

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Twenty-first Session

SUB-COMMITTEE A

EM/RC21A/Min.3

23 September 1971

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MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at the Palais de Congrès, Monastir, Tunisia
on Thursday, 23 September 1971, at 1.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. O. Sfar (Tunisia)

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JORDAN	Dr. I. Hijazi
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Dr. M. Ben Salem

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LEAGUE OF RED CROSS
SOCIETIES

Dr. A. Dziri

1. COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR read the following cable received from the Government of Qatar:

"REGRET QATAR DELEGATION UNABLE PARTICIPATE REGIONAL COMMITTEE
DUE HEAD OF MINISTRY AND SENIOR STAFF AWAY FROM QATAR PRESENTLY
STOP WISH COMMITTEE ALL SUCCESS"

2. RESOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL INTEREST ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH AND FORTY-EIGHTH SESSIONS: Item 8(b) of the Agenda (Document EM/RC21/9) (resumed)

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Iraq, copies of which were now available in Arabic, English and French.

Mr. de BONNECORSE (France) said that his delegation wished to dissociate itself from the resolution, and should the resolution be put to a vote, his delegation would be abstaining.

Dr. RAMZI (Syria) drew attention to the fact that the phrase "and the inhabitants of the occupied territories" had been omitted from the English text of the resolution. This phrase should appear at the end of paragraph 3 of the preamble, which should thus close as follows: "... refugees, displaced persons and the inhabitants of the occupied territories.". The equivalent phrase had been omitted from the French text also.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR, apologizing for this inadvertent omission, said that the phrase would be inserted.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted, with the abstention of France.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:(Item 13 of the Agenda (continued))

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR, at the request of the CHAIRMAN, drew attention to Document EM/RC21/WP.1, Choice of Subjects for the Technical Discussions in 1972 and 1973. Representatives would note that some suggestions had been

made on page 2, but members were, of course, free to make any additional proposals they wished.

Dr. HIJAZI (Jordan) proposed that the subject for 1972 be "The Integration of Anti-Tuberculosis Campaigns into Basic Health Services".

Dr. HELIWA (Egypt) proposed the broader topic of "The Integration of Basic Health Services".

Mr. HASSAN (Somalia) suggested a slight amendment of the proposal of Dr. Hijazi so as to include not only tuberculosis and malaria but also other campaigns being carried out in the Region. He also suggested that epidemic hepatitis be given higher priority for discussion.

Dr. VASSILOPOULOS (Cyprus) suggested, for 1972, "The Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases" and for 1973, "The Health Protection of Rural Populations".

Dr. EL AGHBARI (Yemen) proposed the topics of "The Health Protection of Rural Populations" and "The Integration of Anti-Tuberculosis Campaigns into Basic Health Services".

Dr. RAMZI (Syria) pointed out that integration into basic health services had been discussed at the seventeenth session of the Sub-Committee.

Professor OMAR (Afghanistan), replying to Dr. Ramzi, said that this discussion had taken place five years ago and many basic changes might have come about in that time. In his opinion, "The Integration of Mass Campaigns into Basic Health Services" should be the subject for 1972.

Admiral ANSARI (Pakistan) proposed that the topic for 1972 be "The Fellowships Programme of WHO".

Dr. BAHRI (Tunisia) suggested "Health as a Factor in Socio-economic Development" for 1972 and "The Cost of Health Programmes in Developing Countries" for 1973.

Dr. VASSILOPOULOS (Cyprus) pointed out that the first topic suggested by Dr. Bahri would be the subject of the Technical Discussions at the World Health Assembly in 1972.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that Dr. Vassilopoulos was quite correct. With respect to the second topic suggested by Dr. Bahri, he thought that it would be extremely difficult to prepare a document on this subject.

Dr. HELLWA (Egypt) proposed that the subject for 1972 should be "Health Services and their Effects on Socio-economic Development".

Dr. REFAI (Kuwait) pointed out that addiction was becoming of increasing importance in the Region and suggested that it be discussed in 1972.

Dr. ANOUTI (Lebanon) felt that the importance of cardiovascular diseases and cancer should be discussed at one session and the epidemiology and prevention of accidents, including the organization of first aid, at the other.

Dr. SOUPIKIAN (Iran) proposed that the topic for 1972 be "Systems of Delivery of Health Care".

Mr. ESHETE (Ethiopia), proposing topic No. 2 in Document EM/RC21/WP.1, "Health protection of rural populations", suggested that nomadic populations be included. This would be of great benefit to some countries, including Ethiopia.

Dr. HELLWA (Egypt) said that, in his opinion, the Stockholm Conference on the Environment should be taken into account, and suggested the following subject for discussion in 1972: "Environmental Services in the Region and the Improvement of their Standards".

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that, in view of the large number of subjects that had been proposed, it might be advisable to suggest one or two subjects for the Technical Discussions and leave the remainder to be covered under the Agenda item "Technical Matters". Perhaps a shortlist of subjects could be composed. Alternatively, representatives might wish to leave the choice of a subject to the Regional Office.

Dr. VASSILOPOULOS (Cyprus) supported the latter suggestion.

Dr. AL-DALY (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) also supported the proposal that the choice of the subject be left to the Regional Office.

It was so agreed.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that the many suggestions that had been made would, of course, be taken into account.

4. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT: Item 14 of the Agenda

The CHAIRMAN invited the Sub-Committee to consider its draft report as contained in document EM/RC21A/3/D.

Decision: The draft report was adopted unanimously.

5. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Professor OMAR (Afghanistan), expressed his gratitude to the Tunisian Government, and especially to the Minister of Public Health, for the hospitality they had shown the Sub-Committee and for providing such excellent working conditions. Consequently, he invited the Sub-Committee to consider the following draft resolution:

"Sub-Committee A,

Considering the warm welcome accorded to it by the Authorities and the people of Tunisia,

Considering further the excellent working conditions which had been prepared and the resulting success of the work,

1. THANKS sincerely the Authorities and the people of Tunisia, headed by the President, Mr. Habib Bourguiba;

2. PRAYS that God may grant him long life and excellent health."

Decision: the draft resolution was adopted.

Dr. ANOUII (Lebanon), speaking on behalf of all delegations present, expressed the Sub-Committee's deep gratitude to the Tunisian Government, its President, and the Minister of Public Health and his staff for their kind hospitality and assistance. He congratulated the Chairman on his excellent conduct of the proceedings. Finally, he thanked the Regional Director and the staff of the Secretariat for their excellent organization of the Session, which had contributed greatly to the success of the Sub-Committee's work.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR added his support to the resolution expressing gratitude to the Tunisian authorities. The contributions made by representatives during the Session had been extremely valuable and would give the Regional Office the guidance it required.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Tunisian Government, expressed pleasure that the Sub-Committee had met in Tunisia. He believed the work done during the Session would prove of great importance in solving health problems throughout the Region. He expressed his sincere thanks to all who had participated in and facilitated the work of the Sub-Committee.

He then formally declared the Session closed.

The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.