

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

الهيئة الصحية العالمية

المكتب الإقليمي لشرق البحر الأبيض المتوسط

ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

BUREAU REGIONAL DE LA  
MEDITERRANÉE ORIENTALE

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Twentieth Session

SUB-COMMITTEE A

EM/RC20A/Min.3  
24 September 1970

Original: ENGLISH

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at the Printania Palace Hotel, Broummana, Lebanon  
on Thursday, 24 September 1970, at 10.45 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. J. Anouti (Lebanon)

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Representatives of Member States

<u>Government</u>	<u>Representative, Alternate or Adviser</u>
AFGHANISTAN	Dr. R. Roashan
CYPRUS	Dr. V. Vassilopoulos
FRANCE	Dr. G. Orthlieb
IRAN	Dr. H. Morshed Mr. A.N. Amir-Ahmadi
IRAQ	Dr. I. Al-Nouri
KUWAIT	Mr. Y.J. Al-Hijji Dr. A.R. Al-Awadi
LEBANON	Dr. J. Anouti Dr. H.H. Jalloul Dr. F. Maalouly Dr. F. Stephan Mr. J. Andari Dr. K. Arab Dr. T. Al-Awar
LIBYA	Dr. A.M. Abdel Hadi Dr. O. Kadiki
PAKISTAN	Brigadier C.K. Hasan Dr. S. Hasan
SAUDI ARABIA	Dr. H.S. Dabbagh Dr. A.S. Tabba'a
SOMALIA	Mr. O.A. Hassan Dr. K.M. Sufi
SOUTHERN YEMEN	Dr. A.S. Affara Dr. A. Abdul Wali
SUDAN	Dr. A.A. El Gaddal
SYRIA	Dr. N. Ramzi Dr. A. Budeir
TUNISIA	Dr. M. Bahri
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC	Dr. H. El Kadi Dr. A.G. Khallaf Dr. L. Aboul Nasr Dr. E.E. Galal
YEMEN	Mr. A.M. El Saidi Dr. M.K. El Aghbari

Representatives of Associate Member States

<u>Government</u>	<u>Representative, Alternate or Adviser</u>
BAHRAIN	Dr. A. Fakhro
QATAR	Dr. S.A. Tajeldeen Mr. M.G. Al-fein

World Health Organization

Secretary to the Sub-Committee (ex-officio)	Dr. A.H. Taba, Regional Director
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Representatives of United Nations Organizations

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)	Mr. J.F. McDougall Regional Director, UNICEF, Beirut Mr. R. Koleilat Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF, Beirut
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES (UNRWA)	Dr. M. Sharif Director of Health and WHO Representative, UNRWA, Beirut
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)	Dr. J. Kolar FAO Consultant on Animal Health, Beirut

Representatives and Observers of Inter-governmental, International Non-governmental and National Organizations

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES	Dr. G. Zerikly
INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FEDERATION	Dr. E. Sawaya
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH EDUCATION	Mrs. Aida C. Shamma
INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY ASSOCIATION	Dr. Edma Abouchdid
THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION	Dr. F. Haddad
THE WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH	Dr. A. Manugian
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR NURSES	Mrs. Aida Sultan

Representatives and Observers of Inter-governmental,  
International Non-governmental and National Organizations (cont'd)

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION	Dr. I. Nazer
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS	Mrs. G. Shoucair
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE (ISEC)	Mr. F. El Khouri

1. OTHER BUSINESS: Item 13 of the Agenda

(a) SUBJECTS FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR drew attention to the list of eight topics drawn up for the guidance of members of the Sub-Committee to help them select a subject for Technical Discussions at the 1972 Session and indicate preferences for subsequent sessions of the Regional Committee. He added that cholera had not been included in the list, but would be the subject of a technical paper following the discussions that had taken place at the present session. He recalled that "Occupational health services in meeting the health needs of the people in developing countries" had been selected as the subject for the Twenty-first session in 1971.

Dr. EL KADI (United Arab Republic) proposed "The integration of maternal and child health and family planning activities in the general health services" as the subject for 1972.

Brigadier HASAN (Pakistan) and Dr. MORSHED (Iran) supported the proposal.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR suggested that that subject might be discussed in 1971, and the subject already selected for 1971 postponed until 1972. The order could be thus reversed without particular inconvenience to the Regional Office.

Dr. AL-AWADI (Kuwait) asked if "The socio-medical problems of youth in developing countries" had been discussed recently; if not, he felt that they should be considered.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR suggested that that subject might be dealt with in a technical paper.

Dr. RAMZI (Syria) and Dr. ROASHAN (Afghanistan) proposed "The planning and organization of a national epidemiological service" as the subject for discussions in 1972.

After a further exchange of views in which Dr. EL GADDAL (Sudan), Dr. FAKHRO (Bahrain), Dr. GALAL (United Arab Republic), Dr. ABoul NASR (United Arab Republic) and Dr. RAMZI (Syria) took part, it was agreed to make "The integration of maternal and child health and family planning activities in the general health services" the subject of Technical Discussions for 1971, postponing the subject already selected for 1971 until 1972. Further subjects proposed could be considered as technical papers during future sessions.

(b) DATE AND PLACE OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR confirmed that the 1971 and 1972 sessions of the Sub-Committee were planned to be held in Tunis and Jordan respectively.

Dr. RAMZI (Syria) announced that his Government had asked him to invite Sub-Committee A to hold its 1973 session in Damascus.

The CHAIRMAN asked Dr. Ramzi to convey the gratitude of the Sub-Committee to his Government for their invitation.

(c) ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT IN JORDAN

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that he had received a telegram from the Director-General of WHO at Headquarters in reply to a cable which had been sent to him by the Chairman of the session offering medical aid to Jordan through the International Red Cross, saying that he had conveyed the message to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

The Red Cross representative in Beirut would contact members of the Region, through Dr. Jamil Anouti, concerning relief assistance they had offered for victims of the hostilities due to the conflict in Jordan. Other countries represented at the session were invited to contribute also.

He assumed that members of the Sub-Committee would wish to record their regret at the absence of representatives of Jordan at the session, as also those of Ethiopia, kept in their country owing to the strict cholera control measures being enforced among Ministry of Health staff.

Dr. MORSHED (Iran) said that since the beginning of the tragic conflict in Jordan the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society had been giving all the assistance it could, and he was sure that it would be only too glad to contact the Committee in Geneva concerning further assistance in the present situation.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-DIVISION ON PROGRAMME; ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE: Items 11 and 14 of the Agenda (Document EM/RC20A/3/D and Annex)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft Report of Sub-Committee A of the Twentieth Session of the Regional Committee, and pointed out that it also contained the Report of the Sub-Division on Programme as its Annex. He invited comments on the Report.

Decision: In the absence of comments, the Report was adopted unanimously.

3. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Dr. DABBAGH (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of all delegations, thanked the people of Lebanon for their characteristically warm welcome. He also paid tribute to the Regional Director for his unremitting efforts to raise health standards throughout the Region by means of the various projects being implemented under his supervision, and to the expert advisers at the Regional Office for their understanding of the needs of the member countries. Thanks were also due to all the members of the Secretariat who had worked to make the session a success. The masterly way in which the Chairman had conducted the discussions had been particularly appreciated. Finally, he expressed the gratitude of all present to the Ministry of Health of Lebanon for having made it possible to hold the session in such a beautiful country.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR thanked the Representative of Saudi Arabia for the kind references to his staff and himself. In his turn, he would like to commend the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, and the Chairmen of the Sub-Division on Programme and of the Technical Discussions for their consistently

effective guidance of the discussions. The business of the session had been completed in an even shorter time than originally foreseen, but he was sure he was expressing the opinion of all the secretariat in saying that the debates had been extremely useful and of a very high level, and that they would provide valuable guidance in the implementation of future programmes.

He was sorry that Jordan and Ethiopia had been unable to send representatives and hoped that the situation in the former country, in particular, would soon return to normal.

Finally, he thanked the Government of Lebanon, and the Chairman as its chief representative, for their hospitality, which all the delegations and members of the secretariat had greatly appreciated. It was the excellent arrangements made for the session which had made it possible for a heavy agenda, containing some particularly difficult items, to be dealt with so expeditiously.

Brigadier HASAN (Pakistan) moved the **adoption** of the following resolution as a Vote of Thanks to the Government and people of Lebanon:

"The Sub-Committee,

EXPRESSES to the Government of Lebanon its deep gratitude and sincere thanks for its generous hospitality and for the excellent and comprehensive arrangements made to ensure the success of the session."

Decision: The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Dr. ABDEL HADI (Libya) said he had met a Red Cross representative who had given him some information on the urgent requirements for the stricken areas in Jordan. He was passing it on to the members of the Sub-Committee for action on their return home. The requirements were, in order of priority:

Foodstuffs, which must be ready to eat without cooking, e.g. bread, cheese, cooked meat, canned meat or vegetables, sterilized milk, etc.;



Blood plasma and material for laboratory tests;  
Sterilized disposable gloves.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said he only wished to confirm that WHO was ready to provide any assistance Jordan might require, in co-operation with the Regional Committee and with the Member States.

The CHAIRMAN said that, after four days spent on fruitful discussions of the health problems of all countries in the Region, he had pleasure in thanking the Representatives for their contribution to the wise resolutions which had been adopted. The successful outcome of the session had been largely due to the skillful guidance of the Regional Director, as also to the devotion of the members of the secretariat who had worked night and day **behind** the scenes to get the documents ready in time, and of the staff of the Ministry of Health who had provided the facilities for the session.

He wished all delegations a pleasant journey home, and hoped to see them all next year in the best of health. He declared the Twentieth Session of the Sub-Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 1.55 p.m.