

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thirteenth SessionORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉEB13/70 ✓  
15 January 1954

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PRELIMINARY REPORT CONCERNING  
PREPARATORY STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW

The Sixth World Health Assembly invited the Director-General, under the authority of the Executive Board, to undertake a preparatory study of problems relating to international medical law and comparative health legislation, and to submit a report on these subjects to a future session of the Executive Board.

To this end, there have been preliminary, unofficial interviews and communications with representatives of a certain number of organizations which appeared to be particularly competent, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, the World Medical Association, the "Commission médico-juridique" of Monaco, the International Law Association, and also the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy with which the World Health Organization is in official relationship.

Pursuant to these preliminary contacts, a circular letter of an official nature was prepared and sent, in October 1953, to the above-mentioned institutions and to other persons and organizations qualified by their special knowledge and their work. In the said letter, each addressee was invited: (1) to give a list of the various questions, not yet examined, coming within the field of international medical law and which should be examined during the course of the study which is in progress; (2) to indicate the final objective at which such a study should aim; (3) to give an opinion concerning the method of work most likely to achieve the ends in view; (4) to name existing institutions and persons who might be associated with the task in hand.

Some replies have already been received; others have been promised. Only when all the information requested has been collected will it be possible to make a complete analysis and perhaps draw conclusions. Further investigations may be found to be necessary, however. It will, therefore, not be possible to submit

