Page 26: Delete lines 10 to 19 and substitute the following text:

"from the American Continent have been received, while it could be valid for the election of the General Committee of the Assembly, which is only a provisional body, is not however valid regarding this election, because two-thirds of the members are being elected for two years and one-third for three years. Within a few months I am sure that a great many members of the American countries will have ratified the Constitution. At the present time many of them are in the process of ratifying. Therefore, this argument loses a great deal of its value. If we want the World Health Organization to be a truly world-wide organization we must have a proportional representation in the Executive Board from all the various continents so as not to embarrass the development of the Organization itself. In".....
Provisional Verbatim Record
of the
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Saturday, 10 July 1948, at 10 a.m.

PRESIDENT: Dr. Andrija STAPIJAR (Yugoslavia)

NOTE: This provisional record contains the originals of speeches delivered in English and the interpretations of other speeches. All speeches will be published in the final records of the Assembly in either the original or an authentic translation.

Corrections to the provisional record should be sent to Mr. Richards, Room A.215, within 48 hours of distribution. Unless the issue of immediate corrigenda is expressly requested, minor corrections will simply be noted for the final records.
1. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly is called to order.

First of all I have to announce that the Republic of the Philippines has deposited its ratification of signature of the Constitution. The delegation has already been given full rights in the Assembly. Monaco has deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Constitution. I am very happy to inform you that our membership amounts to 54. This is a very big success.

The Committee on Credentials has examined several credentials and is willing to report. May I ask the Assembly to approve my proposal that this item be included in the agenda? Are there any objections to my proposal? With the permission of Dr. Shousha, Pasha, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, may I ask the Rapporteur to report?

2. FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Dr. HAFEZI (Iran), Rapporteur: The Credentials Committee held its fifth meeting on 9 July, 1948, at 2 p.m. Sir A.T. Shousha, Pasha, chief delegate of Egypt, Chairman of the committee, was in the chair.

The representatives of the following countries were present:

Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Iran, New Zealand, Spain, and Sweden.

The instruments of ratification of the Constitution of the World Health Organization having been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations by Burma, Ceylon and Venezuela, and the credentials presented by the representatives of these countries having been found in order, the Credentials Committee proposes to the Assembly that the validity of these credentials be recognized.

The Government of Transjordan has informed the Secretariat that it is unable to send a delegation to the Assembly.
The President: I propose the approval of the report of the Credentials Committee. Is there any disagreement?

The report is accepted.

The Credentials Committee has had no chance to discuss the credentials of Monaco. May I propose that, taking into consideration the Rules of Procedure, we should give full rights to Monaco as a Member? As there are no objections Monaco will enjoy full rights until the Committee on Credentials reports on its credentials.

3. SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (document A/47)

The President: We now come to the second report of the Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization, in document A/47. May I ask the Chairman of the committee to come and report?

Dr. Zoozaya (Mexico), Chairman of the Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization: The Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization has already reported on the subject of headquarters. The second report concerns the regional organizations. In several very active meetings we came to a final conclusion to present to the Assembly certain resolutions, which I should like the Rapporteur to read to you.

The President: May I ask the Rapporteur of the Committee to report?

Mr. Hewitson (Union of South Africa) Rapporteur: The second report of the Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization:

The Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization met on 30 June 1948, at 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.; on 1 July, at 2.30 p.m. on 5 July, at 2.30 p.m.; and on 7 July at 10 a.m.

The recommendations of the Committee on the site of headquarters for the World Health Organization have already been submitted to the Assembly.

As regards regional organization, the committee, as a first step, established five working parties to consider (1) the
delimitation of geographical areas, and (2) the desirability of establishing regional organizations in these areas.

The proposals of these working parties, which were fully discussed and approved by the committee, are described below:

A. Delimitation of geographical areas:

1. Eastern Mediterranean Area, comprising the following countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Yemen, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Greece, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tripolitania, Dodecanese Islands, British Somaliland, French Somaliland, Aden, Cyprus.

Palestine has inadvertently been omitted from the list of countries comprising the Eastern Mediterranean area as set out in document A/147. It was, in fact, included in the delimitation proposed by the working party on this area.

2. Western Pacific Area, comprising the following countries: Australia, China, Indochina, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, New Zealand, and, provisionally, the Malay Peninsula.

3. South-East Asia Area, comprising the following countries: Burma, Siam, Ceylon, Afghanistan, India; the inclusion of the Malay Peninsula to await the definite decision of this country as to which regional organization it desires to join.

4. European Area, comprising the whole of Europe.

5. African Area, comprising the following countries and territories: A primary region is suggested for all Africa south of the 20 degree N. parallel of latitude to the western border of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, to its junction with the northern border of the Belgian Congo, thence eastwards along the northern borders of the Belgian Congo, thence eastwards along the northern borders of Uganda and Kenya; and thence southwards along the eastern border of Kenya to the Indian Ocean.

B. Desirability of establishing regional organizations:

The Committee discussed at considerable length the necessity for establishing regional organizations in some or all of these areas during the year 1949. As a result of this discussion the committee agreed that:

1. As soon as the consent of a majority of Members of a regional area is obtained, a regional organization should be established in that area; where the consent of a majority of the Members has not yet been obtained, a regional organization in the respective area should be established as soon as the necessary consent becomes available.
2. As regards the Eastern Mediterranean Area, the committee recommends that the regional organization which already exists in that area, viz. the Alexandria Regional Bureau, be integrated with the World Health Organization as soon as possible, through common action, in accordance with Article 54 of the Constitution.

3. As regards Europe, the committee recommends that a temporary, special administrative office be established as soon as possible for the primary purpose of dealing with the health rehabilitation of war-devastated countries in that area.

The committee further brings to the attention of the Assembly the fact that negotiations have not yet been completed for the integration of the Pan American Sanitary Organization with the World Health Organization. The committee recommends that these negotiations be brought to a successful close as soon as possible.

Accordingly, the following resolutions are placed before the Assembly for approval:

Resolution I: In accordance with Article 44 of the WHO Constitution, the first World Health Assembly resolves to define the geographical areas as indicated in the second report of the Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization.

Resolution II: The first World Health Assembly resolves that the Executive Board be instructed:

To establish regional organizations in the areas indicated in the second report of the Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization as soon as the consent of a majority of Members situated within such area is obtained; where the consent of a majority of the Members has not yet been obtained, a regional organization in the respective area should be established as soon as the necessary consent becomes available; as regards the Eastern Mediterranean Area, to integrate the regional organization which already exists in that area, viz. the Alexandria Regional Bureau, with the World Health Organization as soon as possible, through common action, in accordance with Article 54 of the WHO Constitution; as regards Europe, to establish a temporary special administrative office as soon as possible for the primary purpose of dealing with the health rehabilitation of war-devastated countries in that area.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Greece.

Dr. OERELIDIS (Greece) (Interpretation from French): In the second report on regional organization, which you have just heard, there are some points to which I desire to draw attention.

First, in regard to the delimitation of geographical areas, the enumeration includes the Dodecanese Islands. I would point out that the Dodecanese Islands belong to Greece - that fact has been recognized for more than a year - and therefore they should not be included separately in this enumeration.
In regard to the question of the integration of the Bureau at Alexandria, in so far as it concerns Greece, I am awaiting instructions from my government on that point.

The PRESIDENT: It is perfectly clear that any government is entitled to say to which region it is willing to belong. Is the Assembly willing to accept the resolution as set out in document A/47 with the reservation made by the delegate of Greece?

I see that there are no remarks and no objections. Therefore, I declare that the resolution contained in document A/47, with the reservation of the Greek delegate, is approved.

The PRESIDENT: The chief delegate of India.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR (India): I shall not be expressing joy solely on behalf of the Indian delegation when I say how delighted we are that one of the first reports that has been accepted by the plenary session of WHO is the one on the establishment of regional bureaux.

My country has taken a keen and active interest in the World Health Organization ever since its inception. We were delighted when we learnt that the Interim Commission had recommended the formation of regional bureaux as a vital part of its constructive programme, and I believe I am correct in saying that we were the first country to press for the location of the headquarters of one of them in India. For we have always felt that for a world organization such as this to be successful, it is essential that it should turn its attention far more to achieving practical results in the field than to concentrate solely on a central secretariat. After all, it is practical experiments and the knowledge, experience and results gained thereby that really count for most.
I thank you once more and am hopeful that we shall be able to prove that your confidence in us will not have been misplaced.

4. SECOND REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The President: The next item is the second report of the General Committee, document A52, concerning the re-allocation of different subjects to the corresponding committees, and the report on the General Committee's work. I propose that this report be adopted. Are there any remarks?

The document is adopted.

5. DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO

The President: The next item is the draft resolution on the report of the Interim Commission to the World Health Assembly proposed by the delegation of Mexico, document A44. Has the delegate of Mexico anything to add to the resolution as proposed?

Dr. Leon (Mexico): I do not want to add anything to the document which has already been circulated, but with the permission of the President I should like to read it, just in case some of the delegates have not read it before:

Considering the splendid work which the Interim Commission carried out in fulfilling the functions and responsibilities entrusted to it by the Arrangement concluded by the Governments represented at the International Health Conference of New York in 1946;

Considering that, thanks to the Interim Commission, the work and the services previously entrusted to the Office International d'Hygiène Publique, to the Health Organization of the League of Nations and to UNRRA were able to continue uninterruptedly and to increase in quantity and quality;

Considering that the Interim Commission has fulfilled the obligation established for it by Articles 2 and 10 of the Arrangement concluded by the Governments represented at the International Health Conference, with entire satisfaction,

I. The first World Health Assembly gives a vote of congratulations and gratitude to the Interim Commission for its splendid work.

II. The first World Health Assembly approves in general and in principle the Report of the Interim Commission.

I would like to move that these two resolutions be adopted by this Assembly.
The PRESIDENT: Is the Assembly willing to approve the resolutions proposed by the delegate of Mexico? Do any of the members wish to speak on this subject? Since no one wishes to speak, I assume that the World Health Assembly is in full agreement with the resolutions as proposed.

6. FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS.

The PRESIDENT: The next item is the first report of the Committee on Relations (document A/45). May I ask the Chairman of the Committee to present the report?

Dr. Melville MACKENZIE (United Kingdom): The Committee on Relations at its first meeting on 1 July 1948 at 10 a.m., elected the following officers: Chairman, Dr. Melville Mackenzie (United Kingdom); Vice-Chairman, Lt.Col. Jafar (Pakistan); Rapporteur, Professor de Loët (Belgium).

Two reports have been adopted. The first report of the Committee on Relations (document A/45) sets forth the decisions of the meeting of 1 July; the second report (document A/46) sets forth the decisions of the committee's second and third meetings, on 2 and 3 July at 10 a.m.

In the unavoidable absence of Professor de Loët, I propose to read these two reports.

First Report of the Committee on Relations

Draft Agreement

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly the adoption of the Draft Agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization, subject to any remarks which may be made by the Administration and Finance Committee on Article 15.

The General Assembly

The Committee on Relations recommends to the World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The World Health Assembly, having taken note of the Resolution 125 (II) of the General Assembly of the United Nations with special reference to sub-paragraph (a) authorizes the Director-General, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the Executive Board to take, in case of emergency, such interim action, within the limits of the present constitutional powers of these officers, as seems appropriate with regard to any recommendation which the General Assembly may make to WHO, if that recommendation cannot be dealt with by the plenary body itself without considerable delay. Whether an emergency exists shall be decided by the Director-General and the Chairman of the Executive Board.
Economic and Social Council and its Commissions

Programme

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly the adoption of a programme of liaison and co-operation between the World Health Organization and the Economic and Social Council and its commissions and subsidiary bodies.

Co-ordination Committee

It is recommended that the Director-General be instructed to work in full co-operation with the Co-ordination Committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions concerning habit-forming drugs:

(a) The World Health Assembly calls to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the interest of WHO in appointing a technical member (or members) to any narcotics-control body which might be set up, under the proposed new single convention for the Control of Narcotic Drugs, to replace the Supervisory Body and the Permanent Central Opium Board; and

(b) The World Health Assembly, in connexion with research on methods of determining the origin of opium, calls to the attention of the Council the interest of the World Health Organization in international research projects in fields relating to health.

Statistical Commission

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that collaboration with the United Nations in vital statistics should be continued and developed.

Social Commission

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that the extensive collaboration and co-operation with the Social Commission should be continued and developed.

Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that this form of co-operation be continued.

Migration and Assistance to Indigent Foreigners

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that it indicate its concern with and assumption of responsibility of the work on the health problems of migration and that the Health Assembly authorize the Director-General to develop joint operations with the other international bodies which are active in this field.

Standards of Living

Co-operation on these projects was approved.
Housing and Town and Country Planning

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly continuation and development of collaboration with the Social Commission, the Economic Commissions for Europe and other such regional commissions with special reference to the hygiene of housing, in an endeavour to obtain adequate representation in any international scheme for town and country planning or for the improvement of housing.

Child Welfare

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly cooperation in the preparation of documentation on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Population Commission

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that collaboration with the United Nations in population questions should be continued and developed.

Economic and Employment Commission

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly that cooperation in this field should be continued.

Proposed United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources provides an exceptional opportunity for emphasizing the interdependence of health and the exploitation of natural resources, the Committee on Relations recommends that the Health Assembly instruct the Director-General to participate in the conference, by means of:

a) the appointment of members of the Secretariat to prepare suitable material for the conference; and

b) the nomination of competent persons to represent WHO at the Conference, it being understood that the expense of such representation will be borne by the United Nations.
Second Report of the Committee on Relations

Draft Agreement with ICAO

The Committee on Relations

(1) recommends to the World Health Assembly the continuation of cooperation and collaboration with ICAO, and

(2) recommends to the World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS the relations between the Interim Commission of WHO and ICAO have been marked by a close and productive collaboration and

WHEREAS it appears desirable to continue the present satisfactory informal arrangements in the interest of administrative flexibility and efficiency

THEREFORE the World Health Assembly

DECADES THAT the formal agreement with ICAO before the Health Assembly is not essential at this time

AND THAT the informal arrangements under which the Interim Commission and ICAO have conducted their relations shall continue to form the basis of future collaboration between the two organizations unless experience dictates otherwise.

ILO

The Committee on Relations recommends to the World Health Assembly that the cooperation initiated with ILO be continued and expanded.

The Committee on Relations draws the attention of the World Health Assembly to items 12.1.7.1.3, Industrial Hygiene, and 12.1.7.1.4, Medical Care and the proposed work on the health of migrants, since these are specific examples of the forms of cooperation recommended.

The Committee recommends to the World Health Assembly the adoption of the Draft Agreement with ILO.

Draft Agreement with the International Labour Organization

The Committee on Relations recommends to the Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Health Assembly directs the Executive Board to make the necessary arrangements with the International Labour Organization in order that Article VII of the ILO-WHO Agreement may eventually be amended to read as follows:

"If compliance with a request for assistance made by either organization to the other involves or would involve substantial expenditure for the organization complying with the request, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner of meeting such expenditure."
The PRESIDENT. Are there any remarks on the report proposed by the Chairman of the Committee on Relations? It seems to me that these two reports are approved. Since there is no disagreement, documents A/45 and A/48 are adopted by this Assembly.

Now the first report of the Committee on Programmes, document A/50. May I ask the chairman of the committee to present the report?

7. FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

Dr. EVANO (Norway) Chairman of the Committee on Programmes: The first report of the Committee on Programme sets forth the decisions reached so far on three items on the agenda, namely Malaria, Maternal and Child Health, and Tuberculosis, it being understood that additional resolutions on these items may be submitted to the Assembly at a later date. I should like to call on the Rapporteur, Dr. Amyot of Canada, to read the report.

Dr. AMYOT (Canada), Rapporteur

The Committee on Programme held seven meetings - on 29 and 30 June and 1, 2, 3 and 5 July.

Dr. Karl Evang (Norway) was elected Chairman, and Dr. F. Castillo Rey (Venezuela) Vice-Chairman.

Dr. G.F. Amyot (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

The Provisional Agenda (Off.Rec.WHO, 10, page 3) was adopted.

Malaria

The committee recommends to the World Health Assembly that the programme and organization as indicated on page 5 of Off.Rec.WHO, 10, should be accepted, with the exception of the section on "panel of corresponding members", which is recommended for reference to the Executive Board.

The committee recommends that the World Health Assembly adopt the following resolution:
The first World Health Assembly resolves

1. That the Executive Board be instructed to establish during its first session an expert committee to be called:

"The Expert Committee on Malaria of the World Health Organization", with the following terms of reference:

to act as an advisory body to the World Health Organization.

2. That the World Health Organization set up within its Secretariat a malaria section.

The Committee recommends that the World Health Assembly adopt the following resolution:

"HEREAS the Darling Foundation was created by private funds with a view to honouring the memory of Dr. S.T. Darling, killed by accident during a study mission of the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations;

WHEREAS the Darling Foundation had the purpose of granting periodically a medal and a prize to a malariologist who particularly distinguished himself with his work;

WHEREAS, with the liquidation of the League of Nations, the statutes of the Darling Foundation are no longer applicable;

the first World Health Assembly resolves:

1. That the Expert Committee on Malaria of the World Organization, in consultation with the Director-General, draft the new statutes of the Foundation and submit these for approval to the Executive Board:

2. That such statutes should delegate to the Expert Committee on Malaria the responsibility for recommending to the world Health Organization the name of the candidate to whom the medal and the prize should be awarded:

3. That the medal should be awarded by the World Health Organization:

4. That the Director-General should be the administrator of the Fund of the Darling Foundation."
The Committee recommends that the conclusions and recommendations of Section X on pages 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of document S.19 should be referred to the Executive Board for its consideration, with the exception of page 47, paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) (Expert Sub-Committee on Insecticides), and page 48 under 6 (a), (b), (c) and (d) (Quarantine against re-importation of Anophelines).

Maternal and Child Health

The Committee recommends to the World Health Assembly that the programme and organization as indicated on page 6 of Ofi, Rec, WHO, 10, should be accepted, with the exception of the section on "A panel of corresponding members", which is recommended for reference to the Executive Board.

The Committee recommends that the World Health Assembly adopt the following resolution:

The first World Health Assembly resolves:

1. That the Executive Board be instructed to establish an Expert Committee to be called "The Expert Committee on Maternal and Child Health of the World Health Organization", with the following terms of reference:

   to act as an advisory body to the World Health Organization.

2. That the World Health Organization set up within its Secretariat a maternal and child health section.

The committee noted that an expert in maternal and child health had been appointed to the Secretariat of the Interim Commission (Document S.13).

Tuberculosis

The committee recommends to the World Health Assembly that the programme and organization as laid down on page 8 of Ofi, Rec, WHO, 10, should in general be accepted, with the exception of the section on "A panel of corresponding members", which is recommended for reference to the Executive Board. The committee, at the same time, wants to emphasize BCG as an integral part of the programme in some properly selected areas.

The committee realizes that BCG, although an integral part of the programme, is only one phase of tuberculosis control.

The committee recommends that the World Health Assembly adopt the following resolution:

The first World Health Assembly resolves:

1. That the Executive Board be instructed to establish during its first session an expert committee, to be called "The Expert Committee on Tuberculosis of the World Health Organization", with the following terms of reference:
to act as an advisory body to the World Health Organization.

2. That the World Health Organization set up within its Secretariat a tuberculosis section.

3. That the Executive Board be instructed to establish a special expert panel on BCG.

The committee recommends that the proposal of the delegation of Greece (A/Prog/30) be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

Report on the Second Session of the Expert Committee on Tuberculosis

The committee discussed the report on the second session of the Expert Committee on Tuberculosis item by item.

Recruitment and Training Professional Personnel

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

PPD and BCG

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

Research

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.
Co-operation with Other Organizations

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Committee on Relations.

Tuberculosis among Immigrants

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board, noting at the same time that the policy laid down in the latter part of the last sentence of the item should be carefully considered.

BCG Vaccination

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

Dissemination of Information

It is recommended that this item be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any remarks on this report? Are there any speakers on this subject? I can assume that the General Assembly is in full agreement with this report. Therefore, I announce that the report is accepted.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE

We now have to appoint a Central Drafting Committee. The World Health Assembly will now be in a position to accept many recommendations and resolutions proposed by committees and delegations. Therefore it is necessary to establish a central drafting committee, in order to follow our work and prepare draft resolutions for final decision by this Assembly. I propose that the Central Drafting Committee should be composed of the delegates of Belgium, China, New Zealand, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The chief delegates are entitled to designate any other delegate or any advisor to the Central Drafting Committee. I believe that the members of this Assembly will accept these nominations.
9. **TIME-TABLE FOR COMMITTEES**

As the Legal Committee is working very quickly - I think this committee should be congratulated - I must announce that a certain revision of the programme of the committees is necessary. The General Committee will not meet in time to settle this affair, and I therefore propose that the time-table for our committees should be as follows:

**Monday, 12 July**

- **10 a.m.** Committee on Administration and Finance
- Committee on Relations
- **2.30 p.m.** Committee on Administration and Finance
- Committee on Programme

**Tuesday, 13 July**

- **10 a.m.** Committee on Administration and Finance
- Committee on Programme
- **2.30 p.m.** Committee on Administration and Finance
- Committee on Programme

**Wednesday, 14 July**

- **10 a.m.** Committee on Administration and Finance
- Committee on Relations
- **12 noon.** General Committee
- **2.30 p.m.** Legal Committee
- Committee on Programme

10. **DISCUSSION ON THE ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**
The PRESIDENT: Our last item is the election of the Executive Board. I am authorized by your General Committee to inform you of the decision taken by that committee under Rule 26(g) of our Provisional Rules of Procedure with regard to the composition of the members of the Executive Board. I must also remind you of Article 24 of our Constitution, which says clearly that the Board shall consist of eighteen persons designated by as many Members. The Health Assembly, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution, shall elect the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board.

The establishment of our Executive Board is very important indeed, because the Board is authorized to nominate the Director-General to the Assembly for election, and of course our organization must constitute itself in such a manner that we can start work immediately according to your decision.

But, of course, the election of the members of the Executive Board is a very difficult task indeed, and the General Committee is fully aware of the fact that the proposal which we are going to make to you is not a perfect one; indeed, according to my experience in the international field it is almost impossible to make proposals that will be agreeable to everybody. Therefore, I am quite sure you will criticize our proposal, but at the same time I believe that you all trust your General Committee and your President. We did our best to compile a list to propose to you, for acceptance or refusal.

We have taken into consideration geographical distribution and all the implications with regard to the composition of the Executive Board.

As you know, our membership amounts to fifty-four now, and it is rather difficult to put forward the members for the Executive Board exactly divided among geographical areas. First of all, I must mention the American Continent, the Western Hemisphere. In the Interim Commission, the Western Hemisphere was represented by seven members, but unfortunately up to the present only a few of them have ratified our Constitution - at present only eight - and therefore your General Committee was not able to allocate to this important hemisphere more members of the Executive Board. We have been able to allocate only three. In spite of the fact that we realize the enormous importance and
achievements in public health in this hemisphere we know their contribution, we know the contribution of the United States of America, we know the contribution of some Central American States and of South America, particularly Brazil still it was difficult to allocate more than three members before further ratifications. But we are assured that the American States will ratify our Constitution as soon as possible. We are sure of it, and at the next election of the Executive Board the allocation will be quite different.

On behalf of the General Committee which authorized me to do so, I propose for the Western Hemisphere - which means North America, Central America and South America the following to be members of the Executive Board: United States of America, Mexico and Brazil.

Now we go on to another important geographical area, Africa. Unfortunately, in Africa there are very few independent States, only South Africa, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Egypt. Egypt of course looks much more to the Near East and the Middle East, so out of the other three independent States in Africa we are proposing to you this time South Africa.

Now with regard to the region of the Near East and the Middle East, including Egypt, it is rather difficult to allocate proper membership, because there are so many States, but it seems to me that the States in this area agree to have Egypt and Iran on the Executive Board.

Now we come to South Asia, a very important region with regard to different diseases and the necessity for the improvement of public health, and inhabited by millions and millions of people. We propose as members for this region India and Ceylon.

Now we come to the Far East. The Far East is also very important from an international health point of view. We have only four ratifications - China, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia - and after careful consideration we are proposing to you China and Australia.

Now the most difficult region has to be considered.
That is Europe. Twenty-four European States have ratified our Constitution, which is the largest number in one continent. It was of course very difficult to decide with regard to European representation, particularly as the American Continents are not so fully represented as in the previous Interim Commission. We propose that the following members should be included in the Executive Board: Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian SSR, Poland and Yugoslavia.

May I explain to you why I am proposing these States and why your General Committee authorized me to propose them. It is extremely difficult for a President of the World Health Assembly to compile a proper list. I did my best to consult different delegations and different regions - and, in almost every case we reached an agreement - because I considered that it was up to them to decide which Member was to represent them on the Executive Board. But one very important point I have to explain. You will see from our list that quite a large number of Members have been Members of the Interim Commission and you will of course criticise the General Committee and myself for proposing that these Members should also be on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

We discussed this matter on several occasions in our Interim Commission, and we came to the conclusion that it is extremely important, for the first year of our activity - only for the first year - to keep on the Executive Board several Members who have merits and particular knowledge and experience in international health.

But at the same time I must remind you that our Executive Board is not going to last for full two years with the same composition as the Interim Commission. According to our Constitution, we have to elect six new members every year. Therefore, you see that our list already contains five new members, and next year six additional new members will be elected. It is also generally agreed that the Members of the Interim Commission, if they are elected to the Executive Board as I propose, will retire in time to leave room for new members. I think it is essential that every Member of this Assembly and our Organization should serve on the
Executive Board in time. But we have found ourselves in a difficult position at present, and, taking into consideration several implications, we believe that our list is one at least that could be accepted. Of course, I am not pressing you to accept this list, because I was elected unanimously by this Assembly, and I should be objective as far as possible. But of course this list is not my own list, it is the list of your General Committee, which has considered this question on several occasions. But I can assume, I am sure, that you will trust me and believe that I have done my best to propose to you something that is good for our Organization, and I believe you will follow my advice, if you trust me, and accept my proposal.

On the list of speakers on this item, I recognize the chief delegate of Sweden.

Dr. HOJER (Sweden): I am sure we have all been listening to the remarks of the President with great interest. The matter of electing the Executive Board is a most difficult one, all countries being deeply interested in following closely the work of the Board and each country having the same right to be represented on the Board as the others.

It seems to me, however, that the task is made somewhat easier by the fact that, according to Article 25 of the Constitution, one-third of the members will retire after one year, and six others after two years, thereby leaving room for other countries of the same region or part of the region to become members of the Board.

As to the procedure, it seems to me that the line indicated by our President is the more practical one. It avoids confusion in the best way and follows the aim of the Constitution, leaving out about one-third of the Interim Commission and keeping two-thirds, for the continuity of the work, which is most important now at the start. The same work might have been done by a special nominating committee, so that our friends from the Interim Commission had not thus to propose who was to stay and who was to go, but in fact the General Committee has to prepare our decisions on general
We think the General Committee has done a really good piece of work, which could not have been done in so proper a way here today without arousing feeling, and behind it there must, I feel certain, be a good many "gentlemen's agreements." I would formally move that the list of members of the Executive Board which has been suggested by our President be approved by the Assembly.

Dr. MACLEAN (New Zealand): I wish to second the proposal that has been put forward by the delegate of Sweden.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Burma.

U BA MAUNG (Burma): I should like to support the proposal of the President in regard to the list which he has so kindly presented to the Assembly, for members to be elected by us to the Executive Board.

As he has so clearly pointed out, the list has the approval of practically all the members of the General Committee. It has been prepared with due reference to all obvious considerations - that is, the number of ratifications, geographical areas, population, and as far as representation as possible of all the continents of the world. It may be impossible for all the Member States to be wholly satisfied, but in my opinion the list is a very fair one.

Members of the Board, other things apart, will be able to carry on the continuity of the work entrusted to them. I would therefore appeal to you to accept the nominations made by the President, thereby showing a spirit of collaboration and confidence in the President and the members of the General Committee. It should be remembered that this list of members is for one year only, and that next year six fresh members will be eligible for election to the Executive Board.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Switzerland.
M. BOISSIER (Switzerland) (Interpretation from the French): Our President has just submitted to us on behalf of the General Committee a complete list of eighteen States, which are to constitute the first Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

The Swiss delegation does not wish to move any opposition to this proposal, it has no criticisms to make in regard to the names on the list, and it has the most complete confidence in the work that has been performed by the President and the members of the General Committee. We fully recognize the immense difficulties which have to be overcome before such a list can be compiled, and we should be very glad if we could comply with the invitation which has been addressed to us by the President himself and, just now, by the delegates of Sweden and Burma. However, we consider that the proposal for the adoption of the complete list raises some very important questions of principle, more especially as the Organization is still in its first youth, and it is very undesirable that precedents should be established at this moment.

Article 24 of the Constitution says that the Board shall consist of eighteen persons designated by as many Members, that the Health Assembly shall take into account an equitable geographical distribution and elect the Members entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board.

I do not feel convinced that the adoption outright of a complete list submitted to us does correspond to the terms of that article. I quite understand that in proposing a complete list the General Committee is facilitating the action that we have to take in accordance with our Rules of Procedure, although, perhaps, the Rules contemplated action of rather a different sort, such as the examination of the question by committees. I do not pretend to be a magician; I do not pretend to be in a position to offer a more effective plan than that which our President has submitted after prolonged consideration of all the aspects of the question by the General Committee. Nevertheless, I do think that some more flexible system might possibly be established, a system which would take into
consideration both the principles of fair geographical distribution and respect for the rights of the Assembly in choosing the members of the Board. I do not mean to suggest that all the delegations should be asked to put a list of their own choosing into a ballot box - such a procedure would only result in confusion and delay - but I think that it might have been possible to propose for the different regions a maximum number of States and leave to the Assembly the power of choosing. For instance, if it is proposed to nominate eight States for Europe, we might enable the Assembly to make its own choice.

However, at the present moment, all I would ask is that the President, if he sees no difficulty in the way, should not ask us to take a vote on this question now, seeing that it raises questions which are of such importance for our future, questions of principle, but that he should adjourn the vote to another plenary meeting so that in the meantime the delegates might have an opportunity of studying the proposal at their leisure - an opportunity which they have not yet had - and also of exchanging ideas with one another. The Swiss delegation would therefore submit that proposal, which I think is in conformity with Article 45 of the Constitution and which would enable the delegates and the General Committee in the interval to take account of the considerations I have just submitted.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of the Philippines.

Dr. ARGUELLES (Philippines): In asking to be given an opportunity to speak on behalf of my country I wish to join in the universal feeling of confidence and admiration for our President.

I see - perhaps not correctly - that the intention of the President in proposing the membership is to accelerate the proceedings of this Assembly. That is, of course, entirely up to the Assembly to decide. I wish, however, to voice the opinion of a small country that perhaps it would be more in accordance with the opinion and feelings
of the other delegates, that the rest of the delegates be given an opportunity to think over this choice. That is the reason why I support the proposition of the delegate from Switzerland.

Another reason why I got up is to inform you, Gentlemen, of the process in which the report of the Western Pacific group has been made. We studied, not only delimitation of the geographical areas, but also the question of urgency in the same areas. It was the opinion of the working group, and of the main Committee on Headquarters and Regional Organization, that in the Western Pacific area some places require more urgent action than other places. Some regions therein have been more terribly devastated by war than other regions. It is for this reason that, in the report of our working party on the Western Pacific, the idea of creating sub-groups was accepted, and this was reported to the main committee. This idea was in acceptance of the principle that certain areas in that area require special measures to meet the situation of urgency, as well as to meet the peculiar conditions of that area. For example, the special conditions in the so-called Malayan area, comprising the Philippine Islands, Indonesia, Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, and so on - these areas are inhabited by people of similar race, and the committee felt that, at a later date, a special sub-group might be created.

In conclusion, therefore, I support the proposal of the Swiss delegate, that this question be not decided now. Also I request that the voice from the distant and small countries of our area should be taken into consideration by the Executive Board that may be appointed or elected, and that later on, in the appointment of this Executive Board after one year, these special conditions in the
Malayan area should be taken into consideration.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Venezuela.

Dr. CASTILLO REY (Venezuela) (Interpretation from Spanish): The Venezuelan delegation is very sorry that it cannot agree with the proposal which has been made by the President with regard to the members of the Executive Board. In fact we consider that the number of three seats which has been granted to the representatives of the American Continent does not correspond with the true situation. The thesis upon which this was based, namely, that very few ratifications from the American Continent have been received, is not valid regarding this election, because two-thirds of the members of the Interim Commission are being re-elected for two years, whereas one-third will be re-elected for a period of three years. Within a few months I am sure that a great many members of the South American countries will have ratified the Constitution. At the present time they are in the process of ratifying the Constitution. Therefore, this argument loses a great deal of its value. If we want the World Health Organization to be a truly world-wide organization, we must have representation from all the various continents, so as to represent the whole world. In view of the importance of this question, the Venezuelan delegation wishes to
fully support the proposal made by the delegate of Switzerland, namely, that this decision should be postponed to another plenary session. If this proposal is not accepted, the Venezuelan delegation wishes to state that it feels that the representation of only three States from the American Continent should not be considered as a precedent for the future.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Pakistan.

Mr. SHAH (Pakistan): I must join the chorus of approbation for the proposal put forward by the President, in whose experience and integrity we have great confidence. But there seems to be some difference of opinion as regards the proposal which he has just now put forward for the consideration of this Assembly. It has been left to the representative of Switzerland to raise a discordant voice, and we advise caution in this matter. My delegation fully agrees with the implications of the speech made by the representative of Switzerland; that this matter requires very careful and patient consideration. After all, the Executive Board is a body which puts into execution the schemes framed by the experts and the directorate of this organization, and therefore the selection must not be made hurriedly.

I have taken into consideration the fact that this matter was considered by the General Committee, but the General Committee has no doubt deviated from the procedure that has been laid down in Article 24 of the Constitution. It has been suggested that this has been done in order to expedite work and save time, but I know, as I have been participating for the first time in an international organization, that human nature is human nature wherever it is. We have been wasting time on less important matters, but on this most vital matter we ought to take rather more time and be very cautious, so that we do not act in a manner which might displease several countries or which might deviate from the Constitution, which after due deliberation has been incorporated.

Now, Sir, far from criticizing, I merely want to analyse your proposals. I think in fixing the number of seats to be allotted to particular regions, you are taking into consideration sometimes the question of population and sometimes the question of the number of the countries that have ratified the Constitution of this Organization. And further you have also hinted about the factor of
certain areas where the problem of health requires greater consideration than in others.

Now, my country, by my own choice, has joined the East Mediterranean region and in your proposal you have allotted two seats to this region. I do not know on what grounds. I am speaking generally. I am not only going to plead the cause of my own country, but I am going to plead the cause of this region on the basis of the principle involved. Now this region consists of 18 to 20 countries. I know that about nine or ten have ratified the Constitution so far, but some will be coming forward to ratify it in the course of time. As has been pointed out by you, Sir, in the Western Hemisphere only eight countries have so far ratified the Constitution, but in the course of time, other countries will come forward to ratify the Constitution, and therefore you have allotted three seats to them for the time being. So it could be argued for Africa, for the East Mediterranean, for the Far East, For any region it could be argued that in the course of time countries will come forward to ratify the Constitution, therefore that could not be a very safe basis on which to allot seats, as far as the Executive Board is concerned.

I think, Sir, you should have made a clear proposal to allot an equal number of seats to all the regions to which we have agreed. We have so far agreed to six regions: out of the 18 seats we should have allowed three seats to each region, and then we should have taken into consideration the population, the health problems, the technical staff, the efficiency of the technical staff and the budgetary amount that any country will be prepared to put forth for the advancement of its health schemes; all these factors should have been taken into consideration. Taking these factors into consideration, then you could have reduced the number of three to one or to two, and then have put together the surplus of seats and have allotted them to the countries which need more representation on the Executive Board. For example, you have allotted eight seats to Europe. Out of that surplus pool you could have allotted some to Europe, to European countries. We have no objection to that, but the distribution should have been on some basis, I feel, especially, that the Eastern Mediterranean region has not been
fairly treated; at least one seat out of the European quota should be allotted to it, thus making it three. Because if you allot America three seats, when eight countries have ratified the Constitution, so also, within the region of the Eastern Mediterranean, eight countries have ratified the Constitution, and, therefore, at least three seats should be allotted to that region.

I think, in order to allow all these problems to be considered, this matter should be postponed and I fully support the proposal of the delegate of Switzerland.

M. GOOSSENS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The delegate of Switzerland has just expressed the point of view of the Belgian delegation far better than I could have done myself. I wish to associate myself most cordially with the tribute he paid to our President and to the General Committee, whose task we recognize was of the utmost difficulty.

If I ask to speak now, it is not in regard to the actual contents of the list which has been submitted to us, but it is owing to the fear I have that we may be creating a precedent which would be dangerous for the future and which we might have reason to regret. It is solely therefore on the question of procedure that I now speak.

It was with these considerations in view that, yesterday, we suggested to the President that he should organize some form of contact between the heads of the different delegations so that each of them might be able to ascertain the feelings of his colleagues on this question. I think that that is a method which is pursued in other specialized agencies.

To conclude, I repeat once more that I am only concerned with the question of principle which should be applied by our Organization, and for that reason I support the proposal of the delegate of Switzerland, that we should adjourn a decision on this question.

The PRESIDENT: The delegate of Norway.

Dr. EVANG (Norway): We all realize.
the difficulties in which we find ourselves today and I think perhaps it is right to remind you that the World Health Organization, of course, is not the first organization to find itself in that position. The other specialized agencies of the United Nations also found themselves exactly in the position in which we are now, when they for the first time had the task of electing their executive bodies. As far as I am informed, other specialized agencies also have chosen to follow the way which has been suggested to you by the President, and I do not think that that was an unwise procedure. We all realize, of course, that it would be impossible to start a free-for-all fight on the floor. That would not make it possible for us to fulfil our obligations under Article 24 of the Constitution, which states that an equitable geographical distribution should be taken into account. Nobody, therefore, has suggested such a procedure. The representative from Switzerland, however, suggested that another procedure be followed, namely, first to decide how many representatives there would be from each region and then give the Assembly a chance to elect individuals within that number for each region.

Now that proposal at first sight seems to have very much to its credit and I think I can tell you that, in the General Committee, such a procedure was also considered. It would mean, in other words, that the Assembly would first decide that for the Western Hemisphere there should be, say, three members, for the South Asian group two, for Europe eight, (or what the number may be) and after that within each region we would elect the members on a ballot. Now to my mind there are two major objections to such a procedure. The first objection is that it would mean really to elect the Executive Board on a regional basis and I am very much afraid that it would give the members of the Executive Board so elected a feeling of responsibility in relation to their region which would be higher than the responsibility which they felt towards the Assembly as a whole. I am coming back to that in a moment, when I have said a few words about the functions of the Executive Board.

The other objection which I have to raise against the Swiss proposal is that it seems to me that it would not solve our difficulties. It is possible, although I am not quite sure it would succeed - but it is
possible that for some regions we might be able to agree rather quickly on the members to be elected. That would, in my mind, hold good especially for those regions from which we had to elect only one or two representatives. However, if you go to those regions from which we have to elect a larger number (say the European area at the present time until more ratifications come forward from other parts of the world), we would be in a difficulty which I do not think it would be possible to solve by electing on a ballot in this Assembly. It would, I am afraid, stir up discontent, stir up feelings of prestige and, within that area, we would again not have an equitable geographic distribution.

This first time when we elect the Executive Board, it must be left more or less to the countries within a region to decide how they would like their representation on the Executive Board to be. As was said by one of the speakers here today, behind this proposal made by the President on behalf of the General Committee there is a number of "gentlemen's agreements". Consultations have, as you all know, taken place between different delegates and also between the President of the Assembly and several delegates, in order to try to find out a way whereby each region, within itself, could decide upon the difficult question of the representation from that region in the Executive Board. If we follow the Swiss procedure we would not leave that question to the regions. On the contrary, we would throw the whole question of representation within a region open to this whole Assembly and I would venture the question whether that, seen from the point of view of the regions, would be a more or a less democratic procedure. I do not think, therefore, that the Swiss proposal, although on first sight much may be said to its credit, will solve our difficulties. I would be very happy if it would have done so, but I am afraid we are going into new difficulties.

The representative of Pakistan touched upon the problem of population, the effectiveness of public health services, the urgency of health problems in different parts of the world, etc., etc., all matters which had, in his opinion, to be taken into consideration when you drafted
a plan for an executive board. That is, of course, true. But I think it is right to remind you that the overriding fact in this connexion is and must be, that WHO, like other specialized agencies within the United Nations, is a democratic body where each country has one vote, regardless of size. That fundamental fact has been discussed thoroughly by the United Nations and it has been decided upon already from the Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco. We have, therefore, at any moment, to base ourselves mainly on the number of ratifications which exist. Even if we wanted, we do not, unfortunately, have the right to believe in promises as to what will happen in the future, even if we are completely convinced that it will happen. This is a democratic world organization; each Member has one vote; the voice of the Members as expressed through the Assembly is and must be the highest law of WHO.

Now, in finishing, I would like to say a few words on the nature and functions of the Executive Board. It seems to me that that has not quite come out in the discussions up till now. You will find the terms of reference of the Executive Board in the Constitution of WHO, Chapter VII, Articles 24-29 inclusive. Article 28 gives the functions of the Board, starting with the most important of them - "to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly" - and thereafter enumerating the functions.

The most important thing, however, is that it was felt necessary, in order to make this point completely clear, to summarize the functions of the Board in Article 29, saying "the Board shall exercise on behalf of the whole Health Assembly the powers delegated to it by that body". That means, without doubt, that in the Executive Board no member represents his country. No member represents a region. All members, individually and as a body, represent the total number of Members of the World Health Organization. Their duty is loyally to follow the decisions of the Assembly, any member of the Executive Board would rightly be criticized if he, as a member of the Board, let himself be guided by national or by regional interests. I think that makes our task today a little more easy, and I think, also, that the
very fact that, after one year, six members will drop out, after two years six more members will drop out, will also make our job a little more easy.

Several speakers have stressed the fact that they would like very much to avoid discontent and struggle between Members in this Assembly. I would venture the statement that this World Health Assembly up till now has been characterized by an international spirit, which you very seldom find in large international gatherings in our time.

It seems to me that, in view of the many days - I would say already a few weeks - on which our President has been working on the suggestion which has been put forward to you, in view of the fact that many consultations have taken place, and in view of the fact that the General Committee also agrees on this list, the best way would be if we already today could agree on this proposal. And I would like to support, therefore, the motion, which has been seconded, that the list presented to you be accepted today.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no more speakers on this subject, we shall adjourn until 3 o'clock this afternoon. But, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, I must say that if any voting takes place on this issue it will be by secret ballot.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.