

**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ**

SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A2/VR/6 Corr.1
20 June 1949

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Provisional Verbatim Record

CORRIGENDUM

Page 22, lines 13 and 14:

Insert full stop after "health"; delete "the necessity for the nations'" and substitute: "There is a serious need for continued co-ordination....."

Page 22, line 21:

Insert after "programme", the words "of control on a modest scale"; insert after "operation" "with plans being made".

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16 June 1949

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

✓ Palazzo Venezia, Rome
Thursday, 16 June 1949, at 9.30 a.m.

Provisional Verbatim Record

PRESIDENT: Dr. Karl EVANG (Norway)

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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 203, 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:

At yesterday's meeting of the General Committee I was asked to make an attempt to finish the general discussion today. As you will see, there are planned two plenary sessions today - from about 9.30 to 12 and from about 3.30 till about 6.30. That gives us about five to five-and-a-half hours and I think it should be possible to finish the general discussion in that time. You will recall that I put a deadline yesterday, asking that all delegates intending to speak in the general debate would kindly give me notice yesterday. As a result of this I have now a final list of speakers in the general discussion, which I am going to read to you: Pakistan, Austria, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, United States of America, El Salvador, Iran, Bulgaria and Poland. That is altogether 12 speakers. No more names will then be admitted to this list.

The General Committee also decided to try today a new system to save time. It was announced in the two main committees yesterday. It means that we shall ask all speakers to present a translation of their speech or, if they do not like to make a translation themselves, they may present their manuscripts to the Secretariat beforehand, so as to give the Secretariat time to make a translation. In this way, when the speaker starts here in the plenary session, we shall have a translation ready; if the speaker speaks in French, then you can simultaneously listen to the English translation which will be read over the earphones, and vice versa; that will, in many cases, save us time. I will signify when the speaker starts whether you can listen at once or not. I will announce the name of each speaker and I will also announce the name of the next speaker.

I have only one more thing to say: for several reasons it is not practical here in Rome to open the afternoon sessions at 2.30 or 3.0 p.m. as we are accustomed to do; we have to open them at 3.30. Therefore we shall also have to go on till about 6.30 p.m.; social events, therefore, should not start till, say, 7 o'clock. If you would kindly notify your embassies, etc., it would be helpful.

The Director-General would like to make some announcements.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

Under the amended Rules of Procedure which have been provisionally accepted by the Assembly, tomorrow, Friday, is the last day for the reception of new items for the supplementary agenda. Any such new items are to be accompanied by the relevant documentation as requested in the Assembly guide. Any such documents should be handed to the President or to the Director-General before tomorrow evening.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND THE REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (Continuation).

The PRESIDENT:

I now open the debate and take pleasure in calling upon the representative of Pakistan. The next country to speak will be Austria.

Mr. KAZI (Pakistan):

The delegation of Pakistan is glad to have this opportunity of associating itself wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers regarding the part played by Dr. Stampar in this Organization. We will miss his towering personality which on many occasions has been of immense help to it in the initial stages of its existence. Our sense of loss is, however, compensated for by the feeling that these responsibilities now devolve on you, Mr. President. This has been a happy choice of the Assembly and has given us assurance and confidence that the future conduct of our affairs is in safe hands.

We also fully and sincerely endorse the sense of gratitude to the Government of Italy for their marvellous hospitality and welcome.

To appreciate the difficulties of this Organization in 1948, we have to look carefully for an inconspicuous sentence tucked away in the Director-General's introduction to his report, where he says "the Secretariat prepared the report on 1948 activities, worked out the allocation of funds for 1949 and planned the programme and budget for 1950". This short and pithy summary speaks volumes and is worthy of careful note as the Director-General has therein indicated the triple achievements of the year, which should satisfy the most exacting critic. When we come to consider the future programme, let us bear this statement in mind, for it also contains a definite warning, namely, that by

hastening our development incontinently we run a definite risk of pressing the Organization to a breaking point.

There will be ample opportunities for discussing the future programme in different committees but my delegation is impelled to remark on a few points of broad policy. We feel that the impact of local conditions gives such diverse shape to the problems of health in different parts of the world that practical solutions thereto can be expected to evolve only after intensive local study. In our concept of future planning, therefore, we must be guided more and more by the precise knowledge obtained through our regional organizations, who alone are best fitted to study the prevailing problems and to suggest appropriate remedies. The central Secretariat should concern itself with presenting a composite picture of the over-all situation, secured through these sources, thereby furnishing the Organization with a safe and sound basis for activities. We realize that this procedure may entail a certain amount of delay which may tax our patience, particularly when we see such misery around us. But in spite of this we would commend this policy, for in the affairs of mankind in general and of health in particular it does not always happen that the seemingly shortest is the nearest route to our goal.

We observed that in the First World Health Assembly most of the puzzling problems were passed on to the Executive Board. We now see how right we were, for under the skilful and superb guidance of Sir Aly Shousha, Pasha, the Board has now thrashed out all these problems, and narrowed them down to concrete alternatives. It is our humble submission that in this Assembly too we should beware of rushing into irrevocable decisions and disregard the needs for further studies by the Board and by the regional organizations.

We feel that this procedure will ensure a solid ground for planning our fresh activities.

In certain directions we have, however, to go all out for there is no turning back on the items of programme to which we have already committed ourselves. But here also let actual experience guide us in the formulation of expansion schemes. For our task often denotes a state of war with the forces of nature and it is a pre-requisite of a good generalship to consolidate your gains before going forward.

Analyzing our needs we come up repeatedly against the one fundamental requirement practically of the underdeveloped and war damaged areas, namely, the need for technicians, without whom no programme can possibly succeed.

The solution offered to this problem is to extend help to the different countries in the shape of instructors and equipment. Accordingly we welcome the emphasis which the Director-General has rightly laid on this aspect of the programme.

But the training of technicians is a slow painstaking process for the knowledge acquired by them has to be assimilated and matured before it can produce the desired result. This process could be greatly hastened by setting up comprehensive teaching facilities in each region for each subject. We feel, however, that there would still be a place for fellowship in foreign countries in our programme, as the collateral benefits of such interchange of scholars are far too many to be set aside on the plea of utilitarianism.

In venturing these few words of advice Pakistan speaks from experience. We are a newly born State which was faced with a multitude of problems at birth. We saw ahead of us a bewildering variety of vistas, each tempting us for a headlong rush. In the short period of less than two years we have learnt that our greatest progress has been along the paths that had been carefully studied and surveyed. The steady persistent onward move has carried us forward at a rate which at the time appeared to be slow but which on retrospect has turned out to be a galloping speed.

To summarize, our view, which is subject to modification in the light of detailed discussions in the various committees, is to concentrate on the programme to which we are committed, to develop our regional organizations to the full, and to prepare the ground carefully for further advance by a detailed local study of each problem.

Dr. KHAM (Austria) (Translation from the French):

As chief delegate of Austria to the Second World Health Assembly at Rome I have the great honour and privilege of conveying to you the Austrian Government's greetings and of wishing the Second Assembly the most complete success in its work.

I desire also to convey our greetings to the Italian Government for the very friendly way in which it has received us and to our Italian colleagues. I would also thank Professor Andrija Stampar who presided over the World Assembly in past years and the new President, Dr. Karl Evang.

Austria is a small country and is one of the European countries that have been most severely stricken by the terrible catastrophe of the Second World War. It is not however on that ground that Austria takes the most active part in the World Health Organization, which she thanks for the counsel and assistance received in past years, but also because she herself has the firm intention and resolve to promote the aims of the World Health Organization with all her strength and to do her share in achieving its aims.

The experience of the past few years shows that Austria has progressed greatly in health matters and has thus contributed to consolidating public health conditions in Central Europe.

The improvement in the situation is also shown in the number of cases in infectious disease that have been reported. War epidemics in the narrower sense are still declining. In 1948 Austria was free from petechial fever complaints. There was a decline in abdominal typhus infections in 1948 of 51 per cent as against 1947 and 65 per cent in dysentery. In spite of the most strenuous efforts of the public health administration the number of cases of the above mentioned diseases has not yet been brought down to the average of many years of the pre-war period.

As already mentioned in the report for 1947, many persons who have returned from captivity are suffering from malaria. This explains the increase, which is inconsiderable in the number of malaria victims.

The compulsorily notifiable cases of tuberculosis has generally speaking remained unchanged as compared with 1947, when the infectious cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and throat showed a small decrease. Tuberculosis of other organs has slightly increased.

In 1948 tuberculosis control was greatly strengthened in two ways. Thanks to the vigorous support of Switzerland, the therapeutic stations of Alland and Strengberg were re-established and resumed work. Further the import of streptomycin was made possible and it was allocated as in other countries to various treatment centres.

The year covered by the report marks a distinct step forward for Austria in the development of tuberculosis control measures since active preventive vaccination with BCG was introduced and as a result a principle which has long been employed in combatting acute infectious diseases was also adopted for this grave ailment which threatens public health.

The Austrian law of 23 February 1949 not only defines the groups of persons who should be vaccinated but also the technical requirements of vaccination. It provides for preventive tuberculosis vaccination on the basis of the spontaneous declaration of the persons to be vaccinated; in the case of minors and legally incapacitated persons the consent of their legal representative is required. The law also regulates the question of cost so that vaccination may be given entirely free of charge to those who are to be vaccinated.

Thus, a basis was created at the same time for the carrying out of the Calmette vaccination system by the Scandinavian Red Cross Societies on behalf of UNICEF - called Joint Enterprise - with which the Austrian Government has concluded a contract and which, with the help of some teams of foreigners and a greater number of teams from within the country itself, has started successful activity in Austria.

Compared to the year 1947, a lessening of new cases of venereal disease can, moreover, be noticed. For gonorrhoea it is 36% less, and for syphilis 35.5%. Compared to 1947, an increase of 120% in bites by animals with hydrophobia, or suspected of hydrophobia, is noticeable, particularly in lower Austria. It should be noted that animals harmful to game, and in some cases wild boar, in some districts of upper and lower Austria, have been affected.

In any case, the report for the year 1948 shows satisfactory progress towards the almost complete healing of the severe injuries caused by the War and Post-war periods.

Immediately after the end of the War, a start was made throughout Austria also with reconstruction and rehabilitation work, particularly of the internal organization of the hospitals that had been severely damaged. For lack of materials of prime necessity, reconstruction was at the start hindered by great obstacles which, however, were frequently able to be overcome in the course of these last few years. By dint of her own efforts, and with foreign aid, full-time activity was able to be re-started in many institutions. That is particularly shown by the number of hospital beds available. Whilst in 1945 only 43,870 beds were available, now the number of beds is 60,738. This increase in the number of beds is especially surprising in Vienna, where in 1945 1300 beds were available, whilst in 1949 19,167 beds can be had.

The need for medical instruments and medicaments has similarly been met up to the present time, largely by relief supplies. At present, however, there still is a vital lack of hospital linen, X-ray films, and various instruments such as syringes for inoculation, etc.

In view of the complete reconstruction and the capacity of the available installations, the Government, the provinces and the local authorities have not the necessary means available to the required degree.

Although much has been done since the war for housing - up to the present some 70,000 houses have been reconstructed - there is still much misery in this sphere, for as a result of the war some 300,000 buildings throughout Austria were destroyed, and as a result some hundreds of thousands of persons are today still lodged in inadequate quarters and camps. It goes without saying that this has its effect on the general conditions of health.

The food situation has, however, become much better, and the food supplies of the Austrian population are approaching a peace-time level. The fact that relatively little harm attributable to malnutrition, even in the worst times, could be observed, is largely due to the rigorous control carried out in Austria by the health authorities through institutions of public examination and market services.

The supply of medicaments in Austria after the liberation in 1945 was not equally good throughout the federal territory, in fact it was completely inadequate; especially in Vienna, lower Austria and Burgenland there was a very marked shortage of medicaments.

The civil population outside the hospitals continued to suffer from the catastrophic shortage of medicaments, which reached in the spring of 1946 a record low level. UNRRA aid began in the month of April 1946, amid this great misery, and later a series of foreign aid schemes brought about a progressive diminution in the shortage of medicaments, so that at the present time it cannot be said to exist. Nevertheless, the medicine chest still shows a few gaps.

Finally, I would like to mention very briefly the considerable health legislation passed in Austria since the end of the war.

We had to try to overcome the confusion caused in the sphere of health by the German occupation of Austria, and to replace the numerous laws, decrees and orders of the German Reich by new, up-to-date, clear Austrian legislation. These aims have not yet been attained, but the progress made is remarkable. The Austrian Parliament has passed fourteen laws which are already published and has made many health matters subject to legal measures. Furthermore, twenty-two decrees have been published and these, with the above-mentioned laws, have contributed to a simplification and a unification of Austrian health legislation.

Of these legal measures, I would like to mention the following:

First, a modern law governing narcotics that conforms to all requirements of existing conventions; modern laws of preventive vaccination for small-pox and also, as has already been mentioned, tuberculosis; a modernization of the law against epidemics; up-to-date legislation for the nurses and the dentists; a law for doctors, published quite recently, that governs not only the practice of medicine but also assures the co-operation of the medical body, through representatives, on all the questions related to health matters.

The activity of the Austrian Health Administration on the simplification and the unification of health laws will be continued and developed in such a way as to cover the health measures in a civilized world. Austria thinks that a task worthy of the World Health Organization would be the setting-up of a committee of experts to co-ordinate, simplify and modernize the laws and other measures on health matters. And Austria would be happy to be allowed not only to accept the benefits of WHO but also to co-operate and to help the Organization to achieve its objectives.

Dr. FROES (Brazil) (Interpretation from the French): We should like to express first of all, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, the satisfaction we feel in representing our country at the Second World Health Assembly which is meeting here in the cradle of western civilization. We will then present to you brief and general considerations on some important points that have been raised in the reports under discussion.

As Director-General of the health services of Brazil, I and my colleagues have followed with the greatest interest the progressive development of WHO, and we think our optimism is not exaggerated when we assure you of our hope and our confidence in the future of this Organization. The benefits that flow from it will, we hope, be felt not only in Europe and in the countries destroyed by the second world war, but also in the other regions of the world. We are certain that the help WHO can give them will be commensurate with their needs.

In his excellent report the Director-General draws attention to the progress that has been accomplished in the matter of regionalization, which is to us of great importance if it is to ensure the decentralization indispensable to the fulfilment of the services to be carried out in the different regions. We would like to state, in this connexion, how happy we were to be in Washington at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau when the agreement was signed between the WHO and this continental organization. We hope that the older regional health organization, which progresses under effective and enthusiastic leadership, can serve as an inspiration to other offices.

As far as malaria is concerned, we think that it is no exaggeration to admit the possibility of the suppression of this disease on the world plane, even though a complete eradication would be difficult in countries as vast as Brazil, India and Mexico, for example, despite the extraordinary progress that has been made and

that has reduced in a tremendous manner the transmission index, as we have just ascertained in our country, with remarkable repercussions on the economy of many areas. The help proposed for malariological schools seems to us of the utmost importance and we have the pleasure of informing you that in Brazil we have an institute for the study of malaria which will be able to deal with the problem on the same level as the magnificent activity of the Institute of Maracay in Venezuela. Furthermore, as far as the personnel is concerned for health activities, we consider that this problem is of such importance for all countries that we have just created in Brazil a new school of public health, which will form part of the National University of Brazil.

As far as venereal disease is concerned, we can already envisage the possibility of a solution of this problem from a health point of view, and the recent experience of some experts leads us to think that it will soon be less expensive to cure these diseases than to obtain a diagnostic for them.

Even though the creation of a great number of expert committees can be criticized, it seems to us reasonable that WHO should have appointed, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee, an international body of experts in maternal and child health. That committee will be able to offer appreciable technical aid to the health administrations of the interested countries.

As for the help that we can give to the different countries for a good administration of public health, we should like to point out that the local health services of the health organizations should have the benefit of the existence of a part of the personnel working on full schedule, in accordance with the principles that we have many times voted and worked for, to the effect that all those who work on full schedule must be paid a salary that corresponds to their efforts and to the importance of their work.

In the field of international epidemiology, it seems to us not only necessary, as it says in the report, but also indispensable to organize international sanitary regulations which will combine the national security of different countries with a minimum of hindrance to world trade.

There is no doubt, however, that the health administration of different countries must improve and must bring to the highest degree possible their means of defence against epidemic diseases, rather than take restrictive measures, many times exaggerated, on their own borders. This will allow a considerable reduction, if not the suppression once and for all, of the measures of protection against the introduction of certain diseases on the territory of each nation. Furthermore, it will obviate the need that certain nations have already felt of making a call upon the services of WHO for the abolition of certain measures exacted by the health authorities of these countries.

In the report is mentioned the unjustified exaction of certificates of vaccination against plague, typhus and yellow fever. We would like to stress the opinion that we expressed during the last Brazilian Health Congress, that it is much more reasonable, for example, to eradicate the urban centres of yellow fever, as Bolivia has done, and as we are now doing in Brazil, than to take hampering measures against travellers coming from maritime or airport centres where the vector does not exist, these persons not having lived in regions where they might even need to face the possibility of the existence of this illness.

There is no need to recall to you what has happened in Panama where, thanks to the intervention of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, all danger of disease was brushed aside immediately. The last epidemic of cholera in Egypt has emphasized the importance of international aid as soon as possible, since there is no nation whatsoever, however far it may be, that can remain indifferent, as there will never be any certitude that it may not also be affected.

The President of this Assembly has underlined the fact that the World Health Organization is not a political organism. Considering however the complexity of its various tasks and functions one must recognize that these cannot be fulfilled with success without the active and constant co-operation of governments, of private institutions and of the public in general.

This co-operation is more necessary as we must take into consideration the need for a co-ordinated offensive against disease regions and against illnesses. The experience of what generally

happens in our hemisphere makes us insist on the need of a spirit of comprehension, co-operation, co-ordination, above all when it is a question of agencies that have a common objective and that often work in isolation, resulting in a duplication of action, the more regrettable when the results obtained do not correspond with the work and the material resources that have been utilized.

The programme of the activities of WHO for next year is much more developed than the one in force up to now and the budget as is known is much greater.

Our delegation will have the opportunity to make the necessary remarks on this point when the time comes.

One must admit the impossibility of carrying through so complex a programme without the assurance of material and technical resources, but at the same time, one must also be wise and subordinate to the most urgent problems others of less great urgency; above all we must not sacrifice quality to quantity.

In common with the delegates who have preceded us on this tribune, we want to draw attention to the unsparing work of the Director-General of this Organization and of all those who have brought to it from the first moment the immeasurable help of their experience and devotion to the task.

 Father PLOJHAR (Czechoslovakia) (Translation from the French):
The setting-up of a World Health Organization as a specialized agency of the United Nations Organization on the initiative of the Economic and Social Council is one of the most important achievements of the United Nations since its establishment.

Let us recall the situation after the end of the Second World War. After years of destruction of human lives and mutilation of healthy men and women, we were faced by the question of how best to help these victims of the war. Thus arose the World Health Organization, welcomed by us all, whose task it is to care for the preservation of human life and to provide effective help everywhere where war has dealt hard blows to the health of mankind. The war has left not only a legacy of wounded and ailing people, but its influence can be felt also indirectly in the malnutrition of children and of whole nations, which has created conditions favourable to the spread of disease and has undermined the biological foundations of generations.

The very real problem facing every nation was to find a speedy means of helping to preserve human life. Therefore the entire world understood the significance, the excellence, and loftiness of the ideas put forward by the World Health Organization. Proof of this is the spontaneous participation in the realisation of this great idea of love and help for our fellow men: 51 member states of the United Nations took part in this and 16 non-member states sent their observers. The entire world viewed this idea of brotherly help with hope. In 1946 the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization was set up. Even this provisional organization was sufficiently well-equipped to be able to carry on its activities both from the financial point of view and as regards personnel.

When on 22 July, 1948 the Organization was established on a definite basis, it became clear that nothing had had to be changed, either as regards finances or personnel, and that the Organization had had the same possibilities in its provisional status and had been able to carry out its tasks.

We are grateful to the World Health Organization for having concentrated its help on those countries badly hit by the war. Six years of severed communications with the outside world had left their marks on our public health service. Thanks to the World Health Organization we were able to acquaint ourselves with the progress made in the health services of other countries during the war. We were assisted in this by stipends, supplies of medical literature, specialists who were sent to our country for periods of shorter or longer duration, and finally by material aid, in connection with the rehabilitation of countries ravaged by the war.

It is praiseworthy that the World Health Organization has renewed the services introduced by the Health Section of the League of Nations, in particular the epidemiological service, biological standardization, drug control, revision of the international nomenclature of diseases, the establishing of committees of experts, etc.

All these are positive points which we appreciate and value highly. Nevertheless there have been shortcomings in the work done hitherto by the World Health Organization and the reason for these shortcomings must be sought in the tendency to limit activity to expert committees, which, whilst they publish news of the stage reached by medical science in this or that field, do nothing to see that the progress achieved in public health services is realized in the individual countries.

Moreover, the World Health Organization has not altogether understood that there can be no generalization as far as health problems are concerned. Health problems differ from region to region and it is therefore impossible to determine the importance of individual problems in such a way as to satisfy all countries; it is, rather, necessary to take the individual needs of every country into consideration.

The decision taken by the World Health Organization to grant stipends according to the urgency of health problems, is correct. It is incorrect, however, that the same problems should be considered equally important in all countries. So for instance the World Health Organization is offering Czechoslovakia a stipend for workers in mother and child welfare and for tuberculosis specialists. Such stipends have, however, already been granted to us by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and my Ministry is interested in problems which may not be listed among the important problems on the list of the World Health Organization, but which, for above mentioned reasons, are important for us and which we must solve in the interests of the nation's health.

For the solution of some of the problems facing the public-health service of Czechoslovakia, more than good advice is needed. We must be able to carry out this good advice in practice and this demands certain material pre-requisites. It is necessary that the study of basic medical sciences such as biology, biochemistry, and biophysics, be broadened in our universities, and modern anaesthetics introduced, and that our specialists be acquainted with the modern methods employed in international medicine. Our chemical industry and our research institutes are in urgent need of animal breeding farms. If these needs and demands exist, good

advice is not sufficient, - we also need the necessary tools to carry out this programme: the special strains of animals, the possibility for our specialists to devote themselves to specialization etc. The same applies to our penicillin production, which must be brought up to date. For this, of course, the necessary apparatus from abroad is essential, and it should be the task of the World Health Organization to make it possible for us to receive such supplies.

The World Health Organization should always be aware of the fact that its task is to help by all its means in its power to raise the health standard of the individual countries. This pre-supposes that each individual member of the World Health Organization is as willing as we are to co-operate fully in this task and to place its knowledge and even the material pre-requisites for the realization of these aims, at the disposal of the others. As far as my country is concerned it is ready to do this.

If the World Health Organization sincerely wishes to help to solve the health problems and improve the health services in individual regions and countries, there must be real willingness to provide concrete and effective help. It cannot and must not impose its own conceptions and plans on the various countries. The World Health Organization must aim at mutual aid in the solutions of these tasks between the individual member countries, and where this is not possible the World Health Organization must intervene. Politics or the interests of private enterprise must not be allowed to affect the issue.

Unfortunately it must be stated here that the World Health Organization is becoming the victim of ideological struggles, and attempts to misuse its influence and power in favour of one of these ideologies are becoming apparent. I must warn against such a policy, which would mean the splitting-up, possibly even the dissolution of this world organization, an organization which can work effectively only if it does not allow itself to become involved in such disputes, if it is supported by all countries, and if it considers the importance of problems in accordance with the needs of the individual countries.

The attitude of the United States of America to the World Health Organization is disturbing to us, although the United States representatives are playing a leading part in this Organization. The United States refuses licenses for the export of Podbialniak extractors and other medical supplies, and all applications are turned down. We are witnesses of how one of the great powers of the World speaks of aid,

whilst refusing to supply the necessary apparatus for and means of preserving human health and life, or preserving the life of mothers, infants and children. On the one hand they refuse to help children threatened by the malnutrition resulting from war, but on the other hand they are not only willing to assist with supplies of war materials, but even enforce acceptance by means of dangerous pacts.

We have had enough of the last war and we do not want another. We still have to deal with the huge task of helping the victims of the recent war, yet already efforts are being made to increase the numbers of these victims. We protest against this and condemn such double-dealing which wishes to help with the one hand, and with the other to destroy.

I have given you our viewpoint on the World Health Organization. I have pointed out all that is praiseworthy and have reviewed critically the points that we do not like. The representatives of Czechoslovakia, and I am sure most nations, wish to co-operate in the great work of the World Health Organization, but we demand categorically that these minimal demands put forward by me be fulfilled, in order that the World Health Organization should truly serve health interests and not become bound up with an ideology to which the member countries cannot subscribe.

If the interests of humanity are our highest ideal, if we really wish to relieve the sufferings of mankind and preserve the millions of mothers and children suffering from tuberculosis, cancer and other diseases, if we wish medical science everywhere to keep abreast of the progress achieved by scientific research, then all political and ideological differences must be put aside, for these are obstacles which prevent the fulfilment of the highest ideal of the World Health Organization.

Only if these fundamental pre-requisites for success are given, can the various governments consent to the continuance of their countries as members of the World Health Organization, only then can they contribute to its development.

Dr. SIMONOVITS (Hungary): When a year ago I had the opportunity of representing the Hungarian Government at the First World Health Assembly, I announced that the Hungarian Government would most willingly join the World Health Organization, being thoroughly convinced that in the field of health there is a great need for co-operation, and being in agreement with the main principles of the Constitution, namely, that threats to health anywhere in the world spell a common danger for the whole of mankind, because health is one and indivisible.

Today also the Hungarian Government's unvaried standpoint is that there is an absolute necessity for international co-operation. But it must be the right kind. It must be said too, truly and sincerely, that the conditions for co-operation have lately become less favourable. We are doctors and we know well that cure depends upon an exact diagnosis. I think I shall render a good service to WHO, first of all, by pointing out the difficulties with which Hungary, as a small country, has to contend.

WHO's assistance is of three kinds: first, granting of fellowships; second, making books and periodicals available: third, providing lecturers.

Hungary attaches the greatest importance to fellowships, and precisely in this field finds the greatest difficulties. We chose for this purpose, as being suitable to WHO's spirit, our best scientists and health service organizers who are in the leading posts. You know well that there is a popular democracy in Hungary and naturally those leading posts are generally filled by the most enthusiastic followers and workers of the popular democracy and the growing socialism. Lately it has more and more often happened that those to whom a fellowship was granted were refused visas. It even occurred that a professor of the University of Budapest, officially invited to an international congress in America, did not receive an entry permit.

There are difficulties also about receiving books and periodicals. The requested books and periodicals either arrive with great delay or arrive in fragments. We do not even know which books or periodicals we are likely to receive and which we have to procure through other channels.

At the beginning, we had great hopes about lecturers. But now it must be confessed we have been somewhat disillusioned. Even the best lecturer was hardly more useful than a good article, because in many cases the lecturer had no knowledge of our special local problems. We are of the opinion that WHO's activity in this field can be considerably reduced, especially as this could considerably decrease WHO's expenses.

Furthermore, as far as co-operation is concerned, we have to complain about another thing: scientific research work is hindered also by the fact that

preparation of essential medicines, such as streptomycin, penicillin and so on, are still a secret. We cannot get even isotopes. All that Minister Pojihar, the chief of the Czechoslovakian delegation, said on this subject, can be applied to Hungary. And the Hungarian delegation completely agrees with him.

That is the situation as we see it in Hungary. But if we look around here, in the Second World Health Assembly, we meet with even more difficult problems: a year ago there were present the delegations of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukraine and Byelorussia. Today, as our President and the chief of the Indian delegation referred with regret to their absence, we must do without them. And those who participated in last year's Assembly know well that these three delegations were the most active members of the First Assembly. Though we can solve several problems, yet we must ask: can we call this a world organization without the USSR? The answer is necessarily a negative one, not only because the USSR includes one-sixth of the world - although this fact alone is sufficient for consideration - but also because it has done the most in the field of a people's health service. Particularly remarkable are the results gained in the improving of the health of the people, especially if we keep in mind the fact that, at the time of the Czars, the situation of the people was hardly better in Russia than in the colonies today.

I think it is not enough to regret Soviet Union's absence; we must examine the reason why the Soviet Union is not participating in the conference and we must find the way to a remedy. In the First Assembly of the World Health Organization, Dr. Vinogradov, the chief of the delegation of the Soviet Union, pointed to the facts endangering our great work. The present programme of WHO and its budget for the next year indicate that the warnings of the Soviet delegation and the reason for its retirement, as recorded, have not been duly taken into consideration. I would like to emphasize a single fact: the number of the employees amounted in 1949 to 564, which will be increased in 1950 to 1132.

We all know Dr. Evang's activity and we hope that WHO under his guide will find the way to the solution of this problem.

I think we doctors, more than anybody else, must struggle for a real

international co-operation. One of the main principles of the Constitution is, "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States!"

I think you agree with me if I say more: fighting for peace means fighting for the health of the whole of mankind.

What do war and peace mean? We Hungarians can really understand. Hungary is a country which was damaged a great deal by the war because of the adventurous politics of the fascist system. Owing to the war also our health service collapsed. When liberation came the public health service proved to be completely unorganized. Before the war we had 134 tuberculosis dispensaries and after the liberation only 26 remained. Of 50,000 beds only 26,000 were efficient. War damage to hospitals is estimated at fifty million dollars. The general health of the country was also at a very low level. General mortality in 1945 sprung up to 23% and infant mortality was nearly 17%, but in Budapest at the beginning of the year of the liberation it reached 37%. There were also 8,500 typhus cases.

Now the Hungarian people have found what peaceful rebuilding means. During the four years since the liberation, we have rebuilt completely our health service system. Having rehabilitated 24,000 hospital beds, today we dispose again of 50,000 hospital beds. At the end of the five year plan to be started next year, we shall have 60,000 available hospital beds. As a result of the reconstruction we now have 38 tuberculosis and 40 venereal disease dispensaries more than before the war. In 1944 we had 52 maternity homes; at the end of this year there should be nearly twice as many.

The result of these four peaceful years of reconstruction work is that in Hungary the health service is much better than at any time before the war. Child mortality has declined from 13%, for instance to 9%; in Budapest to 6%.

Fighting for peace and fighting for progress, we follow today the living tradition of those great Italian physicians who despite the persecution dissected corpses and fought with heroic efforts for the progress of science.

Dr. EKREM TOK (Turkey) (Interpretation from the French):

It is a very great pleasure to me to be able to present a greeting in the name of my country to the delegates attending the Second World Health Assembly, and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the administrative body and the Executive Board for the work achieved during this year. It is true that this Organization has not yet been able to answer all the calls for help and that it has not been possible for it to deal with health problems specific to certain countries, mine included. But I have no doubt that with the very great goodwill which animates it and with the experience which it is acquiring at the present moment, it will be able to cope with the immense task ahead.

Therefore, I wish to state that the work that has been accomplished and the resolutions adopted by the Organization during a comparatively short lapse of time are most praiseworthy. I do not think it superfluous to go back to the international situation, in so far as the so-called pestilential illnesses are concerned; diseases of which the mode of transmission and method of cure are clearly defined and established at the present time. As I stated to the First Health Assembly, the efforts aiming at the complete eradication of these illnesses must be concentrated and unified under the auspices of WHO. From the report of the Director-General and those of the Executive Board we note with satisfaction that WHO has already considered for its programme next year all the measures necessary for the achievement of this aim.

In closing, I should like to thank most deeply the Italian Government for its generous hospitality to us. Our delegation is extremely happy to be in Rome and delighted by the splendour of this eternal and historic city. I extend to this Assembly and to WHO my best wishes for the great success of its future activities.

The PRESIDENT: The next speaker should be the representative of the United States of America. However, I have just been informed by the American delegation that the speaker has been detained and the delegation has asked that he should have an opportunity to speak later. The same has happened to the following speaker, the representative of El Salvador, and I would like to ask you whether there is any objection to postponing the statements of these gentlemen until they arrive.

I see there are no objections; then we will pass on, and I call upon the representative of Iran.

Dr. RADJI (Iran): My remarks will be extremely short and not political, for we have much to do; in fact not only here, but in our working committees, my delegation believes that the speeches should be limited to about five minutes' time.

If my country was the fourth to become a Member of WHO, and is proud to be a small part of this great Organization, it is because we sincerely believe that through the collaboration of the nations here represented we can achieve peace and the improved health and wealth of all the peoples of the world.

Our Director-General and the Executive Board should be highly complimented on the achievements of WHO in 1948. The reports submitted give a heartening picture of concrete projects accomplished. As to the proposals for 1950, they are prepared with vision and daring. The idea of having both a regular and a supplemental budget is particularly useful, and it is financially sound, provided that projects adopted are given strict priorities. In this manner, the regular budget will finance the projects of number one priority, and realization of part or all of the supplemental budget will make possible the implementation of projects of number two priority.

All the 1950 proposals are desirable, but a few comments may be in order. First, although many countries need above all to develop leadership and the direction of operations by trained technical personnel, the tentative 1950 budget provides only inadequately for fellowships, training and education. In contrast to the great increase in many other fields, this vital item is exactly the same in 1950 as it was in 1949, taking into consideration the expected absence of aid from UNRRA.

My delegation believes that to provide technical leadership in underdeveloped countries should be one of our first goals, and that the item for fellowships, training and education should at least be doubled.

A small crumb is also assigned to research on cholera, but in relation to a disease so explosively dangerous, we believe that a more urgent and intense investigation should be made of the method of transmission as it affects quarantine procedures.

The decentralization of WHO through the establishment of Regional Committees is a wise move, provided only that this does not mean breaking up the World Health Organization into six small worlds. We should not slip back into becoming regionally minded, but we must always remember the global aspect of health, the necessity for the nations' policy planning and overall direction. There must be a clear definition of the functions and limitations of regional offices or chaos will result.

In Iran, we are embarking on a tremendous seven-year programme of development, of which the health section is an impressive part. Parliament has already voted approval. Malaria is our number one problem, standing as it does in the way of both health and economic advance. Already a serious programme is in operation for a nationwide attack in 1950. We are deeply grateful to WHO for help already begun or planned, and our testimony is that this is a live, productive organization destined to have a great and lasting effect on the health of the world.

The PRESIDENT: I will ask for the missing delegates to be sent for, as we are approaching the end of the list of speakers, and if they are not here, then the last speakers have no opportunity to speak. I would like to call upon the representative of Bulgaria.

Dr. STOYANOFF (Bulgaria). (Interpretation from the French): Since the First World Health Assembly, very little time has elapsed - only about eleven months - and yet how many things and how many events have we witnessed: events and things which cannot hope to be reflected in the life and the activities of the World Health Organization. And when we want to have a very clear view and not go behind a curtain of veiling or velvet - since this expression is extremely fashionable in some countries - we can only emphasize the importance of certain events. We are not afraid to call things

by their names and we do not want to separate one from the other, because in life everything is linked together. We want to look at things and events in their organic unity.

This is why I should like to ask our dear and honoured President to excuse us - we cannot separate our activity, the activity of our Organization, from the events which surround us. Our activities are extremely complex, extremely interdependent and, apart from questions which are purely medical, we want to deal with financial questions and economic questions even if we are not economists. We have even a Committee on Constitutional Matters which is going to debate questions which are sometimes quite political. And is it not quite clear that even among the Members of the Organization some are dissatisfied? That is because the activities of the Organization are interpreted and directed along a certain path and not in the path of the general and the common interest. We cannot make any abstractions and separate ourselves from each other and ignore this policy, and as we have said a moment ago, it is precisely outside events which have influenced and continue to weigh on the activities of the Organization.

So what do we see? The direction of the World Health Organization has just waited to see the events, has hesitated to take the measures deriving from the resolutions of the First World Health Assembly which were, however, so modest.

Last year many delegations expressed fears regarding the financial possibilities of the Organization, considering that the countries which had suffered least from the war and had even increased their wealth did not want to give their larger and more generous quotas towards the expenses of the World Health Organization. Instead of being economical, we see the personnel of the Organization increasing enormously in number and receiving salaries which are relatively enormous, whilst in capitalist countries the economic crisis is a very great danger with its unemployment processions and whilst in Socialist countries people make enormous efforts to build up a society where no exploitation of man by man will exist and where health organization will develop more and more. This anomaly should not exist any more.

We want to make the same critical remarks regarding the engagement of the personnel. The Administration has not taken into consideration the remarks made last year by certain delegations.

In the same way, we cannot help making other remarks. The delegation of the USSR and of some of our popular democracies have insisted on the fact that the journeys of experts and of their teams to places where they are not asked to go cannot continue. Their expenses could be paid into the accounts of the beneficiary countries. This is the best way to help national health services.

What can we say as regards the budget for 1950? The least one can say is that this budget is enormous and probably impossible to face. The aim of this budget is to help before everything else the colonial countries. This is very good; we are with the colonial peoples and protectorates, we want their happiness and even their complete liberation. But yesterday, here, the misery and extremely low standard of life of these people was emphasized. Who has the duty before all of helping them to get out of this deplorable situation. Is it not the supreme duty of the countries which oppress them, which exploit them? Our delegation will ask the Committee on Administration and Finance that those countries which derive the biggest benefit from this colonial policy should take on themselves the most important part of the necessary expenses for the help of the colonial peoples and the protectorates.

Last year our delegation insisted on the importance of an institution for medical and sanitary supplies. As far as I know no mention is made on the agenda of these extended activities. Do they meet with insuperable difficulties or do they meet with political discrimination? It is quite probable.

The Regional Office for European countries devastated by the war - what is happening to it? Perhaps it will be created when the countries in question have recovered and have helped themselves with their own means.

Another question which worries us at the moment is the absence of the USSR at the Second World Health Assembly. This absence weighs heavily on our work. We feel sure that this is the opinion of most of the delegates. We are deprived of the great Soviet experience from every point of view, and particularly from the health point of view. You have all asked yourselves how that is possible. What has been the procedure that has brought the USSR under the obligation of leaving the

World Health Organization?

In a very short but clear letter, sent by Dr. Vinogradov, we find similar critical remarks on the general and financial policy of the direction of the Organization. We have the duty of examining this question seriously. If we continue on the same path, many other countries will question the usefulness of remaining in the Organization. Without the participation of the Soviet Union and perhaps of other countries, our Organization, conceived in a spirit of understanding and international co-operation, will not be a World Health Organization but, say, a health organization of the Atlantic Pact.

I should not end this speech without underlining that WHO has done some very good things and in a unilateral way.

When the Organization changes its policy in the sense of the common interest, we are sure that it will contribute largely to raising the health of the peoples to the highest possible level.

To conclude, may I insist again on the point which is so intimately linked with the activities of our Organization and which is the basis of all the hesitant and erroneous policies of the direction of the World Health Organization.

Since our departure from Geneva last year, we have witnessed a continuous menace of war. Certain newspapers in the countries of the Marshall Plan have created an atmosphere of insecurity and disquiet. These newspapers and certain political and military personalities, said that we were very near a third world war. This has created in those countries a war psychosis which is not profitable for better mental health. Fortunately the possibilities of these people are much less than their desires. They have probably taken their desires for realities. They have not taken into consideration the immense hope of the large popular masses of the entire world who want to work in peace and work for their happiness. The expression of the will of the people to impose peace was expressed in the magnificent Peace Congresses which have taken place in Paris and in Prague. Perhaps some of you will think that this is not a purely medical question.

I have already said that every subject is linked and interlocked. When we discuss the measures for the eradication of tuberculosis, venereal disease, and malaria and for the health of children and mothers, not only do we do a beneficial act but we take an active part in the social life of society.

Shall we close our eyes while over our heads gather the clouds that threaten a terrible conflict and which would annihilate all our efforts and our initiative and plunge suffering humanity again into fire and blood? We cannot close our eyes; to demand peace is to give the peoples the possibility of raising their moral and physical health to the highest possible level, as it is written in the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

Professor CANAPERIA (Italy) (Interpretation from the French):

The Italian delegation has read with the greatest interest the Annual Report of the Director-General of WHO and cannot but congratulate him on the importance of the work that has been accomplished in such a brief time and in so vast a domain. This remarkable work, however, has not surprised us, as we know the value of those who presided over the destinies of our Organization. We knew the broad outlines of this work, but we were ignorant of important details, which we were happy to see today in a final report. It would have been perhaps more profitable to us to follow this work in its progressive development and we would have been happy if we could have contributed our experience in the administration of public health and in the fight against certain infectious diseases in the same spirit - as the delegate of Great Britain has reminded us here - as that which filled the work of our former Director of Health, Dr. Lutrario and his successors in the Office International d'Hygiène Publique created here in Rome 48 years ago.

Italy wishes to co-operate actively with the World Health Organization, but to give such a contribution it is necessary to increase the interchange of opinion, of data and of advice between the different administrations. We should like WHO to be a little closer to its Member States, we should like the contacts to be more frequent, more active, to avoid the false impression that we may have sometimes that the Organization is a little too far away from us and to remember that in reality, WHO is constituted by ourselves, by the different States which are its Members - that is to say, by the various health administrations that are a part of it. It is probable that this lack of liaison between different States and WHO is due to the fact that the Organization has a tendency to accentuate too much its centralization. We have found

ourselves in agreement on the idea that to fulfil efficiently our programme one must continue with regional organization; it is only in following this road that we shall be able to enlighten our Organization and make our work more profitable and useful for all the people; we hope therefore that the regional bureaux will soon be created, that their tasks and their connexion with the Central Office will be defined and that they will have means and the resources necessary to carry into practical execution the programmes approved by the Assembly.

In any case the Italian delegation hopes that the increase of liaison between WHO and the Member nations will be effected by closer cultural exchanges between health administrations, so that they may rapidly learn of new scientific and social achievements.

In order that this may be done it is necessary for the greatest possible number of nations to participate in the committees, sub-committees and expert committees, each nation having the responsibility and honour of designating and bringing to the attention of WHO the specialists whom it is prepared to place at the disposal of the world community.

There is no doubt whatever that the sending of experts, as contemplated in the different fields of activity, may be of the greatest help within the framework of the cultural exchanges to which we look forward. But we must not forget, as the delegate of Yugoslavia justly noted, that it often happens that experts sent to a nation must begin by acquainting themselves with the social and economic conditions that influence the evolution of health problems, and that they must be thoroughly cognizant of what has been achieved or is being achieved by that nation before they can give effective collaboration.

We think that this problem could find its best solution within the framework of the regional bureaux, in view of the better knowledge which would be gained of the different problems and of the needs of the territories comprising them.

In congratulating the eminent Director-General of the Organization on the work so perspicaciously accomplished and in a high scientific spirit we hope that WHO will continue with benefit along the path upon which it has embarked, facilitating the task of each of the national health administrations and maintaining constant living contact with them.

The PRESIDENT: We will adjourn the meeting till the afternoon at 3.30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.