

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A7/AFL/Min/2 Corr.1
10 May 1954

ENGLISH ONLY

CORRIGENDA

Second line of the title should read:

PROVISIONAL MINUTES ~~OF THE~~ SECOND MEETING

In note at foot of page:

Delete "Room A571" and substitute "Room A278".

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY

A7/AFL/Min/2 Corr.2
19 May 1954

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

CORRIGENDA

Page 15, last paragraph

first line: After the words "no opposition" add "in principle".

second line: Delete the words "one of expediency" and replace by:
"really one, in his opinion, of what was 'good business' from the
point of view of the Organization".

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉSEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLYA7/AFL/Min/2
7 May 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS
PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETINGPalais des Nations, Geneva
Friday, 7 May 1954, at 9.30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. M. JAFAR (Pakistan)

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Assessment of China: Scale of assessment for 1955

Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should be submitted in writing to the Chief, Records Service, Room A.571, within 48 hours of their distribution or as soon as possible thereafter.

1. REVIEW OF WORK DURING 1953: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 7.3 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 51, Chapter 10)

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands) said that the statement made to the Committee on the previous day by the Assistant Director-General was most important, not only as regards the present situation of the Organization, but as a guidance for future financial policy. His delegation noted with satisfaction the statement that WHO was now in a sound administrative and financial position. In his view, one of the most important developments in the history of WHO had been the careful attention that had from the beginning been given to setting up a sound administrative and financial policy and he considered that some of the criticisms which in the past had been made on that policy had been unnecessary.

There had, nonetheless, been some serious difficulties in the past. The main source of these difficulties was that the Organization had started without capital, with money borrowed from the United Nations, an insufficient Working Capital Fund, some unforeseen expenses and some delays in payment of contributions. Although those difficulties had now been substantially overcome, many references to financial difficulties had been made since the beginning of this session of the Assembly. It was important to bear in mind that the difficulties now under discussion were different from those of the earlier years of the Organization. The earlier were due to weaknesses in the organization of WHO itself; the current difficulties were the result of the unsatisfactory arrangements in regard to Technical Assistance funds. In technical language, the former might be called endogenous and the latter exogenous. As a result, in 1953 the Director-General had

found it impossible to continue certain Technical Assistance projects and had to finance them from the Regular Budget. In the highly exceptional circumstances of 1953, this action had been necessary but it would be disastrous if the Organization could not avoid a similar extempore action in the future. It would make this simpler if the exogenous difficulties were kept separate from the endogenous and he hoped that members of that Committee who would be present at the Committee where the budget ceiling would be fixed would bear that distinction in mind.

Mr. BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that his delegation had heard with satisfaction the statement made at the first meeting by the Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance¹ and expressed their appreciation of the effective and energetic way in which the Director-General had dealt with the problems that had faced him in his first year of office. He wished to mention one point only: his delegation had been relieved to see how quickly the money taken from the Special Account had been repaid to that Account by the Director-General. In his view this had not been a wholly proper way in which to use money in this Working Capital Fund, which he thought had been set up to facilitate the financing of the regular programme and should not be used to solve difficulties arising in connexion with Technical Assistance funds.

Mr. SIEGEL (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance), Secretary, said that if the delegate from the United Kingdom wished to raise any question

¹ Reproduced as an annex to the minutes of the first meeting of the Committee

whether the Director-General's action had been taken under sufficient authority, that question should be debated by the Committee.

Mr. BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) in reply to the Chairman, said that he did not wish to press that issue.

Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation would like to make some general comments on the statement of the Assistant Director-General which explained some of the most important problems before the Organization. They noted with satisfaction that after five years' working, the Organization was now in a healthy financial and administrative position. That was a matter for pride and for gratitude to all who had been responsible for securing it. The efforts to prevent repercussions on the regular budget were particularly noted and the main problem before the Organization was the reduction in the amount of Technical Assistance funds. Referring to the statement given under paragraph 2, Staff developments, that the increase in the staff of the Organization had been very slight, he asked why, if the programme of work had been reduced from lack of funds, there had been no corresponding reduction in staff. The programme of work of the Organization should be the last thing to suffer from shortage of funds; and savings should be made first in administration and in staffing.

The SECRETARY said that the delegate from Yugoslavia had raised a question that was logical and which had been expected. Why, in face of the reduction of work, had there been even a slight increase of staff? It might therefore be

useful to explain what problems had faced the Director-General and the Executive Board. Many of the projects started in 1953 had continued into 1954. If these projects had been stopped, the effects, on the work of the Organization, on national health services and on the relations with governments, would have been disastrous. He called attention to the statement in paragraph 5.2 (The 1953 situation) that the UNICEF Executive Board had made available some \$443,000 in order to keep these projects in operation and to avoid the withdrawal from some of these projects of WHO experts who were necessary for their continuance. Economies in current projects had been made by cutting back some aspects of them, such as fellowships, supplies and equipment. Such cuts had been considered a lesser evil than the withdrawal of experts but the decision had not been an easy one to take. The Committee would note that a substantial sum had been provided for fellowships in the budget for 1955 to take account of the fellowships postponed in 1954.

The Secretary also called attention to the comment in paragraph 70 of the Report of the thirteenth session of the Executive Board (Official Records No. 53) "that there was no increase of consequence in administrative services in the three-year period 1953-55 despite the increased workload in the total programme".

Dr. Dia EL-CHATTI (Syria) said that to save on international experts was less harmful than to save on fellowships; his delegation hoped that the Committee would find it possible to avoid a cut in education work, particularly in fellowships.

The CHAIRMAN said that this question was rather one for the Committee on Programme and Budget and suggested that the delegate of Syria should raise it in that Committee.

There were no further speakers and the Chairman declared the general discussion closed. The Committee noted the relevant sections of the Annual Report of the Director-General for 1953.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF WHO FOR 1953: REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND COMMENTS THEREON BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Item 7.26 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 54; Official Records No. 52; Resolution EBL3.R37; Document A7/AFL/10)

The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the External Auditor, Mr. Brunskog, was present and would be ready to answer any questions by members of the Committee.

Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) asked whether in the discussion of the Financial Report the Committee should discuss questions on the Working Capital Fund or whether they should be dealt with under the next item "Establishment of the Executive Board Special Fund".

The CHAIRMAN suggested and Mr. SOLE agreed that the question should be raised under the next item.

Mr. CORKERY (Australia) said that his delegation had difficulty in commenting on the Financial Report because it had been received too late to allow for a proper study of so complex and detailed a document. He asked whether it would

not be possible to ensure that Member Governments received copies of the Financial Report six weeks before the commencement of the Assembly.

The SECRETARY reminded the Committee that the question of the time at which the Report should be issued had been discussed at earlier Health Assemblies. It did not appear that any solution could be found unless the World Health Assembly were prepared to change the dates of the fiscal year. The present position arose from decisions made in the early days of United Nations and the specialized agencies, when it was decided that the Assemblies of all specialized agencies should be held in the first half of the year. When the fiscal year corresponded to the calendar year it was not possible to prepare and issue a financial report on the many complicated and widespread activities of an Organization such as WHO in time for distribution six weeks before the opening of the Health Assembly in May. It would be possible if the fiscal year ended at the end of September or the end of June.

The CHAIRMAN submitted to the Committee the following resolution:

Having examined the Financial Report of the Director-General for the period 1 January to 31 December 1953 and the Report of the External Auditor for the same financial period, as contained in Official Records No. 54, and

Having considered the Report of the ad hoc Committee of the Executive Board on its examination of these reports,

ACCEPTS the Director-General's Financial Report and the Report of the External Auditor for the financial year 1953.

Decision: This resolution was adopted.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD SPECIAL FUND: Item 7.20 of Agenda (Official Records No. 52, Resolution EB13.R31 and Annex 7, Document A7/P&B/11)

The SECRETARY referred to one element of the question which might not be clear from the agenda and which affected also the next item - Status of the Assembly Suspense Account. This question arose from the consideration of procedure in the General Committee on 5 May. It would be useful if the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters could report to the Committee which would consider the budget ceiling, the various possible sources of casual income which could be available to the Organization in 1955. If the recommendation of the Executive Board were adopted - that a Special Fund be established separate from the Working Capital Fund by drawing on the Assembly Suspense Account - the amount of casual income available would be reduced.

Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) said that his delegation had noted that the External Auditor had not again in his last report raised the question of increasing the Working Capital Fund: the question had however been raised in another form because the establishment of the Special Fund was in effect another way of increasing the Working Capital Fund. The South African Government had always opposed any increase in the Working Capital Fund and he asked whether, in order that the Committee might have full information on this question, it would be possible to provide them with a statement showing the amount of the budget and of the Working Capital Fund in the United Nations and other specialized agencies.

Mr. HARDY (Canada) said his delegation would like to know in the first place how much the Executive Board had spent in the last two years of the sum of \$300,000

under the powers conferred on them by the Working Capital Fund resolutions.

The SECRETARY said that up to the present time there had been only two withdrawals from this Fund - in 1951 for assistance to refugees in Turkey and for assistance to India in case of epidemics, to the amounts of \$20,000 and \$30,000 respectively. The Committee would note that the Director-General in document A7/P&B/11, pages 4 - 5, suggested that in view of this experience the Assembly might wish to reduce the amount of the proposed Special Fund from \$300,000 to \$100,000.

In reply to the delegate from the Union of South Africa, the Secretary said that he had not for all specialized agencies information as to the amounts of their budget and Working Capital Fund. In the United Nations, the Working Capital Fund was about 50 per cent of the annual budget; in WHO it was about one-third of the annual budget and experience suggested that that proportion was very satisfactory for WHO. The proposed increase of the budget might therefore involve an increase in the Working Capital Fund. He thought that the proposal now before the Committee met the needs of the situation with the least amount of disturbance.

Mr. BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that his delegation felt that the proposal to separate the Working Capital Fund and the Special Fund was essential and proper, both constitutionally and for good accounting. He welcomed the proposal to reduce the amount in the Executive Board Special Fund to \$100,000; his delegation would object to the transfer of \$300,000 to the Fund because this was not an appropriate time to reduce casual income by so large an amount.

Dr. HYDE, representative of the Executive Board, said that the Board had considered that it was necessary to establish a separate Special Fund but had expressed no strong views on the amount to be made available.

Sir Arcot MUDALIAR (India) said that his delegation would support the reduction of the amount from \$300,000 to \$100,000, which appeared to them sufficient to meet the probable needs.

Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) said that his delegation understood that the Constitution called for the establishment of a Special Fund but so far the Organization had got on very well without it. The proposal was, in effect, to increase the cash balance in the Working Capital Fund and his Government was not satisfied that any foreseeable emergency would call for an increase even of the amount of \$100,000. The true purpose of the Working Capital Fund, they considered, was to finance operations of the Organization in the period between the beginning of the year and the receipt of contributions from Members. In fact, early payment of contributions was improved, as the Secretary had pointed out at the previous meeting. The South African Government thought that rather than increase the Working Capital Fund, by whatever means, it would be better to increase efforts to secure early payment of contributions and payment of arrears. If, however, the Committee felt that the Constitution required the establishment of such a fund, the South African Government thought that a token amount only would be sufficient to satisfy the Constitutional requirements. They would not be willing to agree to the amount of \$100,000, which experience showed was higher than was necessary to meet the emergencies for which it was provided.

Mr. CIDOR (Israel), supporting the views expressed by the delegate of the Union of South Africa, said his delegation could not envisage an emergency which would call for such a large sum as that suggested by the Board since experience had shown that when a real emergency arose international solidarity produced spontaneous gifts from all over the world. He, therefore, suggested a token sum of between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

The SECRETARY thought it might be useful to draw attention to certain important elements relating to the item. Under Article 58 of the Constitution, a special fund must be established, and the First World Health Assembly had established it as part of the Working Capital Fund. It could, therefore, be stated in reply to the delegate of the Union of South Africa that a Special Fund had always existed, at least in theory.

The Director-General had proposed that a separate fund should be set up because it would then be quite clear that the provision of the Constitution had been complied with and because it seemed undesirable that the World Health Assembly should have to deal with the matter each year as was the case when the Special Fund was a part of the Working Capital Fund.

It was difficult to determine what sum might be required to meet an emergency. Not more than \$50,000 had been used in one year in the past but it seemed clear that it was the intention of the Constitution to provide a sufficient sum to meet an emergency of an epidemic nature. The Director-General had suggested that at the present stage, \$100,000 might be sufficient but at the same time he felt that it

would be desirable to increase that amount in a few years time should the finances of the Organization permit.

In reply to a point raised by the delegate of the Union of South Africa, the Secretary explained that the improvement in the rate of contributions was due primarily to the fact that the Organization had introduced arrangements for payment of contributions in sterling, under which half the annual contribution paid in sterling had to be paid before 1 April. The use of sterling being limited in certain parts of the world, other currencies were required and the increase in contributions received did not, therefore, necessarily indicate a sounder financial position. He added that the payment of arrears would have no effect on the budget proposed for any one year since such funds could not be used by the Director-General until authorized by the World Health Assembly.

Mr. HARDY (Canada) said there did not appear to be any real controversy regarding the constitutional obligation to establish the Special Fund. The question was whether to establish it immediately or later. The decision depended on the Organization's general financial situation, which, although improved, was not yet as good as it might conceivably be. A number of speakers had pointed out the direct relationship between the establishment of the Fund, the amount of casual income which might be available for financing the regular budget in 1955, and the eventual ceiling of that budget. The Canadian delegation considered \$100,000 to be somewhat small, hardly more than 3 per cent. of the Working Capital Fund. Emergencies to that amount could certainly be met from the Working Capital Fund. Without wishing to imply that

all funds in the Suspense Account should be used for financing the budget, he suggested that there would be greater flexibility in establishing the budget ceiling if the sum of \$100,000 were not withdrawn from that Account in the present year. Therefore, his delegation believed it would be wise to postpone establishment of a Special Fund. The Working Capital Fund Resolution should provide for withdrawal by the Board to meet emergencies of an amount up to \$100,000 which experience seemed to have proved sufficient.

Ambassador HURTADO (Cuba) said there was no doubt as to the constitutionality of the establishment of a Special Fund to meet emergencies. But it would be a difficult matter to determine the amount to be allocated to that Fund. There were, however, precedents which might be useful in determining an adequate sum. The sum should be as small as possible because it would represent a frozen amount until an emergency arose. The Cuban delegation, therefore, supported the proposal to set up the fund in the amount of \$100,000 proposed by the Director-General.

Dr. GARCIA (Philippines) agreed that it would be difficult to determine the exact amount needed to meet emergencies. After hearing the views expressed by the delegates of India and Cuba, however, he felt that the figure of \$100,000 suggested by the Director-General, was reasonable.

Dr. VOLLENWEIDER (Switzerland) supported the proposal of the Canadian delegate.

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands) said there were two points at issue: whether a separate fund should be established and if so, what should be the amount. He was strongly in favour of establishing the Fund. No serious reason had been advanced against its establishment. The figure of \$100,000 suggested by the Director-General appeared to be adequate for 1955. Certain delegates had advocated a reduction of the sum originally proposed in order to make available as much casual income as possible. He was not in favour of seeking all possible means to increase the casual income, since that would only provide relief for one year.

Dr. DIEHL (United States of America) expressed, as a newcomer, his appreciation of the clear explanations given by the Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance. While his delegation appreciated the excellent reasons which had prompted the Director-General and the Board to recommend the establishment of the Fund and there was no doubt that provision to meet emergencies must be made, the United States Government was somewhat concerned about the creation of a new reserve fund, particularly at a time when the Organization was facing very real problems in the financing of its regular programme. The United States delegation therefore supported the Canadian proposal for postponing the establishment of a separate fund and for continuing the existing system of ear-marking a part of the Working Capital Fund for use in emergencies.

Mr. BRADY (Ireland) considered that it would be desirable to meet the constitutional issue by establishing a special fund. Such action would have the added advantage of improving the position of the Working Capital Fund.

He drew attention to the statement in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Executive Board, paragraph 7 (Document A7/AFL/10, page 4) that the External Auditor still held the view that early consideration should be given to some increase in the Working Capital Fund.

He felt that the amount of the Special Fund should be the maximum figure which experience had indicated as necessary and therefore supported the proposal for \$100,000. He suggested that the Committee should consider the draft resolution recommended by the Board in paragraph 3 of its Resolution (EB13.R31, Official Records No. 52), the figure of \$300,000 in paragraph 2 being changed to \$100,000.

Dr. Dia EL-CHATTI (Syria) supported the Canadian proposal as there was no urgent need to set up a special fund.

Dr. HAYEK (Lebanon) was in favour of the immediate establishment of the Special Fund and agreed with the figure of \$100,000 proposed by the delegate of Ireland.

Mr. CORKERY (Australia) said his delegation had no opposition to any of the proposals made. The question was one of expediency. It had only been necessary to use small sums on two occasions in the past when the finances of the Organization were not so healthy as at present and the administrations

methods of work were not so well established. His delegation felt that the figure of \$100,000, although somewhat high in the light of past experience, was not unreasonable. On the other hand, was it good business to tie up \$100,000 for a number of years? In view of those considerations, the Australian delegation favoured the proposal of the delegate of Canada; if it were not accepted, they would vote for the Board's proposal, the figure of ~~\$300,000~~ being changed to \$100,000.

In reply to a question by the CHAIRMAN, Mr. HARDY (Canada) confirmed that he had made the formal proposal to postpone the establishment of a separate Fund and continue the existing practice of the financing of emergencies from the Working Capital Fund. He had been glad to note that his proposal had the support of the United States and other delegations.

Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) proposed that, if the Canadian proposition were rejected, the figure in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution proposed by the Executive Board should be changed to the token amount of \$50,000.

The CHAIRMAN summed up the discussion and proposed to take a vote first on the question of principle - whether or not the Executive Board Special Fund should be established immediately - and subsequently, if necessary, on the amount of the Fund.

A vote would first be taken on the proposal of the delegate of Canada for postponement, which was the furthest removed from the text of the Board's resolution.

The proposal of the delegate of Canada was rejected by 30 votes to 25, with two abstentions;

The proposal to adopt the resolution recommended by the Board in resolution EB13.R31, the figure of \$300,000 in paragraph 2 being changed to the token sum of \$50,000 was rejected by 26 votes to 26, with three abstentions;

Decision: The proposal to adopt the resolution recommended by the Board in its resolution EBl3.R31, figure in paragraph 2 being changed to \$100,000, was adopted by 40 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions.

4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF THE ASSEMBLY SUSPENSE ACCOUNT: Item 7.19 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 35, Resolution WHA4.40; Document A7/P&B/11, pages 3 and 4).

The SECRETARY said that in accordance with its Rules of Procedure the Health Assembly was required to review the status of the Assembly Suspense Account annually. When considering the Financial Report of the Director-General for 1953, the Committee had already reviewed the status of the Suspense Account for the period ended 31 December 1953. The changes that had taken place in the Account between 1 January and 30 April 1954 were shown in document A7/P&B/11. The cash balance had increased as the result of payments of arrears of contributions. The cash balance available as at 30 April 1954 could be reported by the Committee to the Health Assembly as being available for financing the 1955 budget, it being left to the Committee on Programme and Budget to recommend the proportion of the Assembly Suspense Account which should be so used. It would be seen from Annex 1 to the document that the cash balance on 30 April 1954 amounted to \$672,644. The decision just taken to transfer \$100,000 to the Special Fund would reduce the balance available as casual income to \$572,644.

Decision: The Committee took note of the information given by the Director-General in document A7/P&B/11 regarding the status of the Assembly Suspense Account.

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON STUDY OF THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT: Item 7.15 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 48, Resolution WHA6.10, Official Records No. 52, Resolution EBL3.R80, and Annex 21).

ASSESSMENT OF CHINA: Item 7.16 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 48, Resolution WHA6.6, Official Records No. 52, Resolution EBL3.R64).

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR 1955: Item 7.17 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 52, Resolution EBL3.R80, Document A7/AFL/13).

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should first have a general discussion on the three items concerning assessments and subsequently take a decision on each separately.

Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa), said that the question was one on which the South African delegation had been pressing the Health Assembly for a decision for some time. At the outset of the Organisation's existence it had been decided in assessing contributions the Member States of WHO to adopt, so far as possible, the practice of the United Nations (Resolution WHA1.88). The United Nations Committee on Contributions was a body which on the whole commanded world-wide respect for the expertness of its recommendations and the reliability of the statistical data on which they were based. Although its recommendations were opposed from time to time by individual States which perhaps felt that sufficient attention had not been paid to their special interests, its recommendations had, he believed, almost invariably been accepted by the United Nations General Assembly. He would therefore urge the Committee and the Health Assembly to maintain the tradition of following as closely as possible the advice and recommendations of the United Nations Committee on Contributions. He recalled that the majority of the members of the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters, by reason of their countries' membership of the United Nations were at least morally committed to the

recommendations adopted by the General Assembly in favour of uniformity of administrative and budgetary matters, including assessment of contributions.

There had been delay in other specialised agencies, as well as in WHO, in achieving uniformity, but the Third World Health Assembly had reaffirmed (Resolution WHA3.91) the principle laid down by the First World Health Assembly and the Fifth Health Assembly two years ago noted the request of the South African Delegation that the Health Assembly should implement that basic principle by taking into account changes in the United Nations scale since 1948. The Health Assembly had at that time requested the Board to study the scale and report to the Sixth Health Assembly. Unfortunately the report from the Board had not enabled the Sixth Health Assembly to take a decision and it had called for further study by the Board, the results of which were now before the Committee. In making that request the Sixth Health Assembly had again reaffirmed the basic principle of following closely the United Nations practice.

One reason for postponement of action of this matter advanced by certain delegations had been that the United Nations was likely to fix a definite or semi-permanent scale of contributions. Those who had served on the United Nations Committee on Contributions would know that a semi-permanent scale had been considered impracticable, although desirable. The scale was reviewed annually and the amendments suggested had invariably been accepted by the General Assembly. It had further been argued that in 1953 a ceiling of 33 1/3 per cent would be applied for the first time to the contribution to the United Nations of the United States of America. A draft resolution proposed by the delegate of India (Document A7/AFL/13) had been circulated that morning, again proposing postponement of a decision and

noting that the United Nations would re-assess contributions by its Members at the end of 1954. He reiterated that a reassessment would be made by the United Nations at the end of each succeeding year unless - which was most unlikely - they could decide on a semi-permanent scale. If the proposed resolution were adopted, WHO would be debarred from reviewing the scale which equity demanded should be reviewed in the light of the considerable changes which had taken place in the economics of several countries since the first scale had been accepted in 1948.

The Indian delegation had advanced the further argument that governments should have more time to study the matter. As he had stated at the outset the Committee should not be frightened by the complexity of the matter. The problem had been actively before the Health Assembly for more than two years and he stated in all seriousness that governments would begin to doubt the efficacy of the financial control exercised by the Health Assembly if it continued to postpone decisions on such matters. He was not criticising in any way the Secretariat which had done everything possible to supply all the statistical and other data required by the Health Assembly and by his delegation. On the other hand he had been disappointed that the Executive Board, which possibly had more time at its disposal and was a smaller and more compact body than the Committee, had not found it possible to make a firm recommendation on the various alternatives which it had transmitted to the Health Assembly.

He apologised for the length of his preliminary statement but felt obliged to stress that his Government was strongly of opinion that a decision must be reached during the present Health Assembly on the scale to be applied.

The practical aspects of the problem presented three basic considerations

which might be discussed in chronological order.

The CHAIRMAN intervened to suggest that the delegate of the Union of South Africa should continue his statement at the next meeting, since the General Committee was due to meet immediately.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.