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DE LA SANTÉ

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<p><b>THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING</b></p> <p><u>Friday, 29 May 1959</u> <u>at 11 a.m.</u></p> <p>Palais des Nations Geneva</p>	<p><b>TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE</b></p> <p><u>Vendredi, 29 mai 1959</u> <u>à 11 heures</u></p> <p>Palais des Nations Genève</p>

President : Sir John CHARLES (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)  
Président : (Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord)

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1. ANNOUNCEMENT  
COMMUNICATION

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly is called to order.

Before we proceed about our appointed business, there is one point of what I might call procedural rectitude to which I would draw your attention. You will remember the roll-call vote which was taken at the tenth plenary meeting, on Wednesday, on the subject of the resolution concerning the effective working budget and budget level for 1960; as you will have read in the Journal of the Assembly, when Monaco was called during the roll-call vote, a voice was heard answering "Yes". It was, however, established after the adjournment of the meeting, that the delegate of Monaco had not been present in the Assembly Hall and should therefore have been registered as absent. Now, as a consequence of this, the results of the vote should be shown as follows in the official record of the Assembly: number of Members present and voting, 60; number required for the two-thirds majority, 40; in favour of the resolution, 50; against, 10; abstentions, 13. Now I am ruling that the official record be corrected so as to show the results of the vote in the way in which I have just read them to you.

I now give the floor to the Director-General.

2. STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR-GENERAL

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr President, honourable delegates, forgive me for taking up your time, but I would like to refer to the decision the Assembly took yesterday regarding the renewal of the contract of the Director-General.

When I learned that the honourable delegate of New Zealand was requesting that this item be added to the Agenda, I wrote to him explaining my position and asking him whether he would find it possible to withdraw his proposal. The item was, however, considered by the Assembly which adopted yesterday, as a result, resolution WHA12.47.

First of all may I say, Mr President, how deeply touched I am by this further opportunity that has been offered to me of serving the World Health Organization and by the consideration the Assembly has shown me in giving me such a generous amount of time in which to arrive at a decision. I shall try, however, not to abuse your generosity and shall endeavour to make up my mind before the end of October. I believe that I need not reassure the Assembly that in doing so I shall bear in mind only the overall interests of the World Health Organization and not the personal interests of anyone, including myself, nor the particular interests of any one Member State.

Honourable delegates, please accept my thanks for your offer to renew my contract which, whatever my decision, I shall always value as an expression of confidence not only in myself but in all my colleagues with whom I have the pleasure and the privilege of working.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you Dr Candau.

3. STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF INDIA  
DECLARATION DU DELEGUE DE L'INDE

The PRESIDENT: Now, before we move into what I may call the actual phase of closure, for which I have received notification of a certain number of speeches, I will give the floor to the delegate of India.

Mr KARMARKAR (India): Mr President, fellow delegates, looking back on the proceedings of this, the Twelfth World Health Assembly, during the last more than two weeks, it is obvious that delegates can well congratulate themselves on the good results that have been achieved.

The determination to eradicate malaria and other communicable diseases, the reiteration of the role of environmental sanitation with special emphasis on adequate and safe water supplies, the evolution of a comprehensive research programme, steps taken for further intensive study of problems arising in this nuclear era, provision of adequate finances for the proper working out of WHO's programmes - these appear to me to have been the salient features of the session that is about to close.

More significant, if I may say so, even than the actual discussions and decisions arrived at, has been the harmonious atmosphere which has prevailed during all the discussions. There were differences of opinion; it was natural. But there has been no recrimination and the Assembly has further justified its tradition of being the biggest co-operative enterprise in the field of health that the world has ever seen.

I should also like to say in passing, Mr President, that my delegation appreciates the increase in the membership of the Executive Board from eighteen to twenty-four and is sure that full consideration will be given to the views, strongly expressed by other delegations, that there will be equitable geographical representation from each of the regions in the added strength.

I am sure, Mr President, that we all here agree that a large part of the success was due to the distinguished manner in which you, Mr President, have guided the work of the session. Following the lead that you gave last year when you paid a fitting tribute to your distinguished predecessor, Dr Burney, I would now ask

you, Sir, to look into a similar mirror and see in it the wise, sagacious, competent, understanding and affectionate leader that you have been. You have had a distinguished career and your great country has had a distinguished record in the field of medicine and public health. You have undoubtedly brought greater distinction to both - if I may say so with great respect - by the manner in which you have conducted the meetings of the Assembly.

During the course of my observations in the earlier part of the proceedings, I had hoped that the Assembly would have the continued guidance of Dr Candau for many more years. I am happy that the Assembly has decided with great pleasure to request Dr Candau to continue in his present responsible position for another term. I do not find better words to describe Dr Candau's contribution to the work of the WHO than the ones you, Mr President, used in your opening speech. "To his gifts of leadership, tact, persuasiveness, and indefatigable and selfless industry, to his perspicacious vision, this Organization owes its harmonious and promising translation from the first to the second decade of its existence, from the tentative strivings of its early years to the robust potentialities of its adult life." This Assembly has unanimously endorsed this well-deserved tribute and my delegation hopes that Dr Candau will be in a position to accept the unanimous request of this august Assembly. I should like to add that we greatly appreciate the statement that he has just now made that in making his decision, he would keep the general interests of the people of the world above all other interests, including his own.

During the course of its eventful career, Mr President, the World Health Organization has held some of its meetings in different regions apart from its meetings at the headquarters. It has been a healthy practice, as such meetings outside headquarters are good not only for the work of the particular State or region where they are held but also for the work of WHO itself. I have very great pleasure, Mr President, in conveying to the Assembly the request of the Government of India that WHO hold its session of 1961 in India at New Delhi. I need hardly emphasize the importance of holding a session at this juncture - at the time of Asia's development. But I am not putting the argument on that ground Mr President, because this idea of holding sessions at different regions and different places has a peculiar value of its own from the point of view of world health. I am aware that there are problems concerned with the decision on our request, especially on the matter of the timing of the session, but problems, Mr President, exist for solution, and the World Health Organization has, in the past, faced greater problems with signal success. My delegation earnestly hopes that, with the resourcefulness of the Secretariat under the able guidance of Dr Candau, and the goodwill of this august Assembly, the Executive Board will be in a position to find ways of resolving any possible difficulties and recommending the acceptance of our request to the Thirteenth World Health Assembly for its acceptance.

Finally, I should like to place on record - to tender appreciation and congratulations to you and your colleagues, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen and the Rapporteurs of the various committees who, by their competent guidance, have enabled this Assembly to finish its work even before the scheduled time. And now I should like to express my delegation's deep appreciation of the efficient work of the Secretariat, under the able guidance of Dr Candau and his colleagues, which has greatly helped in making the session the success it has been.

The PRESIDENT: Mr Karmarkar, I propose to deal with your observations under three heads.

Those which were general and concerned the working of this Assembly, will be noted.

Those which were personal and referred to Dr Candau and myself, the Vice-Presidents, and all concerned with the working of the Assembly, will - I am sure - be received with great gratitude.

And finally, with regard to the announcement and invitation which you have submitted to the Assembly - judging from its reception it is quite clear that the suggestion both interests the Assembly, and is welcomed by it, and here again, on behalf of the Assembly, I would offer you our very grateful thanks.

Invitations of this kind are, of course, accompanied by a certain amount of formality. One of the formal requirements for such an invitation has already been met. I refer to the fact that such invitations should be received eighteen months before the date of the Assembly in question. There are, however, certain other formalities and I am sure that, in due course, the Government of India will transmit to the Director-General a formal invitation covering some of these details so the Director-General may consider and study the invitation and submit it to the Executive Board at its twenty-fifth session from which it will no doubt emerge to be presented to the Thirteenth World Health Assembly.

Thank you again, Mr Karmarkar.

4. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION  
CLOTURE DE LA SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I now propose to move into the phase of closure and I have a short list of speakers. May I quite frankly regard that list as now closed? I have retracted that statement to admit the request of Ghana, but my decision is now final.

Dr. BURNEY (United States of America): Mr President, Director-General and distinguished delegates, after hearing the very able remarks of Mr Karmarkar, the very distinguished delegate from India, I think any of us who follow him will be saying the same things, but not nearly so well as our friend from India has said them. I join with him, however, in agreeing completely with his evaluation and assessment of the success of this Assembly, not just in the actions that have been taken, but even in something more personal and intimate than that. Through these three weeks, we have been able to renew old friendships and to make new ones, and I think sometimes that is as valuable - perhaps even more so - than the specific actions which we take at this Assembly.

I am always amazed, as you are, with the ease with which these Assemblies are organized and with which we are presented with all the documents and other necessary papers and information. Sometimes, I suspect, we forget the great amount of devotion and work that goes into the preparation of this material and I would like to add my commendation and my sincere thanks to the Secretariat of the World Health Organization for their very fine work - not just during this Assembly - but throughout the entire year. We have a very loyal staff, a very experienced staff and we are proud of this group.

Also, I would like to comment on the distinguished delegate from India's comments relative to the Director-General. We see in our Secretariat a staff very loyal to its Director-General - in addition to the extremely high regard which you and I hold for the Director-General. Loyalty, as you know, does not come blindly. They like and respect their chief, because of his very judicious administration; because of his ability to be kind and considerate on occasions;

because of the vision which he gives to the staff and to our Organization throughout the year and because of his thoughtfulness in the consideration of all issues. I think we are very fortunate in the World Health Organization in these years of growing up and beginning the second decade, to have this kind of calm, judicious and very able leadership and I join with all of you again in hoping that our Director-General, Dr Candau, will find it possible to accept the offer of our organization to continue as the Director-General, and I hope that he will be able to make a favourable decision. I think it is not only an opportunity for him but, I believe, a responsibility and I hope that we may have his wise guidance and his very kindly direction through the years to come.

I am always amazed, too, at the ability of our friends in these little rooms to the side to take our words - which we give sometimes very rapidly, sometimes in a hesitating manner - and then to translate them simultaneously, so that we are able, all of us, regardless of our language, to know what is being said. They do not have their names on those little windows up there but I would like to join with you in thanking them for their patience and their tolerance, as well as for their excellent ability in making these simultaneous translations.

The work of the Committee Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs, I think, was very well commended during the committee sessions. Again I am going to say something that Mr Karmarkar mentioned in other words, namely that their effectiveness is demonstrated by the fact that we have been able to close the session a day early. But he has, as we would say, beaten me to the draw and has said it much better than I.

I would also add to the comments on our President. We are a very proud organization - our forum is not just the meetings here during these three weeks, but our forum is the entire world and it is to our benefit and our advantage that we have a President who brings to this very great office the dignity that it requires - the equanimity in the consideration of issues which come before it from time to time and the very fine sense of humour which our President has demonstrated in the past and has demonstrated again in his capacity as President.

Fellow delegates, I think we can go home with a real sense of pride in our organization, in the progress that we are making, in the services that we are providing through our national efforts and through this great organization. I, with you, take pride in our work here. We go home re-dedicating ourselves to the many, and hoping to achieve, even to a greater extent, the objective of the World Health Organization - the highest attainment of health for all peoples of the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Burney. I give the floor to the delegate of the Union of South Africa.

Dr CLARK (Union of South Africa): Mr President, Mr Director-General, Honourable delegates, as this Assembly is drawing to a close, it is appropriate to reflect for a few moments on our discussions and it is gratifying to realise that we have made real progress.

Mr President, this has been a memorable Assembly in many ways. In the first place, it has been memorable because of your wise, patient and distinguished leadership. It has also been memorable for the number and importance of the matters which we have discussed. I am thinking more particularly of our debates on medical research and on smallpox eradication. It is fitting that the decisions on these subjects should have been made under the presidency of a representative of the United Kingdom, with its long history and distinguished tradition in the field of medical education and of medical research - it was in England in 1798 that Edward Jenner announced the method of protecting people against smallpox by the use of cow-pox lymph, the precursor of the present calf-lymph vaccine.

Mr President, this Assembly has also been memorable for the fact that we have very gladly welcomed another state, Guinea, to full membership of the World Health Organization.

Another matter of the greatest importance is the warm invitation we have extended to our very distinguished Director-General to remain in office for a further three years. I sincerely hope he will find it possible to accept this offer.

Mr President, it has been a strenuous session and for many there is a feeling of relief that the hard work has been successfully accomplished and that we are about to return to our homes. But the return home is always tinged with feelings of regret that it also means parting from our friends from the far corners of the earth. I believe that the personal friendships that are made here at the Assembly are characteristic of the spirit which permeates the work of the Organization throughout the world, and which is of such fundamental and tremendous importance.

The Assemblies and meetings of the World Health Organization and the country and inter-country projects throughout the world help in a large measure to bring about better understanding and better human relations among all the peoples and all the countries concerned. This, I believe, is a strong and ensuring factor in the great cause of world peace.

In conclusion, the South African delegation would like to thank you again, Mr President, for your guidance and clear leadership in bringing our deliberations to a successful conclusion. My delegation would also like to thank the Director-General and all the members of the Secretariat for all that they have done so efficiently to facilitate the work of this Assembly. My delegation wishes all our fellow delegates a happy and safe return to their homes and we should like to express the hope that we shall all have the honour and pleasure of meeting them here again next year.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Clark. I invite to the rostrum the delegate of Panama.

Dr BISSOT (Panama) (translation from the Spanish): Mr President, Director-General, fellow delegates: I should like to thank the delegates of Latin America for the honour they have paid me in selecting me to speak on their behalf at this closing meeting.

A year ago, in Minneapolis, on a similar occasion we had the pleasure of congratulating Dr Leroy Burney on having so skilfully directed the proceedings of the Eleventh World Health Assembly. To-day, we are very happy to congratulate our President, Sir John Charles, on having carried out his duties fully and with equanimity in the gentlemanlike way which we associate with him, and to the satisfaction of all.

Last year, we said that the Assembly might well be termed "the harmonious Assembly" because of the spirit which reigned on all occasions. This time, although the discussions have been very lively in many cases, there has always been the fullest understanding and a great desire on the part of the delegates to reach agreement.

Matters of great importance have been dealt with and resolutions of great value for our countries have been approved. I shall mention only a few of them: the resolution approved by acclamation and which expressed the feeling of all countries here represented, that Dr Candau should continue to direct the destinies of this great organization; the decisions taken with the aim of continuing programmes for the eradication of diseases which have done so much harm to humanity; the greater participation of the Organization in the field of research which in the future may completely change the way in which various diseases are combatted; the resolution on environmental sanitation that gives our countries an opportunity of receiving the technical assistance of the World Health Organization and opens up the possibility of receiving economic aid from international funds and banking institutions in order to provide pure water for many of the communities throughout the world which at present experience so many difficulties because of the lack of this precious liquid. This will perhaps make it possible in future to obtain money in the same way for financing other public health work. Lastly, I would mention the amendment to the Constitution increasing the membership of the Executive Board, which shows the interest of all in participating more closely in the administration of the Organization. In this connexion, we should like to congratulate the countries which are completing their period of office on the Executive Board on having satisfactorily fulfilled their mandate; we are sure that the new members will devote all their enthusiasm and knowledge to the furtherance of health.

Finally, Mr President, we are glad to see that we now have two new Members: Guinea and Colombia. We are particularly happy to welcome the latter nation, since now all the countries of the Americas form part of the World Health Organisation. In conclusion, we would like to thank most heartily the Director-General, the Secretariat, the interpreters and all those who have made our discussions easier and have rendered our stay in this beautiful country so pleasant.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Bissot. I invite to the rostrum now the delegate of the United Arab Republic.

Le Dr BINDARI (République Arabe Unie) : Monsieur le Président, nous voici arrivés à la dernière séance plénière de la Douzième Assemblée mondiale de la Santé. En jetant un coup d'oeil sur les travaux accomplis dans cette Assemblée, ma délégation ne peut qu'exprimer un sentiment de sérénité. Nous avons un programme de travail très chargé mais, grâce à une présidence judicieuse, les problèmes ont été résolus d'une façon méthodique et en un laps de temps relativement court. De plus, cette Assemblée a placé l'Organisation à un tournant de ses activités car, en se lançant dans la recherche, elle entre dans une ère nouvelle. L'éradication de la variole nous met déjà devant la responsabilité de lutter, mais c'est surtout ce désir de lutter contre la maladie et de l'éliminer qui donne une valeur exceptionnelle à cette Organisation. L'Assemblée, en décidant cette nouvelle lutte, pose une fois encore une borne sur le long chemin qu'elle a à parcourir.

Messieurs, nous avons été très heureux de revoir la Colombie parmi nous. Nous avons encore vu, dans cette Douzième Assemblée, nos rangs grandir et se renforcer par l'admission de la Guinée au sein de cette Organisation. C'est avec une très grande joie que nous l'avons accueillie, car la Guinée est un des peuples qui aujourd'hui respirent librement. Dans cet horizon nouveau, nous verrons très prochainement les peuples de la terre qui luttent pour rompre la chaîne de la contrainte apporter leur tribut au salut de l'humanité.

Messieurs, la délégation de la République Arabe Unie vous félicite pour le travail accompli et exprime ses sincères souhaits pour l'année à venir.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Bindari. I now invite to the rostrum the delegate of the Philippines.

Mr SAMONTE (Philippines): Mr President, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to begin my short observations by thanking, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of the Philippines, the Swiss Confederation - and in particular, the Republic and Canton of Geneva - for the warm hospitality accorded us, while we enjoyed to our hearts content the scenic beauty of this wonderful country, and the Secretariat for their solicitude and concern that have made our session here very pleasant and fruitful.

We are at the close of the Twelfth World Health Assembly. It has been very gratifying to me and my colleagues of the delegation of the Philippines to have had this opportunity of sharing work with the other delegates. It has been a very satisfying and rewarding experience. The work, however, was enormous and as we grappled with it from day to day, we became increasingly aware of its staggering challenge.

The human will, however, is indomitable and undismayed and the collective will of this Assembly is formidable. Armed with this collective will and adequately supported by more and more research, the World Health Organization can reasonably hope to win the long fight against disease. It is only a matter of time, provided that the World Health Organization has the integrity and the perseverance to continue this contest until its successful termination.

We are living today in a new world, a world that seems to have more love and more humanity than had any other era of mankind. Many people previously under the tutelage of other nations have now secured, or been given, their independence. For the first time in the history of man the angel of mercy is reaching out everywhere to bring the blessings of modern medicine to the remotest hinterland of the world. Peace is our dream. It was the dream of our fathers and of those before them. Statesmen of every nation, of every age, have dedicated their lives for its attainment, but the world must still strive for peace; and if it should come, as come it must some day, may it be said of the World Health Organization that its humanitarian work contributed to the attainment of world peace.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Samonte. I invite to the rostrum the delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Professor ZHDANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(translation from the Russian): May I thank you, Mr President, for having given me the opportunity of speaking at the closure of our session. My delegation wishes to associate itself with those delegates who have spoken here in high praise of the work of this World Health Assembly which is just drawing to a close. In these three weeks we have really done a great deal; we have had to work at great pressure, but the fruits of our work are obvious in the many important and necessary decisions taken.

I think also that an important characteristic of this session has been the spirit of co-operation, patience and mutual understanding which all delegates have shown towards each other. No small credit for the success of our work must go to the great activity shown by those countries which have only recently become Members of our organization, those we may call the newly emerging countries. I think, gentlemen, that the successful work of our Assembly has depended to a great extent not only on all the participants, but also on the fact that we made a good choice in the members of the steering bodies of the Assembly and in particular our understanding and wise President, Sir John Charles, his assistants the Vice-Presidents, and the Chairmen of the Committees.

Finally, the success of our work has depended to a great extent on the Secretariat and all its members, including those technical workers, the interpreters, whose names, as has already been said, we sometimes do not even know, but the results of whose work are so important to our success.

I wish also once more here to associate myself with all the delegates to the Assembly who joined in the appeal and took the decision to request Dr Candau to prolong his period of office at the head of our organization.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I want to wish you all a happy journey, that you may soon be reunited with your families, and a speedy return to your work. I wish you

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In conclusion, gentlemen, I want to wish you all a happy journey, that you may soon be reunited with your families, and a speedy return to your work. I wish you health and bon voyage

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Professor Zhdanov. I invite to the rostrum the delegate of Ghana.

Mr GOKA (Ghana): Mr President, it is my duty and great pleasure to associate the Ghana delegation most happily with the statements that have been made by previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to the Swiss Government and to the people of Geneva for welcoming us to this city without let or hindrance for this Twelfth World Health Assembly.

I apologise, Mr President, for the fact that my address will include thanks that have already been expressed from this rostrum, even if liberal allowance is made for permutation and different combinations of words.

We have come to the end of a job that we have done well with a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction. As we perform the closing ritual of the Twelfth World Health Assembly, our thoughts naturally go back to our homes and our dear ones in spite of the serene beauty of the city of Geneva that we see around us. But before we take our last look at this Assembly Hall, with its beautiful setting for our meetings, allow my delegation, Mr President, to pay tribute to the able manner in which you and your Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the various Committees and the rapporteurs, have steered us through our deliberations to our journey's end well ahead of time. Under your able leadership, Mr President, the most delicate problems on the agenda have been disposed of without difficulty, and, what is more, you have brought the Assembly to the conclusion of its business ahead of schedule without even making use of your authority beyond a casual suggestion to consider holding night meetings at one time.

My delegation would also like to extend a special tribute to Dr Leroy Burney of the United States of America, the out-going President, a man with ability and skill, distinction and courtesy, whose authority and skill are respected very much by all who come in contact with him.

I would also like to extend the appreciation of my delegation to Dr Candau most warmly for his devotion to duty and leadership of this organization. We trust he will continue this leadership for many years to come, and so provide the organization with his experienced guidance during the difficult years ahead of it.

The Ghana delegation is not unmindful of the work that has been done by the whole of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization, including the technical personnel, the interpreters and the translators and the back-room boys whose work is so greatly appreciated and so absolutely essential for the conduct of our discussions. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude contained in the simple expression "thank you".

My delegation is happy, Mr President, to see that two new Members, namely, Guinea and Colombia, have been welcomed during the session into our midst. We trust they will add new blood to the veins of this organization.

I should like to assure this organization of the keen interest that my Government has in its work as it is convinced that it will at all times focus the attention of all nations of the world on the importance of health - physical, social and mental. My country, together with other countries with major public health problems where endemic diseases are rife (we have heard about some of these diseases in plenary and in committee) looks to the future at this hour when the Twelfth World Health Assembly is coming to an end, in order to demarcate the problems which still persist and the new ones which are emerging and will continue to do so with education and social and economic advancement. Looking ahead we shall brace ourselves to the responsibilities that these problems will impose upon us.

The spirit of understanding and tolerance that has been shown in plenary and in committee has given my delegation great encouragement. It is a demonstration that this organization is an ideal family in which countries big and small, old and new, can meet in friendly discussion to fight disease, ignorance and poverty.

During this Assembly my delegation has had the good fortune to meet and know people from whom we have learned so much. I extend our gratitude for the wealth of friendship and comradeship which you have kindled in us. I wish you all good luck, good health and bon voyage.

Finally, fellow delegates, in bidding each other farewell let us, after reflecting on the work which the World Health Organization and we have done during this session which is now closing, ask ourselves how best we can bring about the completion of our major projects which are the prelude to the attainment of our great aims. Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Goka. Fellow delegates, a very famous Irishman, George Bernard Shaw, once attended a conference. At its conclusion he was asked by another who had attended the conference: "Did you enjoy yourself, Mr Shaw?" Mr Shaw replied "Of course I enjoyed myself. There was nothing else to enjoy."

I am quite certain that there is no delegate or representative attending this Twelfth World Health Assembly who would dream of answering a similar question in the terms of self-satisfaction which Mr Shaw employed.

There are many ways in which this Assembly has been enjoyable.

Let us acknowledge first the propitious co-operation of the meteorological authorities who have provided us with a period of three weeks of superb weather.

Let us remember the hospitality of so many hosts who have graciously and discreetly given us opportunities for relaxation.

Let us remind ourselves - but I doubt whether this is necessary - of Switzerland, of its beauty which both calms and stimulates - and of the munificence of its Government and of the Republic and Canton of Geneva. It is by reason of that creative generosity that we can already see the vision of a Palais de Santé arising amongst these hills.

And so to ourselves. The interest in working together, the feeling of mutual effort, the sense of mutual enlightenment, the inevitable growth of mutual understanding - though obviously not always of common agreement - all these intangible influences have pervaded and permeated our activities. They have culminated in a knowledge of achievement, of tasks diligently undertaken and carried through to completion.

Hence above all our legitimate and praiseworthy source of enjoyment in this Assembly: "The true reward is to labour".

After ten Assemblies - which is the number I have personally notched on my alpenstock - one becomes something of a connoisseur of these matters.

The pattern has changed - and for the better during this past decade. The exploratory and sometimes meditative mood of the earlier Assemblies has become charged with a desire for expedition and streamlining. Such a change reflects the development of the Organization. Its widespread and broadening activities require that on the part of the Assembly there should be, not diffusion of effort in studying them in minute detail, but concentration and intensification of study upon the growing points of policy.

But one begins to ask oneself - in one's capacity as a student of comparative bureaucracy - whether even this pattern is not capable of further improvement - of an even greater compactness of effort. This inquiry of mine has arisen from what has been described as "the weeds and tares of my own brain". It has not been precipitated by the discussion on biennial Assemblies. Assemblies such as ours are instruments both of government and of communication. They have to serve the dual purposes of administration and education. Yet every form of administration is the better for periodical reconsideration. Whether we find the machinery to be running with the smoothness of a Rolls Royce engine, or that it is beginning to show signs of wear and tear, of knocks and noises, that is not the point at issue. It is the fact that every now and again there is a review, which is important. It is the overhaul which is the insurance against the unexpected onset of any malaise or disease, whether mechanical, physical or administrative. It is this early perception of minor disorders, capable of simple remedial action, that I would emphasize, and seek to ensure. When one realizes the growing stature of the World Health Organization in the modern world, and the exacting role of this Assembly in its direction and inspiration, I am sure it will be regarded as friendly foresight to suggest a constant appraisal of the efficiency of the working machinery of the Assembly.

Into sixteen working days we have seen pressed an infinite amount of deliberation, of elocution, or recording, of decision and of publication.

When asked what difference he saw between recent and earlier Assemblies a distinguished observer of our scene over many years suggested that we were more talkative than our predecessors. Personally I would regard that statement as enlightened and informed comment rather than as a piece of observational research. But even if it is substantially true, is it a fault? Talk is an easier method of communication for most of us than writing. It is a lighter, more quickly reflecting, mirror of the mind, both conscious and subconscious. It can be educative, illuminating, evocative and stimulating. I would not for a moment suggest that we diminish the volume, but rather that we most deliberately direct it into the proper channels. Finally on this subject, I would venture a pharmacological analogy. Talk can be both cathartic, and have the virtues of the modern tranquilizing medicaments.

Our discussions have shed light upon many subjects, but, for a few brief comments, I would select only a small group of projects, which appeal to me because they seem to be fitting into that pattern of enlarging activity which is beginning to be foreshadowed for WHO.

First of all there is the prospect of the new building - an imaginative conception of the growth of WHO's stature in the world. We can rest assured that those who are responsible for its genesis, and charged with its consummation will give us in due course a home of our own, which in dignity and distinction will embody the traditions which are associated with this great Palace of the Nations.

Next, I would mention the extension of the Executive Board, which when finally achieved will enable the management of the Organization to be more broadly shared.

Research is to become, and rightly, a more conspicuous part of the work of the Organization. It is in accord with the trend of the times and of comparable

developments in contemporary governments and industrial undertakings, that we should be seeking to establish a "built-in" but mobile research division which can enter the vast field of medical research. Let us not delude ourselves. What we are setting out to achieve is no more than a small contribution to the enormous body of work in that field which is already in hand. But if our contribution is of a special kind, if it seeks to fill in some of the gaps in communication and co-ordination, if it prospects some of the outstanding and uninvestigated problems more particularly pertaining to public health, if, in brief, it acts as a catalyst, then it will have an influence altogether greater than its endowment, and the value of its assistance will be out of all proportion to the budget it will deploy.

The bold and brilliant idea of malaria eradication was brought to the Eighth World Health Assembly in 1955. Maturer consideration of its mechanics and the realization of its inherent difficulties have made it a rather long-term project, which in the end will furnish a rich harvest. It has served as the forerunner of two other schemes of eradication - one, now before us, for smallpox - the other, almost imminent, for leprosy. Both will require smaller resources of men and money. Nevertheless they will be of inestimable value to the health and happiness of the world. For this "triplex" of eradication schemes we would plead for fair winds and good progress, bearing in mind all the while that the price of lasting freedom from these diseases is continual vigilance.

Environmental sanitation has received prolonged and detailed consideration at this Assembly. I would hesitate to describe it as a "phoenix arising from its ashes", but of recent times it has tended to be relegated to the limbo of accepted, and therefore of slightly neglected, things. And yet environmental

sanitation is one of the foundation stones of public health. Its principles were established by the Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians and the Eastern world. But as so often happens, these principles were allowed to move into the remoter chambers of men's minds. Just as the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey burst suddenly upon the seventeenth century, the discovery of the circulation of water supplies - the realization that the earth is not merely a sponge - burst again upon the sanitary-minded world of the nineteenth century. It produced that conflict of piped water supplies and sewage disposal which has again enlivened our discussions in the Committee on Programme and Budget. Coming from a country in which a century of effort was required to place us in our present favourable position, I am reminded of the title of my first Latin grammar - "Gradatim", or step by step. Advance towards the ideal in this instance is necessarily slow, but little by little progress can be achieved.

And the same applies to the other great enemy of environmental purity - atmospheric pollution, which, nevertheless, by the application of the same formula of "gradatim" can be mastered.

And this brings me to what I would regard as the heart of the matter. It is neither heretical nor derogatory to this great and tremendously beneficent World Health Organization to say that the primary responsibility of any health authority is to the advancement of the state of health of its own community. International co-operation is an adjuvant and not the prime mover in this matter of national public health. Self-help in the public health sense should commence at home; but there can be no objection to its immediate extension beyond domestic boundaries. WHO in this connexion is again the instrument of co-ordination and communication.

And now there are a number of pleasurable tasks which it is my privilege to discharge.

I would commence by saying how grateful I am to this great Assembly for making me its President, and with what a sense of continuing pride I shall always recollect the honour bestowed upon me and the trust you have reposed in me.

My thanks and yours are also due to the three distinguished Vice-Presidents who have served with me, and to those bearers of many burdens, the chairmen of the committees, and their rapporteurs. Nor must we forget those watchful representatives of the Executive Board in our recital of thanks.

And it would be remiss of me indeed to fail to thank you, honourable delegates and representatives, for the diligence, patience, courtesy in debate and sense of companionship in achievement which has characterized all your doings.

The representatives of the United Nations and of the several inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies whose interests we share are also worthy recipients of our thanks.

And then there is the Secretariat in all its groups, without whose presence and ever-present assistance our deliberations, or at any rate the recording of them, would fall into chaos.

The Director-General has again manifested himself in his several roles of administrator, diplomatist and statesman - and acquired additional distinction in every one of them. The Deputy Director-General, ever at the side of the President, and the Assistant Directors-General share both the thanks and praise we attribute to Dr Candau.

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The great army of other helpers - some whom we hear like the untiring interpreters - others most silent but none the less important - secretaries, précis-writers, translators, typists and that unseen corps of labourers in the vineyard concerned with the manufacture and transmission of documents - all these have earned and deserved our sincerest thanks. If I have failed to include any group, it is an unintentional and I hope a forgivable omission.

To those of you who remain here I would wish a happy and quiet weekend.

To all those who set out upon their appointed ways I would wish a safe and pleasant return to their homes and families.

And now as this Assembly moves onward to its last moments, I would briefly pause - in order that I may find fitting words of farewell and adieu and of the promise of reunion - because the prospect of the Thirteenth Assembly is already nearing the horizon.

There are the golden words to be found in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: "Night's candles are burnt out and jocund day stands tip-toe on the misty mountain tops". But if these are felt to be for some of you too evocative, there is the more sober observation of Sir Thomas Browne: "All things began in order - so shall they end - and so shall they begin again - according to the ordainer of order."

I announce that this concludes the proceedings of the Twelfth World Health Assembly.

The session closed at 12.20 p.m.  
La session est clôturée à 12 h. 20.

RESOLUTIONS

(English, French, Spanish, Russian)