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Date and Place of the Sixth Session – Note by the Secretariat

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INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION
Fifth session

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SIXTH SESSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Statute of the International Law Commission provides, in its article 12, that the Commission shall sit at the Headquarters of the United Nations, but that it shall have the right to hold meetings at other places after consultation with the Secretary-General. In conformity with this provision, the Commission has held its first session at Lake Success from 12 April to 9 June 1949, and its second, third and fourth sessions in Geneva from 5 June to 29 July 1950, from 16 May to 27 July 1951 and from 4 June to 8 August 1952, respectively. The present (fifth) session is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 1 June to 14 August 1953.
2. In regard to the date and place of the sixth session of the Commission, attention is drawn to the following resolution (694(VII)) adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1952:

"The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report and recommendations of the Special Committee on Programme of Conferences,

Mindful of the necessity of firmly fixing a long-term pattern of conferences to allow for the rational and economic distribution of meetings between Headquarters and Geneva and to permit the proper utilization of staff and conference facilities at both places,

Recognizing the importance to the United Nations and the specialized agencies of having a regular conference pattern,

1. Decides that a regular pattern of conferences should be established for a period of four years commencing on 1 January 1954, under which sessions of all Headquarters-based bodies should be held in New York and sessions of all Geneva-based bodies should be held in Geneva with the following exceptions:

(a) The regular summer session of the Economic and Social Council would be held each year in Geneva during which period no other meetings of United Nations bodies would be held in Geneva;

(b) Sessions of a functional commission or of functional commissions (but preferably not more than one) of the Economic and Social Council, to be determined by the Economic and Social Council, would meet in Geneva without overlap for a total period not exceeding five weeks between mid-March and the end of April;

(c) The International Law Commission would meet in Geneva only when its session could be held there without overlapping with the summer session of the Economic and Social Council;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to all organs of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies a conference pattern based on the principles enumerated above;

3. Recommends to all organs of the United Nations that they arrange their meetings in accordance with the dates and places set forth in the pattern presented by the Secretary-General, and invites the specialized agencies concerned to give due consideration to this pattern in drawing up their own programmes of meetings."

3. The conference pattern referred to in the above resolution is contained in document A/2363. According to this pattern covering the years 1954-1957, the International Law Commission could, if it decided to meet in Geneva, hold a yearly session there, lasting eight weeks beginning with the third week in August. It is stated in the note by the Secretary-General, contained in the above-mentioned document, that "the pattern should be regarded as provisional pending consideration of it by the Economic and Social Council, the International Law Commission and other organs concerned."
