Committee on Programme and Budget

Provisional Minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Wednesday, 18 May 1960, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Dr M. K. Afridi (Pakistan)

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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should reach the Chief Editor, Official Records, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, before 1 July 1960.
1. THIRD GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK COVERING A SPECIFIC PERIOD (1960-1965):
   Item 2.4 of the Agenda (Resolutions WHA2.27, EB23.R76 and EB25.R51;
   Documents A13/P&B/2, A13/P&B/37, A13/P&B/39) (continued)

   The CHAIRMAN asked Dr Engel, Chairman of the Working Party, to read to the Committee the report of the Working Party on the Third General Programme of Work covering a Specific Period.

   Dr ENGEL (Sweden), read the report of the Working Party as set out in paper A13/P&B/39 and added that the report had been unanimously accepted by the Working Party.

   The CHAIRMAN said that the report of the Working Party was open to discussion.

   **Decision:** The report of the Working Party was adopted.

   The CHAIRMAN said the Committee would revert to consideration of document A13/P&B/2.

   Dr DOUBEK (Czechoslovakia), said that since the amendment proposed by the Working Party, and now adopted, had inserted in paragraph 3.4.1 of the main document (A13/P&B/2) a provision that WHO would give particular attention to the problem of tuberculosis and, since that was the main point which the Czechoslovak delegation wished to secure in its draft resolution submitted in document A13/P&B/37, his delegation was satisfied and would withdraw its separate draft resolution.

   The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegate of Czechoslovakia and asked the Committee whether it could be taken that the General Programme set out in paper A13/P&B/2 was adopted as amended.

   It was so agreed.
The CHAIRMAN put to the Committee the following draft resolution:

The Thirteenth World Health Assembly,

Considering Article 28 (g) of the Constitution,

Having considered the General Programme of Work for the Specific Period 1962-1965 inclusive, as submitted by the Executive Board at its twenty-fifth session,

Believing that the Programme of Work, as submitted, provides a broad general policy that could guide the development of the annual programmes,

APPROVES the General Programme of Work for the Specific Period 1962-1965 inclusive, as submitted by the Executive Board at its twenty-fifth session and as amended.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of the Executive Board for the help that he had given in dealing with the item.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL QUARANTINE: Item 2.1.3 of the Agenda (Resolution EB25.R15; Documents A13/P&B/7 and A13/P&B/16

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretary to introduce the discussion of the item.

Dr Kaul, Assistant Director-General, Secretary, said that document A13/P&B/7 transmitted the seventh report of the Committee on International Quarantine, and the report itself was given in document WHO/IQ/91. The seventh annual report on the functioning of the International Sanitary Regulations was prepared by the Director-General under Article 13 of those Regulations and had been submitted to the Committee on International Quarantine. The report covered the period from 1 July 1958 to 30 June 1959 and followed the general lines of previous annual reports.
On general questions the Committee had noted steps being taken to provide for satisfactory disinsecting of aircraft. It noted that few states at present considered that additional regulations were necessary in respect of malaria, but it emphasized that the strongest defence against the carriage of malaria was the rigid protection of ports and airports against mosquitos and it urged health administrations to disinsect aircraft before their departure from areas where malaria vectors existed and recommended bilateral agreements to facilitate the prevention of the spread of malaria across frontiers.

The Committee had noted that in several cases sanitary measures in excess of those provided by the Regulations had been taken against travellers from India, Pakistan and Thailand because of cholera outbreaks in those countries and reminded states that the International Sanitary Regulations prescribed the maximum measures applicable to international traffic.

The Committee noted a downward trend of plague incidence but decided not to recommend any formal amendment to the Regulations. It suggested that Member States might consider bilateral agreements to waive or relax certain provisions in respect of plague.

The Committee noted that smallpox had been imported into eleven countries, with secondary cases in seven countries.

It would be noted that, on the proposal of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Committee on International Quarantine had decided to amend the health part of the Aircraft General Declaration. That amendment would put into force previous views of the International Quarantine Committee, subsequently adopted by the Assembly, on the appendix to the Regulations on the reporting of illnesses in flight and the provision of information by members of crews.
He called attention to the annex to document A13/P&B/16, in which were set out the texts of the proposed amendments.

Dr GERIC (Yugoslavia), said that the report of the Committee on International Quarantine would be of great importance to quarantine directors throughout the world, especially to those of them who were concerned with the control of transport. Without the information provided by the Committee it would not be possible to have perfect measures at frontiers. His delegation considered that every attention should be given to improving frontier quarantine and noted the statement in regard to countries that had not wholly conformed to the provisions of the Regulations. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that a large number of countries had not suffered from quarantinable diseases in 1958-59. For the effective control of quarantinable diseases it was necessary that each country should have a competent national health service as well as an efficient frontier quarantine service, so that any case of quarantinable disease that was accidentally imported could be prevented from causing further cases. Even those states which had not suffered from any quarantinable disease for some time should keep up their quarantine services, and their general health services, so that they might cope with any accidental reappearance of imported disease. They must always remain watchful and ready to take the necessary steps.

What were the minimum necessary steps for one state were not necessarily applicable to others. WHO should propose help to organize an exchange of experience between states on this question: possibly in the first instance a questionnaire might be circulated that would give a better idea of the quarantine services of various countries. That would in itself be of much assistance to all governments.
He wished to make a few remarks on typhus. That disease, as well as relapsing fever, was now less important than it had been as a quarantinable disease but it was still necessary for cases of typhus to be reported to WHO. His delegation considered that persons who, coming from an infected area but having spent 15 days in a non-infected area (typhus), should be able to use international means of transport without having sanitary measures applied to them in respect of typhus. Such persons should be required only to possess a certificate from the competent health authorities that they had spent the last 15 days before their departure in a non-typhus-infected local area.

Another question which he believed the Committee on International Quarantine could study was that of cases transferred from an infected area to a non-infected area and there hospitalized, and especially that some countries considered the latter area as a typhus infected area.

Yugoslavia had in the last few years made great efforts to strengthen its frontier sanitary services, making use of the federal health staff. They had set up a station, for example, at Rijeka and had taken advantage of the experience of some neighbouring countries. Under Article 104 of the Regulations they had made agreements with Albania, Greece, Hungary and Romania.

Dr AZURIN (Philippines), congratulated the Committee on International Quarantine on its excellent report. His delegation was much impressed by the wide coverage of the report and wished simply to emphasize the need for a consolidating report on the disinsecting of airports and aircraft. At present
there was a free interchange of insects between airports and the Philippines delegation hoped that the difficulty could soon be dealt with.

Mr BONHOFF, International Air Transport Association, speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the airlines that were members of the Association considered that the proposed amendments to the International Sanitary Regulations were important; they were clearer to read and made the intention of the Regulations more evident.

But he thought he should bring to the attention of the Committee some practical difficulties in giving the information asked for. The original wording of the Regulations, and even the amended wording, appeared to be based on the assumption that the Aircraft General Declaration was a document that covered the whole flight of an aircraft from start to finish. That was not the case. That document was prepared on a place-to-place basis and the copy that was used for outward clearance at one airport was used at the next airport for inward clearance.

There was a growing tendency to eliminate the General Declaration altogether. Only a few countries had actually done so, but at the last Facilitation Conference of the International Civil Aviation Organization provisions had been made which might give more states the incentive to abolish that Declaration. In such an event there would be no means of furnishing the information asked for. There was no longer in use a log-book which covered the entire flight of an aircraft. It was considered an unnecessary formality and had been done away with. He had brought up those practical difficulties in order that they might be considered when the question was next under discussion.
Dr Kaul, Assistant Director-General, Secretary, commenting on the discussion at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the suggestions made by the delegation of Yugoslavia would be studied by the Secretariat and put to the Committee on International Quarantine at its next session. The disinsecting of aircraft had been under study for some time and an expert committee was being convened to study the present position and make suggestions. The Director-General appreciated the worries and difficulties to which the representative of the International Air Transport Association had referred but the International Sanitary Regulations were of course provided to prevent the spread of disease. All concerned in quarantine work were willing to facilitate transport of all kinds but the purpose of the Regulations was not only to facilitate transport but to stop the spread of disease. There had been throughout consultation with IATA and the International Civil Aviation Organization and a representative of the latter body had attended meetings of the Committee on International Quarantine.

The Chairman read the following draft resolution from document A13/P&B/43:

The Thirteenth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the seventh report of the Committee on International Quarantine,

1. THANKS the members of the Committee for their work; and
2. ADOPTS the seventh report of the Committee on International Quarantine.

He asked if there were any remarks or comments on that resolution or on the one contained in document A13/P&B/16, and there being none, he declared those resolutions adopted.

It was so agreed.
3. ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON PUBLICATIONS:

The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of the Executive Board to introduce the discussion.

Professor AUJALEF, representative of the Executive Board, said that as the publications of the World Health Organization formed a very important section of the total work of the Organization, the Committee would understand the importance of that large organizational study. The text of the report on the subject made to the Executive Board would be found in Annex 17 to Official Records No. 99. That report the Executive Board had considered to be thorough and objective. The Executive Board, in its discussion of that report, had made observations on several points. First, on the use of Russian in certain of the WHO publications. That question had already been discussed in the present Assembly and he would not say anything further on it. Secondly, it had considered the quality of the publications; thirdly, their distribution; and fourthly, their cost.

As to quality, the Board had agreed that it was in general very good although, of course, so great a variety of publications must present varying degrees of interest to different people. The Board had specially appreciated the Technical Report Series and the Bulletin, the Monograph Series and the International Digest of Health Legislation. They thought also that the more popular documents such as World Health fulfilled their purpose well. In regard to the Official Records themselves, for which the criterion of quality was
fidelity in reporting, the Board had no fault to find. There had been more divergence of view in regard to the Chronicle, probably because it fell between two different purposes, as was shown by the fact that its contents had been changed more than once. The new series Public Health Papers was too recent for any definitive view by the Board but the first two numbers had certainly seemed to be excellent.

In regard to the distribution of publications, full figures were given in Annex 17 to Official Records No. 99. As an example, he might refer to the 2500 copies of the Bulletin that were issued: the Board had at first been surprised to note that 50 per cent. of these were distributed free of charge, but after comparison with similar documents issued by different organizations, they thought that this proportion was justifiable.

More generally, the Board considered that the distribution of English and French publications was satisfactory but that it was not so good for Spanish issues. The Director-General had expressed some concern about distribution of Spanish publications and had agreed with the Board that the point should be put to the present Assembly. The Director-General would try to give a wider distribution to Spanish-speaking countries and had mentioned a procedure that had been adopted in the South-East Asia Region, where they had what might be called regional subscriptions at lower prices. It was possible that this procedure might improve the distribution of Spanish issues.

Some members of the Board had considered that the Official Records were bulky and that the size should be reduced. Proposals for that purpose were set out in document A13/P&B/10 Add.1, which appeared to him to contain
reasonable proposals for consideration, although it should be realized that the extent of the reduction was not likely to be very great.

The CHAIRMAN said that this item was now open for general discussion.

Dr DOUBEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had read with great appreciation the very clear report on WHO publications which had been presented by the Director-General. The publication services were a very important aspect of the general work of the Organization and provided useful information on the work done in different fields and on the progress of medical and health work in different countries. They also gave information which would help the general public to appreciate the work done by WHO.

In regard to the contents the Czechoslovak delegation considered that they were of a very high level. They regretted on the other hand that so far very little information had been given on health work in socialist countries, although the medical and health services of those countries were extremely good. They thought that information on that subject would be very useful to those countries who were endeavouring to set up their national health services.

His delegation suggested that the Director-General might submit to the Executive Board a regular plan of publication covering a particular period. It would be useful that the Executive Board and delegates to the Assembly should in that way get an idea of forthcoming publications, especially in the Monograph Series, and should have some hand in deciding what those publications should be.

In regard to the Report on the World Health Situation, his delegation considered that it should be published at regular intervals.
The CHAIRMAN put the following draft resolution to the Committee:

The Thirteenth World Health Assembly

Having considered resolution EB25.R42 of the Executive Board, and a summary of the Executive Board’s discussion of this subject at its twenty-fifth session together with a report on WHO publications prepared by the Director-General; and

Noting that the Executive Board has now concluded its organizational study on publications;

1. THANKS the Executive Board for the study made;

2. NOTES the preliminary study made by the Director-General on the possible measures to reduce the length of the Official Records volumes; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to keep this matter under constant review.

Decision: The resolution was adopted.

4. FUTURE ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Item 2.11 of the Agenda (Document A13/P&B/6).

The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of the Executive Board to introduce the item.

Professor AUJALEU, representative of the Executive Board, said that the document provided a summary of the history of the organizational studies made by the Board. The time had come to decide what should be the subject of the next organizational study to be made by the Board. It should be prepared for the Fifteenth World Health Assembly, because the Fourteenth World Health Assembly was to be held some four months earlier in the year than usual. The Board had considered the question
at its twenty-fifth session and had decided to suggest that its next organizational study should be on the organizational structure of WHO or on the education and training programme, both of which subjects it had studied before. The Executive Board had not for one moment wished its suggestion to make it difficult for the Health Assembly to choose any other subject. It had decided to make the suggestion before it had discussed the general problem of the co-ordination of WHO's activities with those of the United Nations and the other specialized agencies. Following that discussion the Director-General had undertaken to submit to the Executive Board a detailed report on such co-ordination. Perhaps it would be advisable for the Health Assembly to decide that that should be the subject of the Board's next organizational study rather than either of the two subjects suggested by the Board. The report of the Director-General on the subject of co-ordination might then well form the basis of the Board's next organizational study. There was a draft resolution with a blank space for the subject which the Health Assembly would choose forming part of the Executive Board's resolution EB25.R43, which was reproduced in section 3.1 of document A13/P&B/6.

Dr DORCIE, Deputy Director-General, said that the Director-General was particularly glad that the representative of the Executive Board had suggested that the next subject to be studied by the Executive Board should be the co-ordination of WHO's activities with those of the United Nations and the other
specialized agencies. The Director-General had drawn the Board's attention to the importance of that subject and had been instructed by the Board to study it. It would be better to make a single study which would be concerned with that very important subject, rather than to make two organizational studies in the same year.

Dr RAE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said he wished to support the suggestion that the next organizational study by the Executive Board should be on co-ordination with the United Nations and other specialized agencies. A study of that subject was more urgently required than one on education and training or WHO's organizational structure. Although he had been attending WHO meetings for many years, he was still not certain exactly how all WHO's activities fitted in with those of the United Nations and the other specialized agencies.

Professor CANAPERIA (Italy) said he agreed with the delegate of the United Kingdom, for the reasons he had mentioned, that the next organizational study by the Executive Board should be on co-ordination with the United Nations and other specialized agencies.

Decision: The Committee adopted the draft resolution in document Al3/P&B/6 with the words "co-ordination with the United Nations and other specialized agencies" inserted in the blank space.
5. **EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH UNRWA**: Item 2.18 of the Agenda (Document A13/P&Б/8)

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that, as was explained in document A13/P&Б/8, in May 1955 the Eighth World Health Assembly had authorized the extension of the agreement concluded between the Director-General of WHO and the Director of UNRWA until 30 June 1960. On 19 December 1959 the United Nations General Assembly had decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA for three years. Document A13/P&Б/8 contained a draft resolution providing for the extension of the duration of the agreement between the Director-General of WHO and the Director of UNRWA until 30 June 1963 or the dissolution of UNRWA if it should take place before that date. The agreement had given complete satisfaction and it formed the basis of extremely happy and useful relations between WHO and the Agency.

Dr McKENZIE POLLOCK, speaking as representative of UNRWA, said that for the past ten years WHO had had the responsibility of planning and directing the health programme of UNRWA, which had been set up in 1950 to care for the million refugees from Palestine in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian region of the United Arab Republic.

In the early days the Health Division of UNRWA had been able to do little more than counter the threat of an epidemic outbreak and alleviate the suffering of only the most urgent cases. By means of planning and sound technical guidance UNRWA's health programme had evolved to become a reasonably well-balanced health promotion endeavour, taking its place in the rapidly developing ecology of the Middle East. UNRWA's Health Division was at present in a position to contribute
towards that advancement. Many hundreds of health workers had been trained by UNRWA and, in increasing numbers, they were helping to meet the demand for trained health workers in such rapidly expanding areas as Libya and the Arabian Gulf States.

The health work being done by UNRWA for the Palestine refugees was closely co-ordinated with the ever expanding health activities of the host countries.

Without prejudicing the political future, the Health Division of UNRWA was attempting to be constructive during the present holding period of relief operations.

The relationship between WHO and UNRWA, which was a constitutional necessity, had proved to be a fruitful and happy one for both parties, and there was every hope that it would so continue throughout the remainder of UNRWA's existence.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution for the extension of the agreement between WHO and UNRWA in document A13/P&B/8, saying that the Rules of Procedure were such that a two-thirds majority was required for its adoption.

Decision: The draft resolution in document A13/P&B/8 was adopted unanimously.

Introducing document A/3/P&B/17 at the request of the CHAIRMAN, the DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that that document was a report on the developments relating to UNICEF/WHO jointly assisted activities which had occurred since the Director-General had last submitted a report on those activities. It was not a full report on the joint activities of UNICEF and WHO, to which much of the Director-General's Annual Report for 1959, his proposed programme and budget estimates for 1961 and his report on malaria eradication was devoted. The report at present before the Committee contained in Part I an account of the most important features of the UNICEF Executive Board session in September 1959, such as the allocation of UNICEF funds, the general report made by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the statement made by the WHO representative. Part II of the document consisted of an account of the main features of the March session of the UNICEF Executive Board, such as the interesting attempt to reclassify activities forming part of programmes for which UNICEF gave assistance, and the alteration of UNICEF's procedure for making allocations. The document referred to the progress report by the Executive Director of UNICEF on its activities and to the December 1959 session of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy, which co-ordinated the policies related to programmes assisted jointly by the two organizations.

The document also referred to nutrition problems on which several delegations had spoken during the Committee's discussions on other items of the agenda.
Sir Herbert BROADLEY, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, said he wished to take the present opportunity to thank those delegates who, either at one of the plenary meetings or during the discussion of the present Committee on malaria eradication and other items, had expressed appreciation of what UNICEF was doing. He would inform UNICEF's Executive Director of what they had said.

A report on the September 1959 session of the Executive Board of UNICEF had been considered by the WHO Executive Board at its twenty-fifth session in January 1960. No new issues had arisen.

So far UNICEF had allocated one third of its funds for the current year; in other words it had already allocated $8,000,000. A large part of that total had been allocated for malaria eradication work.

UNICEF had decided to change its procedure for dealing with programme development matters. He was confident that that would result in making it simpler for WHO and UNICEF to co-operate with one another.

He would like to draw attention in particular to the part of the report of the Director-General of WHO relating to the survey of children's needs which UNICEF was planning to make (section IV.3.2). The Executive Director of UNICEF considered that special attention should be paid to the need for social services for children, particularly children whose parents had separated and children who were homeless. The world appeared to be becoming increasingly conscious of the needs of children and young people. It was no mere chance that the main item on the agenda for the ILO Conference which was to be held the following month was youth and labour.
UNICEF had decided that pilot studies of the need for social services for children should be made in Uganda, Guatemala, Turkey and the United Arab Republic.

UNESCO and ILO had already agreed to co-operate with UNICEF in the survey of the needs of children. He hoped to discuss WHO's doing so with the WHO Secretariat after the conclusion of the current Health Assembly. He had already mentioned the matter to a representative of FAO. He hoped that the specialized agencies he had mentioned would participate in a conference on the matter which was to be held shortly. UNICEF considered itself fortunate in receiving advice regarding the aspects of its work of direct interest to those agencies and their active assistance for carrying out programmes.

UNICEF had decided to follow the recommendations regarding maternal and child health and environmental sanitation laid down by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy. It could not, however, spend very much on environmental sanitation.

UNICEF greatly appreciated its happy and useful relations with WHO at Headquarters and with the WHO liaison offices and the WHO regional offices. He was confident that those relations would be maintained.

The CHAIRMAN said that he knew he was speaking for the Committee as a whole in stating that WHO greatly appreciated its happy and useful relations with UNICEF.

Recalling that during the Committee's discussions on malaria eradication and other items several delegates had thanked UNICEF for the help it had given, he suggested that it was unnecessary for them to repeat those thanks on the present occasion.
Dr LE CUU TRUONG (Viet Nam) said that the report before the Committee was an excellent one. It showed that the relations between UNICEF and WHO were entirely harmonious. He appreciated the clear statement just made by the representative of UNICEF, and the decisions taken by the Executive Board of UNICEF regarding activities for which WHO and UNICEF gave assistance jointly, particularly the training of personnel and the integration of maternal and child health services in general health services. He was glad that special emphasis had been placed on work against malaria, nutritional education and the production of protein-rich food where it was needed. He appreciated the way in which UNICEF had decided to liberalize its rules regarding counterpart expenditure; its decision to bear certain local expenses would be of great help for starting work on certain essential programmes for improving health in under-developed countries which had recently become independent and suffered from shortage of medical personnel and ancillary health workers. He welcomed the decision of WHO and UNICEF to make a thorough study of the question of training personnel for maternal and child health services. Viet Nam was very grateful for the assistance it was receiving from UNICEF for carrying out its maternal and child health programme and its tuberculosis programme. Much progress had been made in those programmes in recent years.

Dr ALAN (Turkey) said that his Government was grateful for the valuable assistance it was receiving from UNICEF for carrying out its various health programmes and, in particular, its malaria eradication programme. Turkey, which had recently been elected a member of the UNICEF Executive Board, would gladly contribute all it could to ensure that its work was successful.
The CHAIRMAN suggested the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Thirteenth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the actions of direct interest to WHO taken by the UNICEF Executive Board at its September 1959 and March 1960 sessions;

Bearing in mind that WHO has amongst its constitutional functions "to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work" and "to promote maternal and child health and welfare and to foster the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment";

Recalling the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child;

1. NOTES the report of the Director-General;

2. NOTES with appreciation that despite the expansion of its role in meeting the needs of children, UNICEF continues to give maximum assistance to health programmes affecting mothers and children, and that the long-standing collaboration between WHO and UNICEF in giving assistance to national health programmes continues to be a source of satisfaction to Member States;

3. EXPRESSES its appreciation for the action taken by the UNICEF Executive Board at its September 1959 session to continue UNICEF's invaluable support for the programme of malaria eradication up to a ceiling of $10 million a year, and to broaden its criteria for assistance to this programme;
4. CONSIDERS that the health and welfare needs of mothers and children are inseparable from those of the family and of the community as a whole; and

5. ENDORSES the policy of the Organization to collaborate, within the UN family, in activities which, taken as a whole, lead towards the fulfilment of the objectives expressed in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Decision: The resolution was adopted.

7. DRAFT SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (Document A13/P&B/42)

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Dr VERA LAMPEREIN (Chile), Rapporteur, read the draft sixth report of the Committee (document A13/P&B/42).

Dr LAPORTE (France) drew attention to the French version of paragraph 2 of the first draft resolution in the report, which was not in line with the English version, and suggested a rewording.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that the necessary corrections would be made in the French text. A reference to document A13/P&B/39 should be added at the end of the second draft resolution.

Decision: The draft report was adopted with the amendments suggested by the delegate of France and the Deputy Director-General.
8. INTENSIFIED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME; Item 2.7 of the Agenda  
(Resolutions WHA12.17 and EB25.R46; Documents A13/P&B/4 and A13/P&B/4 Add.1)

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that since the Twelfth World Health Assembly  
the planning of the intensified medical research programme, inaugurated by resolution  
WHA12.17, had been conducted systematically by the convening of specialized scientific  
groups, a list of which appeared on page 1 of document A13/P&B/4 and was brought up  
to date by A13/P&B/4 Add.1. The latter document also indicated the further groups  
it was intended to convene in the remaining part of 1960.  

An important event since the last Health Assembly had been the first session  
of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research and the appointment of its Chairman,  
in pursuance of the resolution he had already cited. According to paragraph 5 of  
that resolution, the Advisory Committee was to be considered as an expert advisory  
panel, so the Director-General intended in the future to report on its membership,  
including new appointments, according to the relevant regulations. The membership  
and the attendance at the first session was indicated in document A13/P&B/4.  

The Advisory Committee had reviewed extensive documentation on the proposed  
programme for 1960 and 1961, with particular reference to the technical subjects  
listed in paragraph 3 of document A13/P&B/4. It had also considered the general  
scientific and organizational aspects of the programme and in that regard the wide  
administrative experience possessed by members of the organization of research at  
the national level, in addition to their scientific knowledge, had provided valuable  
guidance to the Director-General.  

The Advisory Committee would be meeting again in June 1960 and would, in  
particular, be considering certain aspects of the following subjects: treponematoses,  
the filariases, tuberculosis, nutrition, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, human  
genetics and immunology.
The Committee had deliberately refrained from setting forth any priorities among subjects for research, since it felt that priorities had already evolved in the course of the work of the Organization. However, the discussions had brought out the need to assign priorities among particular aspects within such broad subjects as tuberculosis, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. As regards types of activities, services to research, especially in regard to standardization, reference centres and the training of research workers had been singled out.

The programme the Director-General proposed to carry out in 1960 and 1961 was set out in Appendix 9 to Official Records No. 100. Now that the regular budget for 1961 had been approved, the possibility of implementing the part of the programme to be financed from regular funds was assured; the rest would depend on the level of contributions to the Special Account for Medical Research and the extent to which expected assistance in kind, e.g. in the form of fellowships, became available. No doubt that programme was already familiar to the members of the Committee so he would not discuss it in detail but merely say that he would be ready to answer any questions.

Dr BURNEY (United States of America) said he was sure all members of the Committee would share his delegation's gratification at the excellent progress the Director-General and his staff had made in developing the research programme. As the delegate of the United Arab Republic had graciously reminded him that morning, WHO's Constitution empowered it to promote and conduct research in health, so he welcomed the decision of the Twelfth World Health Assembly that activities in that field should be expanded. Under the general guidance of the Advisory Committee and with help on particular subjects from the scientific groups, a well conceived initial programme had been drawn up, in which he was glad to note that a proper balance had been struck between field investigations such as insecticide testing and research
of a more basic nature. It would be remembered that at the Twelfth World Health Assembly his delegation had emphasized the need to include both types of research so that public health administrators could be assisted in meeting everyday practical problems.

He felt it would be useful if the deliberations of the scientific groups and, more particularly, of the Advisory Committee could be reported to the Health Assembly in more detail than hitherto. He would also like to see more emphasis on the exchange of research personnel between countries at different levels of scientific development, for that would serve the cause not only of research development, but also of technical education and training. Finally, as far as budgetary possibilities allowed, there should be more stress on facilitating communication between research workers in different parts of the world, since better mutual knowledge of each other's activities would lead not only to better understanding but also in the end to better research.

Dr ALVAREZ FUERTES (Mexico) recalled that in the discussion on the Annual Report of the Director-General he had reserved the right to speak further on the question of education and training.

He referred to a number of problems outlined in the Third General Programme of Work covering a Specific Period which had bearing on the development of the intensified medical research programme. He stressed the importance of the study of the geographical distribution of diseases and, in that connexion, particularly called attention to the importance of training and research in the basic sciences in general and in pathology in particular. He also mentioned the need for more training in new investigative techniques such as electronic microscopy.
The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL stated that he had listened with close attention to the remarks of the delegate of Mexico and, while he believed that most of the subjects mentioned had already been taken into account by the Director-General in connexion with the medical research programme, he and the technical staff concerned would be glad to go into certain details which could not be fully covered in the meeting.

Dr ALVAREZ FUERTES (Mexico) said he would be glad to discuss the matter with the Deputy Director-General.

Dr ANDERSEN (Denmark) felt that the most important task of WHO in relationship to medical research was the stimulation and co-ordination of activities on an inter-country basis. A good beginning had been made on that, and he accordingly congratulated the Director-General.

Regarding the details of the proposed programme, he considered that the activities chosen were all worthwhile, but one subject was conspicuously missing: maternal and child welfare. One of the most important tasks of the medical profession was the prevention of disease, which should start very early in the patient's life - during pregnancy, at delivery, and in early childhood. In some countries centres had been established to train personnel for research on the ways in which children were influenced by the sociological conditions to which their mothers were subjected, their nutritional status, their diseases, and also the medicaments and anaesthetics that might be used in delivery. All those factors could have an important influence on the incidence of congenital disease and neonatal mortality. He wondered what would be the reaction of the Director-General to his suggestion that WHO's programme in the field of research should include assistance to the work of such centres and stimulation of governments to establish them where they did not exist.
Dr ENGEL (Sweden) said that his delegation was generally satisfied with the programme of medical research as presented and with the priorities accorded to different subjects.

He noted from document A13/P&EB/4 Add.1 that the Director-General intended to convene during 1960 a scientific group on human genetics. In the past, human genetics had rightly been considered by WHO mainly in relation to the effects of ionizing radiation. Now, however, there were good grounds for taking it up as an independent subject of research and public health activity. It was a rapidly expanding branch of knowledge, of great importance in public health, legal medicine and other fields. The growing interest of human genetics in connexion with microbiology and cytology, as well as with clinical pathology, needed no emphasis. He mentioned among other things the tendency of certain toxic substances to affect the genes and to cause mutation which was of great importance in regard to malignant tumours, and that the importance of the Rhesus factor in regard to the prevention of foetal erythroblastosis was established. The matter of genetic counselling had also been taken up.

In Sweden and some other countries an increasingly important place was being given to human genetics in the medical curriculum. At the Seventh World Health Assembly the Scandinavian countries had presented a draft resolution in which they had stressed the importance of human genetics for health and well-being, and experience in the intervening years had confirmed that view. Genetics as a public health activity might be expected in future years to equal environmental sanitation in importance. If the Director-General would agree in future to develop the subject of human genetics as an independent and major feature of the medical research programme, it would be the most effective step towards making it an essential part of the regular programme.
Dr BUTROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), after congratulating the Director-General and his staff on the programme that had been drawn up, said he would not discuss it in detail, since that had already been done at the Twelfth World Health Assembly, in the Executive Board and in the Advisory Committee, but would refer to a number of points of principle.

While collaboration between countries in public health had long been accepted, the recognition of the need for collaboration in medical research was relatively new. Good progress was being made not only through the action of WHO but also through bilateral agreements. He mentioned in particular the agreement between his own country and the United States of America, in which collaboration in research on cancer, cardiovascular diseases and poliomyelitis was particularly stressed. Similar agreements had also been made with France and some other countries.

At the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Board the member designated by the Government of Venezuela had pointed out that while the highly developed countries, by devoting large sums to research on their own health problems, were able to make rapid progress in public health, research into the problems peculiar to the under-developed countries - such as bilharziasis, filariasis and leprosy - tended to be neglected. It was therefore important that those problems should receive particular attention in WHO's research programme.

For that reason the representatives of the under-developed countries should play an important part in drawing up the research programme, since they were best placed to know their own problems and needs. That was why his delegation shared the view expressed by several governments that the Advisory Committee on Medical Research and the various scientific groups should include representatives of all the geographical areas of the world.
The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, at the proposal of the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR, of a resolution on the international encouragement of scientific research into the control of cancerous diseases could be regarded as a heartening indication of public interest in WHO's activities in the field of medical research.

His delegation approved the inclusion in the programme of a study of the effect of radiation on human genetics, but felt that for a humanitarian organization like WHO it was not enough merely to compile data. An authoritative declaration by the Organization on the consequences for millions of people of nuclear test explosions and the urgent need to put a stop to the present pollution of the atmosphere could help towards the conclusion of an agreement to suspend tests.

In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's offer to place its medical research institutes and laboratories at the disposal of WHO for the intensified medical research programme, and to assist in producing the necessary trained staff by organizing courses, seminars, etc.

Dr GERIC (Yugoslavia) expressed approval of the priority given in the programme to research on communicable diseases, which was a field where international co-operation was of the utmost importance. He described the excellent progress which had been made in his country in research on the effectiveness of typhoid vaccines, and which would not have been possible without the co-operation of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other countries. Pooling of resources was essential in such cases, for those countries which had good production laboratories for vaccines did not have a high incidence of typhoid and vice versa. Another related field in which his country was interested was the control of diarrhoeal diseases. Total sanitation, which of course would be the ideal solution, could not be achieved
everywhere in a few years, so other methods that were both technically effective and financially feasible would have to be found, and there too it was hoped that the international pooling of knowledge would give more rapid results.

His delegation therefore hoped to see vaccine studies and research on the control of diarrhoeal diseases further developed as a part of WHO's expanded research programme in years to come.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.