

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

WHO Conference Hall
Tuesday, 8 September 1970 at 3.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr K. Abhay (Laos)

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Sixth MeetingTuesday, 8 September 1970 at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT

I. Representatives of Member States

AUSTRALIA	Dr H.M. Franklands Dr L. Rovin Dr E. Thomson Mr P.W. Carroll
CAMBODIA	Dr Pruoch Vann
CHINA	Dr C.K. Chang Dr K.P. Chen
FRANCE	Médecin-Général J. Rondet Dr A. Cheval
JAPAN	Dr T. Takizawa Mr M. Yamasaki Mr K. Watanabe Mr N. Maekawa
LAOS	Dr Khamphai Abhay Dr Phouy Phoutthasak Dr Tiao Jaisvasd Visouthiphongs
MALAYSIA	Dato (Dr) Haji Abdul Majid bin Ismail Dr Chong Chun Hian Dr Abdul Khalid bin Sahan
NEW ZEALAND	Dr C.N.D. Taylor
PHILIPPINES	Dr B. Azurin Dr G. Balbin Dr T.A. Gomez
PORTUGAL	Dr Diego Hora Silva Ferreira
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Dr C.D. Min
SINGAPORE	Dr Koh Thong Sam
UNITED KINGDOM	Dr G.H. Choa Dr K.L. Thong

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr M. Beaubien
Dr L.J. Florio
Colonel R.T. Jensen

VIET-NAM

Dr Nguyen Dang Que
Dr Nguyen Tuan Phong

WESTERN SAMOA

Honourable Fuimaono Moasope

II. Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized AgenciesUNITED NATIONS AND
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Mr W.M. Harding

III. Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Médecin-Général J. Rondet

IV. Representatives of non-governmental organizations

INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FEDERATION

Dr F.G. Rojas

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL FEDERATION

Dr E. Congco

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION

Dr I.Y. Zalamea

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF CATHOLIC NURSES

Mrs M.R. Ordoñez

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

Dr A.M. Maglacas

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED
PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

Dr E.I. de Castro

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Mrs G.B. Senador

V. WHO Secretariat

SECRETARY

Dr Francisco J. Dy
Regional Director

1 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The Committee considered the following draft resolutions.

1.1 Comprehensive and co-ordinated teacher training programme for health personnel (Document WPR/RC21/WP/9 Rev.2)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC21.R13).

1.2 Twenty-second session of the Regional Committee
(Document WPR/RC21/WP/12)

Dr FRANKLANDS (Australia) observed that, since other Regions provided for the costs incurred for meetings held away from their Headquarters, and furthermore did so as a routine matter, he would suggest inclusion in the next budget proposal of an item "Estimate of the costs of holding the twenty-third session away from Manila". The matter could then be discussed in the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget during the twenty-second session.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that the Regional Committee had instructed him to place such an item on the agenda of the next session. He proposed to include the respective costs of holding a meeting in various countries of the Region. A working paper to that effect would be prepared for the next session.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without further comment (see resolution WPR/RC21.R14).

2 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT PRESENTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: Item 8.2 of the Agenda (Document WPR/RC21/14)

Dr PHOUTTHASAK (Laos) asked that the duration of the fellowships under Laos on page 15 of the French text should be corrected to twenty-four months.

Decision: The report presented by the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget (WPR/RC21/14) was adopted, subject to the necessary corrections being made to both the French and English texts.

2.1 Consideration of draft resolutions on the programme and budget estimates for 1972

The Committee considered the following draft resolutions.

2.2 Modifications made to the 1970 and 1971 programme and budget estimates (Document WPR/RC21/WP/13)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC21.R15).

2.3 Proposed programme and budget estimates for 1972
(Document WPR/RC21/WP/14)

Dr BEAUBIEN (United States of America), referring to his comments during the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget, said that the United States Government was unable to support a budget increase of such a magnitude for 1972; it would prefer an increase in the region of about 7 per cent. He was, of course, assuming that the wording used, namely "to transmit the proposals", implied approval. His delegation could not support the draft resolution in its present form.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR observed that the views expressed by the Representative of the United States of America would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting. The Committee could also take a vote on the draft resolution if it so desired.

Dr TAYLOR (New Zealand) asked for clarification. Was it correct that the amount to be spent for 1972 would be decided at the next World Health Assembly? If the Committee now decided by a majority to vote for a lesser amount, would that mean that the Western Pacific Region would be deprived and the corresponding increase would be allotted to other regions?

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA23.62 had recommended to the Director-General an order of magnitude of about 10 per cent. The Director-General allocated funds to the regions as he deemed appropriate; any decrease in the amount for one region did not necessarily imply that it would be declared as savings. The resultant reduction in the proposed budget might be allocated by the Director-General to another region. The only body competent to approve the global budget of WHO as submitted by the Director-General was the Assembly; not even the Executive Board could change it. The Board could submit comments and recommendations to the Assembly, but budgetary cuts could only be made by the Assembly itself.

In his opinion, the Regional Committee was not the proper forum to discuss any cuts in the budget.

Dr BEAUBIEN (United States of America) thanked the Regional Director for his explanation. Since his Government's views had already been placed on record and since transmission of the budget proposals did not represent a commitment, he would withdraw his objection to the draft resolution.

Médecin-Général RONDET (France) commented that the position of his delegation was well known. He had already made his attitude clear and he wished that reference be made to it in the summary record of the present meeting. He thanked the Regional Director for his explanation. His understanding was that the global WHO budget was established on the basis of all the programmes in the regions, which implied a degree of interdependence. Bearing in mind the attitude of his delegation, he could not support the draft resolution.

Mr YAMASAKI (Japan) stated that the position of his delegation had been made clear in the Sub-Committee and, if a vote were taken, his delegation would abstain.

Dr CHOA (United Kingdom) wished it to be recorded that his Government wanted the budget estimates to be as near as possible to an 8 per cent. increase.

Dr AZURIN (Philippines) considered that some misunderstanding had arisen. The Secretariat had submitted to the Committee a budget showing a 9.2 per cent. ceiling, which was well within the 10 per cent. approved during the last Assembly. Representatives were now saying that they wanted that percentage to be reduced. The Director-General had allocated a certain amount to the Western Pacific Region and, if the Committee made a cut, the money might be allocated to other regions. In any case, it was too late now to try to decrease the regional budget as that would mean sacrificing some projects which had already been approved. Those representatives who wished to do so had stated the position of their Governments and, in his opinion, the budget should be accepted as it had been proposed.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that although the World Health Assembly established a general order of magnitude for an increase in the WHO overall budget, the Director-General was not bound to accept that limitation. So far, he had done so but, according to the WHO Constitution, he could depart from it. He then quoted the relevant passage from Article 55 of the Constitution, which clearly showed that responsibility for preparing and submitting the budget estimates devolved solely on the Director-General.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to the divergence of views which had become apparent, asked whether or not the Committee wished to vote on the draft resolution.

Médecin-Général RONDET (France) stated that, in view of what had transpired during the discussion, his delegation did not consider a vote to be necessary, since the resolution would assuredly receive a majority of the voting power of the Committee. It would be

sufficient if the restrictive views expressed by certain representatives were contained in the summary record.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the draft resolution be adopted.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without further discussion (see resolution WPR/RC21.R16).

2.4 Tentative projection for 1973 (Document WPR/RC21/WP/15)

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR regretted his failure to remind representatives during the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget of the need to consider a resolution in connexion with the tentative projections for 1973 (document WPR/RC21/P&B/4), which were based on information received from the governments concerned. The Regional Committee might wish to take note of these projections.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC21.R17).

3 MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that, before adjourning, he wished to express his deep appreciation of the patience and understanding shown by all Representatives in the difficult circumstances in which the meeting had been held. Everyone had suffered from the effects of the disastrous floods but, not only had the representatives offered sympathy, they had also given practical help by postponing the Technical Discussions; that had given the Secretariat the necessary breathing space to get reorganized. He was very grateful for the patient and sympathetic attitude of the representatives in extremely trying conditions.

4 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION (Document WPR/RC21/WP/16)

Minister FUIMAONO MOASOPE (Western Samoa) introduced his draft resolution, on behalf of the Regional Committee as a whole. The

Representatives wished also to record their appreciation of the manner in which the Regional Director had dealt with the situation and, supported by the untiring efforts of his staff, had managed to restore everything to order and bring the Committee to a successful conclusion. The Chairman, too, had played no small part in arranging that all items on the agenda had been disposed of satisfactorily, and sincere thanks were also due to him.

A representative of each Member State spoke in support of the draft resolution. All suggested that an additional sentence should be included expressing its appreciation of the way in which the staff had overcome the difficulties created by the floods.

Médecin-Général RONDET (France) suggested that the resolution should also mention the technicians responsible for maintaining the equipment.

Dr FRANKLANDS (Australia) particularly wished to thank Dr Chen for the preparations he had made in connexion with the Technical Discussions which had unfortunately had to be postponed.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC21.R18).

5 ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE: Item 24 of the Agenda (Document WPR/RC21/15)

The CHAIRMAN invited Dr QUE (Viet-Nam), Rapporteur, to present the draft report of the Committee.

Dr ISMAIL (Malaysia) proposed the adoption of the draft report.

Médecin-Général RONDET (France) requested that a change be made on page 7 of the French text, Part II. Proposed Programme and Budget for 1972, second line, second paragraph, after the word "observations",

the words "of some delegations and of the findings of the Sub-Committee" should be added.

Dr TAYLOR (New Zealand) seconded the proposal of the Representative of Malaysia.

Dr AZURIN (Philippines) requested that a change should be made in the first paragraph on page 7 of the English text. The assessment of various environmental sanitation measures on the incidence of cholera was part of the joint Philippines/Japan/WHO cholera research project being carried out in the Philippines.

Decision: There being no further comments, the report was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC21.R19).

6 ADJOURNMENT: Item 25 of the Agenda

The CHAIRMAN said that despite the setbacks which the Committee had suffered owing to the typhoon, which had also necessitated the postponement of the Technical Discussions until next year, the endeavours of the Regional Committee had nevertheless been successful. He thanked the Regional Director for his valuable advice and assistance during the session and the Government of the Philippines for its hospitality. He also expressed his appreciation of the goodwill and co-operation given by the Representatives to the Regional Committee, which had greatly facilitated his work as Chairman. He thanked the Representatives of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for honouring the Committee with their presence. He was particularly impressed by the manner in which the Secretariat had contributed to a successful meeting under the difficult atmospheric conditions which had prevailed throughout.

The meeting adjourned at 4.55 p.m.