1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Tenth World Health Assembly, after examining the reports of the Director-General on the peaceful uses of atomic energy to the nineteenth session of the Executive Board and to the Tenth World Health Assembly, adopted resolution WHA10.21. This resolution approved the measures taken by the Director-General in this field and requested him to continue WHO's collaboration with the United Nations and the other specialized agencies concerned, as well as with the competent non-governmental organizations. The Assembly also noted with satisfaction that the Director-General, as authorized by the Executive Board, had initiated discussions with the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the International Atomic Energy Agency, with a view to concluding an agreement between the two organizations on the basis of the agreements entered into between WHO and the specialized agencies.

2. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The following activities in the field of atomic energy have taken place since the report of the Director-General to the Tenth World Health Assembly or are in preparation for the year 1958.

1Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 76, 37-41
2Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 79, 521-523
3Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 79, 28-29
2.1 Radiation Protection

2.1.1 Education and training

Two expert committees were convened during the closing part of 1957 on this subject, and their reports will be submitted to the Executive Board at its twenty-second session. One of these committees dealt with the introduction of radiation medicine into the undergraduate curriculum, and the other with post-graduate training in the public health aspects of atomic energy.

In October 1957 an international course on radiation protection (health physics) was arranged through the European Regional Office at Mol (Belgium), with the co-operation of the Government of Belgium and the United States Atomic Energy Commission. This course was at an advanced level, involving a good deal of mathematics and physics. It was intended for those contemplating taking up health physics work as a professional study, particularly from the countries new to atomic energy. Twenty-four participants from 19 different European and Eastern-Mediterranean countries took part in the course.

In January 1958 a course was arranged through the Regional Office for Europe, with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, England, on the public health aspects of radiation protection, for health officers from European countries. As distinguished from the previous course, this was intended to be an introductory course for medical officers and sanitary engineering personnel who might have to make broad general decisions on radiation protection questions in the course of their general duties. Twenty-seven participants from various European countries took part in this course.

Seventeen health officers from 16 countries in the European and Eastern-Mediterranean regions also attended, as WHO fellows, a four-week course in radiation protection at the Centre d’Etude nucléaire, Saclay, France. The course was arranged by the Institut des Sciences et Techniques nucléaires with the assistance of the Ecole nationale de la Santé publique. It was of a similar scope to that held at Harwell, but was a good deal more comprehensive, and lasted from 3 to 28 March 1958.
Another international course on radiation protection of a similar type to that which took place at Mol, is planned to take place later in 1958, and will be organized through the Regional Office for South-East Asia.

A further activity at the end of 1957 was the visit of a short-term consultant to India and Ceylon to advise and lecture on hospital physics at various centres, with particular reference to radiation protection.

2.1.2 Genetic effects of radiation

For 1958, as approved for this year, an expert committee is being arranged on the effect of radiation on human heredity. This subject was considered as one of interest to WHO in resolution EB17.59. The Committee will follow up the results of the Study Group on the Effects of Radiation on Human Heredity held in 1956 at Copenhagen. The main item on the agenda of this Committee will be the subject of planning genetic investigations in high natural radiation background areas. In preparation for such a Committee three consultants on human genetics, together with two Indian colleagues have made a preliminary survey of the possibilities of studying hereditary conditions in the natural high background radiation area in Kerala State, India.

2.1.3 Radiochemical methods of analysis

A joint WHO/FAO Expert Committee on Radiochemical Methods of Analysis is being prepared to take place later in 1958. This Committee is designed to be supplemented by a Committee with the same title proposed for 1959, as explained in paragraph 3.2.1.

2.1.4 Mental health

A Study Group on the Mental Health Aspects of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy took place at the end of 1957. This Study Group was foreseen in the report of the Director-General on the peaceful uses of atomic energy to the Tenth World Health Assembly.

1 Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 68, 24
2.2 Clinical and Public Health Uses of Radioisotopes

2.2.1 Fellowships

In addition to fellowships for participants in the courses mentioned above, 25 individual fellowships were awarded on some aspect of radiation and health during 1957. Fellowships are particularly useful for the study of the clinical uses of radioisotopes since the recipient is enabled at the same time to study isotope techniques and to gain experience in the clinics of the host country necessary for decisions as to types of cases where these methods are best used: 11 of the above fellowships were concerned with the use of isotopes in clinical medicine. Following the advice given by a Study Group on Radiological Units and Radiological Protection such fellowships are usually of several months to a year’s duration to enable clinical experience to be gained.

Other individual fellowships have been awarded covering radiobiology, medical research techniques using radioisotopes, or radiation protection. Two fellowships have been awarded by the Regional Office for Africa for the study of radioisotopes to trace insect vectors of disease.

Annex 2 relates to fellowships awarded from 1949 to 1957 in health aspects of radiation.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR 1959

The following are the proposals concerning the peaceful use of atomic energy for the year 1959, Official Records No. 61.

3.1 Staff

3.1.1 Headquarters staff

The staff dealing with atomic energy in relation to health, as approved by the Tenth World Health Assembly, comprises two medical officers, a secretary and a clerk stenographer. The work consists of the collection of data, the preparation of expert
committees and seminars, assistance to the regions in planning their programmes, and also in following up the recommendations of expert committees and study groups. A significant part of the activities of the staff will be devoted to co-operation with two non-governmental bodies in official relationship with WHO - the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements - with the International Atomic Energy Agency and specialized agencies such as UNESCO, FAO, ILO, and with the United Nations, which implies participation in the Atomic Energy Sub-Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

In addition to services for the expert committees mentioned below, the staff dealing with atomic energy will co-operate with the regional offices and Headquarters staff in the selection and placement of fellows in radiation medicine and associated subjects.

3.1.2 Consultants

It is difficult to foresee two years in advance the exact type of activities required in this rapidly advancing field. There is also a shortage of staff for this kind of work, and the great majority of the subjects dealt with are of a highly specialized nature. In view of the importance of the health aspects of atomic energy as a whole, it is proposed to increase the provision for consultants from nine consultant months, as in previous years, to sixteen consultant months in 1959.

3.2 Radiation Protection

The following notes on the two expert committees proposed for 1959 are somewhat more detailed than those appearing in Official Records No. 81.

3.2.1 Expert Committee on Radiochemical Methods of Analysis

Work in this field was suggested to WHO by a Study Group on Radiological Units and Radiological Protection held in April 1956. The relevant passage of this Group's report reads as follows: "The Group recommends that WHO should serve as a clearing house for collection and dissemination of information on analytical methods which may be used in the identification of specific radionuclides in water, in soils or bottom
muds, in flora and fauna, and in body fluids and tissues." The object of the expert committee will be to consider available analytical methods, and select those which would be suitable for laboratories new to these procedures; such analyses are used for the control of radioactive waste disposal or in the medical supervision of those working with radioisotopes. This selection of methods should be useful for public health laboratories, as they will no doubt become involved more and more in these problems. A joint WHO/FAO Expert Committee on Radiochemical Methods of Analysis will take place in 1958 as foreseen in the budget for that year to consider some aspects of the problem. As, however, the subject is a somewhat wide one, it was thought that a further committee should take place in 1959. It is proposed that this committee would have nine WHO members and that it will also be a joint WHO/FAO Expert Committee. In addition an invitation has been extended to the International Atomic Energy Agency to be represented.

3.2.2 The second Expert Committee proposed to be held in 1959 would, as a first choice, be on the subject of protection of patients from the adverse effects of ionizing radiation used in medicine (nine members). There has been much discussion in the last two years concerning reduction of radiation doses in the medical use of X-rays; many papers have been written on the large contribution which diagnostic X-rays in particular make to the total irradiation of a population in some countries. By using appropriate techniques this rather high average radiation dose to a population might be decreased without impairing the diagnostic value of the X-rays used. It is felt that WHO should take some place in discussing such important medical questions and giving guidance where necessary. Also it is important that WHO programmes themselves should be a model in regard to the careful use of radiation. Month by month, however, new data is appearing, and the general picture tends to change rapidly; it is therefore difficult to formulate at this time the exact shape of such a Committee's agenda.

Should it appear, in the course of our discussions with the International Commission on Radiological Protection that this body is about to conduct a comprehensive study on the subject, then it would not be necessary to convene such an expert committee. In that case the next health problem which would require to be studied by an expert committee, would be that of standards of medical examination for radiation workers. Such questions would be considered as the type of chronic disease, e.g. healing tuberculosis or epilepsy, or chronic slight abnormality of the blood count, which might be considered
to make a career involving occupational exposure to radioisotopes or other forms of radiation undesirable. Also the types of medical supervision required could be considered. It is not thought that such a committee would suggest any rigid standards, but it would provide for an exchange of views by medical experts from different countries, and some general principles could be enunciated which would help newcomers to the field. The term "radiation workers" in this sense would apply to both clinical and atomic energy workers, but in practice it is more likely that the atomic energy worker would be stressed. An expert committee of this type would enable WHO to advise governments and other international organizations on this question. The co-operation of the International Labour Office and the International Atomic Energy Agency would, of course, be invited.

3.2.3 Proposed regional programmes in atomic energy for 1959

Region for the Americas

The Regional Office for the Americas is developing a programme on the health aspects of nuclear energy during 1959, to be financed by PASB funds.

South-East Asia Region

Fellowships (public health aspects of atomic energy)

Plans are being worked out in India for the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Provision is therefore made for a twelve-month international fellowship for training in the medical and health aspects of atomic energy.

European Region

Courses on radiation protection.

It is intended to continue and develop assistance in the organization of courses on radiation protection for health officers, sanitary engineers, and other health personnel. Provision is made for lecturers and fellowships.
Advisory group on radiation protection

With the aim of advising the regional office on future work in radiation protection in Europe, an advisory group is planned. Provision has been made for the services of a consultant, temporary advisers and servicing staff.

Western Pacific Region

Fellowships (health physics)

In connexion with the establishment by the Government of China of an institute of atomic medicine in Taiwan, provision is made for a twelve-month fellowship for a physician whose training would cover both health protection and the clinical use of radioisotopes.

Inter-regional activities

Seminar on the public health aspects of the disposal of radioactive material

There is in Europe and many other parts of the world a strong demand for training in the disposal of radioactive waste. The seminar would be oriented towards the health problems rather than to engineering or chemical methods of waste disposal, so far as these aspects of the subject can be separated. This seminar is not intended to be as technical as a health physics course and therefore a wider range of applications will be considered, for instance from: (i) candidates having a medical background with some experience of atomic energy or other radiation work; (ii) sanitary engineers with some experience of radiation work; (iii) health physicists connected with public health work; (iv) certain other candidates interested in public health and radiation, possibly with a chemical or biological background. The wide range of candidates is to take account of the fact that government officers interested in radioactive waste disposal come from widely different backgrounds. It is proposed that the seminar would last approximately a week and be held in Europe. This project was originally proposed for 1958 and was included in the programme and budget proposals for that year, under "supplement" but could not be implemented and was deferred until 1959.

1Entitled "Seminar on disposal of radioactive waste" in Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 81
2Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 7\( \frac{1}{2} \), 405
3.3 Clinical and Public Health Uses of Radioisotopes

3.3.1 Study Group on Pharmacopoeial Specifications for Radioisotopes used in Medicine

The number of radioisotopes used in medicine is increasing and some have already been included in national pharmacopoeias. Furthermore, a study group on radiological units and radiological protection, convened by the Organization, recommended that WHO consider including in the International Pharmacopoeia suitable information on preparations of radioactive substances which may be utilized in medicine. It is therefore proposed to convene a study group to prepare specifications for suitable substances to be included in the International Pharmacopoeia.

3.3.2 Eastern Mediterranean Region

Medical use of radioisotopes

A consultant will visit some countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in 1958 to make recommendations on the use of radioisotopes for medical purposes. A further consultant to be provided in 1959 for three months will follow up the implementation of these recommendations and give advice to hospitals and institutions. It is planned that a training course will be organized by the consultant in one of the medical schools of Beirut.

4. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Following the authorization given to the Director-General by the Executive Board at its nineteenth session (resolution EB19.R2) to initiate discussions with the Preparatory Commission of the International Atomic Energy Agency "with a view to concluding an agreement between the two organizations on the basis of the agreements entered into between WHO and the specialized agencies", the Director-General communicated to the then Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Agency, in January 1957, a draft preliminary agreement for his consideration and comments.
As stated below, in December of the same year, the Director-General of the new Agency started preliminary contacts with the Director-General concerning the arrangements for the discussion of a relationship agreement between the two agencies.

The question of the relationship of the IAEA with the specialized agencies was considered both by the Board of Governors and by the first conference of the Agency held simultaneously in October 1957 in Vienna. The specialized agencies had been invited to send representatives to attend the conference. They were also invited to attend that part of a meeting of the Board of Governors at which the question of relationship between the Agency and the specialized agencies was discussed. In consultation with the representatives of the other specialized agencies in Vienna, the representative of the World Health Organization made a declaration on behalf of all these agencies (see Annex I).

On the recommendation of the Board of Governors, the Conference of the Agency adopted on 11 October the following resolution:

"The General Conference,

(a) Noting that Article XVI.A of the Statute provides that 'the Board of Governors, with the approval of the General Conference, is authorized to enter into an agreement or agreements establishing an appropriate relationship between the Agency . . . . and any other organizations the work of which is related to that of the Agency';

(b) Noting further that Article V.E.7 of the Statute provides that the General Conference shall approve any agreement or agreements between the Agency and other organizations provided for in Article XVI;

(c) Having considered the recommendations submitted by the Preparatory Commission concerning the guiding principles for relationship agreements between the Agency and the specialized agencies in accordance with paragraph C.7(b) of Annex I to the Statute;

1. AUTHORIZES the Board of Governors, taking into account the guiding principles drawn up by the Preparatory Commission for relationship agreements between the Agency and the specialized agencies, to negotiate relationship agreements with the appropriate authorities of the specialized agencies;

2. REQUESTS the Board to submit these agreements to the General Conference for approval during the regular session following the negotiation of each such agreement."
The Board of Governors of the Agency held another session in December 1957 and considered again the question of the plans for the initiation of negotiations between the Agency and the specialized agencies. It adopted on 17 December the following resolution:

"NEGOTIATION OF RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES"

The Board of Governors,

(a) Recalling resolution GC.1(S)/RES/11 adopted by the General Conference on 24 October 1957, in which the Board was authorized, taking into account the guiding principles drawn up by the Preparatory Commission, to negotiate relationship agreements with the appropriate authorities of the specialized agencies;

(b) Recalling further that in view of the Agency's primary responsibility for international activities concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic energy in accordance with its Statute, the initial programme approved by the Board and the General Conference provided that the Agency should seek to exercise, through its activities, a co-ordinating effect and to discourage undesirable duplication of effort in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy;

(c) Noting that several specialized agencies will shortly consider their future programming, including any activities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy;

(d) Considering that machinery for effective consultation and co-operation should be established at an early date; and

(e) Recognizing that the effective development of such arrangements will be dependent upon the availability to the Agency of scientific advice and further definition of the Agency's programme;

1. REQUESTS the Director-General to arrange, as soon as practicable, for the initiation of consultations with the specialized agencies whose work is related to that of the Agency with a view to:

   (a) exploring areas of possible overlapping of activities and the delineation of primary functions;

   (b) devising arrangements for co-ordinated programming on a continuing basis;

   (c) incorporating provision for such arrangements in appropriate relationship agreements;
2. DECIDES to establish a committee consisting of the Chairman, or, in his absence or disability, one of the Vice-Chairmen acting as Chairman, and five members of the Board, designated by the Chairman with the concurrence of the Board, to advise the Director-General on negotiations with the specialized agencies; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to report, during subsequent series of meetings of the Board, on the progress made, to enable the Board to review the procedure for negotiation in the light of such progress;"

The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, appointed by the General Conference of the Agency in October 1957, started preliminary contacts with the Director-General of the World Health Organization at the end of December 1957 concerning the arrangements for the discussions of a relationship agreement between the Agency and WHO. Such discussions have started and are proceeding in a satisfactory way.

4.2 The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

This body has been working for nearly two years on, inter alia, the task of collating information on radiation effects on man and his environment. In this effort it has had the co-operation of WHO, and a member of the Secretariat has attended the meetings in an observer capacity; in addition the report of the WHO Study Group on the Effect of Radiation on Human Heredity was presented to the Committee, and the rapporteur of this Study Group, at the invitation of the Committee, has taken an active part in drafting part of the Committee's report.

The Director-General was grateful to Professor Bacq, present chairman of this United Nations Committee, who made one of the concluding speeches in the WHO course on radiation protection at Mol (Belgium). A telegram of good wishes to the course was also received from Professor Sievert, the Swedish delegate to the United Nations Scientific Committee, and Chairman of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

The United Nations Scientific Committee is due to report to the General Assembly of the United Nations in July 1958. In resolution 1147 (XII) of 14 November 1957 the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to consider the question of the strengthening and widening of scientific activities in this field" (i.e. the field of radiation effects on man and his environment). A WHO
observer was able to be present at the initial discussions which took place between the Secretary-General and the members of the Scientific Committee on this topic.

4.3 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Four evening lectures on different health aspects of radiation were given by WHO consultants at the UNESCO International Conference on Radioisotopes in Scientific Research held in September 1957. Two of these lecturers were chosen after consultation with the chairman and secretary of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. The aim of the evening lectures was to give a general survey of matters such as health aspects of radiation protection and the clinical use of radioisotopes which were not specifically on the agenda of the Conference from the point of view of the contribution of original papers.

4.4 International Labour Organization (ILO)

A member of the Secretariat of WHO attended the ILO meeting of Experts on Radiation Protection held in November and December 1957. This meeting, which lasted two-and-a-half weeks was for the purpose of discussing and making recommendations concerning the protection of workers against ionizing radiations. In particular, recommendations were made regarding the revision of the provisions regarding ionizing radiation in the ILO Model Code of Safety Regulations for Industrial Establishments for the Guidance of Governments and Industry. Other recommendations were made concerning three codes of practice on protection against radiation for use as manuals. The subjects of these codes of practice are as follows:

(i) Industrial radiation protection
(ii) Radiation protection in industrial radiography and fluoroscopy
(iii) Radiation protection in luminizing work

A review of the work of the ILO in the field of protection of workers against radiation was also undertaken, and recommendations made for its future activities.
4.5 **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Co-operation with FAO has been close in connexion particularly with plans for the Expert Committee on Radiochemical Methods of Analysis, and with UNESCO and FAO in connexion with certain information requested from the three agencies by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and referred to in a previous report.1

4.6 **Sub-Committee on Atomic Energy of the Administrative Committee on Co-operation**

Co-operation with the United Nations and the other specialized agencies is facilitated by this Sub-Committee.

4.7 **International Commissions on Radiological Protection and on Radiological Units and Measurements (ICRP and ICRU)**

These bodies are in official relationship with WHO and there is much informal contact between members of the Commissions and the WHO Secretariat; also many members of the ICRP and ICRU are members of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Radiation. An observer from WHO attended a meeting of the ICRP at New York in March 1958.

Much of the work of the International Commission on Radiological Protection is concerned with the recommendation of maximum permissible levels of radiation of various types, and is therefore in a somewhat different category from that performed by WHO.

The latest recommendations of the ICRP, founded on the results of its meeting in 1956, are eagerly awaited by workers in radiation protection, and should be of considerable value to Member governments of WHO as a basis for their own radiation protection regulations. The recommendations are also very useful to WHO to serve as a foundation for its advice to other international organizations or to Expert Committees. It is accordingly planned to circulate the Recommendations of the ICRP to Member governments when they are issued.

The ICRU report on recommended units of radiation for medical and other use, was published in 1957 and, in agreement with the ICRU, a number of copies were distributed to Member governments and also to some individuals recommended by their country’s delegates to the International Congress of Radiology. This should provide a wider circulation than might otherwise have been obtained for this valuable report and encourage the use of the same units of radiation throughout the world.

1Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 76, 39
Dr DOROLLE (World Health Organization) said that to save time his colleagues had requested him to act as their spokesman. Their presence testified to the close interest taken by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in establishing relations with the Agency. Those organizations had had almost ten years experience of working together in accordance with the provisions of the bilateral agreements concluded between them. These agreements had proved to be satisfactory as evidenced by the fact that, when the last Health Assembly considered whether these agreements required revision, it was decided, after consultation with the other agencies, that no modifications were necessary.

The basis of these agreements was that the overriding responsibility and competence of each agency in its particular sphere was recognized by the others; but there were marginal areas where responsibilities might merge or overlap, and it was in such areas that arrangements had to be agreed upon to demarcate common activities, and avoid gaps and overlapping.

He would not of course take it upon himself to comment on the draft resolution submitted by Canada, Egypt and the United States (GOV/15); but he felt justified in expressing the view that paragraph (c) of the preamble and paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution proposed to be recommended for adoption by the General Conference would allow for the flexibility necessary to permit negotiations.

In conclusion, he assured the Board that the Agency's representatives in the negotiations with other specialized agencies would find the latter eager to co-operate and that during the interim period working relations will be established with due respect to the competence of each.
Dr DOROLLE said that he and his colleagues had carefully noted the observations of the Board of Governors and in particular those of the Governors from South Africa and France, who had so rightly pointed out that the Secretariats of specialized agencies could not commit their governing bodies which must have the final word in respect of policy matters and of agreements.

He thanked the Chairman and the Board for the opportunity afforded to his colleagues and himself to be present at the meeting.
ANALYSIS OF FELLOWSHIPS\* AWARDED BY WHO ON THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF RADIATION - 1949 TO 1957

1. SUBJECTS OF STUDY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Therapeutic and diagnostic uses of radioisotopes</th>
<th>Medical research uses of radioisotopes</th>
<th>Radiobiology</th>
<th>Radiation protection and health physics</th>
<th>Radioactive waste disposal</th>
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<td>5</td>
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*These fellowships were for individual training and do not include fellows who participated in organized courses.

II. DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWS BY REGION OF ORIGIN

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<th>REGION</th>
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### III. NUMBER OF FELLOWS ACCEPTED BY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING (1949-1957)

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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
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*Many fellows visited more than one country*