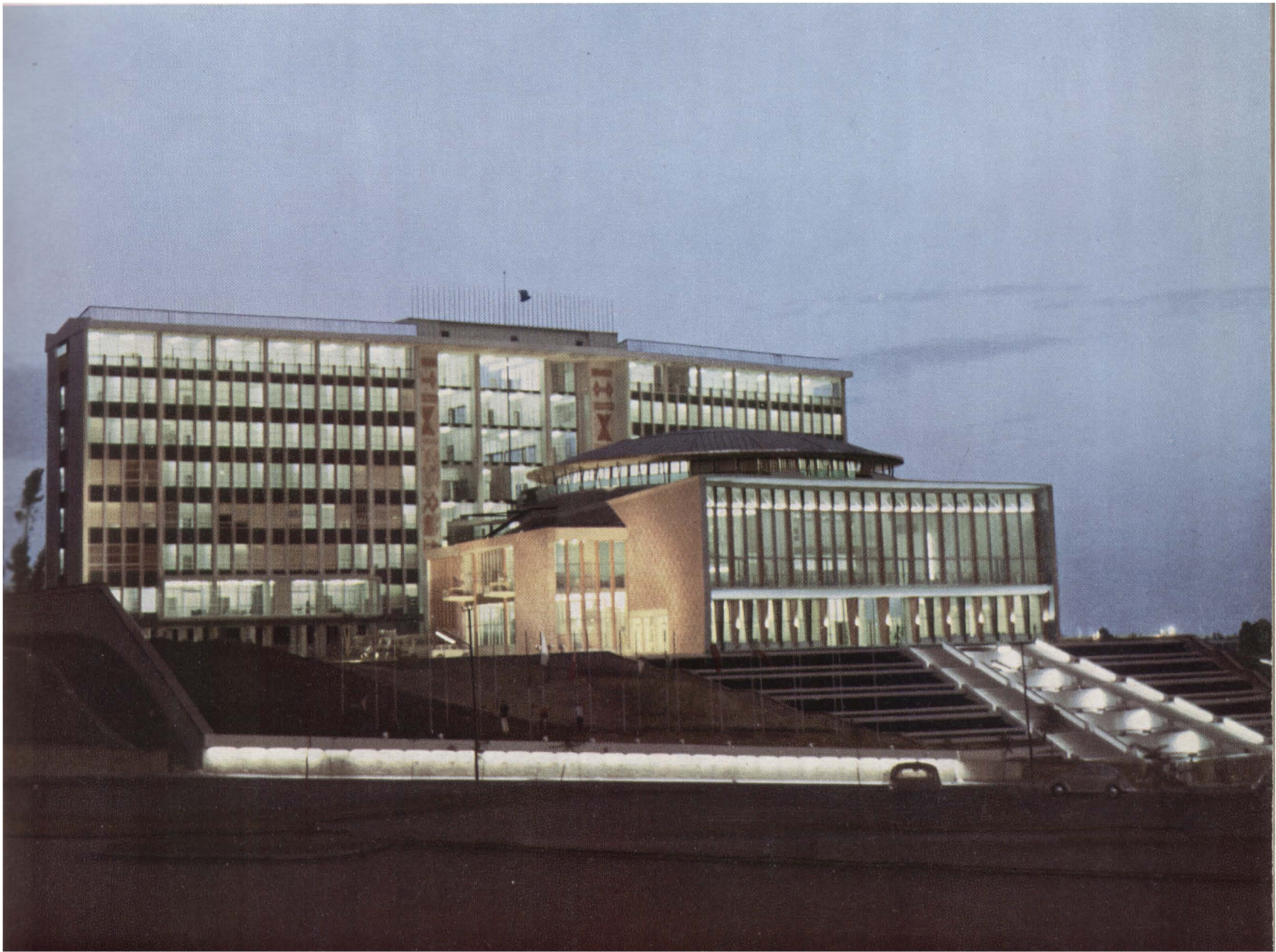


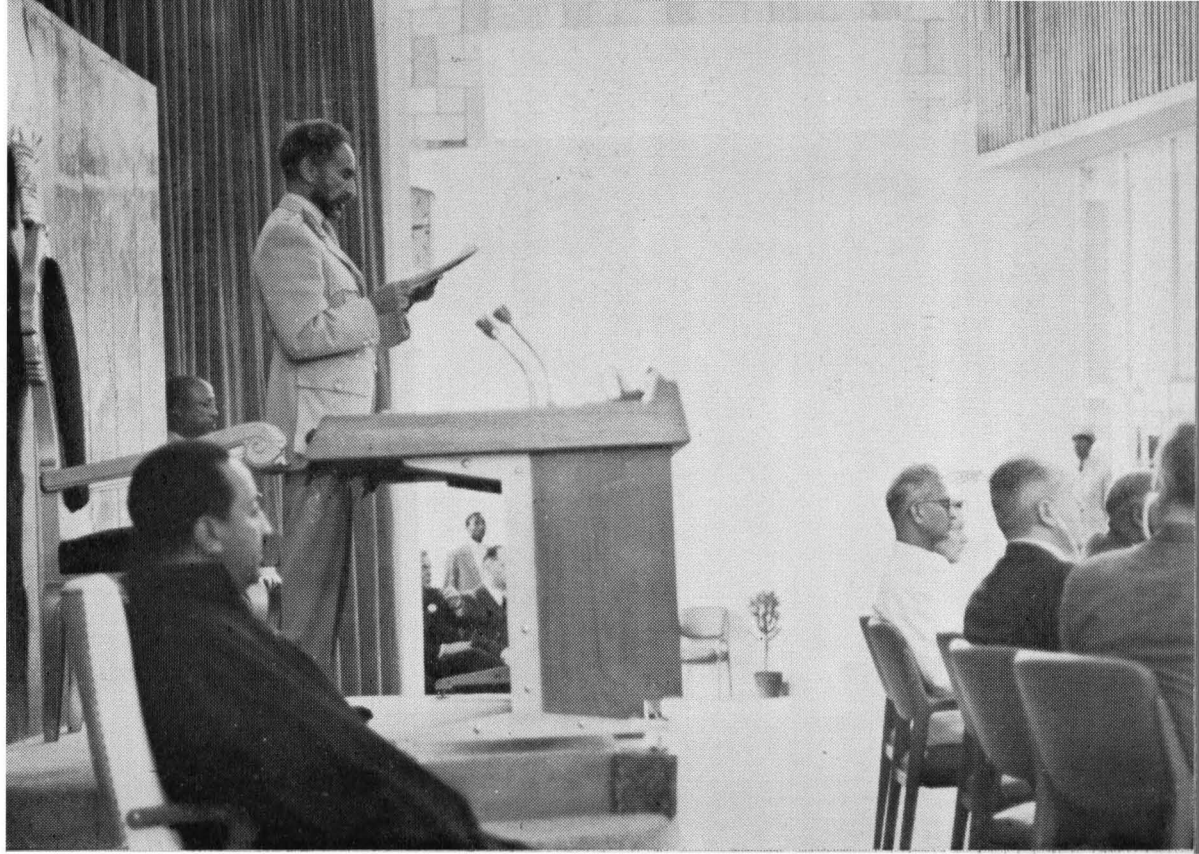
PUBLISHED BY: THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OF THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

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AFRICA HALL  
ADDIS ABABA

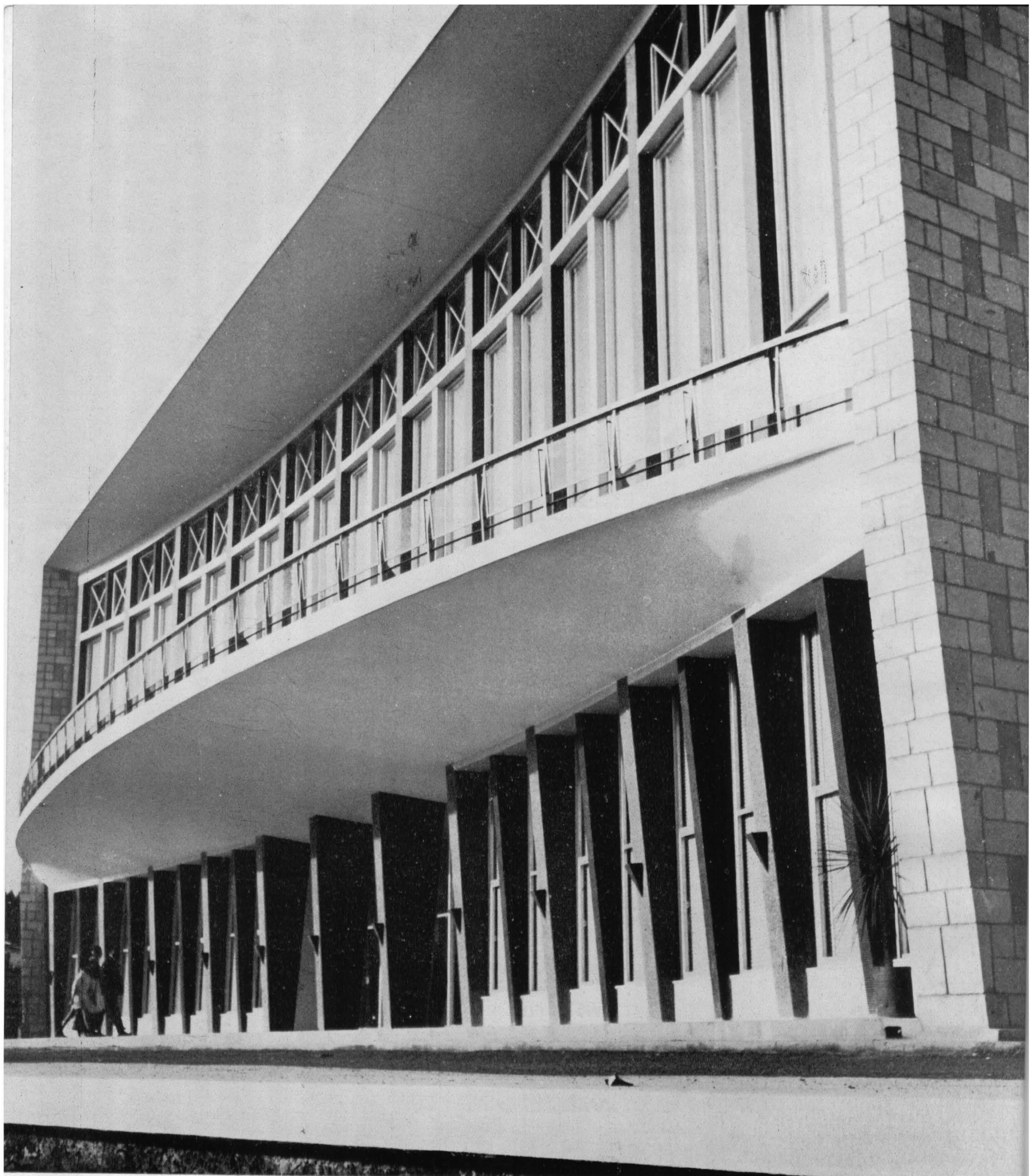
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*" ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO MEETINGS TO CONSIDER AFRICAN PROBLEMS WERE HELD OUTSIDE OF AFRICA, AND THE FATE OF ITS PEOPLES WERE DECIDED BY NON-AFRICANS. TODAY, THE TRADITION OF BERLIN AND ALGECIRAS HAS BEEN REPU- DIATED, AND IT IS THANKS TO THE CONFERENCE OF ACCRA AND NOW OF ADDIS ABABA THAT THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA CAN, AT LONG LAST, DELIBERATE ON THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND FU- TURE".*

HAILE SELASSIE I.



## H. I. M.'s MESSAGE

*Ethiopia has been honoured in her selection as the site of the Economic Commission for Africa.*

*Long devoted to the cause of the progress and independence of the African peoples, the Ethiopian nation is proud of the role which she has played on this great continent during the centuries of her independence in furthering the cause of all African peoples.*

*Africa Hall, which has been built at Our command to serve as headquarters of the ECA, stands as a permanent and inspiring symbol of the noble aspirations of the African people.*

*In these offices and conference halls will labour men and women who have as their single and dedicated goal the realisation of these aspirations.*

*From all parts of the world will come men and women who have been charged with the momentous responsibility of representing their nations in this most important of undertakings. To all of them We say welcome; We wish them success in their endeavours.*

*May Almighty God aid them in their work.*

# ETHIOPIA'S ROLE IN AFRICA

The Empire of Ethiopia is the birthplace of an ancient civilisation whose heritage is a source of pride to the Ethiopian people. In the politics and trade of the ancient world, Ethiopian played an important role and there are many references to the country and the people in the literature of those days. The Bible relates the story of the Queen of Sheba – to give her Ethiopian name – to the court of King Solomon. The Greek writers

Homer, Hesiod and Herodotus have all mentioned Ethiopia in their works.

In the world of trade there are ample historical records of the immense wealth and prosperity that Ethiopia enjoyed. Her port of Adulis was well-known to the merchants of yore and Ethiopia had very active trade relations with the countries of the Middle-East and the Mediterranean and even faraway places like India. Ethiopian soldiers were

**His Majesty the Emperor makes Inaugural Address of U. N. E. C. A. in Ethiopian Parliament House**  
ገርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ በፓርላማ ውስጥ በተከፈተው በመጀመሪያው የአፍሪካ ኤኮኖሚክ ኮሚሽን ጉባዔ ላይ ተገኝተው የጉባዔውን መክፈቻ ንግግር ሲያደርጉ።







**His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I addressing League of Nations, 1936**  
**ገርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ጠባብ አገራቸንን በግፍ በወረረበት ወቅት**  
**ጄኔቭ በመንግሥታት ማኅበር ጉብኝ ላይ ተገኝተው ታሪካዊ ንግግር ሲያደርጉ (1929)**

renowned for their bravery and skill in the art of warfare and the military strength of the Empire was such that for a long period Ethiopian rulers held sway over Arabia.

Unfortunately, with the passing of time, Ethiopia, her might sapped by internecine conflict, tended more and more towards a policy of isolationism from the rest of the world. This insular policy — possible because of the geography of the country which makes communications extremely difficult — undoubtedly helped in the preservation of Ethiopia's independence and sovereignty but she paid a heavy price, for isolationism caused her to lose touch with the advances made in many spheres by the rest of the world. Concerned only with her own affairs, Ethiopia slowly lost the importance that she had hitherto known and became a land of mystery to the rest of the world.

In the nineteenth century, Africa became the hunting ground for the colonial powers in Europe and Ethiopia was soon to learn that isolationism

was no protection against their rapacious attentions. In 1895, King Humbert of Italy sent his troops to Ethiopia in an attempt to conquer the Empire and make it an Italian colony. The Ethiopian forces, under the military leadership of Ras Makonnen, the father of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, routed the aggressors at Adowa in 1896.

The importance of the Battle of Adowa to Ethiopia and the rest of Africa is very great indeed. For Ethiopia, Adowa meant the continuance of her existence as an independent nation. The battle also taught her the futility of continuing her insular policies and gave her the confidence she badly needed to enter the field of international relations. For the African peoples, Adowa exploded the myth of European superiority — a myth that had become widespread on the African continent because of the speed and ruthlessness with which the Europeans had carried out their colonisation of the continent. Adowa taught the African peoples



**Emperor and Hammarskjöld entering Ethiopian Parliament Building**

**ገርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ። ክቡር ሚስተር ዳግ ሐ ሙርኸልድ የተባበሩት መንግሥታት ዋና ጸሐፊ ወደ ፓርላማ ሲገቡ።**

that the colonialists were no demi-gods but mere mortals whose rapid successes were due to their superior armaments.

When His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I ascended the Throne in 1930, He was determined to modernise the Empire in as short a period as possible. He launched an overall plan of development with particular emphasis on education. He also sought and secured full membership for Ethiopia in the League of Nations, the first time that Ethiopia was represented in a world body.

But the colonialists were not to permit Ethiopia to develop in peace. The lesson learnt at Adowa forgotten, the Fascist forces again made an attempt to colonise Ethiopia. The Ethiopian people resisted heroically although handicapped by the lack of modern weapons and the fact that the aggressors did not hesitate to use inhuman means of warfare such as poison gas.

His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I set out for Geneva to demand aid from the League of Nations but the League betrayed Ethiopia in her hour of travail, and for five long years the Ethiopian people had to continue their dogged fight against unfair odds. Often beaten by the might of superior arms, they were never vanquished and the aggressors were to learn that they could never hope to conquer fully so determined a people. His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, undaunted by the disappointing experience at the League of Nations, continued the fight on the diplomatic front and soon the long-awaited Day of Liberation arrived. Once again Ethiopia had proved to the rest of the world and to the rest of Africa in particular that a determined and united people could never be subdued.

His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I had, in His efforts to secure help for His people, brought home to the world a lesson of great importance. In His speech to the League of Nations, His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I enunciated the principle of international morality. His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I told the League that no nation could afford to ignore the moral standards set up by the civilized world when dealing with another country. The war against the Fascists also focussed the attention of the world on the terrible crime that was being perpetrated by the colonialists on the peoples they had subjugated. This gave rise to an anti-colonial movement which grew from strength to strength. Soon the message it preached was accepted by the nations of the world and colonialism and all it stood for was branded as unjust and condemned. This condemnation was of great importance to the colonised peoples in the world for from then on their struggle to attain freedom was recognised as a legitimate struggle in a lawful cause.

The role that Ethiopia and her Emperor played in the anti-colonial movement has placed the country very high in the affection of the African peoples. They are aware that Ethiopia has constantly championed the cause of the colonised nations in the international forums of the world and that she is the symbol of the African's fierce desire to attain freedom. Every people, struggling to free themselves of the fetters of foreign rule, have taken inspiration from the tenacious fight

put up by the Ethiopian people — even when abandoned by the rest of the world — to protect their age-old independence.

Ethiopia is of the firm belief that in a world beset by nuclear weapons whose destructive power is beyond ordinary human conception, war as a means of asserting one's policies, is an anachronism. She firmly believes that the establishment of a lasting peace is the paramount task before the statesmen of the world and that the most promising organ for the achievement of this objective is the United Nations Organisation. So firmly is the foreign policy of the country anchored to these ends, that Ethiopia did not hesitate for a moment, in spite of her betrayal by the League of Nations, to take an active part in the convening of the San Francisco Conference at which the Charter of the United Nations was drawn up.

As a founder member of the U.N.O., Ethiopia has consistently met all her commitments to this world body and has promptly answered every call for assistance made by the U.N. Secretary General. She was one of the seventeen nations — and the only one from Africa — to place a section of her armed forces under the U.N. Command in Korea in order to localise the conflict which had broken out there and to end it. She also sent a sum of Eth. \$ 100,000 for the purchase of medical supplies for the use of the unfortunate Korean people. The

Kagnev Battalion, chosen by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, to serve under the U.N. Command in Korea, distinguished itself in the honourable and efficient manner in which it carried out its arduous tasks in Korea. More recently, when fighting broke out in the Congo, Ethiopia again responded to the U.N. Secretary General's call for troops to be sent to the Congo to protect the civil population there. Four battalions, aircraft a medical unit and a number of technical personnel from Ethiopia are at present serving the cause of peace in the Congo.

In the chambers of the U.N. building in New York, Ethiopia has adamantly campaigned for the freedom of subjugated peoples, for she has long realised her special responsibility towards those peoples less fortunate than her in the matter of territorial independence. As the oldest independent African state, Ethiopia is aware that she must make the cause of any African nation her own.

Ethiopia has set for herself the goal of achieving through the United Nations, that independence which she has always enjoyed for every nation in Africa. With this end in view, her representatives at the United Nations and at other international bodies have sponsored and supported resolutions condemning colonialism in any guise. When the future status of the former Italian colonies was considered by the U.N. General Assembly at the end of the Second World War, Ethiopia patiently but

**A View of the First Session of U. N. E. C. A. in the Ethiopian Parliament Building**

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firmly sought for a decision that would be in the best interests of the peoples of these ex-Italian colonies. The final vote of the U.N. General Assembly bears out the success with which the Ethiopian delegation campaigned, for the Assembly voted in favour of federating Eritrea with the motherland and the granting of independence to Lybia. On the question of the administration of Somalia, Ethiopian insistence that the Somalis should not be put under Italian rule resulted in a measure of protection from misrule for the Somalis, for the U.N. took on itself the supervision of Italian administration in Somaliland. As the result of another resolution sponsored by Ethiopia, in collaboration with Liberia, the U.N. decided that Somaliland should become an independent country on July 1, 1960. Today, Ethiopia is proud to welcome Somalia into the fold of free and independent nations and she is equally proud of her role in bringing about this happy event.

The U.N. General Assembly's decision on the future of the ex-Italian colonies is a credit not only to the United Nations but also to Ethiopia, for the decision is undoubted proof of the efficacy of the U.N.O. as an instrument for settling disputes between nations provided the disputants are willing to utilise the U.N.O. in a spirit of co-operation and with a genuine desire to settle their disputes through peaceful means.

Ethiopia has also been equally earnest in the quest for peace in the world. She maintains that as a nuclear war would endanger the very existence of even those states that do not possess such weapons or even the means to manufacture them, the vexing problem of disarmament is not one that should be debated only by nuclear-armed states. She has proposed in the United Nations that a special conference be convened to draw up a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear or thermo-nuclear arms by warring nations. On the question of the control of disarmament, she has suggested that "small" nations, having no nuclear arms of their own, should be entrusted with the responsibility of control over disarmaments.

Ethiopia is also of the belief that the free uncommitted nations of Africa and Asia are now being spotlighted in world affairs. In the impasse created by the Cold War, the Afro-Asian bloc could be instrumental in bringing about a solution that

will ease world tension. It is thus essential that they remain united and determined.

That the Afro-Asian bloc is aware of its increasing importance in international affairs is evident from the efforts made by these nations to get to know each other better and to chalk out a plan of action acceptable to all. The Bandung Conference, which heralded the emergence of a new force in world politics, demonstrated to the Cold War nations the determination of the "small" nations to have an equal say in world affairs. The Bandung Conference gave "Panchashila" — the Five Principles — to the world and Ethiopia was happy to support the resolution sponsoring "Panchashila" for these principles had for long been the guiding principles of her foreign policy.

On the African continent, the free states of Africa have taken on themselves the duty of protecting African interests. The conferences at Accra, Monrovia and Addis Ababa have helped in bringing about better understanding among African peoples and the resolutions passed at these conferences have considerably influenced the history of recent times. From these conferences have emerged resolutions sponsoring the cause of freedom for Algeria, the dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the release of political detainees there, the condemnation of the policy of apartheid practised by the South African Government and the insistence that the Congolese people be left to work out their own future without any pressure being brought on them by nations having their own selfish designs in the Congo.

Knowing from her own experience that unity is a powerful force, Ethiopia has made efforts to forge unity in Africa. His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, who believes firmly that education is a prime necessity for under-developed countries and who has done so much in this cause in Ethiopia, has set up a scholarship scheme for students from other parts of Africa to study in Ethiopian institutions. Under this scheme, about two hundred students from countries like Ghana, Uganda, Tanganyika, Kenya and so on are offered the opportunity to study at various educational institutions in Ethiopia. Scholarship students also include children of those martyrs massacred at Sharpeville in South Africa through a special grant.

**U. N. E. C. A. Community Development Workshop opening Session Presided over by Ethiopian Acting Minister of National Community Development, H. E. Ato Abebe Retta, 1959**

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**U. N. E. C. A. Conference of African Statisticians, Presided over by H. E. the then Minister of Finance, 1959**

የአፍሪካ አገሮች የእስታቲስቲክስ ሊቆች ጉባኤ በአዲስ አበባ ።



**View of the U. N. E. C. A. Community Development Workshop Plenary at the Commercial College Building, Addis Ababa**  
የአፍሪካ አገሮች የሕዝባዊ ኑሮ ዕድገት ጉባኤ በተከፈተበት ዕለት ።

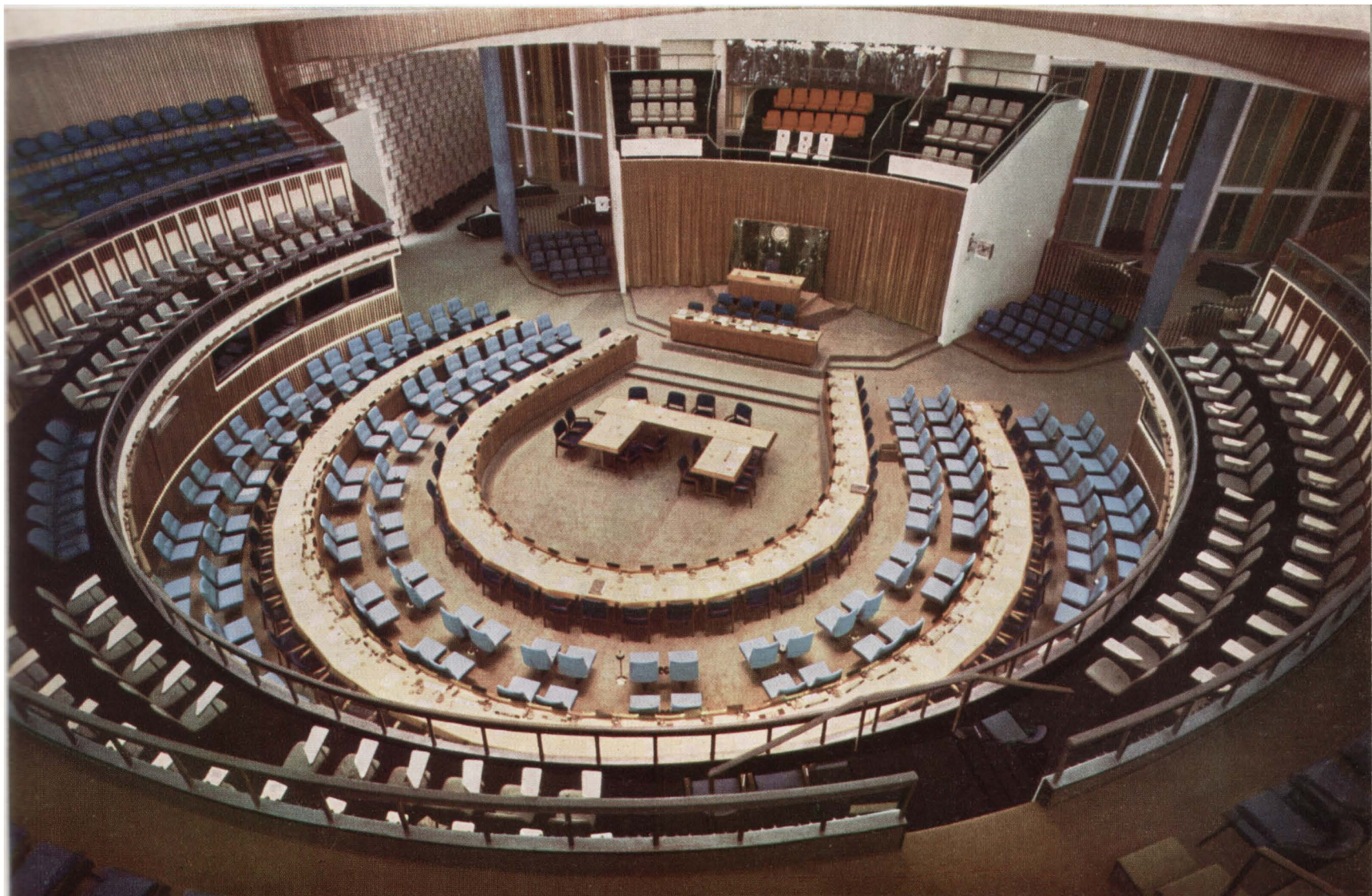


The exchange of cultural troupes between Ethiopia and other African nations has started and a cultural delegation has recently returned to Ethiopia after a successful tour of the Republic of the Sudan.

These efforts made by Ethiopia in the cause of a renaissance in Africa have borne fruit and there has been a rapid rise in the number of free African States in the past two years.

While the results that have been obtained so far are heartening to the Ethiopian people, they

are conscious that much still remains to be done. So long as people still live under foreign domination, so long as poverty, illiteracy and disease still exist on the face of the earth, so long as hatred and suspicion still divide the peoples of various lands, so long as these and many more ills prevent man — whatever his race and creed may be — from living the life his Creator meant him to, Ethiopia's task is not over. For the abolition of these evils, Ethiopia, her Emperor and her people pledge to make every effort and sacrifice.





# AFRICA HALL

Architect Arturo Mezzedimi

## How the work was conceived

### THE PURPOSE

The many detailed studies which preceded the execution of this architectural scheme had as their purpose the erection of a comprehensive structure, which would house;

- a) International, political, economic and social conferences;
- b) Public meetings, permanent and temporary exhibitions;
- c) The permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa of the United Nations and of the delegations of the African countries;
- d) A department of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was intended in accordance with criteria already tested at the headquarters of other international organizations, that it should be possible for each of the above activities to function separately, yet simultaneously and in close association with each other. The original scheme that conferences would be restricted to African countries only was gradually expanded to the point where, in exceptional circumstances, it would be possible to cater for plenary meetings of all Member States of the United Nations.

### FIRST IDEAS OF THE PROJECT

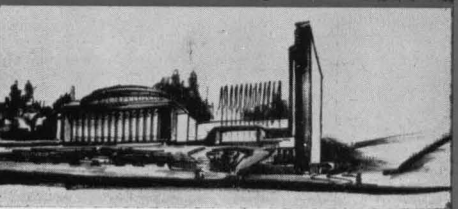
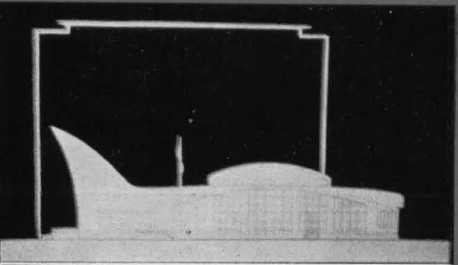
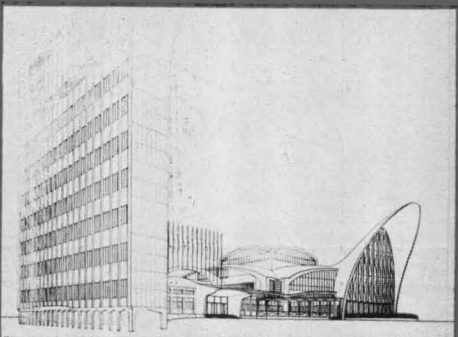
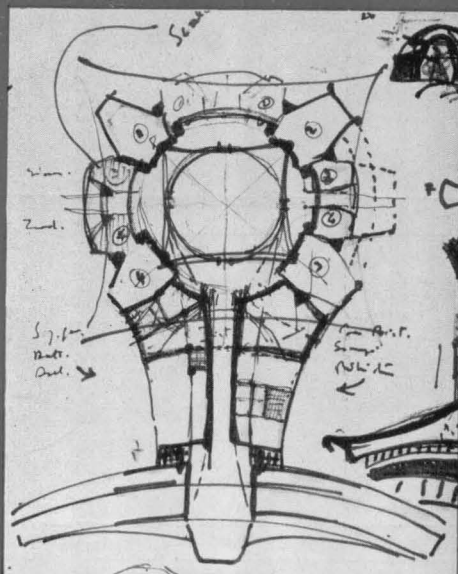
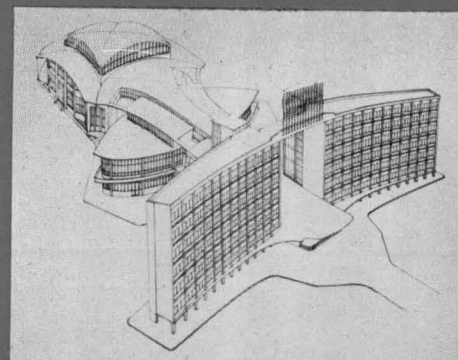
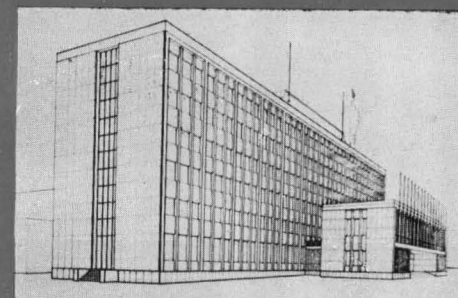
To house so many varied international arrangements required the erection of a building that should be primarily for working purposes and thus of discreet design, without ostentation, and yet combined with a structure that must be representative and richly decorated; this gave a particular interest to the scheme but also offered a number of difficulties.

The need to give character to the structural scheme that was to bear the name Africa Hall led to the natural inclusion of the formal and typical elements which had to be taken from undetermined and diverse architectural traditions. It was a question, therefore, of blending all these elements and incorporating them in a modern building, while at the same time eschewing any facile concessions to folklore and local colour.

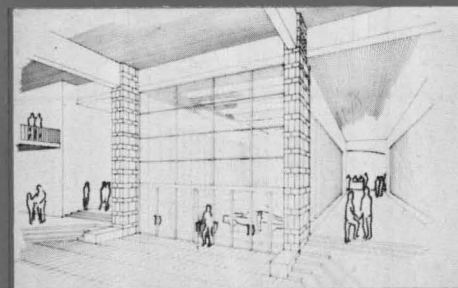
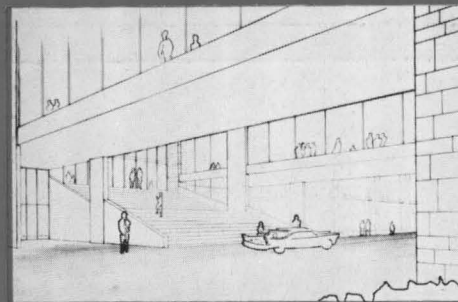
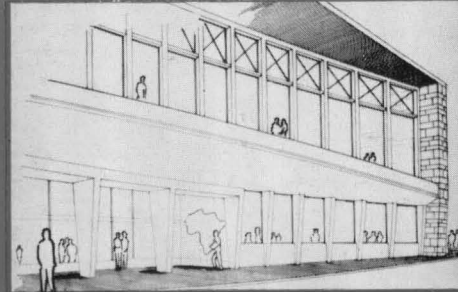
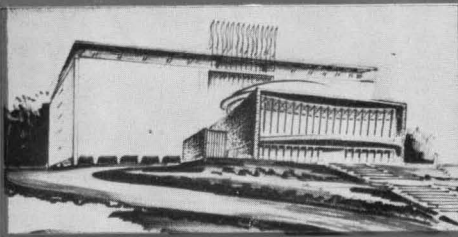
To achieve this it was necessary to rid oneself of pre-conceived ideas of absolute purism and by an affirmation, rigorous and intransigent, brave the easy and inevitable criticism of having to compromise and of having deprived modern architecture of an excellent opportunity of penetrating into Africa.

The objective and reasoned utilisation of local knowledge and experience rendered it necessary to take a number of matters into consideration and to make certain decisions which, without any doubt, have proved themselves most efficacious. Modern architecture must provide a solid, pleasing and usable building of sound workmanship and above all one that would fit in with the inevitably gradual process of assimilation and refuse to give way to the preconceived formalism of the "internationale" of bad taste.

The first comprehensive solutions, therefore, even if they were reached with different situations in view and with a certain unconstrained ease, had the great merit of directing the project along the path of aesthetic and financial possibility, and thus towards a definitive solution.







A definitive solution which crystallized simultaneously with the change of site became the starting point that decided the formal situation. This had already been developed on the principle that the whole structure should be divided into two main buildings: one to be used for conferences and public meetings and the other to be used as offices. The environmental conditions in relation to position and to urban improvement determined the size of the buildings as was achieved.

In the main, however, the ideas that took form and shape were based on:

a) the modernity of functional and aesthetic conceptions, with a parallel attempt to give character;

b) the blending together of the two main buildings, with a parallel attempt to ensure their integration with each other and with any future buildings that might be needed for uses and purposes similar to those of the main structures;

c) the symbolic representation, with the inclusion of formal elements, of the willingness of Africa Hall to receive new ideas and all peoples;

d) the attempt to provide the most pleasing surroundings for foreign delegates by means of panoramic vistas opening as widely as possible over the green landscape of Addis Ababa.

The final choice of the site, on the edge of a rocky incline on the Avenue del Giubileo, was, as has already been said, a decisive element. That is to say, it imposed new volumetric solutions which, dispensing with those customary in a high frontal building, in a pre-eminent position, with the assembly building in the shade, found their natural composition in the lay of the land.

The marked unevenness of the land was remedied by roads leading directly to the Secretariat building, making it essential that the building should be placed at a considerable distance from the Avenue. Thus ensued the idea of placing the assembly and public building frontally on the ridge in a dominating position.

Such a solution at once provided the following advantages:

1) It provided transport vehicles with direct access to the common zone between the two buildings, that is to say, to the main hall of the delegates and the office staff, into the zone which came to form the nucleus and clearing station for the various branches, for the whole assembly, the offices and the future extensions.

2) It provided the public with access, by the front staircase, to the ground floor of the forepart, which was to be used for functions to which the public would be admitted free of charge.

3) It made full use of the aesthetic atmosphere of the landscape, of the view, of the excellent conditions of light and the climatic factor.

Thus, convinced that these factors were valid and not the product of arbitrary and exclusively formal ideas, the definitive characteristics of the building assumed reality, all doubts vanished and the architectural plan of the whole structure was started: the building "in depth", of a formal simplicity, harmonious, not cramped and moderate in colour (the great international organizing machine) which produced frontally, a plastically more generous volume, a model solid and compact, vibrating with gayer colours, freer and more open (the new creature, the assembly of the African people). All this was to be presented, obviously, with an outer sense of unity, and yet a hardly concealed desire to abandon oneself to a pulsating play of colours, vivid, vibrating: African!

Meanwhile, the desire for deeper research into the various practical solutions made it seem ever more necessary to gain experience at the various headquarters of international organizations designed for similar functions. In fact, visits to the Glass Palace in New York, to UNESCO in Paris, to the Palais des Nations in Geneva and Strasbourg, and to FAO in Rome, and a detailed examination of these works — all of them outstanding through the signature of their architects, through the collective work of the nations and through the continual improvements derived from experience — proved most useful.

*In fact, they enabled one not only to witness the latest application of artistic skill, applied with a generosity of means and outlook, in such architectural structures, and to take note of the suggestions of the senior officials and specialists, but above all to devote oneself to strict observances of the needs, habits and preferences of the delegates and office staff by following them in their daily work, during their ordinary office routine, and in committees and meetings; by contacts in the lobbies, the bars, the restaurant and at delegation parties; by observing their labours, their rest periods, their tensions, their behaviour, everything, in fact, that constitutes a way of life and hence a habit.*

### THE CONTINUOUS SPACES

*All this was known, and besides contributing to clearing the way for technical solutions, it encouraged the search for particular solutions, above all that of adapting substantially different and particularly favourable climatic conditions to the character and customs of the country. Special efforts were made to overcome the feeling of claustrophobia which had been observed in some delegates after they had sat for hours in the closed-in atmosphere of a conference, and which caused them to leave their places frequently even if only for a short period.*

*The granting of partial relaxation during the conference — by allowing delegates to leave their seats in the hemicycle without leaving the hall, so that they are able to follow the discussions without interruption, and by arranging that there should be no problem of «In» or «Out» for them, seemed for a time to be the ideal solution for the general assembly hall of Africa Hall.*

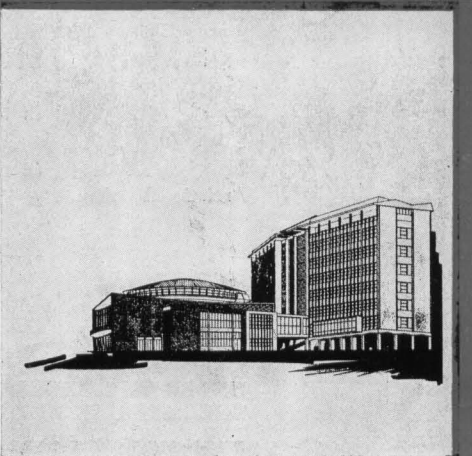
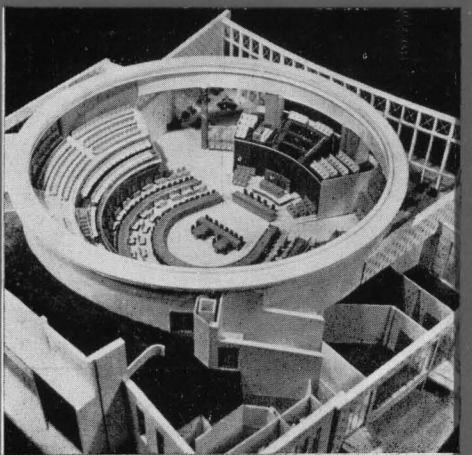
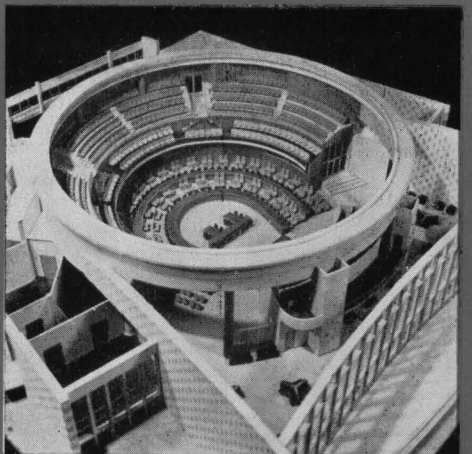
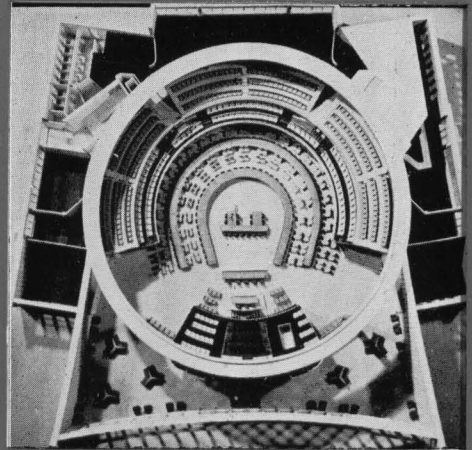
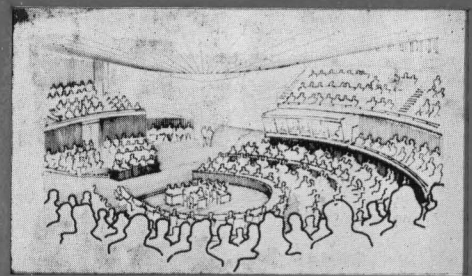
*It was the search for this solution, in fact, which led to the inclusion of «continuous spaces» in the plan. The result, not to limit the hall to a specific well determined volume, but to allow it to continue and dissolve as it were in the abstract key towards the whole sector of the head of the horseshoe — of cylindrical-conical volume — and towards internal zones of differing shape and height, partly open and partly protected from the view of the hemicycle but always continuous and uninterrupted by the great glass windows opening on to the frontal panoramic balcony, constitutes, in fact, the newest and most novel element compared with conventional assembly halls. (And, as such, probably the most exposed to reserves of assimilation, the difficulties of overcoming certain traditional formula being well known).*

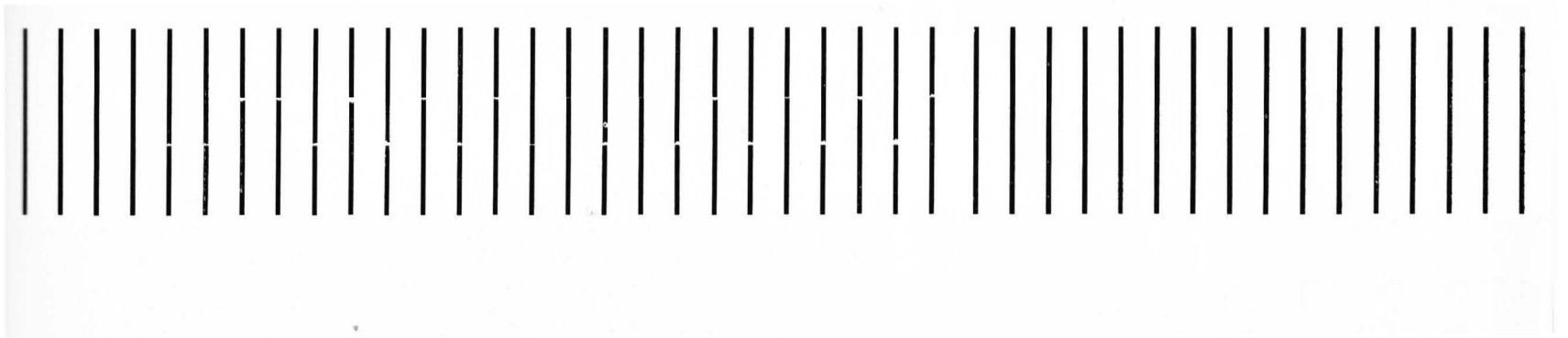
*A practical possibility — that of giving expression to the architectonic volume by the provision of visual continuation from environment to environment, from outside to inside and with the help of a permanently spring-like climate — which constituted a most interesting formula of volumetric placing, became the dominant formal internal language expressing the necessity of extending it over the whole structure by applying to it an intense and suggestive design adapted to the very special character of the building.*

*There is, in fact, continuity in the space applied in the delegates entrance hall, between the outside and the inside, through the covered-in area for the arrivals of the vehicles, the «fly-over» passages, staircases, walls and glass doors, etc., such a zone automatically acquires, precisely for these regions, coordinating functions of the internal-external viability of the whole structure, between the various bodies of the construction, the possible future extensions and the approaches used by pedestrians and vehicles.*

*And the ground floor of the fore-part, to be used by the public: the various rooms, such as the exhibition rooms for permanent displays, waiting rooms, cloakrooms, bars, etc., with the entrances, the internal passages, the staircases and the lifts, form a sequence of uninterrupted surroundings from differing destinations but gathered together in one big volume, half-screened off by some structural elements and by aluminium panels.*

*The same system has been adopted on the first floor, in the lobby, and wherever possible, within the limits, naturally, of essential measurements and the critical judgement of the architect.*







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# A F R I C A

Architect: ARTURO MEZZEDIMI

Structural Engineering Calculations: MARIO FANANO  
Electrical Installations Project: ENRICO BALDELLI

STUDIO FANANO MEZZEDIMI: CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS  
with the collaboration:

in the preparation of drawings of the design and models:

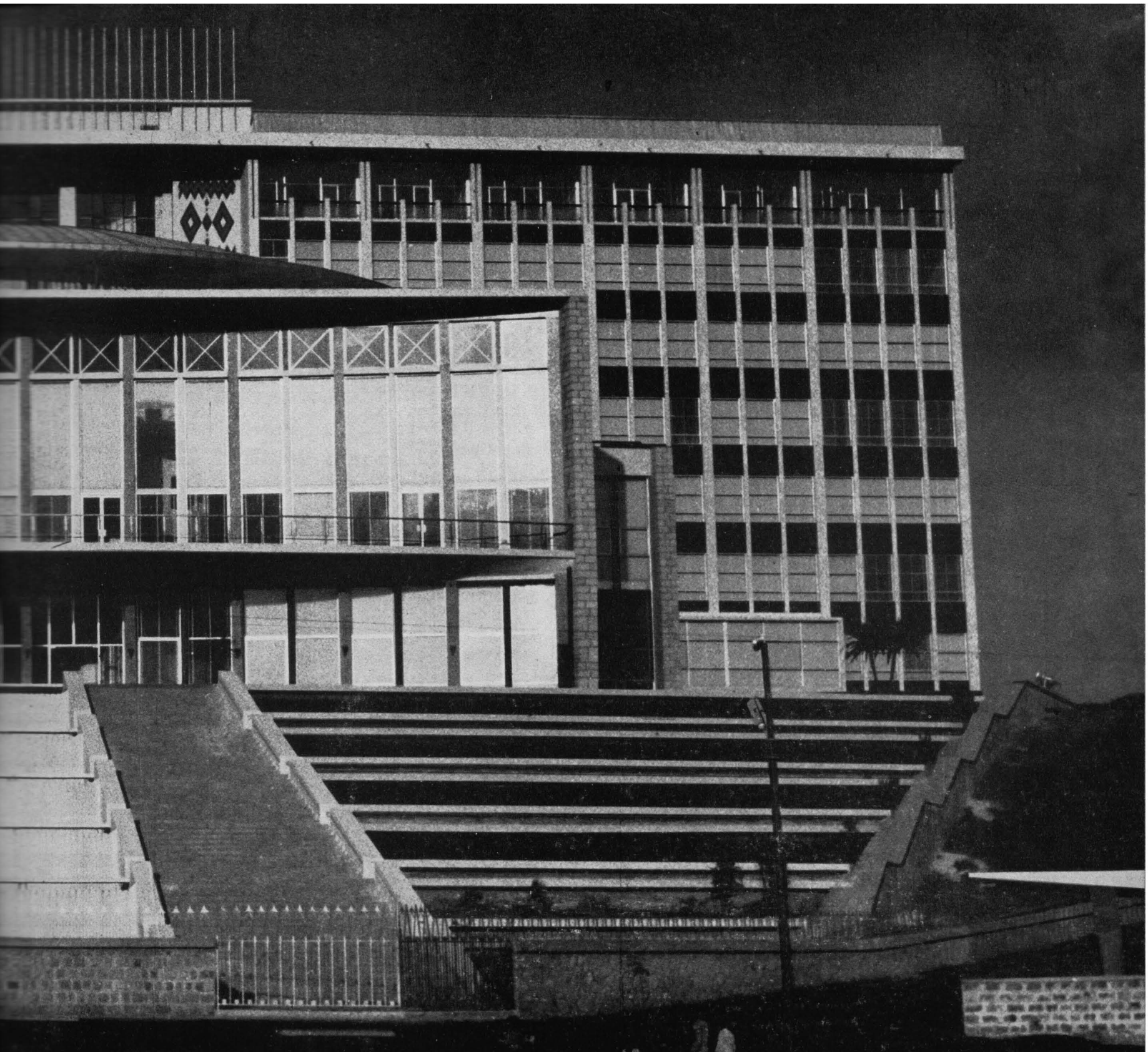
G. Bristot, E. Scotti, G. Cravero, G. Baldini, S. Gravanti;  
V. MALTESE, G. Rizza; in the electr. install. T. Johansson.

Artistic Works: A FE W E R K T E C L E : for the artistic glazier in the Hall (work performed in France by the ATELIER THOMAS Valence).

NENNE SANGUINETI POGGI: fotogr. enlarg. panel repres. the African flora (work perf. in Italy by VILLANI of Bologna); and mosaic flooring repres. the African fauna - work perf. by CERAMICA TABACCHI of Asmara

BRUNETTO BURACCHINI: for the artistic glazier in the Assembly Hall (work performed in Italy by LA DIANA of Siena).

UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, BEING: MINISTER, H. E. DEJ. MANGASHA SEYOUM; ASS. MINISTER, ATO SEYOUM AKALWOLD; DIR. GEN., ATO SALEH M. HINIT; CHIEF ENG., ATO ABDUL S. AHMED,



# HALL

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- Main Contractor:** LUIGI VARNERO — *with the collaboration in heading of the Yardworks:*  
N. Del Missier, O. Del Frate, M. Moi, C. Amendola, C. Amara  
*Aluminium Dome:* by CONRAD ZSCHOKKO, Stahlman of Zurich; *Aluminium Casements:* by FEAL of Milan; *Steel Casements:* by CROCE of Addis Ababa; *Mosaic linings & floorings:* by CERAMICA TABACCHI of Asmara; *Plastic floor tiles:* by GERFLEX of Paris; *Sanitary apparatus:* by POZZI of Milan; *Special scaffoldings:* by INNOCENTI DALMINE of Milan; *Marbles:* by GAETANO VENEZIA & SONS of Avenza Carrara; *Venetian blinds:* by L'INVULNERABILE of Bologna; *Special floors:* LUCHI & MARANI of Milan; *Paintings and decorations:* by BUSETTO & PASSERA of Addis Ababa; *Special linings:* by Ceramica JOO of Milan; *Platic skirtings:* by MARSON of Genoa; *Glazing works:* by BENCINI of Addis Ababa; *Garden arrangements:* by ATO SEBBATU GHEBREIESSUS of Addis Ababa.
- Electrical Works:** SEVERINO SILVESTRI — *Supplies by ELECTROCOMMERCIAL of S. Rizzo;*  
— *Simultaneous interpretation apparatus by PHILIPS (ETHIOPIA) S. A.*  
— *General supervision: ETHIOPIAN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER*  
— *AUTORITY AND IMPERIAL BOARD OF TEL. OF ETHIOPIA.*
- Fixed Furniture:** F. RIVA & SONS of Meda (Milan).
- Furnishings:** KALDERONI of Rheydt (West Germany); *Carpeting HALO of Lobberich.*
- Lifts:** SCHINDLER, of Lucerne.
- Teleph. install.:** I. B. T. E. — *Imperial Board Telecommunications Ethiopia of Addis Ababa.*

# TECHNICAL INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDINGS

## CONSTRUCTION DATA

THE TOTAL AREA of the land space is 26.000 square meters with possibility of extension in North, East and South directions.

THE TOTAL VOLUME OF THE BUILDINGS is of about 75.000 cubic meters, with a maximum height from ground level of 40 meters, plus the basements.

THE USEFUL SURFACES, totalling 13.800 square meters, are bound for: 3.600 square meters to conference premises; 5.500 square meters to offices and 4.700 square

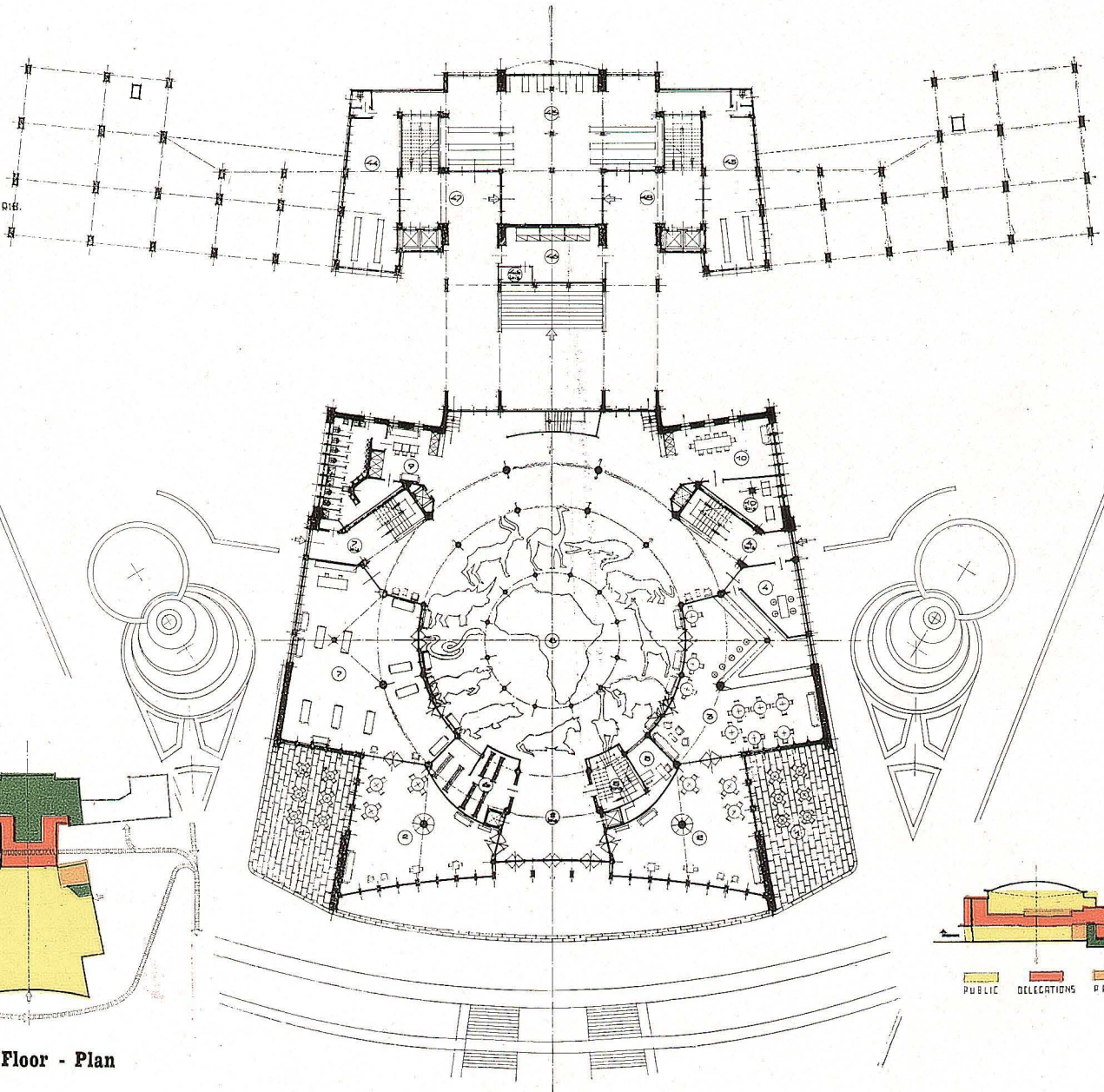
meters to general services, premises for the Public, library, etc.

THE CONSTRUCTION, started in July 1959, has been formally opened on February 6, 1961, on the occasion of the Third Session of the Conference for U. N. Economic Commission for Africa.

THE WORKING DAYS spent on the work, without accounting all works executed in workshops, laboratory, manufacturing shops and in ateliers, in Ethiopia and abroad, amount to 140.000, with an average of workmen in the yard, increasing from 300 to 800.

### KEY

- 1- VERANDA
- 2- LOUNGE
- 2a- ENTRANCE
- 3- BAR
- 4- BACK BAR
- 4a- STAIR FLOOR LANDING
- 5- INFORMATION DESK
- 5a- STAIRCASE TO SPECIAL GUEST TRIB.
- 6- WARDROBES
- 7- EXHIBITION HALL
- 7a- STAIR FLOOR LANDING
- 8- MAIN HALL
- 9- TELEPHONE RECESSE
- 10- PRESS ROOM
- 43- MAIN LIBRARY ROOM
- 44- READING ROOM
- 45- READING ROOM
- 46- MAIN SWITH BOARD ROOM
- 46a- BATTERY ROOM
- 47- ENTRANCE
- 48- ENTRANCE

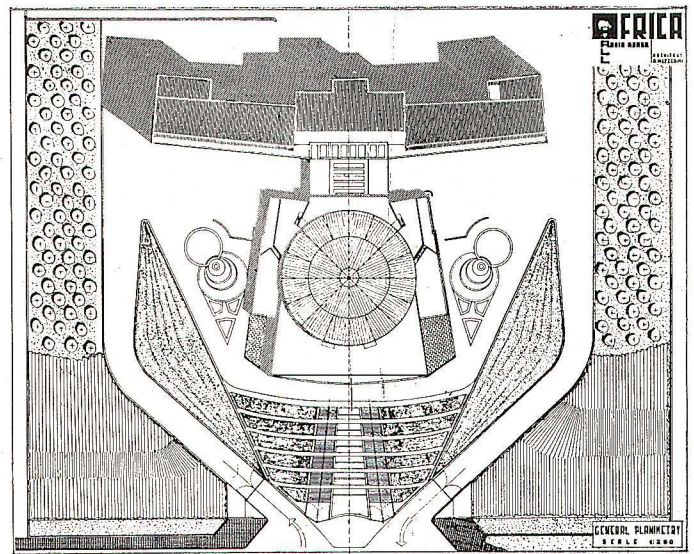


Ground Floor - Plan

# CONCEPTUAL SCHEMES

Motives of functional order have been the guide to the determination of the plan and of the structure, in every part of the organism of the building: the juncture in two branches of the posterior edifice has permitted the difference of the extra-territoriality areas, reserved to the delegations and to the permanent staff of the Secretariat of the UNECA, whose offices have been located in the south wing and in the central part «of the bottom» building. Where, therefore, it has been effected a separation in vertical direction, permitted by the double service cages (stairs, lifts, toilettes), allowing to each organism a complete self-possession of the function.

In horizontal direction have been, instead, realised the self-governing of zones — with the same diversity of services — in the forefront edifice all the first floor is exclusively for the use of the delegations, while the public will have access to the ground floor, and from here, with marginal runnings, to the gallery and to the foyer at the second floor, to the terraces and to the walkway under

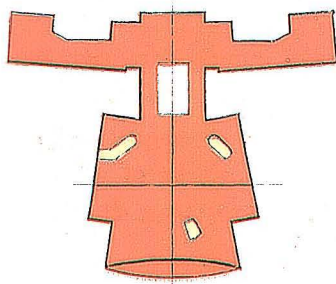
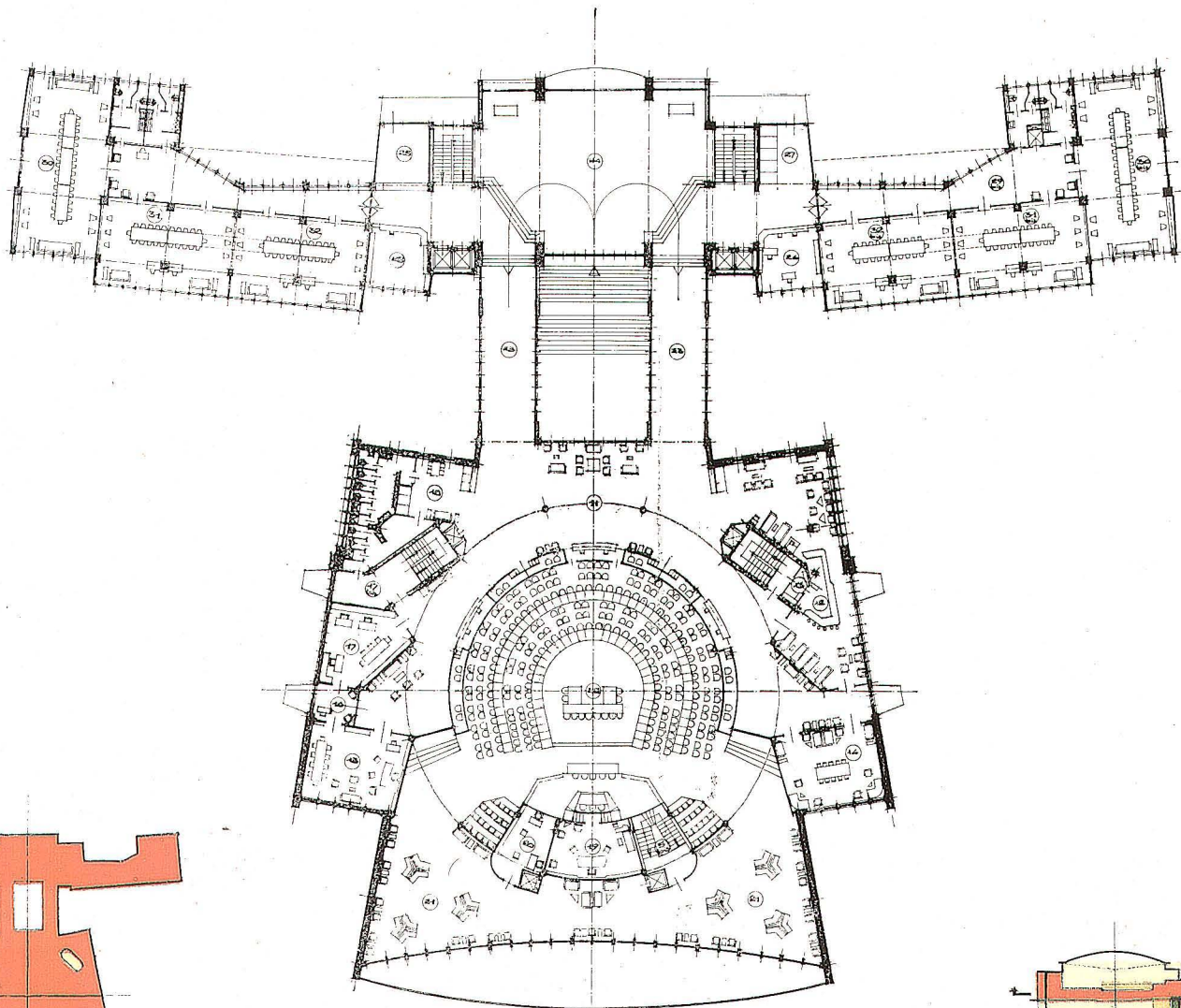


cupola, for the press and to the special guests there are reserved half raised galleries.

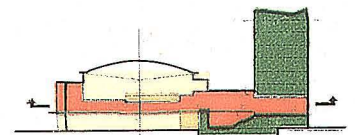
Every one of the above mentioned «categories» of persons — officials, delegates and advisers, observers, journalists, special guests, members of the public — will

## LEGEND

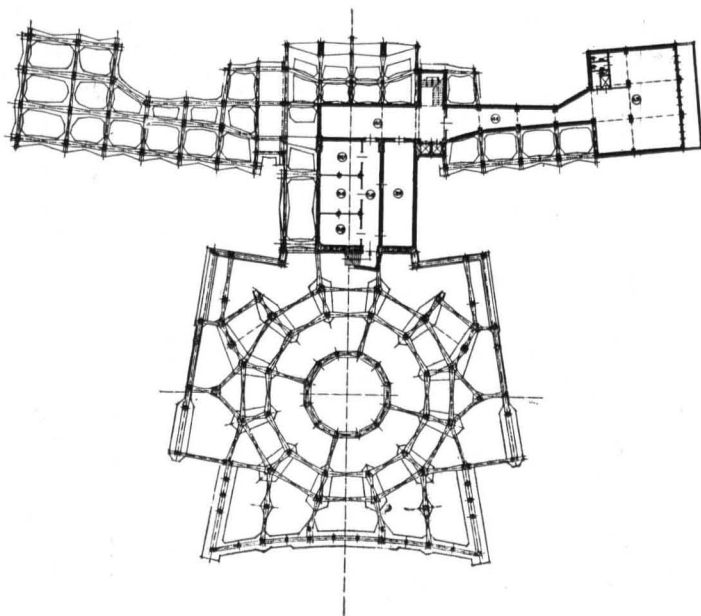
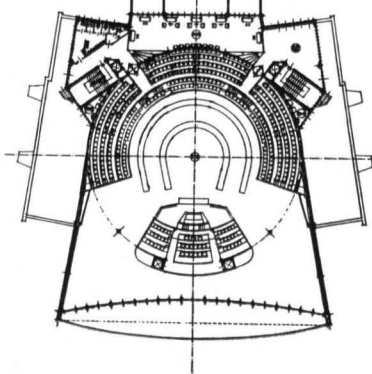
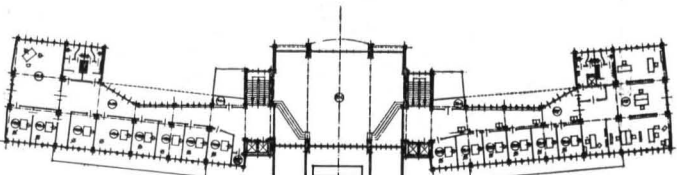
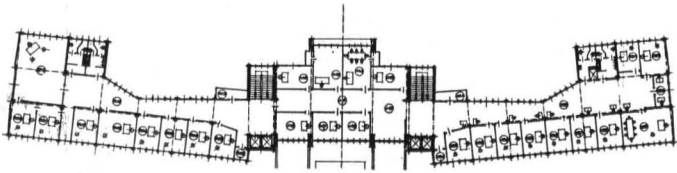
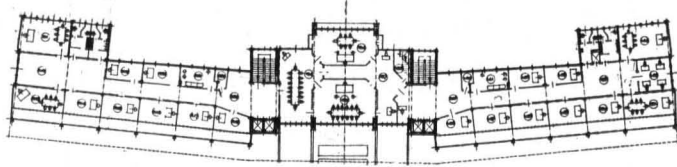
- WALKWAY STAIRS CORRIDOR
- TOILET
- STAIR CASE
- OFFICE
- OFFICE
- OFFICE
- OFFICE
- OFFICE
- DELEGATION'S RECESSION
- DELEGATION'S OFFICE
- SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE
- OFFICE
- CONFERENCE HALL
- PASSAGE
- ENTRANCE HALL
- BANK BRANCH OFFICE
- TELEGRAPH OFFICE
- PHONE BOOTHS
- BRANCH OFFICE
- DOOR
- DOOR
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.6
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.1
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.5
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.2
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.4
- COMMITTEE ROOM N.3



First Floor - Plan



PUBLIC DELEGATIONS PRESS OFFICES



**Up-down :**

**Seventh Floor - Plan ;**

**Intermediate Floors - Plan;**

**Second Floor - Plan ;**

**Foundt. & Basements - Plan**

have, therefore, well determined zones of specific action, so that irrational intersections may be excluded, but, contemporaneously — with the efficiency of «arrangements» of vertical and horizontal joining — capable to allow «integrations» in respect to the circumstances and to the «time» of work, between officials and delegates, between delegates, advisers; observers and journalists, and to open to the members of the public runnings that, for practice of buildings of this kind, it may be defined as «turistic».

The above mentioned preface concepts, establish the essence of the organic entering of the whole, and are indispensable for a more easy perception of the plans and of the runnings.

### **THE PLANS**

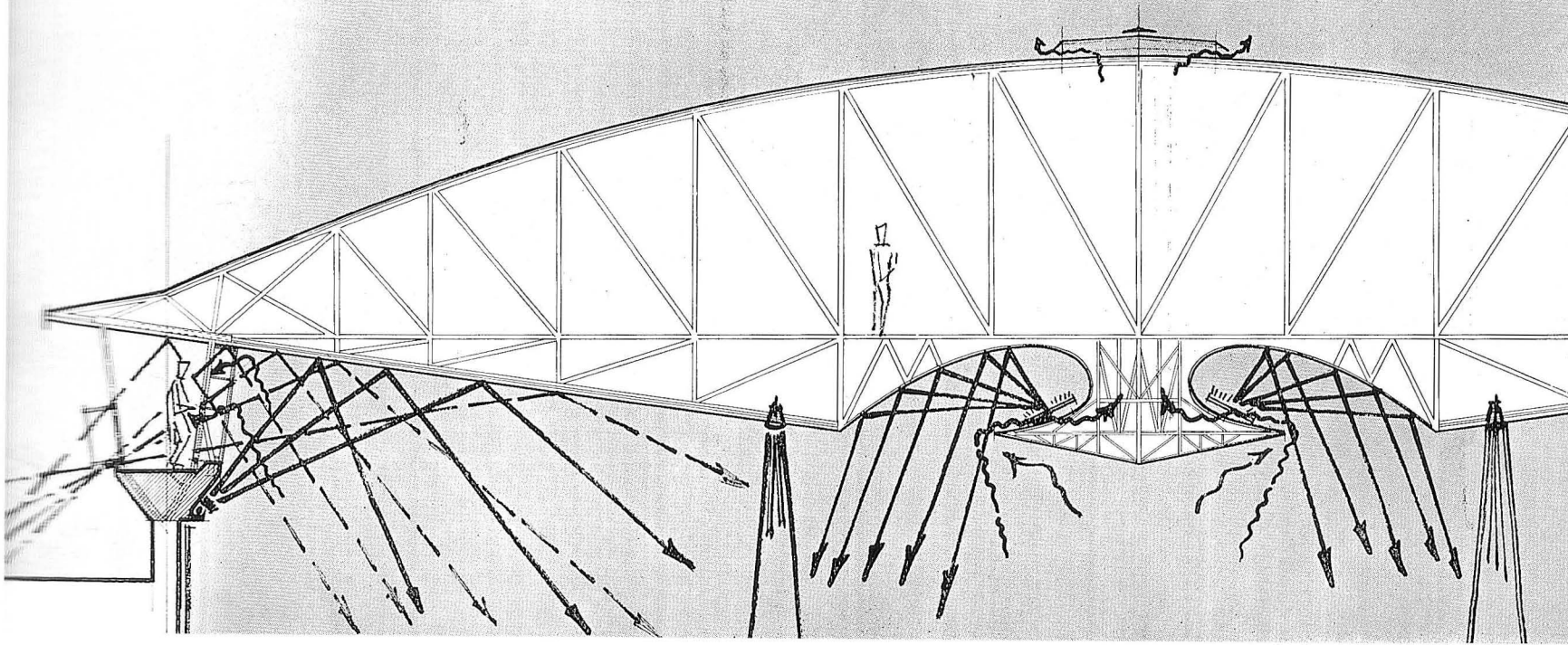
**THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE FOREFRONT BUILDING** — usually bound to the members of the public — is opened, frontally toward the main access stairs on the Jubilee Avenue; a huge cantilever slab, that may be reached directly also by cars, hiding all the elevation, protects the accesses to the hall. From here, lifts and stairs, feed directly the special guests' gallery to the second floor of the assembly hall, while side entrances put into two large waiting rooms for contingency use. From this hall there is access to the large inner hall, to be used for meetings of various kinds, of circular shape, around which are located the permanent exhibition halls, the enquiries counter, the State Bank and E.A.L.'s counters, the bar for the use of the public, the telephone exchange and the telephone booths, the press room, the toilettes, as well as the stairs and lifts to allow the public to get access to the terraces and to the walkway under cupola.

The whole of the above mentioned premises, assembled together in a unique large space, is accessible also by two lateral entrances, and, on the back side three passages have been made, one of which allows the underground connection with the Secretariat's building.

The partitions of the various premises for different purposes, are made with crystal and aluminium, such as to allow a good natural illumination also in most internal parts. Artificial illumination is also all indirect, with sheddings located between ceilings and beams. The flooring is totally made of mosaics, in different compositions, all designed for the purpose; in the inner part the Africa continent profile has been produced, as well as in the twelve surrounding sectors as well as a self-styled figure of the African fauna. The columns of the inner circle are intended to be transformed with a lining of an artistic nature, of dissimilar materials, as wood, stone, metal, set to composition of inspiration to the archaic arts of different african countries, with every column corresponding ideally according to different racial directions.

The shown-shop furniture in the permanent exposition hall, designed, will keep valuable works of art that Africa Hall will collect, time after time, from donations of various countries.





Profile of cupola-ceiling in the Assembly Hall with schemes showing natural and artificial lights refractions, ventilation and acoustics

THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE FOREFRONT BUILDING — Approachable from flying passages — it is totally reserved to Conference Delegates.

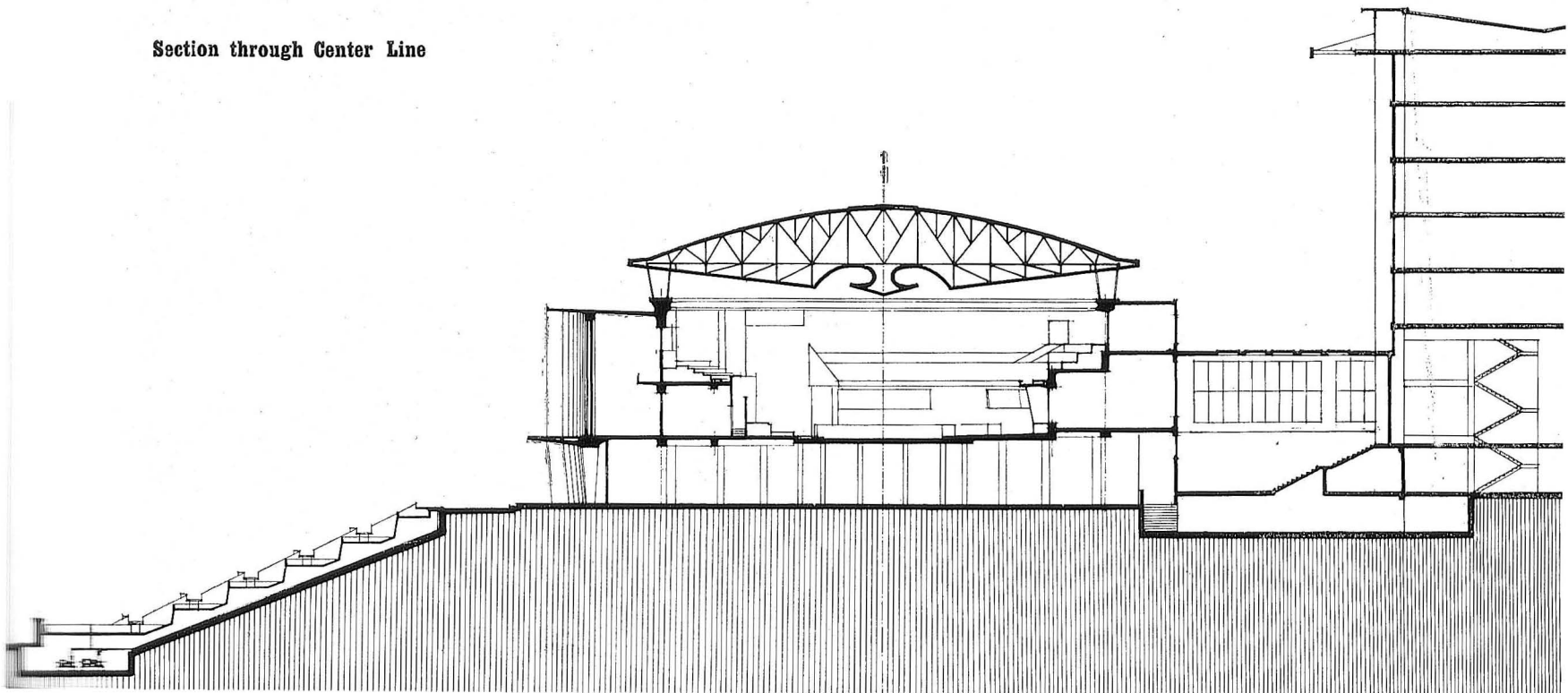
The area of the « pas perdu », that embraces perimetrically the volume of the plenary hall, branches off to the access of different rooms of the secretariat and conference registry, to the delegates rooms, to the bar and telephones, to the toilettes and to the interpreters' booths, as well as to the plenary hall to which the ends of the two main branches have access. The information counter and distribution of documents counters are lined with valuable woods, and recessed in the inner part of the curved wall, that is totally dressed with a photographic cloth showing a composition inspired by the African flora, work of the painter Mrs. Sanguineti. All the floors are covered with Perlon grey-blue coloured carpets and the walls polished

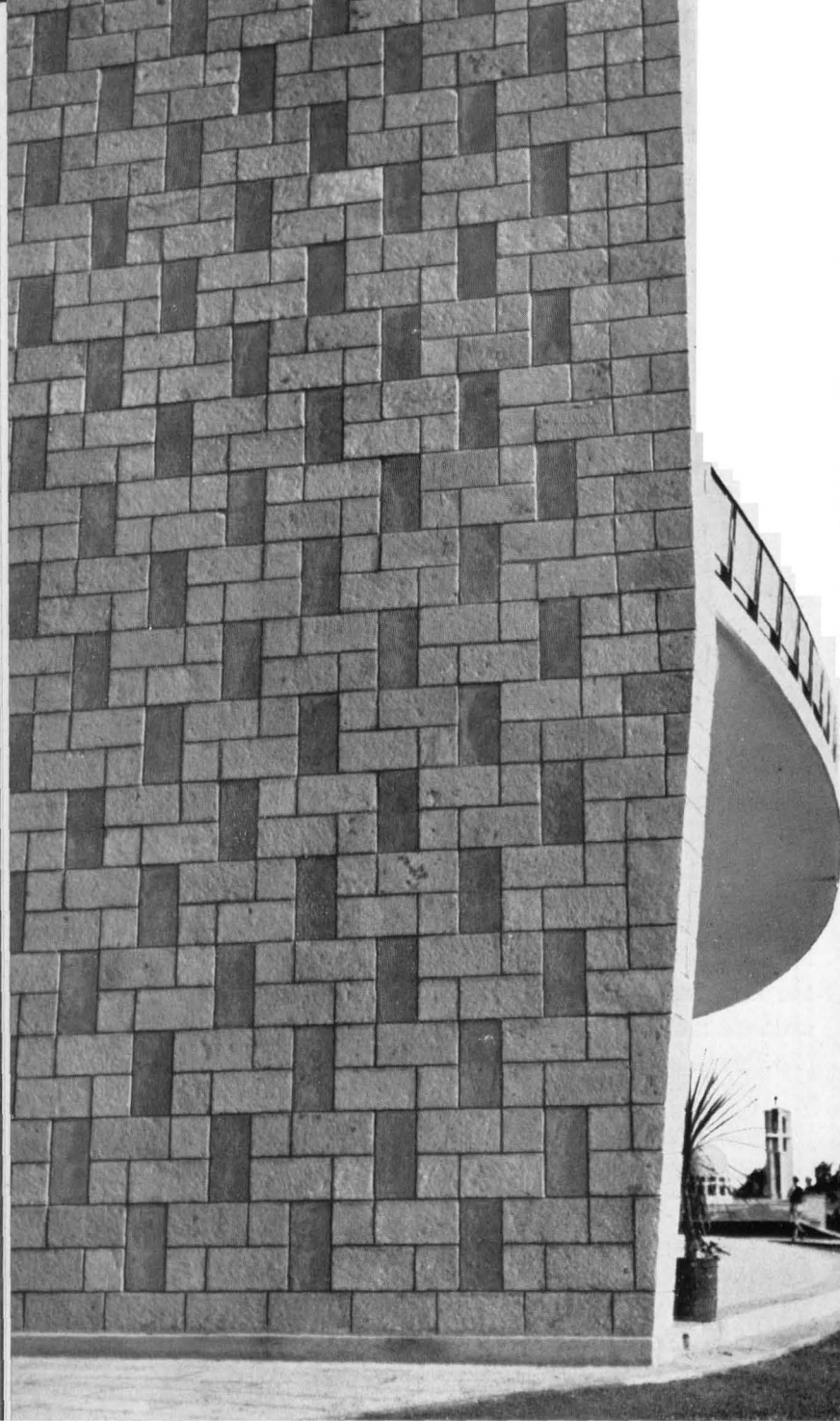
with stucco colour. The bar, made of metal, timber and mirrors, has the service counter covered with ox hide, brown dressed. The ceiling is totally covered with plastic bee nest panels, that makes also a continuous source of artificial illumination, with soft light that illuminates the photographic enlargement.

THE ASSEMBLY MAIN HALL has a circular plan opened on the head, as a curved trapezoidal form. By volume it is a cone frustum, with two upper galleries — public and press — and a third gallery — internally isolated — for the special guests. Every one of the mentioned galleries has self entrance in regard to the hall.

Opposite to two parallel horse-shoe shaped tables are the chairman tables — and the rostrum, when required — and internally at a low level the stenographers' table.

Section through Center Line





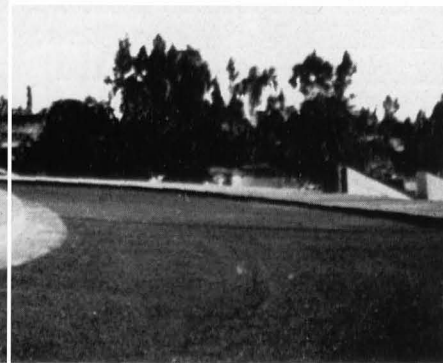
carpets, selected as to allow the best visibility. The first ring of tables can lodge 36 delegates on easy-chairs, while at the second ring there is place for 50 more. Moreover, to each chief delegation seat there are two more fixed easy-chairs, to be used by the advisers of same delegation. Easy-chairs for observers and specialised agencies are located beside the special guests tribune. Therefore the order of seats, everyone having the hearing-set for simultaneous interpretation, is the following:

Chairmanship 8; chief-delegations 86; advisers 168; observers and specialised agencies 58; stenographers and secretaries 16; interpreters and operators 16; special guests 37; press 106; public 220; amounting all together to 715.

The chairman's office has been located, self standing as volume, under the special guests tribune, in the greater space of the semi-circle; while beside and back-side an ample space that contain all the front of the edifice and that project itself externally on the large cantilever balcony.

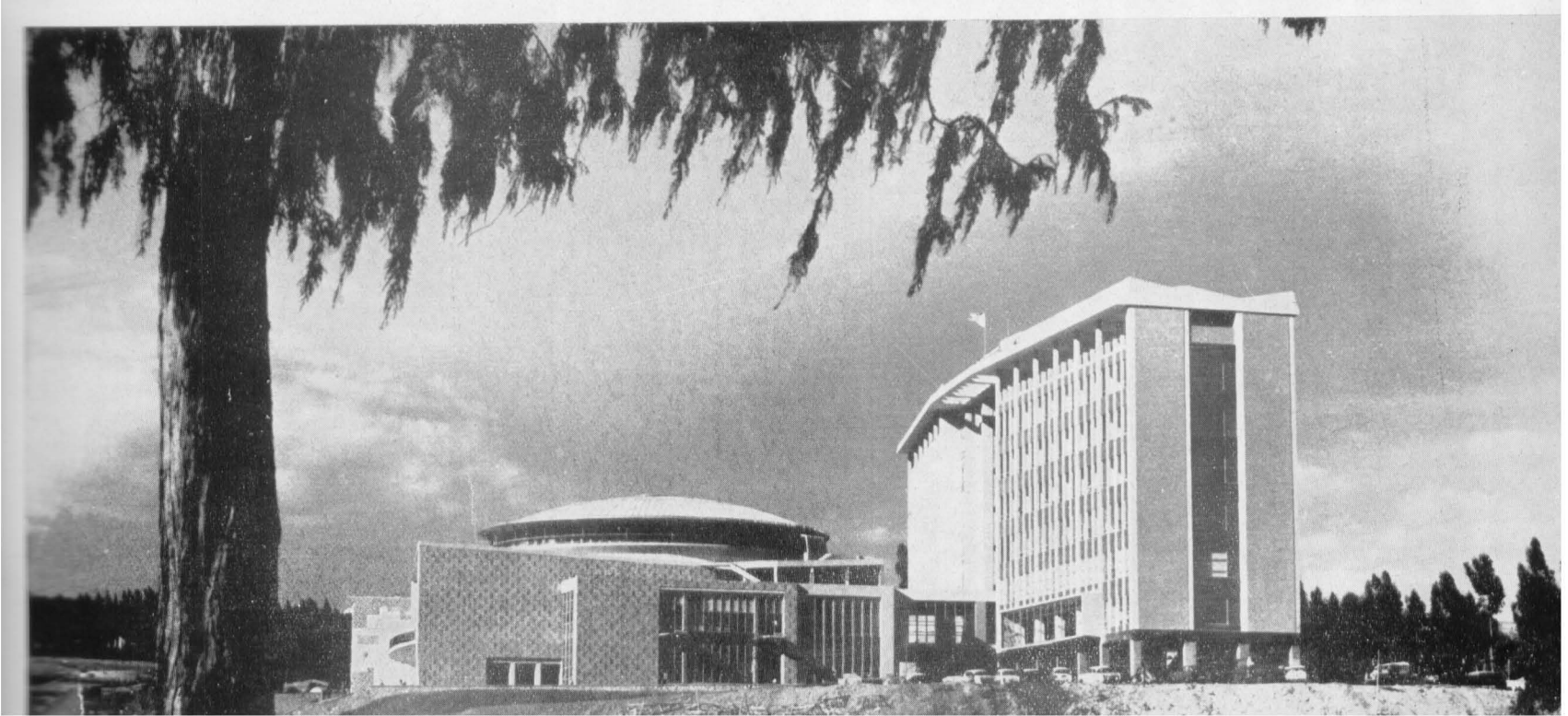
The walls of the hall, with the exception of the side screen walls of the trapezium, — made of local stones with composition of faced and geometrical stones, — are entirely lined-up with natural timber mouldings, fixed on sound-absorbing panels. The easy-chairs are lined with Era and Napaflex (plastic-textile) material of different colours,

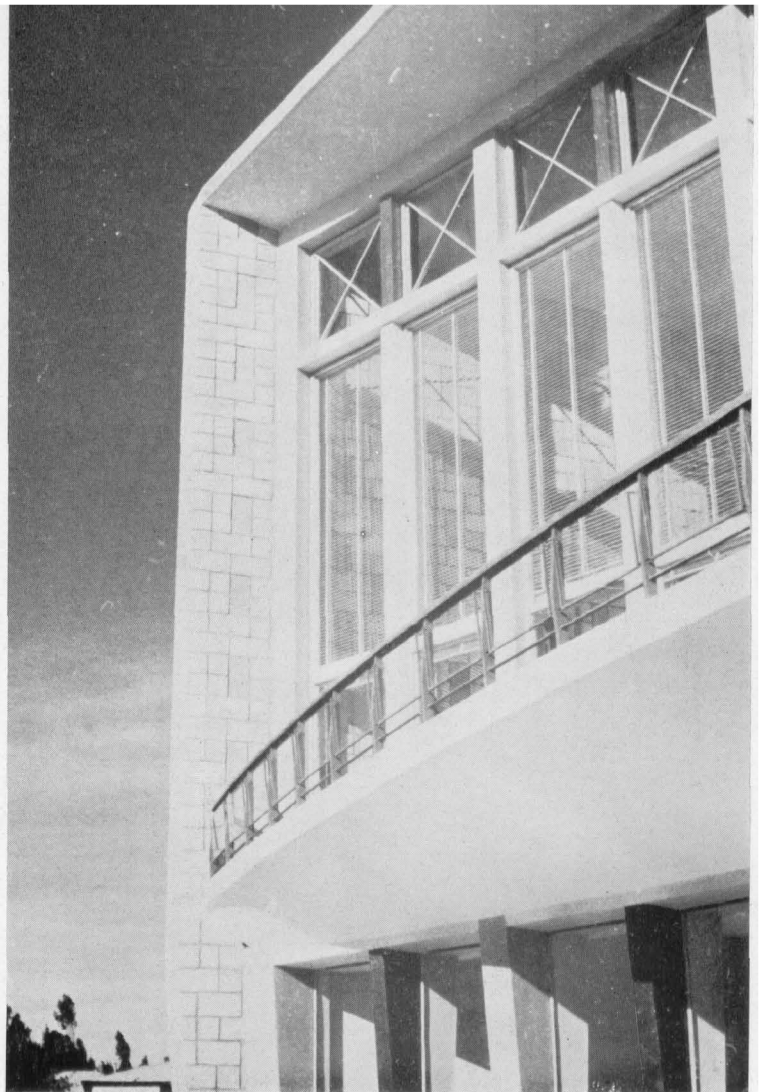
The floors are entirely lined with light grey and blue

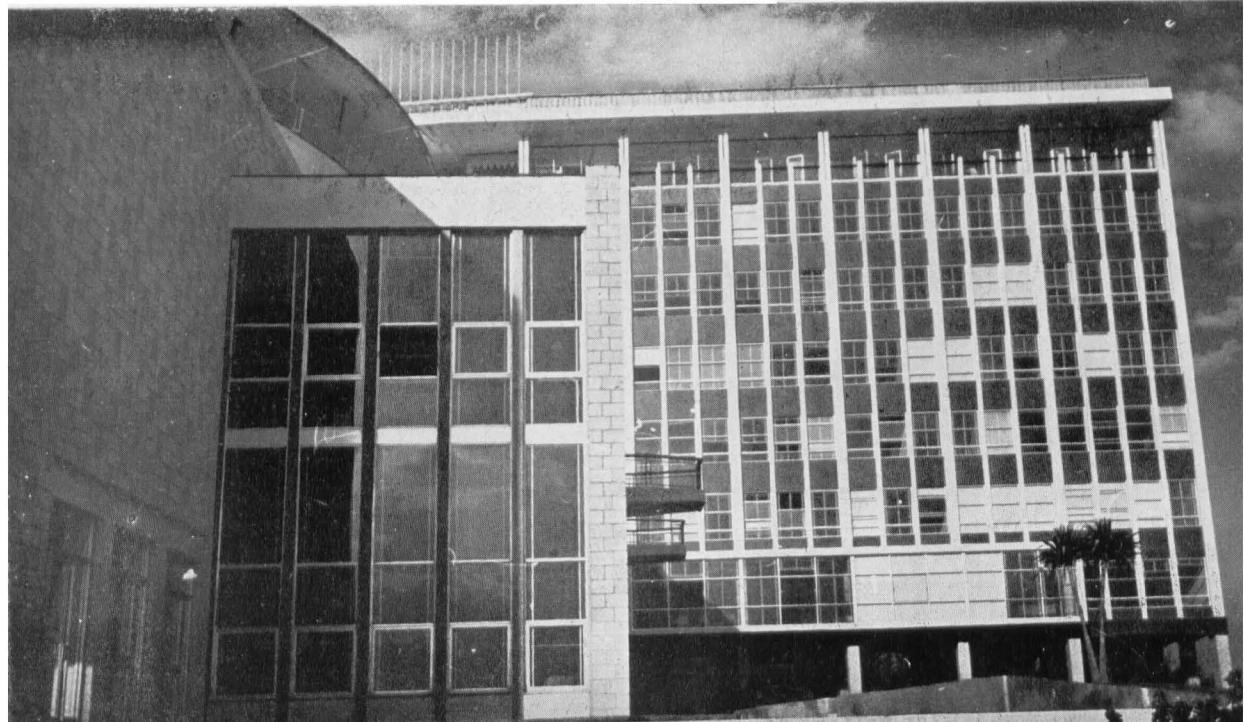
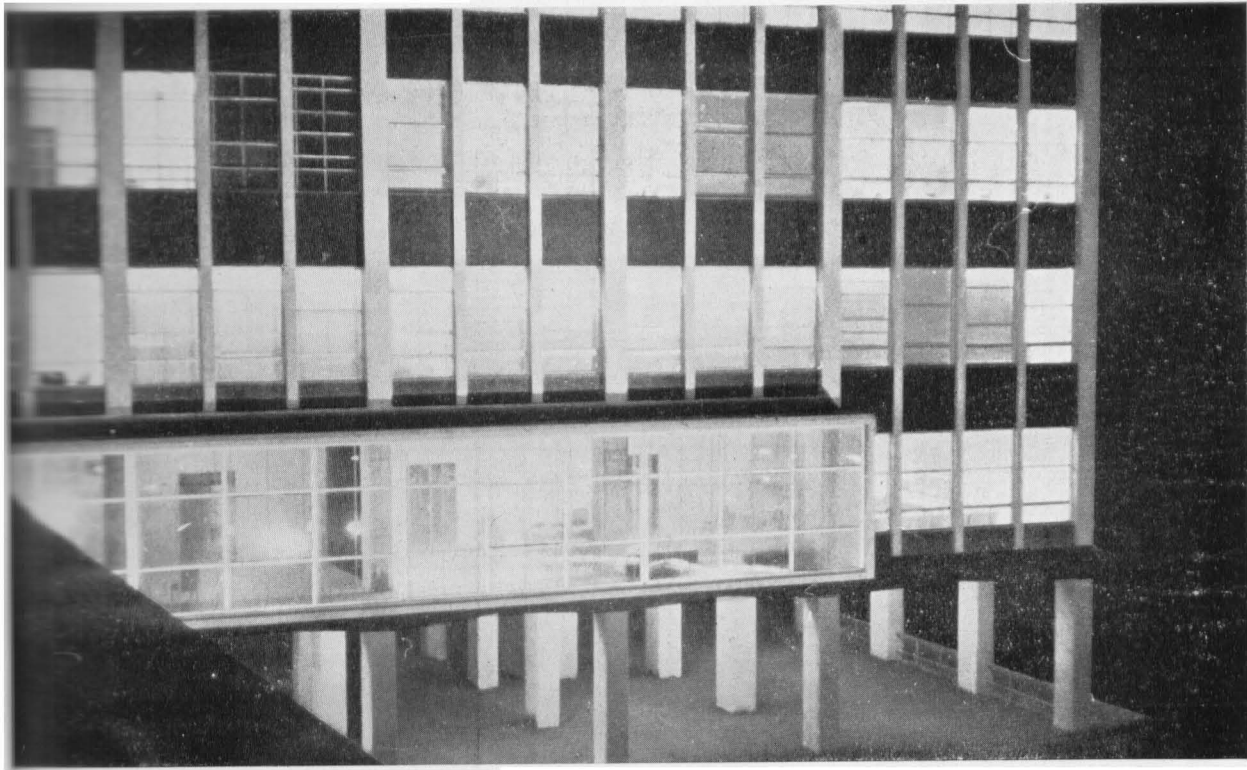
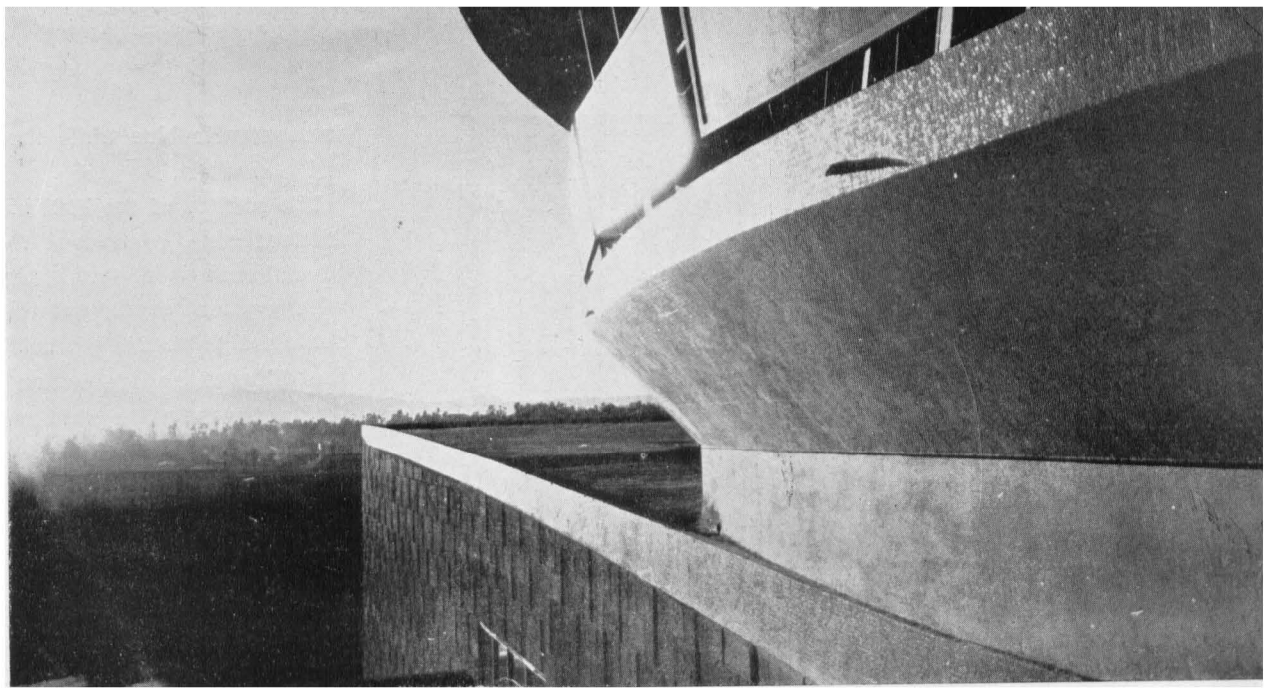


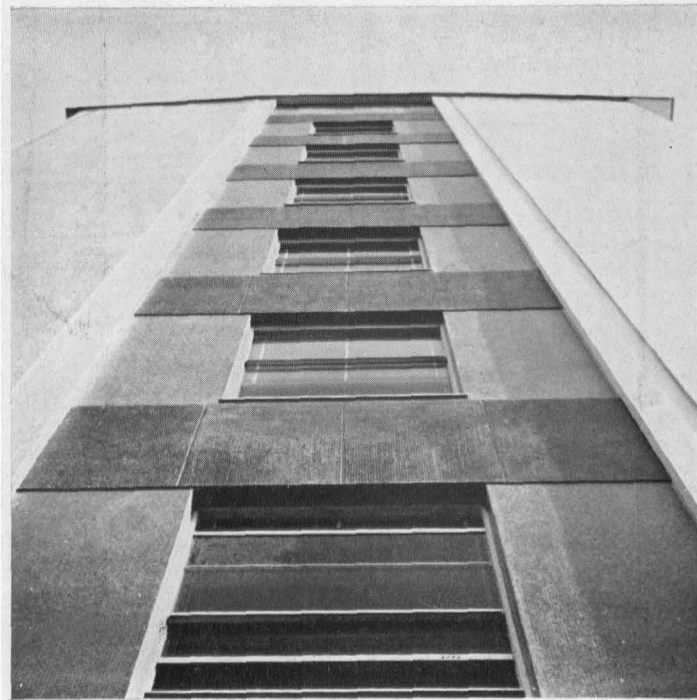
**Edifice External Views**











from grey to blue while those of the special guests are red and white.

The soffit of the Hall has the shape of an upturned frustum cone, continuous from inside to outside, made of anti-acoustic material, having the inner-calotte, made with gypsum, as an upturned mushroom. The surfaces contained in such a geometrical form, have the task for the diffusion and refraction, either of the natural light that enter from the aluminum glaziers under cupola, or of the artificial light coming out from the central mushroom. The sound waves emitted from the loudspeakers, installed in the same calotte, are diffused themselves too by refraction, with a satisfactory result of acoustic diffusion.

An artistic glazier, coloured painted, deed of painter Buracchini, is fixed above the special guests tribune, and receives the light already diffused from the large frontal glazier, screened by venetian blinds.

THE UPPER FLOORS OF FRONTAL BODY, at different levels, contain the galleries which are part of the inside of the hall, as well as the foyer and toilettes for public, the lift shafts and stairs, the accessible terraces for the « turistic walkways », with connecting external steps up to the under cupola circular balconade, where the total look of the hall is seen.

The volumes of the front body unit are articulating in respect to the symmetric axis, with very vast solid walls made of local stones, combined with modular designs, curved glaziers fixed within a series of nimble columns, cantilever of plastic efficacy; the whole resumed and coordinated by the up-standing aluminium cupola that, with the ceiling surfaces, forms a lower disk — assembled by an upper calotte, and lower frustum cone — borne by a tubular metallic framing, laid on hinged truss, above 48 small steel columns that are emerging from the collar beam. The daily light passage from outside to inside, and night light from inside to outside, gives an optic result of greater rising-up of the same cupola.



THE POSTERIOR BUILDING, bound to the Secretariat — organism for the office collective work, of from staff to common office routine employees, and then with exigencies of a more simple function, is emerging, as an up-standing blade for over hundred meters frontally and eight storeys above ground floor, with a basement and a top floor in addition.

It is articulated on two wings, slightly frontally opened, connected in the central part of the building pivoting on the main hall of the first floor.

To such hall, a conveying-away traffic spot, is accessible from main great stair, located between the two flight passages connecting with the front building, in the covered way for the cars entrance; as well as from the two lateral stairs and by four lifts.

It is limited by four large pillars lined with travertine, where the glaziers are fixed: the entrance glazier made of

aluminium and crystal; and the bottom glazier with colours painted in artistic composition deed by of Ethiopian painter Afewerk Tekle. The floor, at different levels, is entirely made with white veined Carrara's marble. Sides are opened toward the open newel stairs and the spaces bound to be used as services for the delegations — Post and Telegraph, Bank, Air Company, Telephones and Wardrobes.

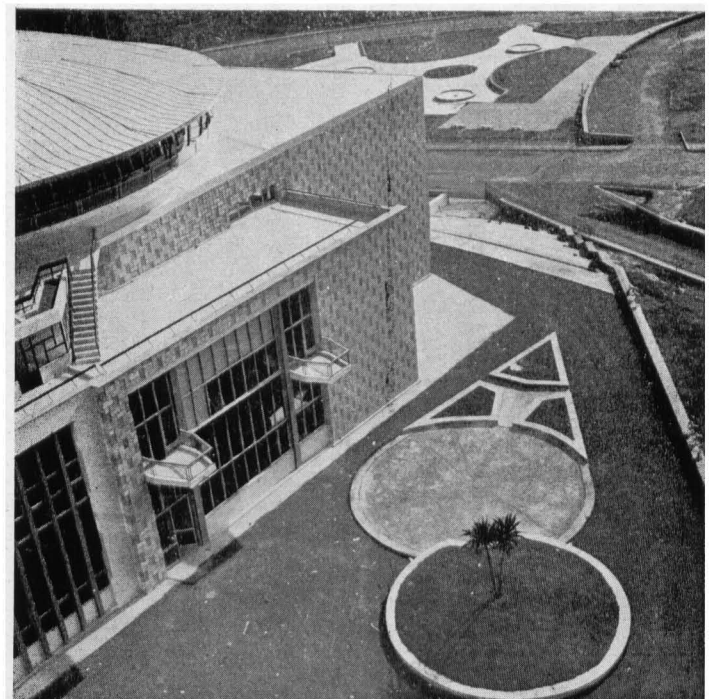
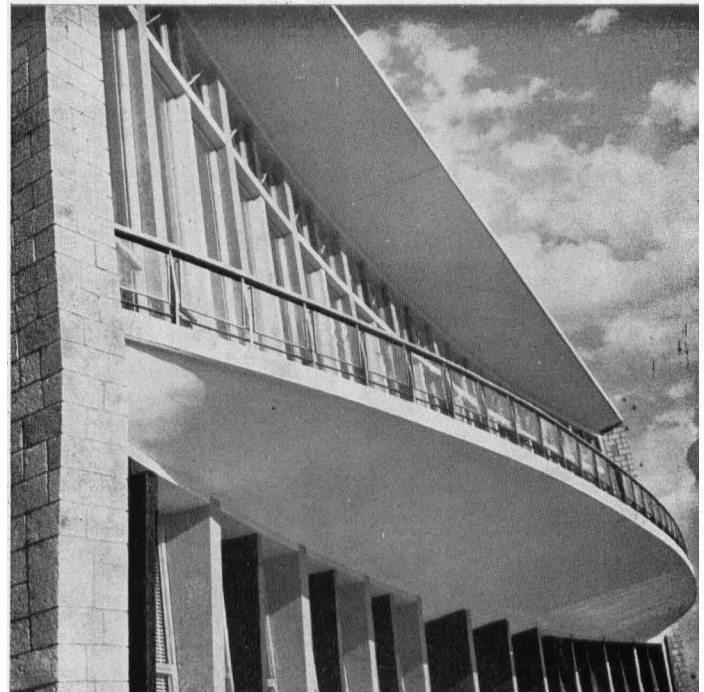
The two branches, symmetrical at the same floor, having cantilever slabs frontally, contain six committee rooms and its services (two rooms for 32 seats at tables, and four rooms for 24 seats at tables each). The furnishing of each room is based on different colours, dominant by the perlon cover to the furniture; side walls in modern-folds plastic material allow to unify a couple of rooms, and consequently creation of rooms with 60 seats at tables.

ON THE GROUND FLOOR of the central zone of the edifice, besides the accesses to lifts and to stairs to the upper floors and to basement, exists the main switch-board room of all the electrical apparatus. The remaining part is bound to be used as library, including two reading rooms and its own toilettes.

THE BASEMENT contains the collating and reproduction of documents room — directly served by a freight elevator to all the upper floors — the automatic telephone exchange with its concerned cupboards, stores and corridor connecting with the right wing of the edifice.

TO THE UPPER FLOORS are located all the offices — about 140 in number — according to modular spaces — for the Secretariat; every wing of each floor contains one or more sections, (Executive Secretary, Administration, Research, Social Affairs, Statistics, Industries, Transports, Languages, Archives, General Services) self-served by service lifts, freight elevator, stairs, toilettes, rooms for attendance, and electric apparatus.

The posterior building is entirely paved with plastic tiles; it has aluminium windows of the vertical shutter type with venetian blinds. The seventh floor frontally presents a covered verandah on cantilever slab with canopy that « ties » the various wings of the whole unit. To the top floor are located the machine-rooms of lifts and an extra roof cover with a vertical shedding of aluminium sheetings. Frontally, fully exposed to afternoon sun light, the rhythm of vertical motives — white pillars, ultra-marine dark green the panels — that from the ends of wings of the edifice, close-up toward the central part. The approach is done by two columns (the external part of the lift shafts) of 34 meters high, where « African » motives are lodged and realised with orange and black mosaic rhomboidal shaped elements, laid on a clear bottom, expressly designed by the architect, that, for their brightness and visibility, constitute the characteristic mark of the Africa Hall.





**Forefront Building Public's Entrance**



**Gallery "des pas perdu"**

**Delegates' Entrance; on bottom: the Hall for Public**







**The Assembly Main Hall; seen from: Public's Gallery**

THE EXTERNAL ARRANGMENTS are coordinated by the access roads, that from the avenue climb up toward the upper courts, and pass between the two buildings, under the covered way the entrance of the delegations. These roads are inserting under the colonnade of the posterior building and in the parking area, and inverting them to pass before the front building. So doing are generating and mounting the remaining parts of the compound, the lateral and posterior parts that have to be transformed in green intensive areas, as well as the inclined curved surfaces front standing along the avenue.

Here is axially realised a fountain, that rises at the upper level-corresponding to the ground floor level of the front building — and descends with falls down to the last basin, slightly elevated above the avenue level. Every fall is generating a basin at different levels and each of this basin has a by-pass corresponding to the landing of the main entrance stairs built aside the fountain. These by-passes are continue along the two sides of the curved front escarpment. Between passage and passage green grass carpets are lined parallel to the white mosaic strips and the whole is an elevation laid to the feet of the edifice. The main entrance stairs are made of local natural stone, the fountain basins are lined with mosaics of vertical designs from up to down and graduated with white and blue, to mark the water falls better.

**Lounge for Delegates**

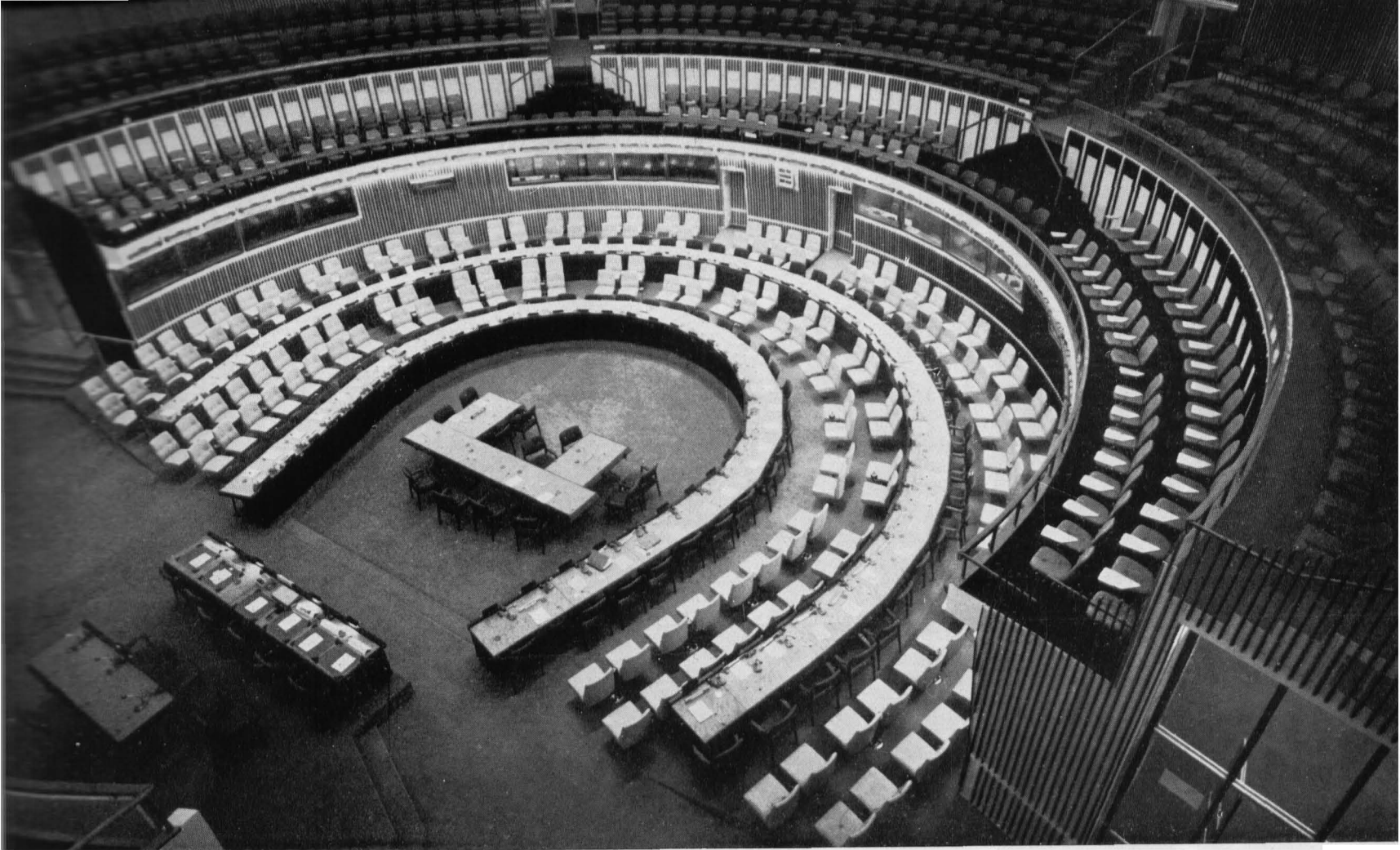




**Hall at Delegates' Entrance**

**Hall for Public**

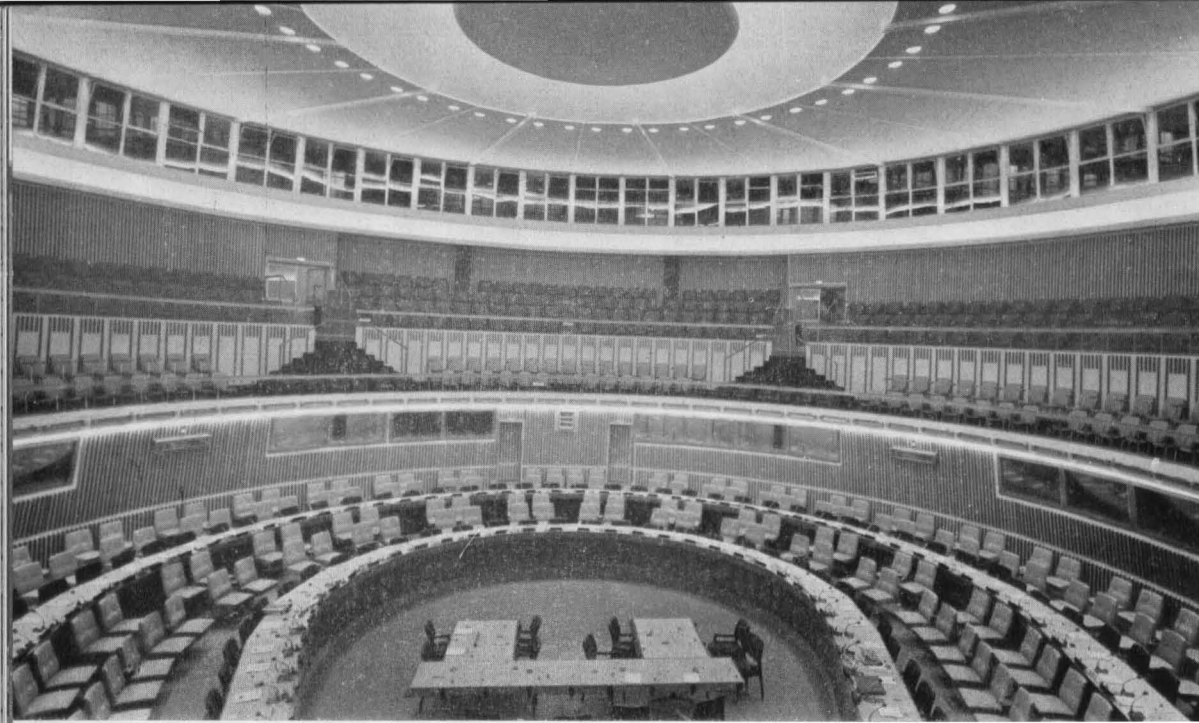




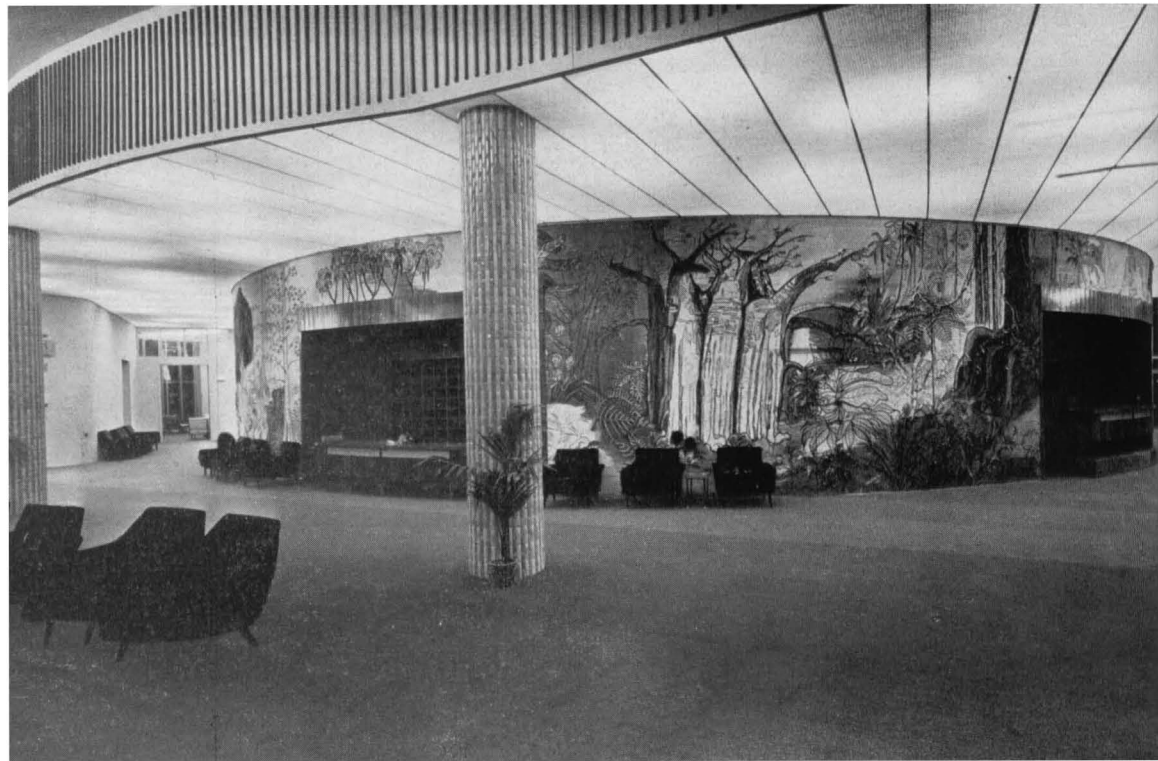
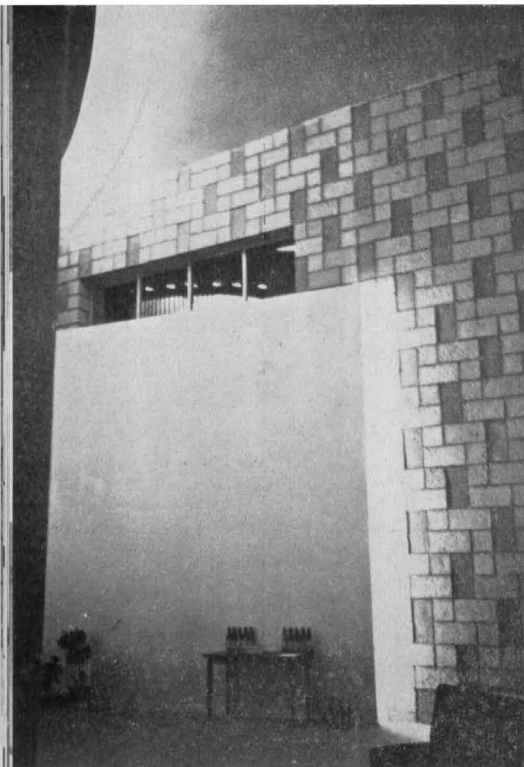
The Assembly Main Hall ጥናው የጉባኤ አዳራሽ ::

Partial View of Assembly Main Hall and Lounge for Delegates





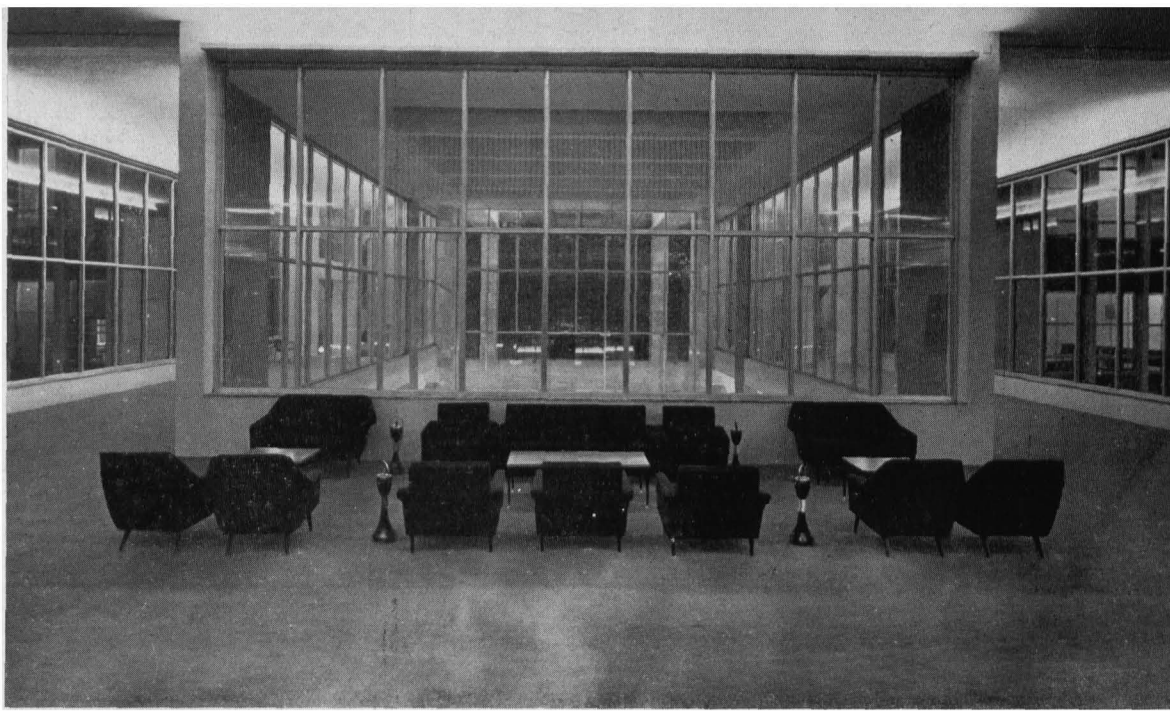
The Assembly Main Hall; seen from Sp  
Guests' Tribune



Gallery "des pas perdu"

rtial View of Assembly Hall

**Entrance from two lateral Flying Passages in the gallery "des pas perds"**

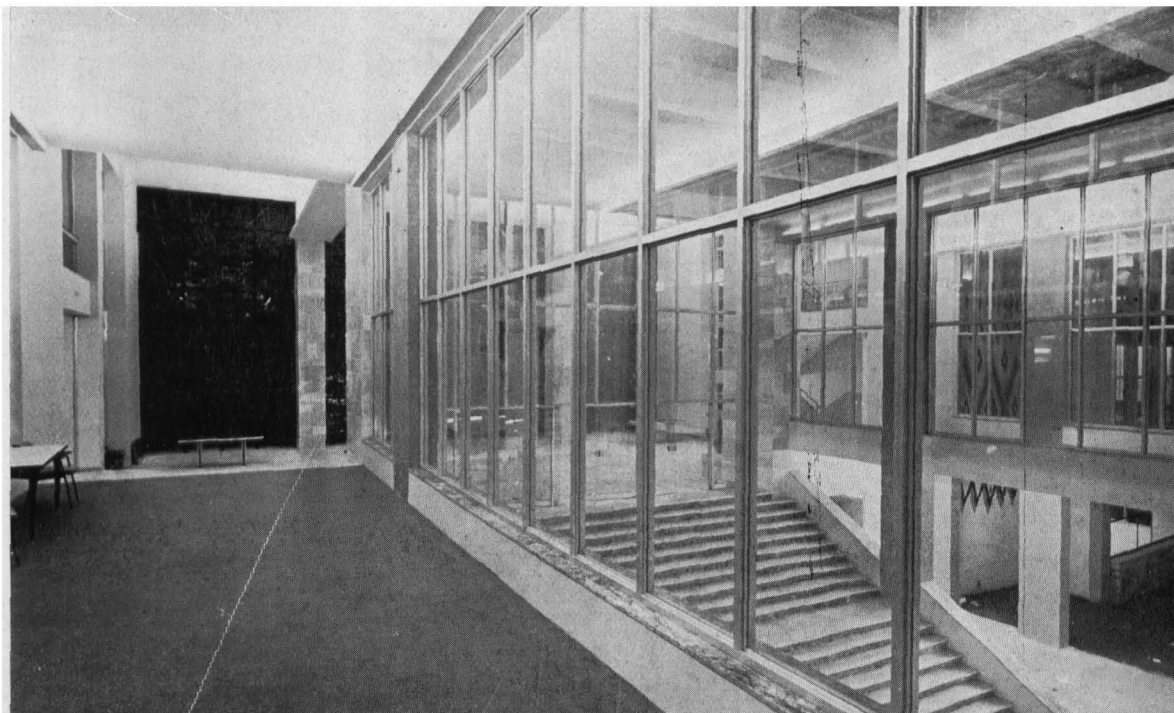


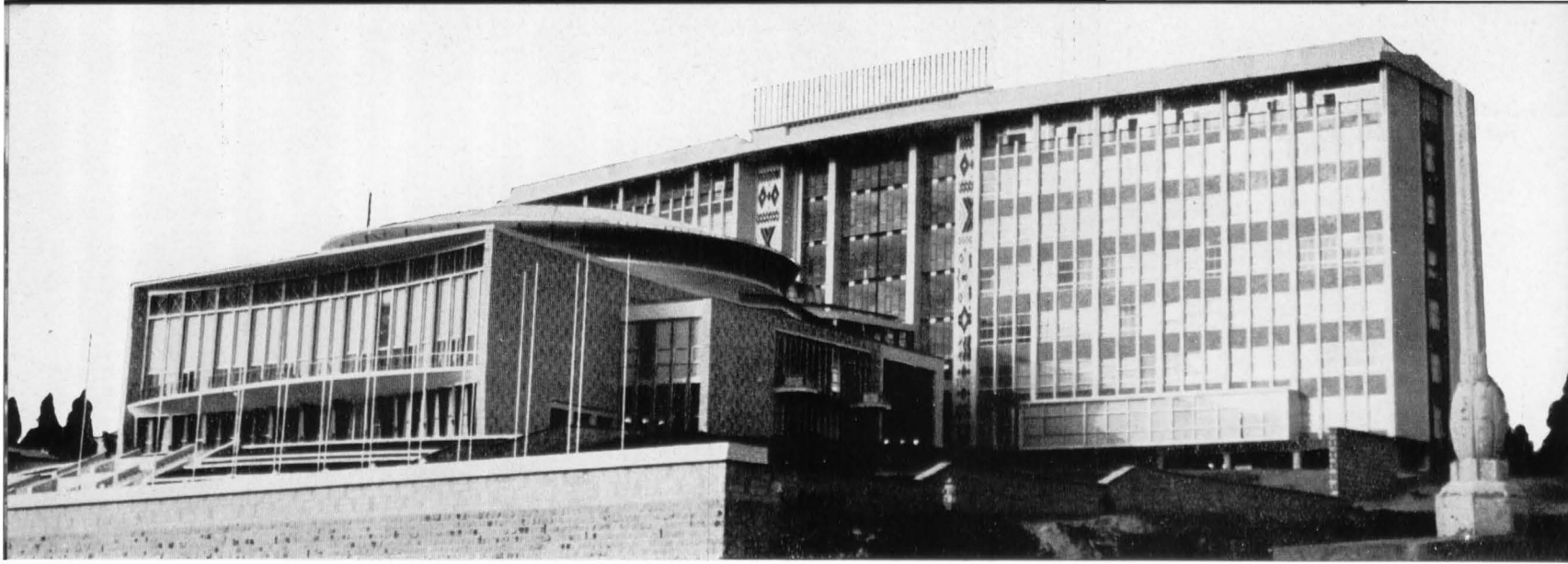
**Waiting Rooms aside the Hall for Public**

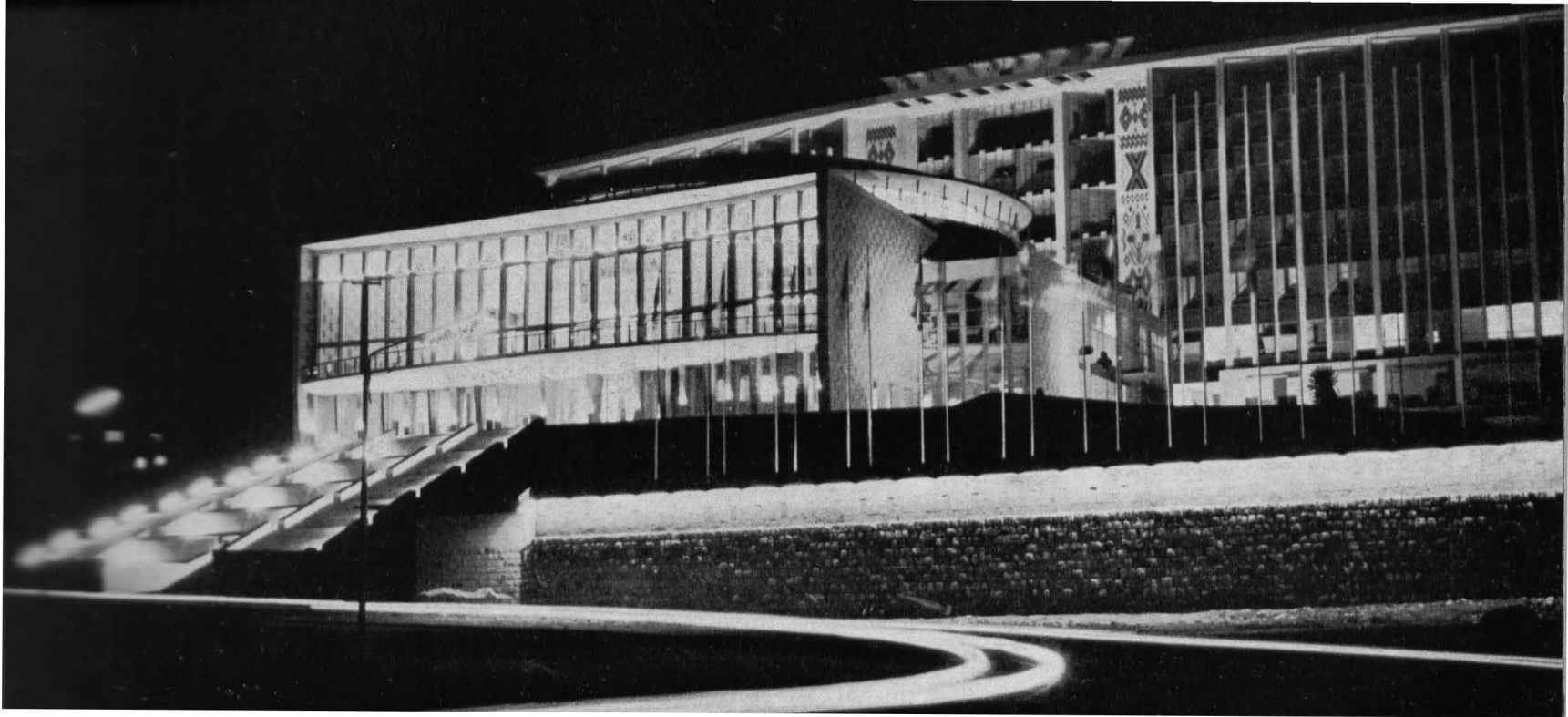
**Flying passage**



**Main Entrance for Delegates**







## ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

The whole of the electrical installation includes the following:

- Distribution System for Electric Lighting, Industrial Power and Generator Plant;
- Emergency Lighting System; Acoustic-Lighting Signal System; Call System by Means of Light Signals; Electric Clocks System; Fire Alarm System; Spare Conduit System; Sound Distribution System by Loudspeakers; Heating System, and Simultaneous Interpretation System.

The power, necessary for the uses, is supplied to the buildings by the network of the local Power Distribution Board (E.E.L.P.A.) through a cable at the tension of 15000 Volts, for a total load of 550kW., while a second cable has been laid down as reserve of power from the generator plant to allow in any case the continuity of the supply. From external network the energy is conveyed to the transformer house. Coming out from transformers the energy, at the tension of 380/220 Volt, is brought per underground way, and distributed to 8 panels forming the Main Distribution board. This Board includes connections for internal illumination, external illumination, industrial power, generator plant, air-conditioning, emergency illumination at direct current, current transformers, separated in self zones connecting the different parts of the whole edifice. Reserve Power, in case of power suspension from outside normal supply, is provided at one quarter of the total load and therefore insure the supply of energy required for the internal illumination of the buildings as well as to two lifts only, with automatic connection. The lines departing from the Main Board to feed the different floors of the buildings consist of copper single-pole cables, insulated, (test tension proof of 3000V.) with high quality insulation materials, twisted patent, placed within underground resin conduits, separated from other conduits sy-

stem, under plastering, and distinct for every different system. These lines run in three underfloor bands (ground floor) and reach the three uprising columns (two columns at both wings of the Secretariat Building — one column at the Conference Building). Every one of these uprising columns branch to secondary boards, at every floor, where breakers and automatic switches are installed for the protection of the various circuits that feed the rooms of each floor from secondary boards.

**NORMAL LIGHTING SYSTEM:** from secondary boards, of various floors, distribution system circuits are branching-off, properly protected and controlled, that, with the assistance of proper derivation and junction box branches, are deriving to secondary lines. Feeding circuits for light sockets are distinctly separated from those of feeding circuits for lighting points in order to avoid reciprocal interferences in case of faults. For the illumination of the edifice only fluorescent lamps are provided, that have phased reactors with instantaneous accension.

All the illumination system, with exception of the external illumination, in case of power suspension, is commutated on the bars of the reserve generator plant. Internally to the buildings over 2000 fluorescent lamps, of size varying from 2 feet to 8 feet, are installed. The external illumination includes about 450 fluorescent lamps, of 4 feet size, and fifty floor reflectors, of 1000W. each, water tight type.

**THE EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEM** is distributed in corridors, stair passages, Conference Hall, common passages and staff personnel offices. The system is originated by a battery of accumulators, of 48V. tension, and 108Ah. capacity, the whole located at the ground floor of the Secretariat building. The battery charging provides one unit of transformer-rectifier, fed by a 220Volt alternated current, and producing 10W. at 48Volt direct current, inclusive of all control and protection units. One

automatic switch is provided for switching-in the system in case of suspension of network power, and at the same time actions an alarm system to call the attention of duty-servant controlling the thermal station. For the illumination of the emergency system incandescent lamps, of 10W power at 48Volt direct current are installed.

**THE INDUSTRIAL POWER SYSTEM:** branches off from the Main Board with 10 lines (4 conductors -3 phase conductors and neutral earth). There are fixed for this system over 400 sockets for industrial power of the embedding type, two-pole (2x15A.) and three-pole (3x15A.) having insulating tension for 280V. both with safety earth contacts connected to the neutral-earth conductor.

The line for the simultaneous translation system ends in the room, where this line is located, and in a box having one main three-pole switch.

**ENGINE POWER SYSTEM** that branches-off from Main Board with eight lines (3phase-conductors and one neutral earth) with provision also with one start for a further line to the thermic station, as well as to air-conditioning system unit.

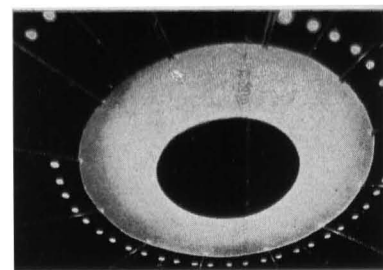
This system provides energy to the six (plus two future extensions) lifts and to one freight-elevator. The lines of two lifts are commutated, in case of power suspension, on the bars of the reserve plant.

**THE ACOUSTIC-LIGHTING SIGNAL SYSTEM** is fed by current transformed at 24Volt and therefore, where necessary, secondary boards have to contain also the requirement for small Exchange for Signal. In all rooms for office use, and in other rooms where required, push indicators for calls are installed in number of about 500. The Section of this unit provides the excitation of one

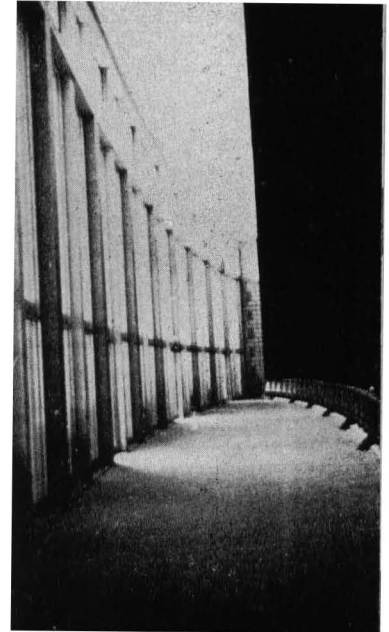
mechanical unit relay fixed in a repeal push indicator located in the corridor beside those doors, where required. Such relay actions the accension of a signal lamp (also located in the corridor above the repeal push indicator) and of call luminous signal, where located, for of fice attendants on duty. Simultaneously there is the action of an acoustic signal. While the luminous signal of the signal lamp and of call signal system, stands permanent until it is repealed (by office attendant acting on pushing the relay contained in the repeal push indicator) the acoustic signal is limited only to the time of action in pushing-on. To facilitate a good routine of the service with a small number of attendants, to the various floors of the Secretariat's offices, board indicators for the repetition of calls are installed. It has been provided, for some of fice rooms a « request for visitors » indicators. For every room, where such a system is provided, a small indicator is installed, on one side of the door of this room, and controlled from inside of same room, by proper push laid on the desk.

**THE CALL SYSTEM BY MEANS OF LIGHT SIGNAL** consists of a small exchange, by a feeding relay and about 40 luminous spots. The small exchange, located in the room used as Information Desk, consists of a steel plate case containing the repeating-relays and the protection units required. The control is effected by a push-button unit having the insertion switches and control lamps. The luminous groups are units of « four colour different lamps » type. This system is suitable for servicing about 15 different persons.

**THE ELECTRIC CLOCKS SYSTEM** consists of a master clock, feeding lines, and about 40 secondary clocks.







The master clock is a pendulum type, on every second beat, with motives polarised every minute, with reserve of charge and precision of march.

The system is fed by a battery of accumulators of 24Volt.

THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM consists of a signal board, of one self-governed spring of electric energy, by a feeding network, and about 190 bymetallic thermo-discoverers of great sensibility. The system is of automatic signal type, having a permanent current and the warning of casual over-increasing of temperature making evident by a general acoustic signal with, for more safety, two different apparatus, and by luminous indication of the dangerous zone. The self-governed spring of electric energy consists of a battery of lead accumulators (capacity 108 Ah. discharging in 10 hours time at the tension of 24Volt) and by a diverter-transformer unit, with A. C. at 220 Volt and supply of D. C. at 24 Volt - 12'A. The fire indicators, of hermetic-closed type, are disposed to action when reaching 60° (Celsius), with rest contact. The fire alarm system includes 24 normal type "fire alarm push buttons" enclosed within a case, having a fragile glass cover.

THE SPARE CONDUITS includes a network to be used for necessities in future. In the office building the spare conduits connect the secondary boards between them, located on the same floor. Running of spare conduits in the corridors is similar to other system conduits, in order to serve all required future connections of that floor. Two rising columns of spare conduits connect, vertically, the secondary boards of all various floors. A connection between the Offices building and the Conference hall is also provided.

LIGHTNING ARRESTOR SYSTEM consists of an efficient unit for protection against lightning, having a galvanized steel tubular rod antenna located on the top of the Office building. The lightning unit is composed of: a chromium-bronze rod, having an air-point termination in stainless steel; an air termination point where is fixed, by special process, a salt of radium; an atmospheric exciter having radium-active substances; an exciter to deflection process. It is the type having a radius of action of 150 meters equal to a sphere, ions processed, of 300 meters. Earth termination is done with galvanized steel pipe of 1" diameter, with a length such as to give a resistance less than 15 ohms. The top unit is connected to earth termination by a down conductor of soft copper strip with a section not less than 75 mm<sup>2</sup>. Special care has been used while fixing in position the various parts concerned with the unit, in order to utilise at the most his high efficiency.

RESERVE GENERATOR PLANT, that in the event of power suspension or interruption, starts to action and insures the supply of energy required for the internal illumination of the buildings (not including external illumination) as well as to essential services to engine power system (lift to special guests tribune and one lift to the office building). Connection and disconnection of the generator is automatically effected. Proper electrical blockages, between automatic switches of the network and the generator plant network, are preventing that power supply feeding from both normal network tension and generator plant tension.

The generator plant with automatic starter, substantially consists of: a diesel engine, four strokes, multi-cylinder direct ignition, having maximum power of 220 H.P. at sea level (corresponding to about 180 H.P. at an altitude of 2600 meters a.s.l.). The engine is completed

with various filters and pumps, starter, generator to charge batteries, and speed revolutions control unit. The engine cooling is effected by water circulation in a radiator, through which a heavy air stream, is provided by a fan, controlled directly from engine, with a belt transmission.

The alternator, including a four-pole yoke, protected and self-ventilated, with an armature having shield bearings where bearing rings are to support the coil rotor. The power of the alternator is 125 kVA, for an electric load with power factor 0,8 delayed. The instantaneous starting of the diesel engine is effected when network is getting lower and below the required value, or is getting off completely. The most rapid insertion (within 10-15 second from departing of network tension) is at full load of the plant for used power. The control is automatic as well as the instantaneous stopping of the plant, after normal network tension is established again. Operation and control apparatus are located in a cupboard.

**THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM**, considering the edifice characteristics, is served by two telephone exchanges: one automatic of small capacity (about 30 lines) and the other of large capacity (200 lines) serving the permanent offices, delegates, press and public requirements.

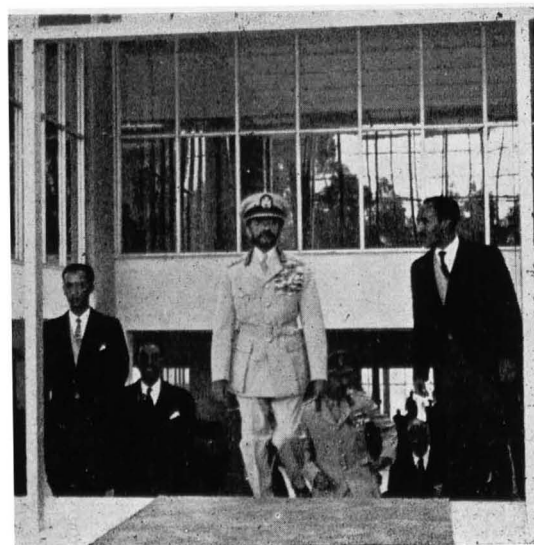
**SOUND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BY LOUDSPEAKERS** allow searching of person speeches and musical programme diffusion. The microphonic control desk is located in the Information Office, at the ground floor of the Conference building. The speaker has a microphone, with case having various levers, for the insertion of either different circuits for one or all loudspeakers, as well as the programme reproduction diffusion (from radio-set, play-records, magnetophone). In line with the levers, signal lamps are fixed for indicating the insertion of various circuits. Nearby the speaker, is installed an exchange of amplification, consisting of two aside metallic frames. In the exchange are located: 2 playrecords at four speeds, one magnetophone for registration of music and speeches, one radio set. Outgoing lines feed the loudspeakers, in different rooms and offices.

**THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SYSTEM** is one of the wired type. The microphonic seats provided in

the hall are: one for the Chairman, 96 for Delegates, one to the rostrum, and three at the special guests tribune. Every one of them has, frontally, a high quality microphone, having cardio characteristics, in order to minimize at the most the possibilities of sounding insertion with other loudspeakers, which are used for the diffusion in the same hall. The microphone is supported by a case having a push-button to allow the delegate to ask talking, one signal lamp indicating that he is allowed to talk, and that his microphone is inserted. The Chairman's microphone has one more push-button which allows him an immediate direct insertion of his own microphone, switching off all other microphones. The operation of microphone connection is done by an operator (who is not necessarily an expert since the operation is a simple one) behind a control desk where push-buttons and signal lamps are located, accordingly to the seats in the hall. The push-buttons are electrically controlled, permitting the connection of one single microphone at a time. This control desk is located in a booth, hermetically sealed, and in view of the Chairman's seat. Aside the Chairman there is another control desk, similar to the previous one, but without push-buttons. In the control desk booth has been installed an amplifier-exchange for regulation, where microphonic lines from speaker and four interpreters meet. Each one of the four interpreters booths has a pair of microphones, with proper push-button for the connection of microphones, as well as a hearing set to allow the interpreters to follow the speaker's talk or the translation of other interpreters. The disconnection done by the interpreter on his own microphone automatically connects the hearing of the speaker also in his own booth. In the hall two luminous boards are fixed, where language translated, are signalled under a certain number, for the selection of the channel required. For the using of hearing-sets by participants, has been installed, nearby their seats, a selector, with volume regulator and hearing set pin connection.

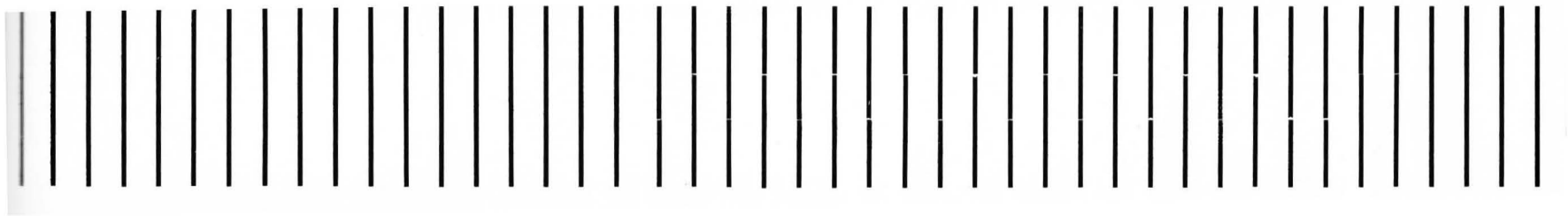
**HEATING SYSTEM BY INFRA-RED RADIATION** to maintain the inside of the hall at a medium temperature of 18° to 20° (Celsius), while external bad temperature conditions, has been provided, using a power of 10 to 12 watt/cubic meter. The volume of the Conference hall is about 5000 cubic meters and the heating elements consist of quartz electric generator of infra-red radiation, including light alloy reflector with protection metallic grating.

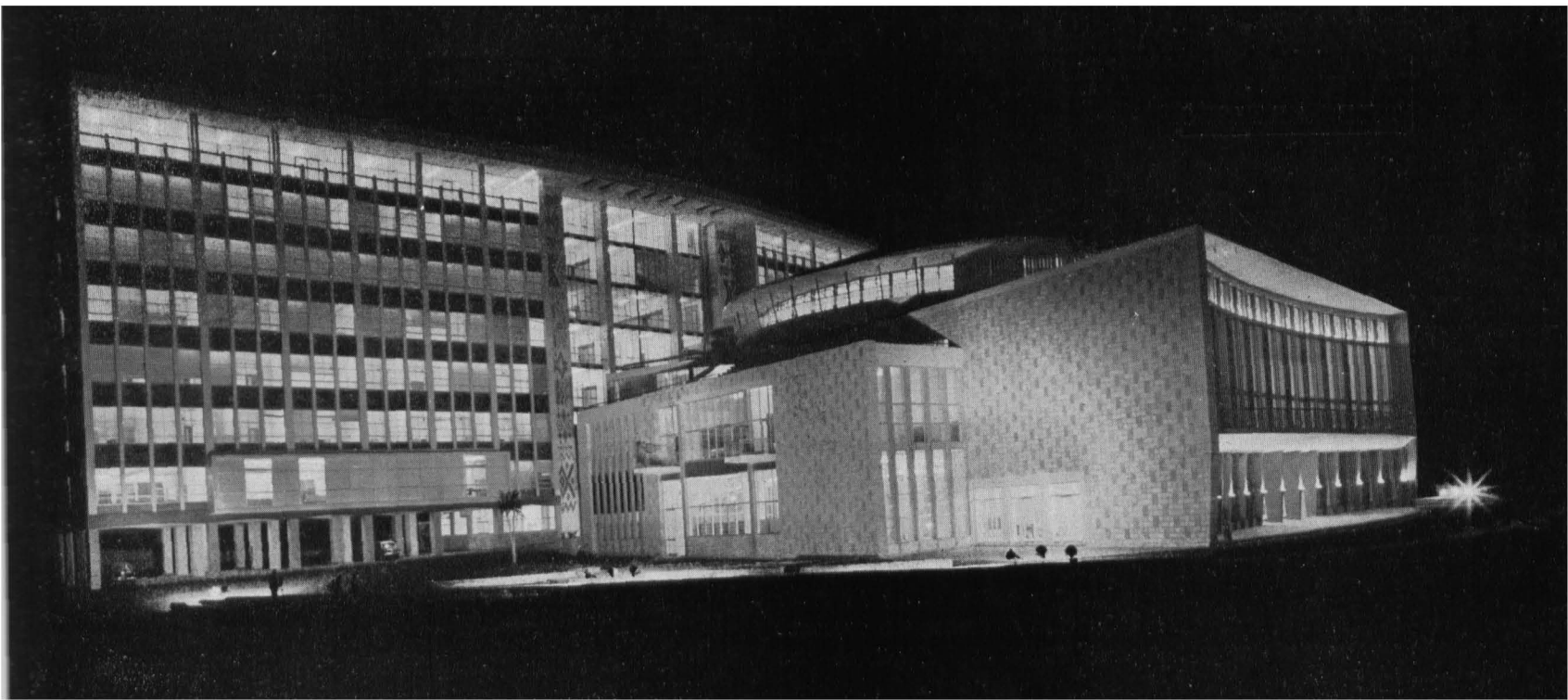
**ILLUMINATION OF CONFERENCE HALL** by spot lights consists of installation of 40 incandescent lamps located in the ceiling of the same hall. The spot lights are disposed around two concentric circles with 16 spot lights in the inner circle and 24 in the outer circle. Every lamp has a power of 150 W.



**H. I. M. Haile Selassie I entering Main Hall on the Africa Hall's inaugural day, accompanied by the then Minister of Public Works, Dejj, Mangasha Seyoum,**







**Above : Building Frontally View at night ;**

**Left : View of Secretariat's Building ;**

**Right : Particular of Back Elevation ;**



## Afewerk Tekle

The art work at the « Africa Hall » (involving the conceiving, designing and final execution of three large stained-glass windows) was won in competition by me in circumstances that call for some consideration by the public at large for whom these notes are intended.

Considering the unusually short time in which this monumental task was achieved, it might be worth mentioning here some of the difficulties which had presented themselves and which called for surmounting in order that I may finally be in a position to realise the objective for which my participation had been called by the Ministry of Public Works and Communications at the request of His Majesty The Emperor.

Whilst the architecture of the Building is stupendous and no one will ever doubt this fact, the architectural difficulties such as there were vis-a-vis the mounting and fixing of the finished work were no less significant. Although a very brief period of time consisting of 12 days was allowed to me for conceiving, designing and presenting the final sketches, the architectural side of the building presented a problem that called for very careful handling and was no less significant than the work of art itself. This problem was partly due to the architect not having sufficient time to hand over the building completed, and it was obvious, therefore, that his realization of the entire task was based on the time factor which naturally limited any preliminary discussions on the subject. He, nevertheless, has shown the maximum of his cooperation in order to make this work possible and for which I shall always be indebted to him.

Having dealt with the architectural side of the Building, I am now touching upon another aspect of the work that demanded at the time an almost equal consideration. This is the technical aspect of it, and it might interest you to know that in less than a fortnight (with sleepless

nights, and often working as much as 12 hours a day) all the working plans and the necessary enlargements had to be presented to the Manufacturers in the South of France, and eventually linking up the final execution of the work and to avoid mistakes which are often inevitable when a task of this magnitude is handled.

Perhaps it might be worth adding here that about two months were required for presenting the enlarged working plans, about two months for executing the work, and one more month for carefully mounting the whole work at the Africa Hall here. About 95% of the work was executed by myself, and I might add here that to be an Artist and an Artisan at the same time is by no means an easy task. However, the present work demanded such an exactitude in the execution and an effort involving all without compromise.

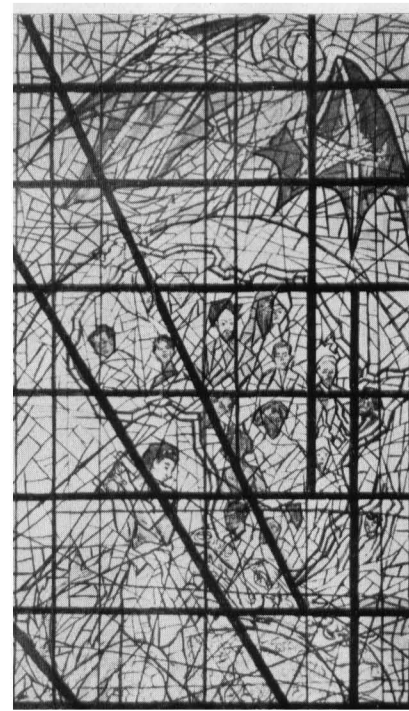
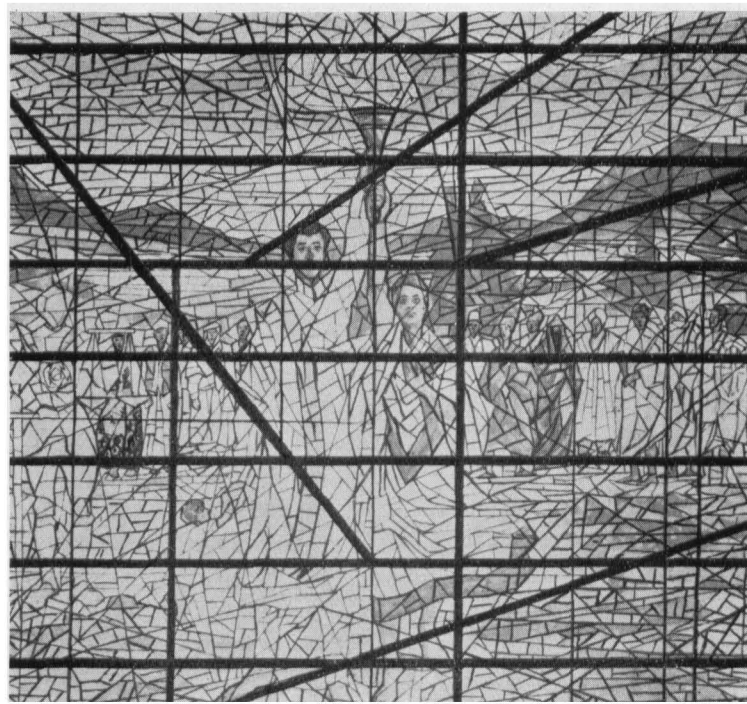
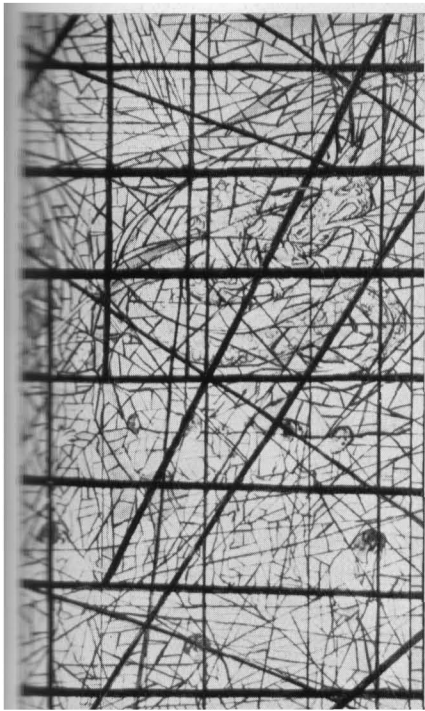
In summing up I would mention here that, apart from the decorative value which the work may possess as presented on stained-glass windows through the somewhat delicate medium involving movement of lines, often scattered about, but never losing to preserve the wholeness of the theme, the entire work has demanded an effort that was in no way ordinary, and particularly in view of the very short time which was allowed to present the work properly finished here. Perhaps it would not be too exaggerated if I say here that had it not been for the inspirational background which I had nourished right from the time the idea of the Africa Hall was first mentioned by His Majesty the Emperor, to achieve the entire task within the time limit mentioned would have been impossible.

In concluding I need hardly emphasize here how I had felt throughout for having participated, and the joy for having created a work of this magnitude, which not only is an important decoration to the building, but the significance it has in terms of history, and the eternal aspirations for the common build-up of the great African Continent.

Having given what I think is my best as regards my work, I would like to say here how very pleased and honoured I feel to observe that this work is treasured in this most modern architectural edifice in our Capital.

a. t.





### Africa then

In this study one will observe that the predominant colour is red, and this represents Africa in its bitter struggle against the heavy shadow of ignorance on one side, and on the other, the pressure and storm caused by the impact of colonialism. The theme of the work is symbolified by a disunited family with a lost child in the middle foreground. Further up, one will observe a group of Africans carrying the burden (which is in the shape of the African continent) symbolic of ignorance and illiteracy, and a huge dragon sitting with a shrewd face on it, all of which are again representing the colonial days.

On one side of the window it will be observed that there is a figure clad in red in the form of a skeleton lashing a group of Africans who are carrying the burden, and reflectively this represents an evil dragging the continent into backwardness.

Beyond one will also observe the rich and virgin landscape of Africa, and further up one will again see a symbolic city, again African, under the thunder and fire giving the work a total aura of the horror, suffering and struggle.

Covering the picture in the form of a frame, one sees a huge black unbroken chain which is symbolic of slavery.

### Africa now and the future

In this study one will observe that the predominant colour is yellow, and in the foreground there are two immense figures and a child advancing forward with a burning torch in their hands symbolic of knowledge and re-awakening, and the people marching forward after having eliminated illiteracy and colonial suppression. These two figures wear Ethiopian costumes, because it is felt by the Artist that Ethiopia should occupy this leading place for having solidly stood behind the advancement of these ideals.

Beyond these figures one will observe a galaxy of Africans standing in their national costume symbolic of their full participation in this great struggle for freedom and the responsibility it entails with all seriousness occupied with their incessant search for knowledge. On one side of these figures and in the background one will see an armoured knight with a scale of justice in his hands, and a sword with the United Nations emblem on his chest, which is symbolic of what the United Nations stands for and of Africa believing and appreciating its justice and willing to cooperate in the support of its ideals and aspirations.

Beyond and further up one will see the serene landscape of Africa and the rising sun symbolic of vision and hope and the beginning of an active creative day in the life of the nations.

### Africa then and now

In this study it will be observed that the predominant colour is green, and in the foreground one will see that an African is destroying the dragon which is symbolic of colonialism. Beyond one will see a big sun rising, and in it one will observe the various lands of Africa and the types of people who inhabit it, and who are as it were engaged in an act of watching the scene from within.

Above, one will also see the red-clad skeleton (signifying evil force) being bashed-up and flying away leaving everything behind in desperation.

a. t.





## Nenne Sanguineti Poggi

*Inserted decorations into an architectural complex is always a pleasant and, at the same time, a difficult task, for decoration must be a complement of architecture and also part of it, serving it usefully.*

*Every architect, therefore, sees the painter and the sculptor's work as something useful to his own aim, and the task of an artist is to understand the spirit of the architecture to which he intends to add his own word.*

*Besides here it was a question of the « formula » : « Africa Hall plus architect Mezzedimi ».*

*Now, the above said architect « feels » this building of his own as a second nervous system, and to work for him meant to collaborate, in the full sense of the word, as, before his precise will and his exact vision of an adequate decoration for the atmosphere, I had to penetrate his mind and get to a mutual understanding.*

*To reach this point, several « pourparlers » were necessary and, after having found the fusion of our ideas and determined the point of contact, I felt the work « Africa Hall » which I had not seen yet. And, as I got over the first moments of perplexity while searching the formula, I began to work with strength and reached the end without any repeating whatsoever.*

*The subjects were stimulating, as they dealt with African land: Fauna and Flora.*

*I have drawn twelve exemplars of the African Fauna for a circular floor in the hall: twelve pale-blue masses on a dark-blue background, with the pinky shape of the continent in the middle.*

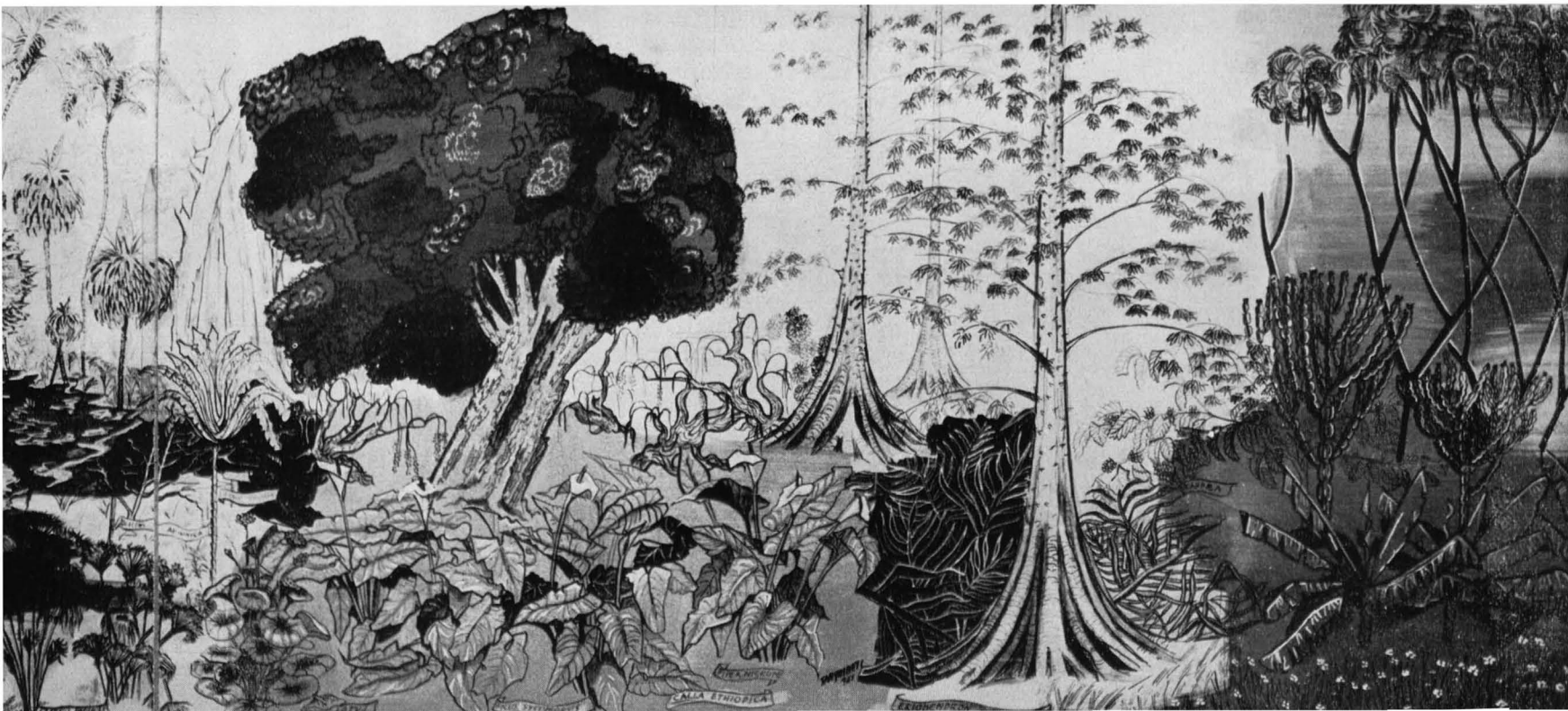
*While performing such a work, I mean the manufacturing part, the enlargement of the images would have escaped my direct control, through the material executors of the work.*

*For the subject « Flora », I have described trees and shrubs, picking out the most characteristic in the Continent, and giving a legible example of them with a tempera painting, which was translated into a mechanical transcription on very heavy canvas — in Italy — forty meters long and four meters high.*

*While I had to tell in details, the result had to be a « decoration » in the most poetic sense of the word and of the most up to date, of course. The two aims could be in contrast or, probably, produce a feeling of monotony.*

*It was a curve wall, the whole of it would not have been grasped in one glance by the spectator: as the total effect was lacking, how could I obtain any sense of continuation and interest?*

*I thought of resolving it in this way: a composition of large stains would have given the immediate basic*







decoration; on top of this preliminary staining, quite pleasant by itself, a second decoration was put on, telling in details and with a certain kind of love, the shape and the character of the trees, the shrubs, the flowers and of the leaves: the drawing almost always following the described shape, black on a light background, and white on a dark background.

A long preliminary work had been required: for a long time my pencil had searched for the outlines of branches and leaves in the middle and lowlands, my mind had become «botanic»: I had bothered several persons to know everything they could tell me about the «travelers' tree» and which was its botanical name; above all I had observed with love things I had never noticed before. Little by little I had entered into a green unbounded world where owls devour insects, roots draw strange volutes, the «liane» interlace themselves as twisted cordage-rope, the ferns grow larger and larger as far as to turn into trees, trees, the sacred lotus rises from the water, sweet and rounding, while the papyrus with its crests remind us of the millennial disappeared civilisations and huge, gigantic, tropical flowers blossom magically on a night.

An entire world: the gummy acacia, the sugar cane, the coffee-tree, the cocoa-tree and the pyrethrus flower, the dum or date-palm, the banana, the sisal or the orchid.... will the visitor be interested in all these? Perhaps he will

pass by absent minded, giving a quick glance at the sepia coloured circular wall, where are the euphorbia, the Indian figs, the eucalyptus, the ethiopic drag-tree or the calla Abissynica.

And yet a painter has lived an arboceus life, creating a decoration, for a long time he has been enchanted of the Kapok fortified by nails as a stronghold, of the primordial heaviness of the baobab, of the opulence, of the sycamor, the sweetness of the fern and the elegance of the dum-palm.

He has tried to «tell» all this through his painting brush.

This painter, who is a woman-painter, is me,

n. s. p.





## Brunetto Buracchini

*The artistic glazier, that I had to perform, has been studied to be located in an internal room, which glazing sail is very light as usually done for those glaziers not receiving sunlight directly, giving more transparency in glazing traditional methods, well known in all times.*

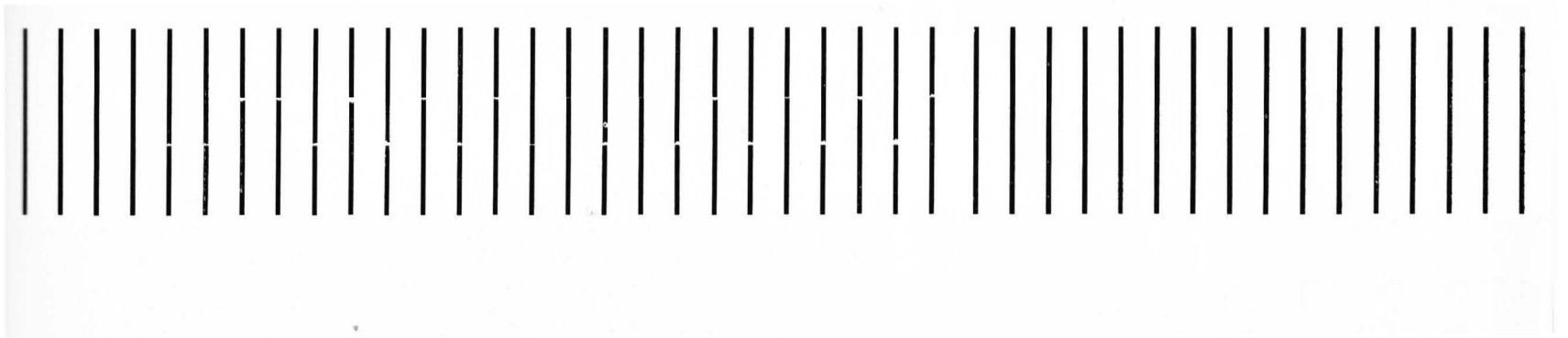
*The stained glass paste has been blown by mouth to composed of seven panels fixed on metallic framings (size mē. 1,10 by 1,50 high), has been effected with the art of glazing traditional methods, well know in all times.*

*The stained glass paste has been blow by mouth to form the tesseras, than passed to stoving up to four consecutive times, which were tied together by means of lead, according to the design in draft.*

*The theme of the composition has been performed emanating from the central panel, intending to represent the synthesis of the new Africa, which integrates in overlaps the contour of the Continent, that of the Africa Hall as well as that of the ideal figure of Mother Africa, calling her sons to meet together, for a spiritual union of the whole Continent. The groups of lateral figures represent the various ethnic groups that, guided by spring light from central panel, direct themselves toward the Great Mother. According to my intention, the lights and the tonalities of the various groups, of the animals and of the fruits, are to show, in the form allowed by the stained glazing technic, the colour scheme intensity that the different African zones emanating, as well as the composition harmony of the whole.*

b. b.



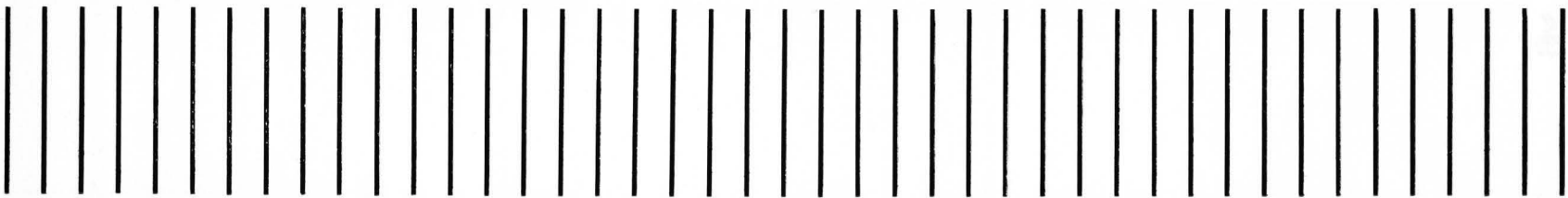






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 ከክፍሪካውያን፡ ሕዝብ፡ የወደይት፡ እድገት፡  
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 የህንፃው፡ ነገን፡ አዘገጽ፡  
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መሠረት፡ የሆነው፡ የህንፃው፡ ምልክት፡



STAMP ISSUED BY THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT  
 COMMEMORATING "AFRICA DAY"

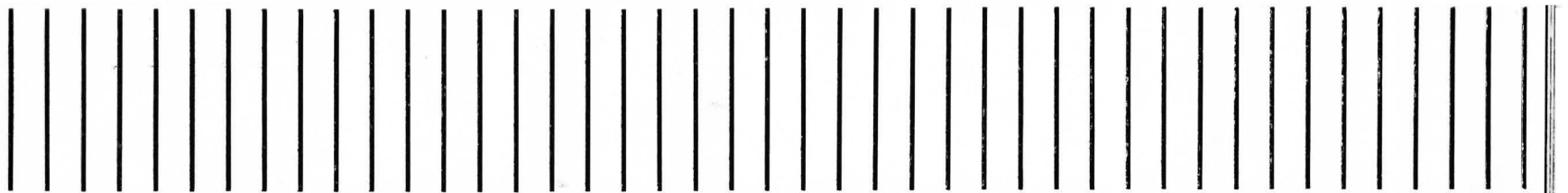
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ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR 1961  
 THIS EDIFICE WAS NAMED  
**AFRICA HALL**  
 BY  
 HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY  
**HAILE SELASSIE I.**  
 EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA  
 WHO DEDICATED IT TO  
 THE SERVICE OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES



DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT ARTURO MEZZEDIMI

I N A U G U R A L S L A B



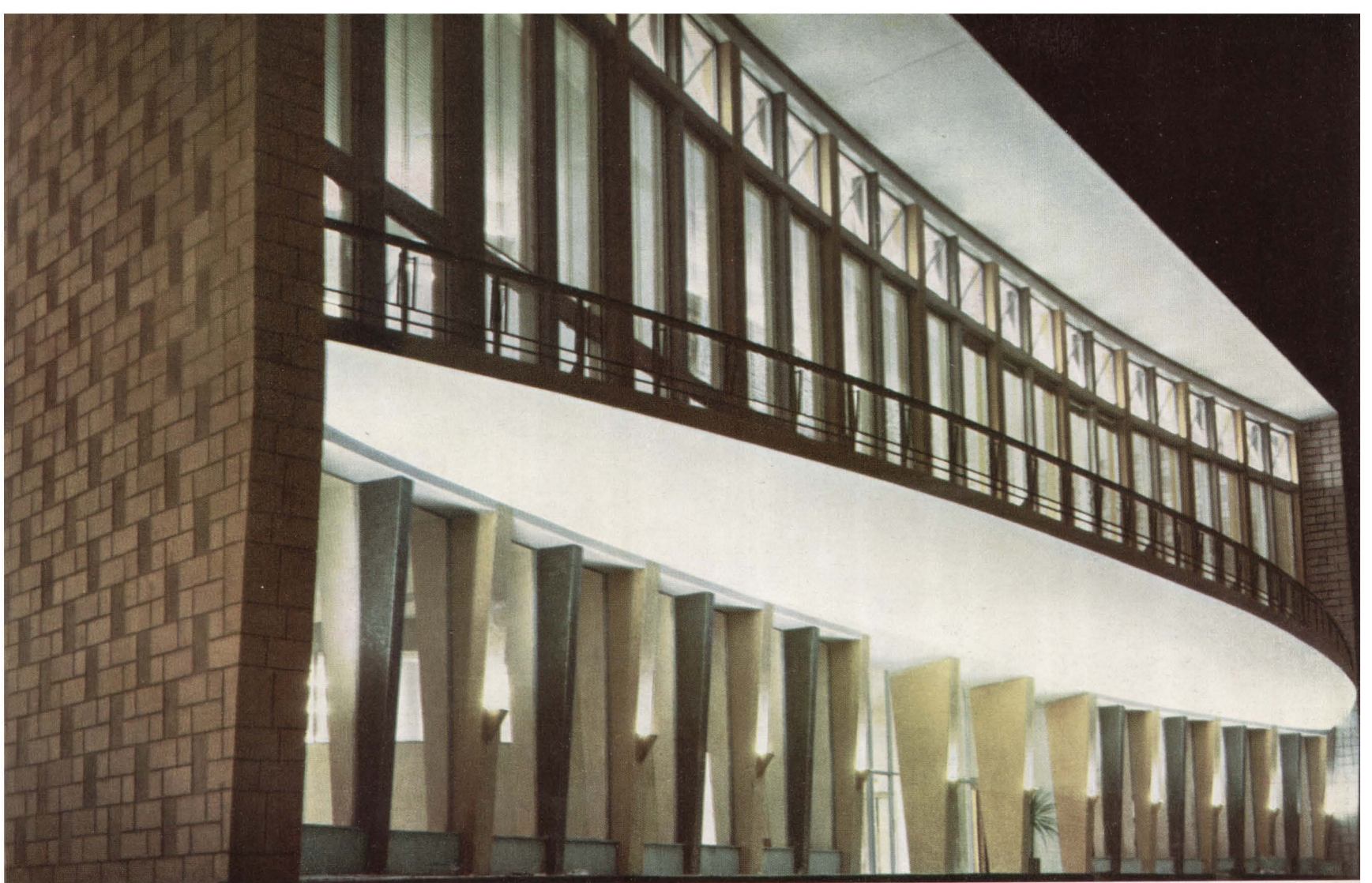
STAMPS ISSUED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION  
 COMMEMORATING "THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA"

የአፍሪቃን ፡ የኤክኖሚ ፡ ዐድገት ፡ ለማስታወስ ፡  
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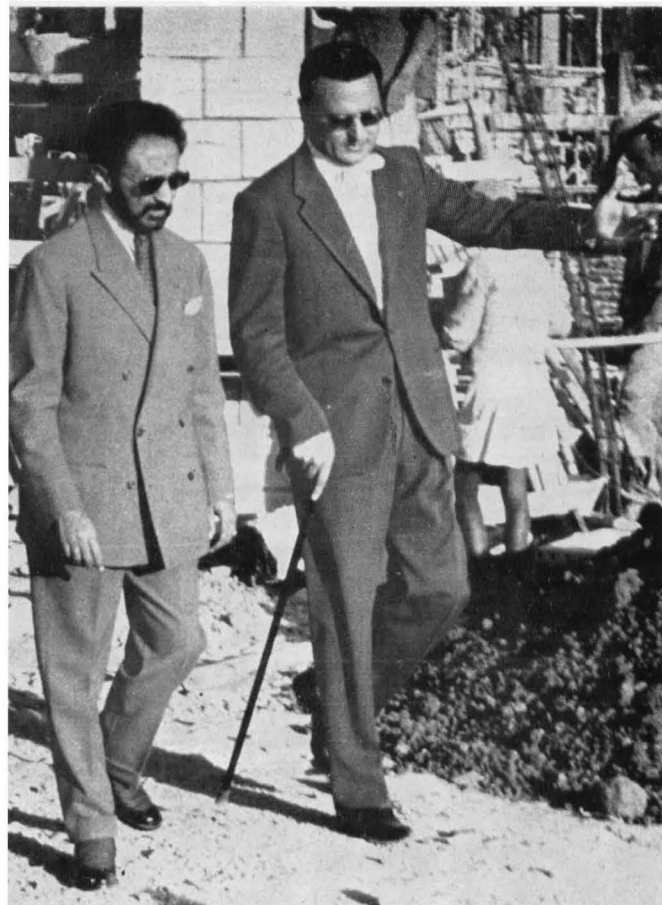
# AFRICA HALL

For a long time Africa did not have the privilege of being chosen as the venue of any international meeting primarily because of political set-up of the countries of the continent. Another obvious factor for this can reasonably be assumed to be the lack of proper buildings and other connected facilities for holding international conferences. Whatever the reason, until very recently meetings to consider African problems were usually held outside Africa. With more and more African countries gaining independence and the Pan-African movement sweeping the continent, a stage was reached when the Africans could no longer allow their destiny to be carved out by non-African elements. The political growth of the peoples of Africa is one of the most striking and extraordinary evolutions in the recorded history of man. The political coming of age of the African peoples opened up a new and splendid period in the continent's history. As a result, the need has now become all the more urgent for representatives of African nations to get together to consider their common problems as well as to evolve a common approach to world problems.

At the United Nations delegates from African States have maintained contact with each other, thereby creating the nucleus of an African Bloc. Such contacts were renewed at higher levels at Accra and other African capitals. At the same time, Africa's significant role in international affairs has come to be increasingly recognised, entailing upon the African States the responsibility to provide the necessary forum where meetings of an international nature and importance can be held.

Ethiopia's contribution to this end is Africa Hall, dedicated by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I to the cause of African peoples. When the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, constituted under a resolution of the Economic and Social Council in April, 1958, chose Addis Ababa as its headquarters, there was certainly no dearth of meeting halls or office accommodation in the city. Yet, it was His Imperial Majesty's desire and decision that the UNECA should have up-to-date headquarters with the necessary conference hall, committee rooms and delegates' offices. Accordingly, His Imperial Majesty ordered the construction of a modern and imposing building which would, in addition to accommodating UNECA, serve as a venue for future African and international conferences. Announcing this to the Ethiopian Parliament, His Imperial Majesty said:

« The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, which has been created to aid in the development of the economies of the African States and to raise the standard of living of their peoples, will begin its work next month, with Addis Ababa as its headquarters. For the present, one of the larger buildings available in Our capital has been provided for the Commission. However, for the future, We have directed that a fitting conference building, to be called "Africa Hall", be created at a cost of over Ethiopian \$ 5,000,000, which will be used for this and other conferences and missions ».



**H. I. M. Haile Selassie 1st, visiting works during construction, accompanied by the Architect**

**ግ. ን. ኃ. ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ በዋናው መሐንደስ በአርክቴክት ማህበረ-ደሚ አማካይነት የአፍሪካን አዳራሽ ሥራ መፋጠን ሲመለከቱ።**

In undertaking the onerous task of constructing an ultra-modern headquarters for UNECA, His Imperial Majesty not only recognised the role that the Commission would be required to play in the economic growth of the African countries, but also took up the challenge, imbued with the spirit of traditional Ethiopian hospitality, to play host to delegates to African and international conferences. The construction of Africa Hall, in fact, has started at a time when Ethiopia has become an important centre of international and African activities, relating to the economic development and the political future of the continent.

From the time that the foundation stone for the Africa Hall was laid, His Imperial Majesty visited the construction site almost every fortnight and personally supervised progress of work. His sincere and keen interest in the Africa Hall was so much that he went through every detail of construction and from time to time ordered further modernisation and expansion of facilities to be made available in the building.

The Economic Commission for Africa held its first session in Addis Ababa on December 29, 1958. His Imperial Majesty, who inaugurated the session, made a significant speech outlining the economic problems of the continent and stressing the role that the Commission would have to play in tackling them.

With the increase in the membership of the Commission, which is open to all African members of the United

Nations, it has been felt necessary to strengthen the Commission. Ethiopia took the lead, in November 1959 to draft a resolution calling for the strengthening of the U.N. Regional Economic Commission. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

As a result of the strengthening of the Commission, the need for additional office room for the growing secretariat became extremely pressing. Some temporary arrangements were immediately made by the Imperial Ethiopian Government but a permanent solution to the problem has been realised now Africa Hall is completed.

The special characteristic of the Africa Hall is the continuity of space, devoid of usual walls and doors. The main conference room itself is spiral in shape and has a seating capacity of 303, in addition to the president's rostrum and working tables for the secretarial staff. It is planned in such a way that 101 heads of delegations, accompanied by two advisers each, can be seated comfortably. There will be large desks in front of each delegate enabling him or his adviser to handle papers and take down notes during a conference. The automatic translation arrangement is modern in every aspect and a delegate can switch on the required language with ease. Little behind and above the President's rostrum is a special

throne for His Imperial Majesty and accommodation for the Imperial entourage.

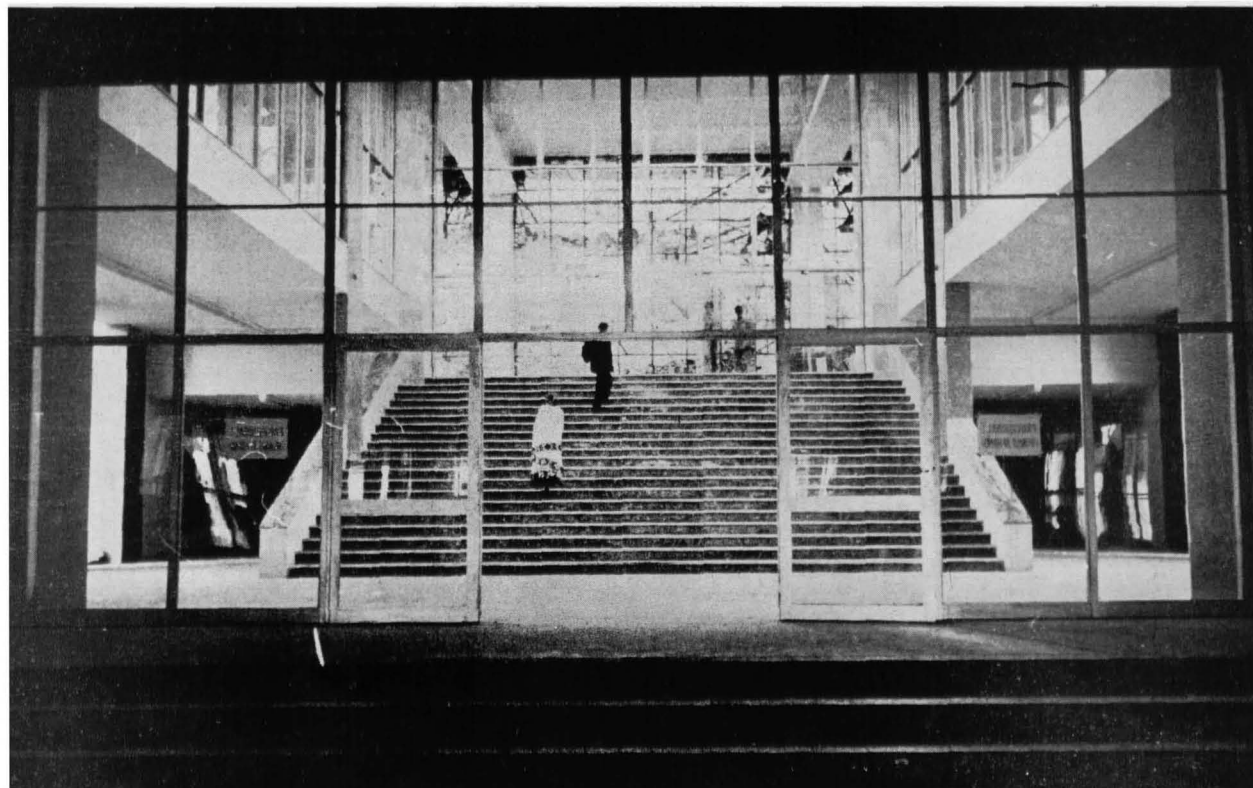
Facing the President's rostrum are galleries for journalists' and visitors' seats arranged in a semi-circle. The harmonious blending of chosen colours for the wall and seats adds splendor to the whole Conference Hall.

When a Conference splits into committees, the six committee rooms attached to Africa Hall will provide adequate accommodation. If at any time a committee room is found inadequate to accommodate the members of a committee, the sound-proof pre-fabricated screens separating the committee rooms can be easily removed and so increase the floor space as required.

The right wing of the main building houses UNECA headquarters, delegates offices and the library.

There is a permanent exhibition site outside the main conference hall. Trophies characteristic of each independent African country will be on display at the exhibition site.

The office space for UNECA has been laid out anticipating strengthening and expansion of the Commission in the future. As the years go by, Africa Hall will answer the challenge of accommodating UNECA and providing a meeting place for African and international conferences.



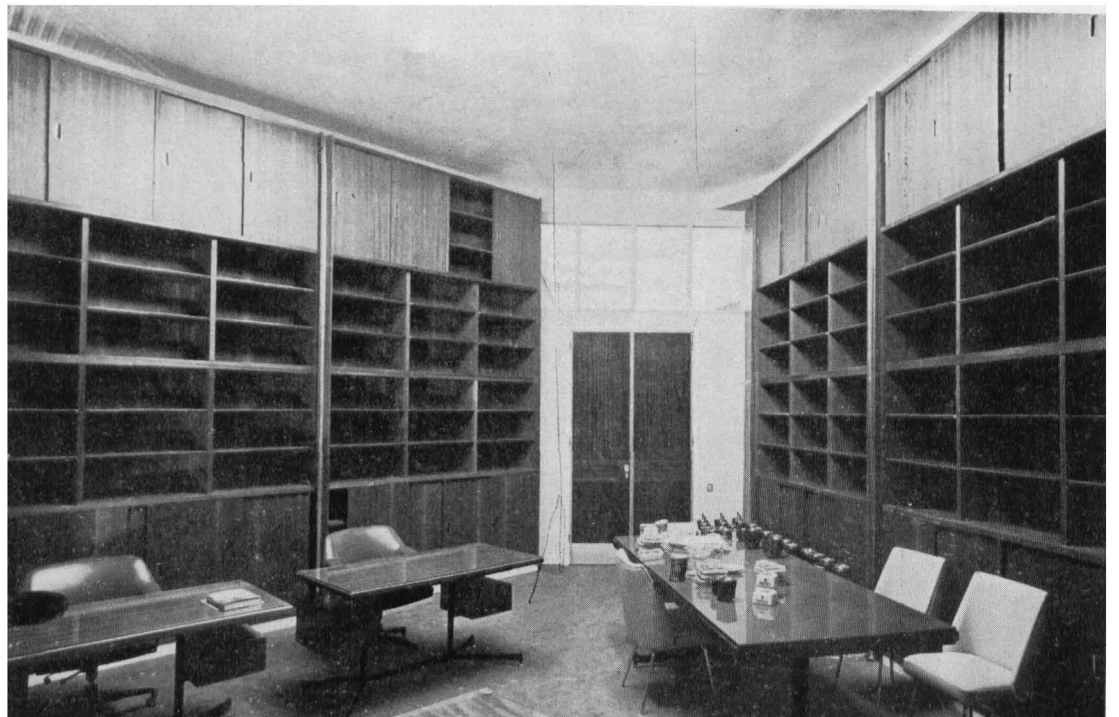
**Main Entrance  
for Delegates ;**

**One of the Committee Rooms**



**Bar for Delegates**

**One of the Offices distributed  
in the Assembly Hall Area**



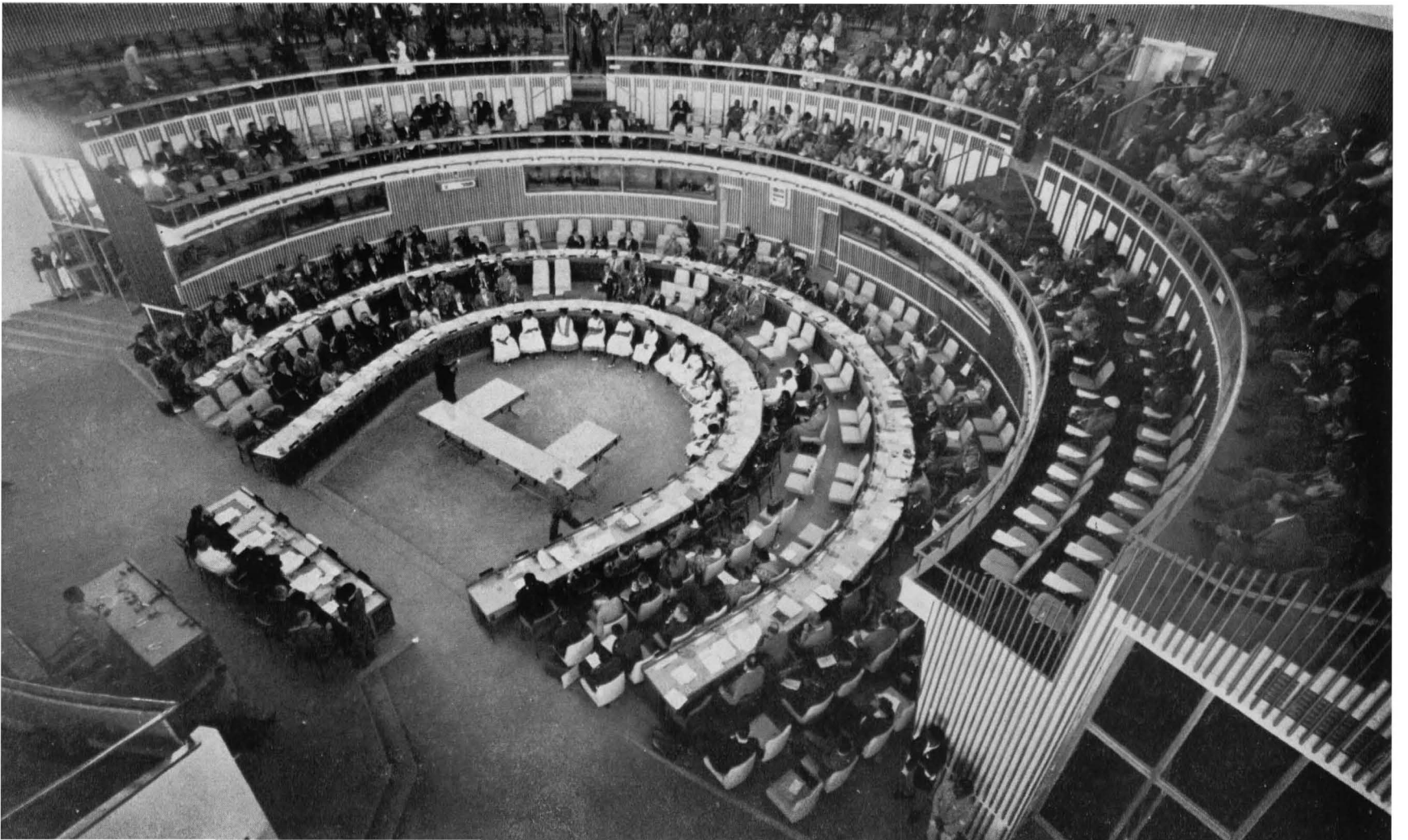


H. I. M. Haile Selassie 1st, addressing an Unesco's Conference

ግ. ን. ና. ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ በአፍሪካ አዳራሽ ተሰብስቦ በነበረው የአፍሪካ አገሮች የዩኔስኮ ጉባኤ ላይ ተገኝተው የመክፈቻ ንግግር ሲያደርጉ።

Unesco's Conference in Assembly Main Hall

በአፍሪካ አዳራሽ ውስጥ የዩኔስኮ ስብሰባ በሥራ ላይ።





His Imperial Majesty Receives Dag Hammarskjöld at the Jubilee Palace

ግርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ የተባበሩት መንግሥታት ዋና ጸሐፊ ክቡር ሚስተር ዳግ ሐመርኸጌድን በኢየሱስ ስጉም መንግሥት ተቀብለው ሲያነጋግሩ ።

# U. N. E. C. A.

ETHIOPIA'S interest in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and realisation of the benefit the work of such a body could be to the continent did not begin only on the establishment of the Commission. Ethiopia was among the countries which agitated for and secured the creation of the Commission by the Economic and Social Council on April 20, 1958.

That interest has continued and has been given tangible expression since. Indeed, within seven months of the decision by the Economic and Social Council to set up the Commission with headquarters in Addis Ababa, His Imperial Majesty announced his own decision to erect Africa Hall. This

would serve, among other purposes, as the home of the new body.

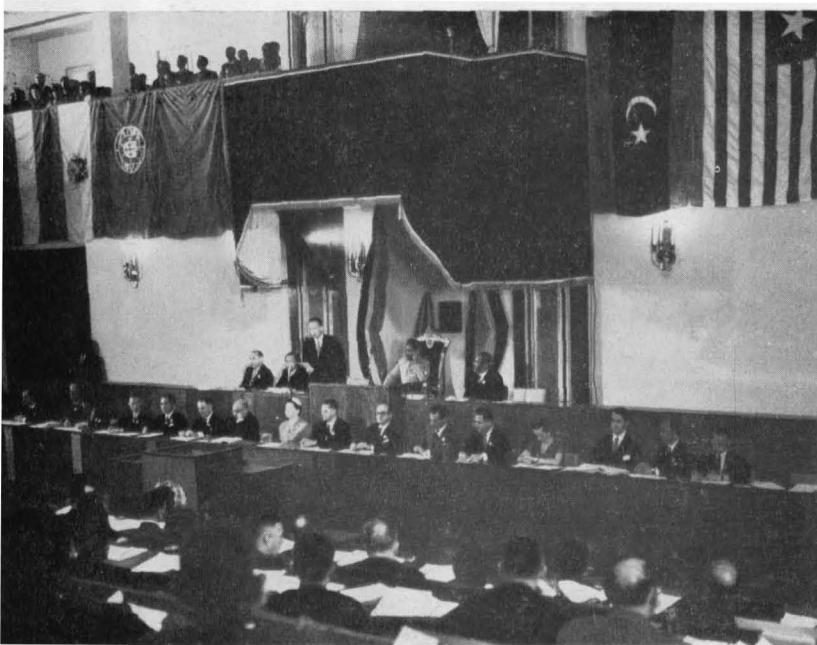
This decision by His Imperial Majesty anticipated and gave substance to the pledge which He was to voice in His opening speech at the inaugural session of the Commission here in Addis Ababa on December 29, 1958.

« We, for our part », His Majesty told the first session of the Commission, « pledge the highest endeavours of our Government and people in aiding and speeding your work, not only for this meeting of the Commission, but for the efforts and objectives of this organisation in the years to come ».

The objectives of the Commission had been defined by the Economic and Social Council as the «facilitating (of) concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, among themselves and with other countries of the world».

To this end, the Commission was specifically empowered to investigate and study economic and technological problems and developments in Africa and to collect, evaluate, and distribute relevant economic, technological, and statistical information.

In keeping with the desires of its advocates, the Commission was also required to assist formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as



**Hammarškoeld Addresses First Session of U. N. E. C. A**

**ግርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ በተገኙበት የመጀመሪያው የአፍሪካ የኤኮኖሚክ ኮሚሽን ጉባኤ በፓርላማ ህንፃ ውስጥ በተከፈተበት ዕለት ክቡር ሚስተር ዳግ ሐመርኮልድ ንግግር ሲያደርጉ።**

a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in Africa. But it was to be an advisory rather than an executive body, and in this role would be available to all countries in Africa for consultation.

Eight years had elapsed since those seeing the need for it had first advocated establishment of the Commission; and the urgency of the problems with which the Commission could deal was stressed by His Imperial Majesty also at the inaugural session, as the value of the work the Commission could do was at the same time underlined by the U.N. Secretary-General.

His Imperial Majesty hoped that when the Commission came to consider specific problems it would constantly bear «in mind that the economic problems of some of the younger African States and of those areas which are on the verge of statehood are most pressing and serious».

On his part, the Secretary-General stressed that «the existence of a well-organised clearing-house for the exchange of information experience, supplemented by some measure of analysis and critical appraisal, can have a direct practical effect by shortening the process of trial and error...».

Looking in greater detail at the task facing the Commission and the matters in which it could be of immediate assistance to African countries, His Imperial Majesty outlined some of the aspects –

(a) «the involvement of African nations in regional preferential trade agreements with nations of other continents»;

(b) «the possibilities of establishing statistical bureaux where none now exist, and of co-ordinating and unifying statistical methodology to be employed in common by all member States»;

(c) «the possibilities of increasing food production in areas where people are under-nourished, and of wiping out cattle disease»;

(d) «the exploration and recommendation of solutions to (public health) problems»;

(e) «the promotion, stabilisation and diversification of exports of the member countries»;

(f) «the prevalent transportation and communication problems which have considerable influence upon the development of all African countries»; and

(g) «the desirability of establishing closer connections between the various national transportation systems...».

«These», His Majesty said, «were grave and important matters to which we trust the Commission will not fail to direct its attention». And many of them found a place in the 'Programme of Work and Priorities' of over sixty items approved by the Commission at its first session.

The projects since initiated by the Commission include basic research, training programmes for Africans, conferences and meetings of experts, and periodic publication of studies of importance to Africa's development.

Included are the first issue of an Economic Bulletin for Africa which will embody a discussion of major economic problems and development policies, an assessment of the needs for education essential to economic progress, and consultation with universities and research institutions regarding the training of African staff.

Other projects in hand include a study of the

co-operative movement in Africa, a 'Statistical Survey of Africa' (a long-term project), a Handbook on Population and Labour, a study of transport problems in West Africa, and a detailed investigation of food consumption levels in different parts of the continent.

Among meetings sponsored by the Commission are a study tour for West African statisticians to demonstrate census techniques, a working group of experts on national accounts, a seminar on land policies, a workshop on the extension of family and child welfare services, a seminar on meat and livestock marketing, and a meeting of heads of universities.

In addition, Commission experts have visited most of the African countries and territories and discussed, for example, arrangements for a statistical survey of Africa, economic and social problems, and U.N. technical assistance.

Similarly the Executive Secretary of the Commission has headed a U.N. mission to the Republic of Dahomey, the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, and Cameroun. This mission assessed the best ways in which the U.N. and its related agencies could assist the economic development of those newly-independent states.

The Commission has also played a prominent part in the United Nations' efforts to solve both the immediate crisis in the Congo and the long-term problems created by the breakdown of ordered government in the new African republic. To this end senior members of the Commission's staff have been on duty in the Congo.

These are not spectacular undertakings likely to attract popular attention to the Commission and its work, or even to produce immediate dramatic results. But they are of vital importance to the economic and social development of the African countries. Their successful conclusion could therefore be of tremendous benefit to the peoples of Africa.

It is for this reason that the Government of His Imperial Majesty continues to take so active an interest in and to facilitate the work of the Commission at every turn. The Ethiopian Government will continue to do this in its determination to see a higher standard of living and a greater measure of happiness enjoyed by all the people of Africa.

In the final analysis, however, this does not depend alone on the work of the Commission which, apart from undertaking these and making to results of its studies and other projects known to African governments, is at most purely an advisory body.

Concrete results can be derived from the Com-



**A View of the U.N.E.C.A. Community Development Workshop, 1959**

**ንግድ ትምህርት ሴት ህንፃ ውስጥ ተደርጎ የነበረው የአፍሪካ አገሮች የአስተዳደር ስልጠና ሰሥራ ላይ ።**

mission's endeavours and the African people made to benefit thereby in the measure foreseen and hoped for by the Ethiopian Government only to the extent that African Governments seek to apply the new knowledge and techniques thus made available to them.

Even so, there is much that the Commission can and no doubt will endeavour to do by persuasion. And in this as in everything else it might undertake, the Commission can count on the unstinted support and collaboration of the Government of His Imperial Majesty.

**View of First Session of U. N. E. C. A. in the Ethiopian Parliament Building**

**የአፍሪካ ኤኮኖሚክ ኮሚሽን ጉባኤ ሰሥራ ላይ ።**





# Cuts-out from the speeches, made at Africa Hall

(III Session UNECA, 6 - 18 February 1961)

by: *Mr. Mekki Abbas, E.C.A. 's EXECUTIVE SECRETARY*

«.....symbolised by this magnificent building which H. I. Majesty has just dedicated to the future of the African peoples. ....We cannot but be impressed by the construction, the design, the execution and the plans of the Africa Hall. We cannot do more than re-echo H. I. Majesty's special mention of H. E. Dejasmatch Mangasha Seyoum the Minister of Public Works and his Staff. The Commission owes a debt of gratitude also to the Architect, the Contractors, their colleagues and the workmen for creating a most fitting atmosphere for our work. This is Africa Hall. The first of its kind, and I hope we shall receive symbols of Africa and African appreciation of Ethiopia's gracious gesture in the form of gifts, representative of all parts of Africa to decorate the building and the ground around it. ....»

by: *Mr. El Slawi Chief Delegate of MOROCCO*

«.....I extend my delegation's thanks to H. I. M. Hailè Selassie I and the Government and people of Ethiopia for their magnificent hospitality and for their superhuman efforts in providing such splendid headquarters for the Commission. ....»

by: *Mr. Sylla, Chief Delegate of MALI*

«.....aujourd'hui nous sommes dans une situation particulière, car c'est la première fois que nous séjournons dans cette enceinte et je suppose que tous ici êtes au courant des conditions dans lesquelles ce chef d'oeuvre a été réalisé. ....»

by: *Mr. Quaidoo, chief Delegate of GHANA*

«.....in appreciation of the wonderful work this masterpiece which symbolises the elegance and the unity of our endeavours it will be somewhat strange if at this session we did not elect as chairman the representative of the Government that has had so much to do with this wonderful piece of architecture. ....»

by: *Mr. Apithy, Chief Delegate of DAHOMEY*

«.....Toutes les délégations réstent sensibles au cadre de travail qui est si généreusement mis à leur disposition et je suis convaincu que les peuples africains ne manqueront pas d'attribuer une valeur autrement symbolique à ce magnifique palais aussi neuf et aussi à l'avantgarde du progrès architectural. ....»

by: *Sir Roger Stevens, Chief Delegate of UNITED KINGDOM*

«.....At the inauguration of the third session, all present were deeply grateful for the gift of Africa Hall by the Emperor to the Commission, which now had a truly magnificent headquarters of its own. ....»

by: *Mr Lassidi, Chief Delegate of TUNISIA*

«.....superhuman efforts had been made to erect a suitable home for the Commission for which all were profoundly grateful. ....»

by: *Mr. Guiguemde, Chie Delegate of UPPER VOLTA*

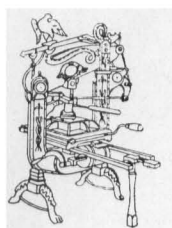
«.....associer le Republique du Haut Volta au vibrants messages de sympathie. de reconnaissance et de félicitations que les diverses délégations ont rendus avec tout la chaleur d'abord à S. M. I. pour son hospitalité et le don généreux qu'il nous à fait de ce luxuex palais, vigoureux témoignage de sa foi en l'avenir de l'Afrique.....»

by: *Mr. Black, Chief Delegate of CAMEROUN*

«.....Le Président de la République du Cameroun tient à rendre un vibrant hommage à S. M. I. qui a bien voulu, une fois de plus, honorer de son nom les annales de l'histoire africaine en permettant de réunir dans ce somptueux palais, chef-d'ouvre d'architecture, les délégations venues de tout les points de l'Afrique et du monde. ....»



**PRINTED IN ETHIOPIA BY  
"IL POLIGRAFICO" S. A. ASMARA**



**በ ፖ. ሊ. ግ. ራ. ሬ. ከ. : ማተሚያ : ቤት :  
ኢትዮጵያ : አሥመራ : ታተመ :**

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