



*Artist's conception of the new United Nations Library.*

factors. Under the pressure of increased demand for services by delegations, the Secretariat, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the Specialized Agencies, as well as by journalists and scholars in various fields, the Library's staff and physical "plant" have been severely strained. This trend will undoubtedly continue. It is this current and anticipated demand that has made the expansion of present facilities a matter of some urgency.

The building in which the Library is at present housed was designed as an office building. It was the only space available when the new Headquarters were occupied in 1950 and has never been entirely satisfactory. Since it could not be effectively altered to service growing demands, many makeshift arrangements had to be made for distribution of the collections. Furthermore, it was architecturally out of harmony with the other buildings in the Headquarters complex.

Soon after the present quarters were occupied, the Secretariat started to plan for a new building and sought funds to make its construction possible. Between 1952 and June 1959, a succession of consultations took place with officials of the Ford Foundation. At first the Foundation declined to approve a request for funds, on the grounds that the financial responsibility for a library building rested with member states and that, in addition, a grant would run contrary to the normal policy of the Foundation not to invest in buildings. However, the Foundation finally waived these considerations in recognition of the importance of the Library in helping to achieve the purposes of the Charter.

It is expected that the new building will be designed by the architectural firm of Harrison and Abramovitz, the principal architects for the present United Nations buildings. The architects will formulate their plans and establish cost estimates in consultation with four distinguished librarians.