PART II

ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
1. REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The eleventh session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in the Regional Office in New Delhi from 24 to 30 September 1958. Eight Member States from the Region were represented. There were also present representatives from the United Nations, UNICEF, FAO, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and nine non-governmental organizations. Observers from several bilateral and governmental agencies also attended.

The Committee discussed the tenth annual report of the Regional Director, and was gratified to note that a greater place was being given to the strengthening of health administrations. It expressed concern that some projects were not being fully developed because of inadequate national support, and that some others showed signs of regression after technical assistance had been withdrawn. The Committee approved WHO's policy of integration of school health and maternal and child health services. It welcomed the continued attention to programmes of education and training, especially for medical students. It discussed the reasons for the continued high incidence of cholera and smallpox in the Region, and pointed out that even the use of a stable and potent smallpox vaccine would not bring about complete control unless the organizational problems of large vaccination programmes could be solved. It fully endorsed the regional malaria eradication programme. The Committee suggested greater activity in virus diseases and filariasis, and hoped that the chemotherapy project in Madras would soon produce findings of value to the control of tuberculosis.

The Committee suggested certain modifications in the proposed programme and budget estimates for transmission to the Director-General.

Technical discussions were held on the health aspects of community development programmes, and recommendations were adopted on the scope and extent of health work in community development, on difficulties to be overcome in promoting health services in community development programmes, on the training of personnel, and on the periodical assessment of requirements and resources as well as of progress. The subject chosen for the technical discussions in 1959 was "The role of immunization in communicable disease control" and for those to be held in 1960, "Evaluation of training programmes of paramedical personnel in the South-East Asia Region".

The Committee recommended the setting up of epidemiological units with WHO assistance. It agreed with the proposal for exchange of information on rural health matters. It requested the Regional Director to assist governments in their programmes of training in preventive and social medicine.

The Regional Director presented a ten-year review of the work in the South-East Asia Region, which was noted with interest.

The twelfth session of the Regional Committee will be held in Ceylon. It was decided to hold the thirteenth session in Indonesia and the fourteenth session in India (at Simla or Ootacamund), at the special invitation of the Indian Government.