

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Seventh sessionORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EB7/17 ✓

15 December 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AN OVERALL DISCUSSION OR SYMPOSIUM ON THE  
DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE LEPROSY PROBLEM  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Memorandum submitted by  
the Government of the Republic of the Philippines

Although most countries in Europe are now free or practically free from leprosy, there are many states on the continents of Africa, Asia and South America where this disease still constitutes a serious public health problem. Hansen's disease is one of the most important infectious diseases from the point of view of the large number of persons afflicted and the severe mutilations it produces in the human body leading to invalidism. It is estimated that there are about 8,000,000 lepers in the world today, most of whom constitute an additional economic burden in endemic countries which are already over-burdened with other economic and social troubles.

There are many governments which would like to secure reliable information regarding the latest advances in this field and which would naturally turn to WHO for guidance.

Of the many phases of leprosy work which need clarification, three of the most important are mentioned below.

- (1) Status of the Sulphone therapy - the effectiveness of the different preparations in use, their dosage, side-effects and manner of administration, especially in undernourished patients. It is particularly important to compare experiences regarding the efficacy of D.D.S. (Diamino-diphenyl sulphone) also known as "mother sulphone" which, on account of its low cost, places the sulphone treatment within the reach of poor patients as well as poor governments.

