

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

A3/VR/2
9 May 1950

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Tuesday, 9 May 1950, at 10 a.m.

Provisional Verbatim Record

ACTING PRESIDENT: Dr. Karl EVANG (Norway)
later

PRESIDENT: Rajkumari AMRIT KAUR (India)

CONTENTS

1. First Report of the Committee on Credentials
2. First Report of the Committee on Nominations
3. Election of the President of the Assembly
4. Election of the three Vice-Presidents
5. Election of officers of the main committees
6. Establishment of the General Committee
7. Adoption of the agenda
8. Presidential address
9. Announcements by the President

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.519, within 48 hours of distribution. Unless the issue of immediate corrigenda is expressly requested, minor corrections will simply be noted for the final records.

I. FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

The ACTING PRESIDENT: The first item on the agenda is the report of the Committee on Credentials. May I call upon the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials?

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee on Credentials: Mr. Chairman, the Committee on Credentials held two meetings yesterday, one meeting before lunch to appoint the officers of the committee, and to establish the procedure, and one meeting after lunch to do the work. The results of our work have been laid down in our report, document A3/70, and, Mr. Chairman, you may ask the rapporteur of the committee, the delegate of the Dominican Republic, to introduce the report.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: May I call on the Rapporteur of the Committee on Credentials, Dr. Thomen?

Dr. THOMEN (Dominican Republic): Mr. Chairman, the Committee on Credentials met on May 8, 1950. Representatives of the following Members were present: Austria, Belgium, Burma, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal and the Republic of Korea.

Dr. C. van den Berg, chief delegate of the Netherlands was elected Chairman, Dr. A.A. de Carvalho Dias (Portugal) Vice-Chairman, and Dr. L.F. Thomen (Dominican Republic), Rapporteur.

The Committee examined the credentials deposited by the delegations taking part in the Assembly. The credentials presented by the delegations listed below were found to be in order, thus entitling these delegations to take part in the work of the Assembly, as defined by the Constitution of the World Health Organization. The committee therefore proposes that the Assembly should recognize the validity

of the credentials presented by the following delegations: Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, India, Iran, Irak, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Salvador, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia.

The notifications received from Australia, Belgium and Ecuador, giving the composition of their delegations, state that their credentials are being forwarded, and therefore the committee recommends to the Assembly that these delegations be recognized with full rights in the Assembly pending the arrival of their credentials.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Are there any observations? Is the Assembly prepared to approve the first report of the Committee on Credentials?

The report has been approved.

2. FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The ACTING PRESIDENT: The next item on the agenda is the report of the Committee on Nominations. I call on the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, the Honourable Mr. Bandaranaike.

Mr. BANDARANAIKE (Ceylon), Chairman of the Committee on Nominations:

Mr. President, fellow-delegates, as the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations I have to inform you that we were able to accomplish in a great spirit of friendliness and cordiality the very responsible task which you entrusted to us. Indeed, I was rather afraid that I might have to wait until midnight with delegates all locked up in the room before we decided the rather difficult question of these various officers, but fortunately in a short space of time, in the most friendly way, we were able to dispose of the very responsible duties which you had entrusted to us.

I might say that in making these proposals to you we had in mind the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. The proposals are unanimous, and the fact that fitness as well as geographical distribution are qualities required under the Rules of Procedure has been observed by us. I will now request the Rapporteur, Dr. Carlos Luis Gonzalez, kindly to read the report of the Committee on Nominations.

Dr. GONZALEZ (Venezuela): Mr. President, the Committee on Nominations, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bandaranaike, met yesterday, 8 May.

The committee was composed of the representatives of the following Members: Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, France, India, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The committee presents the following nominations for appropriate consideration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure provisionally amended at the first plenary session of this Third World Health Assembly.

President of the Third World Health Assembly: the Hon. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Chief Delegate of India.

Vice-Presidents: Dr. H.P. Froes (Brazil), Professor G. A. Canaperia (Italy), Colonel Jafar (Pakistan).

Committee on Programme: Chairman, Dr. Højer (Sweden); Vice-Chairman, Dr. Allwood-Paredes (El Salvador); Rapporteur, Dr. Karabuda (Turkey).

Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters: Chairman, Dr. Holm (Denmark); Vice-Chairman, Dr. Togba (Liberia); Rapporteur, Mr. Taljaard (Union of South Africa).

The following nine delegates were nominated as Members of the General Committee in accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure: Dr. Aracting (Syria), Mr. Bandaranaike (Ceylon), Dr. Dowling (Australia), Dr. Evang (Norway), Dr. Luis Gonzalez (Venezuela), Dr. Mackenzie (United Kingdom), Professor Parisot (France), Dr. Scheele (United States of America), and Dr. Stampar (Yugoslavia).

I submit this report for your consideration.

3. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

The ACTING PRESIDENT: We will then proceed to the election of President of the Assembly. The first report of the Committee on Nominations is before you and you will all have noticed that Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Chief delegate of India, has unanimously been nominated as President of the Third World Health Assembly. Are there any other suggestions?

Is there any opposition?

In the absence of any other suggestions and in the absence of opposition, I have great pleasure in declaring that Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, chief delegate of India, has unanimously been elected President of the Third World Health Assembly.

The announcement was received with acclamation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to invite the President to take the chair.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (India) took the chair.

4. ELECTION OF THE THREE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The PRESIDENT: We proceed now with the election of the three vice-presidents. Three names unanimously recommended to you by the Committee on Nominations have already been read out. They are: Dr. Froes of Brazil, Professor Canaperia of Italy and Colonel Jafar of Pakistan.

Are there any other suggestions?

Then I think we may declare that these three persons have been unanimously elected.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES

Committee on Programme

The PRESIDENT: Now we come to the Chairman of the Committee on Programme. One name that has been put up is that of Dr. Axel Höjer of Sweden. Are there any other suggestions? I take it then that he is unanimously elected.

And now the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Programme, Dr. Allwood-Paredes of El Salvador. I take it that he is unanimously elected also.

Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters

The PRESIDENT: As Chairman of the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters, Dr. Holm of Denmark has been nominated. As there are no other suggestions, he is unanimously elected.

As Vice-Chairman of this committee, Dr. Togba of Liberia has been proposed. In the absence of any other names Dr. Togba is unanimously elected.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT: And then there are nine delegates nominated as members of the General Committee: Dr. Aracting of Syria, Mr. Bandaranaike of Ceylon, Dr. Dowling of Australia, Dr. Evang of Norway, Dr. Gonzalez of Venezuela, Dr. Mackenzie of the United Kingdom, Professor Parisot of France, Dr. Scheele of the United States of America and Professor Stanpar of Yugoslavia.

Are there any more names that anybody has to suggest?

Well then, the nine persons whose names I have read out have been unanimously elected to the General Committee.

7. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The PRESIDENT: Now we go on to item 7 of the agenda and that is the adoption of the agenda. According to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure, any items for the supplementary agenda may be proposed by any of the delegates up to 10 a.m. on Saturday, 13 May. Are there any objections to the adoption of the agenda?

Dr. van den BERG (Netherlands): If I am not mistaken, we are adopting all the agendas, that is, also those of the committees, including that of the Committee on Programme. If this is indeed the case, I should like to propose an unimportant change. You may remember that two years ago we had a special committee for regional problems, and last year, in the Second World Health Assembly, we had a committee for constitutional problems, including the regional problems. Now this year, the regional problems are included in the agenda for the Committee on Programme. I recognize that, on the one hand, there are technical problems among the regional problems, but on the other hand various constitutional, administrative, financial and legal problems are connected with the regional problems, I should therefore like to propose the transfer of the regional problems to the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters and, at the same time, if I am permitted to do so, I should like to change the name of the Committee of Administration, Finance and Legal Matters to Committee on Administration, Finance and Constitutional Matters.

The PRESIDENT: As this was a recommendation of the Executive Board and as the Board is represented here, I will ask its Chairman to come and explain to the Assembly the *raison d'être* for this recommendation.

Sir Arcot MUDALIAR, Chairman of the Executive Board: This subject was carefully gone into at the meeting of the Executive Board, at which the chief delegate of the Netherlands was also present. It was not suggested that matters pertaining to regional organizations affecting administration, finance or legal matters would not come before that committee at a later stage, but the bulk of the work of the regional organizations being in connexion with the programme and the method in which the programme was implemented in the regions concerned, the Board felt that it would more logically come first under the consideration of the Committee on Programme. As far as the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters was concerned, the Board was convinced, in the light of the experience of the previous session, that it would not be desirable to set up three separate committees, as not infrequently the delegations found it very difficult to attend the meetings of these three committees, and a great deal of pressure and influence was necessary to get the required quorum for the consideration of these subjects in the committee. The object in setting up the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters was that the delegations, even small delegations, would be in a position to attend both committees when held simultaneously, and at the same time such constitutional matters as had to be considered could be considered by a small committee established by the Committee of Administration, Finance and Legal Matters, and then come up before the full

committee for further consideration. I feel, therefore, that the object that the chief delegate of the Netherlands has in view would be fulfilled completely in the manner in which the Executive Board has submitted its recommendation, namely, by the constitution of these two committees and the working manner in which they would proceed with the consideration of the items placed before them.

The PRESIDENT: The position has been explained to you by the Chairman of the Executive Board. I should like to say that there will be a working party to which all legal matters that come before the Committee on Programme will be referred. In view then of what has been said, does Dr van den Berg wish to put his proposition to the Assembly?

Dr van den BERG: I must apologize for not having been very clear in my first speech. I did not at all propose the establishment of a third committee. The only thing I proposed was to have the name of this committee changed to Committee on Administration, Finance and Constitutional Matters, not to establish a special legal committee. That is the first misunderstanding. The second misunderstanding is a matter of principle - that there was not a chief delegate of the Netherlands present at the Executive Board. If the man who is at the present time chief delegate of the Netherlands was present at the Executive Board, he was only present there in a personal capacity as alternate to Professor de Laët, who is member in his personal capacity.

But to return to my proposal, it is only to have the name changed, and in the second place, as I said before, I fully recognize that parts of the regional problems are of a technical character, but as has been recognized also by the
Chairman

of the Executive Board, another part - and it is very difficult to decide what is the most important part - is of an administrative, constitutional, legal, financial etc. character; and therefore I should like to propose to transfer the regional problems, as far as they are not of a technical character, to the other committee.

The PRESIDENT: It seems to me that it would be a very impracticable suggestion to expect the Assembly to sort out which are technical and which are constitutional or legal problems. The Committee on Programme will not go into those matters; it will refer them to the working party that will be appointed by the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters. Further, as far as the change of names is concerned, I imagine that "legal" embraces "constitutional" and that if you change the word "legal" into "constitutional" you will be narrowing the issues. Everything that is constitutional is legal, and I therefore feel that the proposition as it is should remain. However, if Dr. van den Berg still insists on a vote being taken by the Assembly I will put his proposition to the vote. Does he wish me to do so?

Dr. van den BERG: After having made my proposition fully clear, I would like to withdraw it.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other proposals?

Well then, I take it that the agenda is adopted.

8. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT: I rise to address this distinguished gathering with very great diffidence. You, my friends and colleagues, have done me a very

signal honour for which it is difficult for me to express in mere words my gratitude. I take it as an honour not to me personally so much, if indeed at all, as to the ancient land of which I have the privilege of being a citizen and as a recognition by you of India's great interest in and love for the ideals for which the World Health Organization stands, and for the carrying out of which I and the delegations I have been privileged to lead for three consecutive years have worked with heart and soul.

I would like to thank Dr. Evang for the charming way in which he introduced me, and you, my colleagues and fellow delegates, for the very warm way in which you have welcomed me. I have begun by saying that I feel diffident. I feel very humble too. I am a layman, and I succeed two distinguished doctors who have a fine background of work in the field of health and all their scientific knowledge and ability. Both Dr. Stampar and Dr. Evang have contributed greatly to the wellbeing and progress of WHO, and I know how difficult it will be for me to fill the presidential chair as efficiently as they have done. All I can say is that I shall try, God willing, to serve this great organization with all the loyalty and devotion at my command. As a social servant of many years in a country where poverty and disease stalk the land, I have worked in hospitals, dispensaries and in the poorest homes in both town and hamlet, and for the last two-and-three-quarter years I have been privileged to work as India's first servant in the sphere of health. My woman's heart has been greatly saddened by all the misery caused to millions by hunger, exposure, overcrowding, lack of milk, lack of a pure water supply, inadequate sanitation and all the causes that breed and spread disease. That we can at the moment do very little to

alleviate suffering either by hospitalization or by the prevention of sickness is something that gnaws at me. I know that such conditions are not confined to my country alone. All the countries of the Middle East, of the South-East Asia Zone, the Far East and the vast Continent of Africa cry out for alleviation of their distress, and I may not forget the war-devastated areas of Europe and China and Japan, where too hunger and nakedness, the forerunners of disease, obtain. Hence it is that I have loved WHO because I have felt that if all the nations of the earth hang together and work with a will nothing but success can crown our joint endeavours, for our cause is righteous and it shall prevail.

It augurs well for the third session of the World Health Assembly that we began our work yesterday by an inspiring address from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. No one but will agree with every word that fell from his lips, and I am sure that each one of us will offer a prayer from the depths of our hearts that the great mission on which he is setting out will meet with the success it merits. He and our late President have both rightly said that the strained relations that exist between the Eastern and Western democracies have a deleterious effect on the world of humanitarian endeavour of the specialized agencies of the United Nations to which the latter have pledged their allegiance. This veil of fear must be lifted so that the clouds of dark despair may give place to sunny skies of joy and hope. We live in a beautiful world. Nature has given of her bounty in varied forms in different climes.

It is only man's deviation from the right path that is the cause of all our woe and misery. But though we live in different countries, speak different languages and belong to different races, the language of the heart is one and human nature is the same the world over. That kinship must be made to rise above all the barriers that today divide us one from the other. There is room in the world for all of us. All seek the same end - the happiness of mankind - and there can be no happiness, no progress, whether economic, social, moral or spiritual, if the health of the peoples continues at a low level. On those, therefore, who have been called to the noblest of all professions, the art of healing, lies a special responsibility. They are in charge not only of physical but also of mental health, and I am quite sure in my own mind that if confidence is to replace fear it can only be done through love and service. What greater agency for service can there be than this organization to which we all have the honour to belong? I am therefore equally sure that those who have deserted us will return to us one day. It is ours to make of WHO such a resounding success that none will be able to resist its attraction. I believe that we have laid the foundations for promoting our great work on sound lines. Although the period which has elapsed since the World Health Organization came into being is very short, you will agree with me, after hearing yesterday the Director-General's report, that we have reason to feel gratified that the growth of its activities has been steady and many-sided and, above all, particularly helpful to under-developed countries.

Speaking for India, I would like once again to express our gratitude for the valuable help and guidance we have received and will, I have no doubt, continue to receive from both the World Health Organization and UNICEF. The

annihilation of time and distance within the past few decades have contributed to make, to an increasing extent, the health of all countries an indivisible whole. The days are gone when physical barriers could isolate nations and keep apart countries which are overrun by recurring outbreaks of epidemics from those which enjoy freedom from such diseases. Even in the days of comparative isolation there were times when pandemics of cholera, of plague and of influenza overflowed their natural boundaries and spread with devastating effect over many continents. The danger of such spread is all the greater today, and even from the standpoint of self-preservation it has become imperative to provide international co-operation in the field of health to the greatest possible extent. But apart from all ideas of self-protection, it is gratifying to note that there is a growing recognition of the homogeneity of the human race in relation to its needs and aspirations, and of the importance of the wealthier and better-organized nations promoting an active effort to improve the health and standards of life of their less-favoured brother nations. In this connexion, we must pay tribute to the wisdom and farsightedness of the President of the United States of America and of the people of that great country in undertaking the task of assisting actively, through technical help and guidance and with the supply of equipment and other material aid, under-developed countries in their efforts to secure and maintain better living conditions for their people. I have no doubt that the World Health Organization, as a special agency under the United Nations for promoting health activities on the international plane, will continue to receive from the United States the support it deserves in order to expand its work into

the many desirable channels which would remain closed in the absence of such help. It is obvious that the small budget of a few million dollars which the Organization is able to secure from its Member States is altogether insufficient to enable it to plan and carry out a bold and dynamic programme of action intended to fulfil its objectives. And bold and dynamic we must be if we are to live. While I have no doubt that all who are assembled here, as well as the people of the countries they represent, are grateful to the United States of America for the large measure of help that has been forthcoming from them, there can be little doubt that permanent relief must eventually come from the organization of joint effort by all nations, big and small, rich and poor, for the improvement of the financial status of WHO. It is for consideration whether World Health Day, focussing as it does the attention of the people in every country on the problems of personal and communal health, cannot be utilized for a concerted annual effort by all the Member States to raise funds for their own health programmes, an agreed proportion of the collections to be made available by each country to WHO to supplement its income. The first World Health Day was celebrated in different countries a month ago, and although the question of securing funds was not raised, some idea of the enthusiasm with which the celebration of the day was carried out in different countries should be available and would probably give an indication of the response likely to be forthcoming if a call for financial support were made.

I would also like to put forward another suggestion for the consideration of the Assembly, namely, the issuing of a special world health stamp or stamps which all the Member States could recommend to their governments to allow for, say a period of three months for purchase at a small surcharge on a purely voluntary basis. I believe many countries raise considerable sums in this manner for their own health programmes. What proportion of the monies raised should be given to WHO could easily be settled, and I have no doubt that concerted world effort of this nature might not only bring in a substantial sum of money, but would also create universal interest in our organization.

Coincident with such and other efforts to raise money, we must remain ever vigilant in the utilization of our funds to the best advantage. The largest possible share of the total money that is available should be devoted to the development of schemes to improve the health of the people. In regard to such schemes in respect of individual countries expenditure on foreign personnel, who are generally paid high rates of remuneration, should be kept to the minimum compatible with efficiency, and as much money as possible should be spent on the training of local staff, as also on equipment and medical supplies, so as to enable local health administrations to extend services to the people, under the guidance and supervision of the foreign experts deputed by the World Health Organization.

I am in full agreement with the idea of decentralization of the functions of the World Health Organization which has been accepted as our guiding principle. The headquarters of the regions should shoulder increasing responsibility for initiating, developing and controlling health programmes in their areas, the central Organization at Geneva confining itself largely to the planning of the overall picture

and to the task of co-ordination and guidance. I would urge that, with those as the basic principles, proposals for expansion of the secretariats and of the technical staff at Geneva and at the headquarters of the regions should be scrutinised with great care in order to ensure that unnecessary expenditure is avoided. More than half the people of the world live in areas where modern health services with reasonable standards of efficiency are non-existent and the work of the World Health Organization will make its impress on the world health problem only by promoting, through all possible means, the provision of adequate health protection to these peoples.

Just as in any national reconstruction programme, the part that the health administration should play is to dovetail its activities with those of other departments of the government, such as education, agriculture, housing, communications, cottage industries etc , so that a many sided attack on the life of the community can be attempted in order to raise the economic status of the people and their standard of life and to create the spirit of self-help and self-reliance which are fundamental for ensuring lasting results, so also should the activities of all the specialized agencies of the United Nations be so dovetailed as to ensure the full benefits of co-operative endeavour. In addition therefore to the provision of adequate health services, environmental hygiene, including proper housing, and health education should form an important part of the programme.

Such a plan of integrated effort, when developed in a selected community, should place before it the need for evolving administrative and technical procedures best suited to local conditions and the traditions of the people, as far as circumstances may permit.

I would submit for consideration that the health demonstration schemes envisaged by the World Health Organization should be broadened on the lines I have indicated and that, as progress in health matters depends largely on changing the habits and outlook of the people wherever such a change is necessary in order to promote the harmonious development of community life, the programme should be carried on over a sufficiently long period to permit of the attainment of the desired results. A scheme such as this, if worked in a selected community with care and devotion to detail, particularly in the rural areas of an under-developed country, will have the most powerful influence in the promotion of national welfare. The lessons to be learned from such a study, both on the administrative and on the financial side, will be of enormous value. Further, the demonstration of a successful evolution of community life, in a manner affecting beneficially its many facets and with a purposeful effort to develop self-help and self-reliance, is bound to produce an irresistible demand for an extension of such work throughout the country.

Special emphasis needs to be laid on co-ordinating the health activities of UNICEF and WHO. This has been accomplished to some extent by the establishment of a Joint Committee on Health Policy but I feel that further exploration of how best to achieve the maximum result through the fullest co-operation is necessary, so that overlapping of effort in specific fields of health activity between the two organizations may be avoided at all stages. In any event I am of the opinion that the position of the World Health Organization, as the specific international organization under the United Nations for all health measures, should be strengthened and maintained.

Likewise the technical competence of the World Health Organization to deal with maternal and child health problems, as with similar problems in respect of the remaining sections of the community, must receive due recognition. It must be remembered that a campaign for dealing with the health hazards of mothers and children cannot in many cases be isolated from similar work for the remaining members in a community. For instance, a venereal-diseases campaign for mothers and children will be bereft of much of its value if fathers and other members of the family are not also dealt with at the same time. Similarly antimalaria measures directed against mosquitoes or against their larvae will benefit the whole population. A rigid isolation of effort between the two groups (mothers and children on the one hand and the rest of the community on the other) seems therefore neither practicable nor desirable.

Taking a long-term view of the situation, I imagine that it would be well worth considering whether a substantial portion of UNICEF funds, which are earmarked specifically for the purpose of serving health needs of mothers and children, should not, in close co-operation with, and with the technical guidance of, the World Health Organization, be spent on providing the basic health services for children and mothers as, for example, the provision of health centres and hospitals for infants and older children, of school health services, of institutional and domiciliary midwifery and, above all, of facilities for health education in the homes of the people. On a foundation of such provision can be engrafted the specialized services of the World Health Organization, such as those dealing with venereal diseases, tuberculosis, leprosy etc., and these specialized agencies should, even in the interests of children and mothers, extend their scope of activity to the remaining sections of the population. In this endeavour it is desirable that UNICEF should aid WHO financially.

An important subject which is coming up for your consideration is an amendment to the Constitution whereby the representations of individual countries on the Executive Board will lose their international character and function as representatives of their own governments. While I do not propose to anticipate the decision of the Assembly on this important question, I think it is only right and proper to point out that such a change might promote an altered outlook of the Board, from a purely scientific and technical appraisal of the medical questions coming up before it to an assessment which may be influenced to varying extents by national considerations. Some of the less influential countries might even fail to secure admission to the Board at any time and it may well be that the proposed change in the Constitution may, by this altered outlook, affect adversely such countries. I would urge that the amendment should receive the most serious consideration from the Assembly in all its aspects.

It is gratifying to note that the building programme has been finalized and we shall this very morning be witnessing the laying of the foundation-stone of our Headquarters by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Trygve Lie. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Swiss Government for their very generous gift of three million francs towards the construction of this building. Our thanks are also due to the United Nations and Mr. Trygve Lie himself for all their help, guidance and co-operation in bringing this endeavour into fruition. Nor must I forget to mention in this connexion the special part played by the Director-General. In this, as in other directions, the Director-General has proved himself to be fully worthy of the confidence reposed in him by the Assembly. He and his staff deserve our gratitude.

May I in conclusion thank you all once again for the high honour you have been pleased to confer on me. I cannot hope to shoulder the responsibility without the help and co-operation of each one of you. I trust - indeed I know - I may count on it. I am an optimist. No good cause ever suffers from lack of funds. It invariably succeeds if its servants prove themselves worthy. I pray God we may prove loyal servants of the World Health Organization and make it a powerful instrument for service, and through that service make a vital contribution to the cause of world peace which we all have at heart.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: I have one or two announcements to make.

All delegates, alternates, advisers and observers are urgently requested to fill out the green and beige forms, please, which have been distributed to them in the Assembly Hall and to leave them on their desks, where they will be collected by the Secretariat.'

Then I would like to remind delegates of Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly. It reads as follows: "At the commencement of each regular session of the Health Assembly the President shall request Members desirous of putting forward suggestions regarding the annual election of those Members to be entitled to designate a person to serve on the Board to place their suggestions before the General Committee. Such suggestions shall reach the Chairman of the General Committee not later than forty-eight hours after the President has made the announcement in accordance with this rule."

I would also like to remind delegates that a mechanical record is made of all speeches from the rostrum, so that, in order to identify the speakers, it is necessary for them to give their names and countries when they start to speak.

We will now adjourn until 3 o'clock.

The laying of the cornerstone will take place in the courtyard of the Palais at 12.15. Will all delegates please be there just before that time.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.