

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

CORRIGENDUM

Page 20, first paragraph

Delete first paragraph (reading "he proposed that.....") and replace by:

he suggested that the term of office of a new Member should begin on the first day after the closing of the Health Assembly at which the Member concerned was elected.



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CORRIGENDUM

Page 21, last paragraph

Delete last sentence reading "He wished . . . Government" and replace by:

He wished to say however that when any specific case arose involving the application of the principles of the convention, such a case, as in the past, would be considered sympathetically by his Government.





COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis
Thursday, 5 June 1958, at 9.30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr J. F. Goossens (Belgium)

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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should reach the Chief, Records Service, World Health Organization, Room 312, Curtis Hotel, within 48 hours of their distribution or as soon as possible thereafter.

1. SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR 1959: Item 7.13 of the Agenda (Documents All/AFL/9, and All/AFL/9 Corr.1 and All/12) (continued)

Correction of an Error in Documents All/AFL/9 and All/12

Mr SIEGEL (Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance), Secretary, drew attention to the fact that as a result of an error of reproduction in Annex 3 to document All/AFL/9, which was repeated in document All/12, the assessment of Korea had been shown as 16 units instead of 0.04 per cent., as had been provided in resolution WHA9.15. The Director-General had suggested that the Committee should reopen the discussion on that item in accordance with the provisions of Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, with a view to recommending to the Assembly that it should also reopen the discussion on the item under the provisions of the same rule in order to correct this error. As it was merely a clerical error, however, he thought that it would perhaps not be necessary to reopen the discussion under the provisions of Rule 65.

Mr BOTHA (Union of South Africa) did not think that the Committee should always confine itself to following the exact letter of the law, but a rule did exist which said that a proposal could not be changed unless discussion of the matter was reopened, and he felt it should be complied with. He was sure that there would not be a debate on the matter, and the fact that the Committee would have gone through the proper procedure would leave it with a clear conscience.

The SECRETARY said he had consulted the legal adviser and had been assured that it would not be necessary to reopen the discussion in order to correct a clerical error. If there were any doubts about the matter, however, he agreed that Rule 65 should be followed. He also suggested consideration at a future Assembly of whether the rule should be amended to make for a simpler procedure in such cases.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) said that in principle he had no objection to the course suggested by the Secretary. He shared the views of the South African delegate, however, that it might establish a precedent which could have a bad effect as regards more important decisions. He saw no reason why Rule 65 should not be applied.

Professor HURTADO (Cuba) said he was in favour of giving satisfaction to those delegates who wanted the strict application of the Rules of Procedure, on the understanding that the Committee would limit itself to making the necessary amendment.

Dr PYUNG HAK LEE (Korea) was sorry that the matter had been raised at such a late date but hoped that the Committee would see fit to correct the error.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the motion to reopen the discussion on the scale of assessment for 1959.

Decision: The motion was carried by 52 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Dr REGALA (Philippines) proposed that the necessary correction should be made in documents All/AFL/9 and All/12 so that the assessment of Korea would read 0.04 per cent. instead of 16 units.

Professor HURTADO (Cuba) and Dr CHING WU (China) seconded the proposal.

Decision: The proposal was adopted unanimously.

2. THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET:
(Document All/AFL/27)

Dr MELLBYE (Norway), Rapporteur, read the draft third report of the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters to the Committee on Programme and Budget.

Decision: The report was adopted unanimously.

3. ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINING THE PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS: Item 7.5 of the Agenda
(Document All/AFL/28) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document All/AFL/28.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved unanimously.

4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION WHA7.33: Item 7.8 of the Agenda
(Official Records No. 83, Resolution EB21.R10 and Annex 5)

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that his report on the item under consideration appeared on page 40 of Official Records No. 83. The question was fully dealt with in this report to the Executive Board and he had only to add that, after the report had been prepared, he had had an opportunity to visit some of the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in the company of the Regional Director. He had discussed resolution WHA7.33 with the governments of the countries he had visited and hoped that it might be possible to ensure the implementation of the resolution in the near future. In any event, the Secretariat would continue with its efforts in this regard in accordance with the wishes which had been expressed by the Health Assembly.

Mr BRADY (Ireland) said he had listened to the Director-General's remarks with great interest. The matter dealt with in resolution WHA7.33 had been a matter of concern for WHO for a number of years. It was desirable that in the World Health Organization everything possible should be done, irrespective of the existence of outside factors, to ensure that the important services it offered should be made available on an appropriate basis to the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Regions. For that reason special arrangements had been made and, while the object of resolution WHA7.33 had not been completely fulfilled, he thought it would be desirable if the Assembly remained optimistic in its approach to the problem and continued to hope that with the passage of time some further improvement in conditions in the area would ensue.

The Organization had been fortunate in that, at previous Assemblies, the question had been dealt with on an uncontroversial basis. In fact, two years previously, he had been lucky enough to get the co-operation of the countries in the Region in putting forward a proposal, and that proposal had been accepted by a majority in the Committee and in the Health Assembly. For that reason he again had the temerity to try to repeat the earlier successful attempt. In an effort to further the harmonious work of the Organization he introduced the following resolution:

The Eleventh World Health Assembly

1. NOTES, with regret, from the report of the Director-General that the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Organization is not yet functioning normally and that resolution WHA7.33 has not completely fulfilled the purposes for which it was adopted;
2. COMMENDS the Director-General and the Regional Director for their efforts to give full effect to the above-mentioned resolution and requests all concerned to continue their efforts to solve the difficulties; and
3. REQUESTS the Director-General in the event of any new developments in this matter to submit a report to a future Assembly.

Mr SAITA (Japan) said that this item had always been a matter of concern to his Government, and in a small way the Japanese delegation had tried to bring about an improvement in the situation and to help towards the implementation of resolution WHA7.33. It was much to be regretted that that resolution had not been implemented and, in that connexion, the statement from the Director-General was very welcome. The delegate of Ireland had shown his usual helpfulness and he warmly supported the proposal which he had put forward. It was to be hoped that the Director-General would be able to report an improvement in the situation in the not too distant future.

Mr ALLENDE (Chile) supported the proposal of the Irish delegate, which would help to make for harmony in an important part of the world.

Dr AMOUZEGAR (Iran) said that the previous year, in a spirit of co-operation, his Government had stated explicitly that it would participate in the work of both Sub-Committee A and Sub-Committee B of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. A representative had been sent all the way to Geneva for the meeting of Sub-Committee B, which had been cancelled. He hoped that in the future those governments which supported the idea of having two sub-committees would show a greater spirit of co-operation.

Mr JEFFREY (New Zealand) said his delegation shared the concern which had been expressed by the Irish delegate over the situation which had existed in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for such a long time and supported the proposal which he had put forward.

He had been encouraged by the hopeful remarks made by the Director-General, as a result of his visit to the Region, to think that resolution WHA7.33 might after all be implemented.

Mr VANNUGLI (Italy) supported the proposal put forward by the Irish delegate and associated himself with his remarks and the remarks made by the other previous speakers.

Professor SIGURJONSSON (Iceland) said he had introduced a resolution on this item at the previous Health Assembly. He supported the proposal put forward by the Irish delegate and hoped that it would prove, if not satisfactory, at least tolerable to all concerned.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution proposed by the delegate of Ireland.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved by 48 votes to none with 10 abstentions.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) said that he had abstained in the voting and wished to make a brief explanation of his reasons. First, however, he must state that he sincerely appreciated the efforts which had been made by the Irish delegate.

He believed that resolution WHA7.33 was the best decision the Health Assembly could take on the question; he did not believe that a better solution could be found as regards the activities of WHO. Paragraph 1 of the Irish draft resolution contained the words "the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Organization is not yet functioning normally" and it was because of that statement that he had been obliged to abstain. If the draft resolution had been confined to dealing with the non-implementation of resolution WHA7.33 he would have been able to support it.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD FOR 1956:
Item 7.24 (a) of the Agenda (Document All/AFL/7)

The CHAIRMAN read the draft resolution concerning the operation of the Joint Staff Pension Fund which appeared at the end of document All/AFL/7.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved unanimously.

6. ACCOMMODATION FOR THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC (PROGRESS REPORT): Item 7.9 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 83, Resolution EB21.R56 and Annex 19; Document All/AFL/16)

Mr JEFFREY (New Zealand) took pleasure in informing the Committee that his Government would contribute the equivalent of \$ 14 000, (5000 New Zealand pounds) towards the construction of the building in Manila which was to house the staff of the Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegate of New Zealand.

Dr CHING WU (China) said his Government had contributed \$ 50 000 towards the construction of the office building in Manila. That voluntary contribution had been made in a spirit of co-operation with a view to assisting in the work of the Western Pacific Region.

The SECRETARY said there was little that he could add to the information contained in document All/AFL/16 except to point out that the financial figures would now have to be altered as a result of the contributions which were going to be made by the Australian and New Zealand Governments. Under the authorization contained in resolution WHA10.28 an agreement had been concluded, on 26 November 1957, with the Government of the Philippines and the construction of the Regional Office building was now well under way. Because of the generous contributions from the countries listed in the document, together with Australia and New Zealand, it was not going to prove necessary to use the whole of the amount of money which had been authorized for the Building Fund. In that connexion, however, he would like to draw the Committee's attention to the next item on the agenda, which concerned the question of a building fund for Headquarters. By transferring any surplus monies from the Manila Building Fund to the proposed new fund it was hoped that it would be possible to take the initial step towards adding to the accommodation at Headquarters.

Mr JEFFREY (New Zealand) said that from the Secretary's statement it could be seen that \$ 489 000 had been donated to the Building Fund, or \$ 26 000 below the estimate of \$ 515 000 which the Director-General had cited in his 1957 report. From document All/AFL/16 it could be seen, however, that the estimated cost of the building had risen to \$ 540 000. The Building Fund would apparently still be adequate to complete the work, but he hoped that the latest figure would not be exceeded. He asked for information from the Secretariat as to the estimated date of completion of the building.

Dr REGALA (Philippines) expressed the gratitude of his Government for the understanding which had been shown by the Health Assembly and the Executive Board regarding the construction of the Regional Office building in Manila. In keeping with the Philippine Government's desire to honour its international commitments it had given its full contribution to the Building Fund. He hoped that the building would be finished in time for the September meeting of the Regional Committee.

The SECRETARY explained that the construction work was being done in two parts. There was a conference hall and a general office building. By September of the present year the conference facilities would be available and the rest would be completed by the end of the year. He could not guarantee that the estimated costs would remain at \$ 540 000 - the Committee would be well aware of the difficulties concerning construction costs - but every available precaution had been taken. A full report on the developments concerning the construction of the building would be submitted to the Executive Board in January of 1959.

Mr SAITA (Japan) expressed great satisfaction with the progress report on the subject of the construction of the Regional Office building in Manila. The countries of the Western Pacific Region were very much concerned in the matter. He was grateful that the host country had offered such a fine site and a generous contribution towards the cost of constructing an office building and that all the Member States in the Region were committed to making, or had already made, their voluntary contributions. He was grateful, also, that countries which were responsible for some of the non-self-governing countries in the Region had also contributed.

He would be interested to know if the Director-General had in mind the possible expansion of the personnel of the Regional Office in the foreseeable future. In that connexion, he pointed out that when the question of the location of the Regional Office had been brought up it had been estimated that the staff would number about 40. However, there were already around 70 employees and there would certainly be need for more office space. Because of earlier unfortunate experiences, the Committee was aware of what could happen, even in the near future. He wanted to be assured, therefore, that the plan for the office building took into consideration the expansion which would result from the activities under the Malaria Eradication Programme and other projects.

The SECRETARY explained that in planning the building an effort had been made to make provision for some expansion of staff. However, the people responsible had also tried to keep within the estimated cost of construction. Since the construction of the office building had been planned, WHO had undertaken the malaria eradication programme, which involved the need for increased staff. There was probably enough office space for three years, and after that he could not say.

Some thought had been given to the possibility of calling the Committee's attention to the fact that it would still be possible to add another floor to the building. He had asked for a calculation of the additional cost of making this addition and the figures received so far had been high enough to have deterred him from putting forward the suggestion at the present stage. Dr Fang, the Regional Director for the Western Pacific, thought that the estimates that had been received were higher than they need be and that perhaps there had been some confusion as regards the calculations. A request for a re-calculation of the costs had been sent to Manila. The Committee, therefore, might want to defer consideration of the matter until a more accurate estimate of the cost involved had been received.

Mr SAITA (Japan) said that he supported the suggestion which had been made by the Secretary. The members of the Committee needed more information before they would be able to come to a decision on the question. He therefore believed that further consideration of it should be deferred.

Mr PYMAN (Australia) said that the proposal for enlarging the building came as a surprise. He did not wish to limit consideration of what would be required in the future by the Regional Office for the Western Pacific, but the Committee would need a careful and meticulous statement of both personnel and financial requirements.

With regard to the last sentence of document All/AFL/16, in which it was said that "the Director-General finds it difficult, however, at this stage to forecast whether a larger or smaller amount than the remaining US\$ 15 000, according to present estimates, will be needed for reimbursement of the Working Capital Fund in 1959", he hoped that the Secretary might now be able to indicate the effect on that situation of the new contributions which had been pledged. It would also be interesting to know whether the possible extension to the Regional Office building would have any effect on it.

The SECRETARY said that he could assure the delegate of Australia and the Committee that the Secretariat would submit the fullest possible information on the estimated costs of, and justification for, the provision of additional space.

The Australian delegate was right in supposing that the financial situation was now different from what it had been when document All/AFL/16 had been drawn up. At that time the Director-General had not known of the additional pledged contributions from Australia (\$ 50 000) and New Zealand (\$ 14 000). Those pledged contributions altered the situation in that the 1959 estimates would no longer have to be used for construction, unless an extension to the Regional Office building were agreed to. The present estimated cost of construction amounted to \$ 540 000, and the contributions pledged to \$ 489 900, leaving some \$ 50 000 to be provided from the Working Capital Fund.

Dr CHING WU (China) said that he supported the suggestion of the delegate of Japan, and agreed with the opinion expressed by the Secretary that additional personnel and the extra floor were necessary for WHO's work in the Western Pacific, with special reference to malaria eradication and research work on the use of radioisotopes in medicine. He hoped that the Assembly would give the matter the importance which it deserved.

Dr PYUNG HAK LEE (Korea) said that his country, as a small contributor, greatly appreciated the generous contributions which had been made, especially by the Philippines.

Mr SAITA (Japan) said that when he had proposed that the course suggested by the Secretary should be followed, he had not been proposing an extension to the building. He had merely wished that the matter be investigated from all angles and that all possible information be made available to the Committee. Once that information had been made available, his delegation might wish to propose a resolution for the Committee's consideration.

Decision: It was agreed that further consideration of item 7.9 of the agenda should be deferred pending the provision of further information.

7. HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION: Supplementary agenda item (Document All/AFL/15)

The SECRETARY said that the Organization expected that more accommodation would be needed in the future at its headquarters, and the Director-General was bringing the matter to the Assembly's attention, so that the Assembly might, if it wished, take steps to establish a fund or make provisions for other funds.

Since WHO had made its plans for its headquarters in 1948 and 1949 there had been many changes in the work of the Organization, with the result that it now needed additional space in Geneva. It had already found it necessary to rent space outside the Palais des Nations, which was not only uneconomical but detracted from the Organization's efficiency.

The Director-General had taken the matter up with the United Nations in an attempt to find out whether alternative arrangements could be made, but in recent months it had become clear that additional space had to be rented. The whole matter had been discussed in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in May, and the Administrative Committee's comments were contained in the report which the Committee had considered at its previous meeting.

The Director-General was not yet in a position to describe exactly what would be needed. The situation would be studied further in collaboration with the United Nations' Secretariat and when a plan had been agreed on it would be submitted to the Executive Board and to the World Health Assembly. He wished to stress that the Director-General was not yet asking the Assembly for funds for a headquarters building but merely bringing to their attention that it would prove essential to have such a building.

Mr BOTHA (Union of South Africa) said that the Director-General had undoubtedly made out a case for additional space in document All/AFL/15, but delegates

had only received that document since arriving in Minneapolis, and thus had not had time to submit the Director-General's proposals to their governments for the necessary consideration.

He was thus unable to take up a definite position with regard to the proposals. Although the Secretary had said that there was no question of the Assembly authorizing a programme of construction or enlargement at the present stage, nevertheless delegates could not agree to set up a fund with such a purpose in mind without committing themselves.

In the discussion on the accommodation for the Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the Secretary had said that the financial requirements of the Regional Office were based on certain assumptions. The Assembly was faced with the possibility that extra accommodation might have to be provided there, which meant additional expenditure. Surely that must to some extent affect the Director-General's proposals with regard to the headquarters accommodation.

Mr LE POOLE (Netherlands) asked whether the Executive Board had discussed the question of headquarters accommodation.

Mr WARING (United States of America) said that his delegation shared the view of the South African delegate. Document All/AFL/15 had been presented to the Committee at a late stage, and many delegates had thus been unable to consult their governments. Nevertheless, he felt that it would be wise for the Director-General to proceed with consultations, make a report to the Executive Board and perhaps even present proposals for the 1960 budget.

He could not, however, agree with the proposal to set up a headquarters building fund, which seemed a premature step. There was no means of knowing whether money would be made available for such a fund, and it was also possible that funds for the building might be supplied from the regular budget or from

some other source. In any event, Member governments should be given more time to study the matter.

The SECRETARY said that the Director-General did not wish to press for the establishment of a headquarters building fund at the present stage: he had merely wished to inform the Assembly of the increasing need for additional space, and to indicate the procedure which the Assembly might follow if it wished. It would be quite sufficient for the Director-General's present purposes if the Committee merely took note of the Director-General's report.

With regard to the question which had been raised by the delegate of the Netherlands, the Executive Board had not yet discussed the question of headquarters accommodation, since at the last meeting of the Board the question had not reached a stage where it could have been submitted to the Board. Two years previously, however, a report had been submitted to the Board describing in general terms the growing need for additional space.

The South African delegate had asked whether there was any connexion between the needs of the Regional Office for the Western Pacific and headquarters accommodation. Such a connexion was in fact made clear in document All/AFL/15.

Mr WARING (United States of America) supported the suggestion made by the Secretary that the Committee should take note of the Director-General's report.

Mrs SHOHAM SHARON (Israel) said that she would like to ask the Assistant Director-General whether the statement in document All/AFL/15, that the premises occupied by the Headquarters Office would prove even more inadequate when the malaria eradication programme had been fully developed, was based on a long-term or a short-term assessment.

The SECRETARY said that it was difficult to predict what would be long-term or short-term, or to state the length of time for which the malaria eradication programme would be required. There had been additional developments adding to the Organization's staffing requirements, and the Committee would recall that the Executive Board had recommended that the Director-General should take steps to increase the technical services at Headquarters. The Committee would also recall the United States proposal with regard to research programmes. He assured the Committee that when definite plans had been worked out all possible information would be given to the Assembly.

Mr LE POOLE (Netherlands) asked whether the Secretariat knew if other organizations with headquarters in Geneva were facing the same problem as WHO.

The SECRETARY said that to his knowledge other organizations had faced the same problem in the past and continued to face it. A large part of the problem was connected with the space at the Palais des Nations, which was intended to be used for servicing conferences but which at present had to be used for the work of organizations with office space in the Palais.

Decision: It was agreed that the Committee should, on the basis of the explanations given by the Secretary, take note of the problem of headquarters accommodation as stated in document All/AFL/15, and that the Rapporteur should include the matter in his report.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY: Item 7.7 of the Agenda (Resolution EB21.R51; Documents All/AFL/3 and All/AFL25)

Mr BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) recalled that when the question of voting procedure on issues affecting the level of the World Health Organization budget, which was referred to in document All/AFL/3,

had been discussed at the previous Assembly, the Committee on Programme and Budget had taken part in the deliberations of the Committee on Administration, Finance and Legal Matters on that question. He proposed that that procedure should be followed at the present Assembly, and that the question of the joint meeting of the two committees should be brought before the General Committee at its meeting later the same morning.

Dr MELLBYE (Norway) supported the United Kingdom proposal.

Decision: The United Kingdom proposal was adopted.

Dr EL WAKIL (United Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Legal Sub-Committee, read the introduction and section 1 of the Sub-Committee's report (document All/AFL/25).

Mr BOTHA (Union of South Africa) said that, if the proposed new wording for Rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure was adopted, it was possible that the term of office of a member of the Board might terminate at the end of an Assembly session and that the Executive Board might not meet for a short while after that. In that case, the new Member's term of office would not begin immediately.

Professor SIGURJONSSON (Iceland) said that he agreed with the delegate of South Africa. The proposed new wording did not constitute an improvement on the old Rule 99. There was no more guarantee than before that the term of office of a Member would be a full three years, and thus the proposed new wording did nothing to ensure the application of Article 25 of the Constitution. As the delegate of South Africa had pointed out, there would always be a few days in which the membership of the Executive Board would not be complete.

To ensure that membership of the Executive Board would always be complete,

he proposed that the words "on the day" should be inserted in the new proposed wording between the words "held" and "after", so that that part of the resolution would read "on the opening day of the first meeting of the Board held on the day after the Health Assembly at which the Member concerned is elected".

Mr BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the delegates of South Africa and Iceland were correct in their statement that there was likely to be a small intervening period in which the membership of the Executive Board was not complete. He nevertheless felt that the proposed new wording was the nearest which could be got to a rule which gave effect to what had been the practice for many years. He would welcome an amendment to the Constitution, but in the meantime the new proposed wording was sufficient. He would commend to the Committee a principle of British jurisprudence: "De minimis non curate lex (the law takes no account of trifles)".

Mr BOTHA (Union of South Africa) suggested that, if in the new text the words "on the opening day of the first meeting of the Board held after" were replaced by the words "on the first day after the closing day of the session of", even the trifles would be taken care of. If there were objections, however, he would not press the amendment.

Mr CALDERWOOD (United States of America) said that the chief difficulty which had faced the previous Assembly and the Executive Board in their efforts to bring the Rules of Procedure more into line with established practice and the Constitution was that connected with obtaining governments' designations of their representatives on the Board. The reason for making the term of office begin on the opening day of the Board session in the new wording was precisely to

permit a small interval, so that the delegation of Members elected might inform their governments of their election and the governments themselves could then designate the person to serve on the Board.

Decision: It was agreed that further consideration of the proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure should be deferred until the text proposed by the delegation of the Union of South Africa had been distributed in writing.

9. CONVENTION ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX VII: Item 7.11 of the Agenda (Documents All/AFL/2 and All/AFL/25)

Dr EL WAKIL (United Arab Republic) Rapporteur of the Legal Sub-Committee, read section 2 of the Sub-Committee's report (document All/AFL/25).

Mr BOUCHER (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that he would reluctantly have to abstain from voting on the draft resolution amending paragraph 4 of Annex VII to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. The reason was not any lack of sympathy with the proposed amendment, but possible legislative difficulties in the United Kingdom.

Mr PYMAN (Australia) said that he was in the same position as the United Kingdom delegate. Since the Australian Government was not yet a party to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities he would be obliged to abstain from voting on the proposal to amend Annex VII. He wished to point out, however, that any case where the principles of the Convention arose would be treated sympathetically by his Government.

Mr JEFFREY (New Zealand) said that he also would have to abstain from voting on the proposal. New Zealand had not as yet acceded to the Convention, but was considering doing so.

Mr MONCK (Canada) said that he also would have to abstain. Like the New Zealand Government, his Government had not yet acceded to the Convention.

Mr SALADRIGAS y ZAYAS (Cuba) said that he was in the same position. He felt that the resolution should be presented at the next Assembly, so as to give governments the opportunity of studying and solving the legal problem.

Dr HAYEK (Lebanon), noting that several delegations were absent, proposed that further consideration of the draft resolution should be deferred until the meeting which was to be held to consider the amendment to Rule 67 of the Rules of Procedure proposed by the United States of America.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.