

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the recommendations resulting from the technical discussions on "Case-finding and Domiciliary Treatment in Tuberculosis Control" held during the session,

Confirming the Regional Director's statement in his Fifteenth Annual Report that, among the prevailing communicable diseases in the Region, high priority should now be given to tuberculosis, which, after malaria, is considered to affect economic development more than does any other single disease, and

Recognizing that anti-tuberculosis services are being developed in most of the countries of the Region on an acceptable case-finding and domiciliary/ambulatory treatment basis, and that such anti-tuberculosis services are expected to expand further in the near future concurrently with the basic health services,

1           STRESSES that, in addition to the building up of a realistic organization for case-finding and treatment, a continued and adequate supply of drugs must be assured;

2           FORESEES that one of the chief difficulties facing the countries of the Region will be the local non-availability of drugs, which have to be imported at considerable expense, and

3           REQUESTS the Regional Director to consult with government as to the estimated needs for drugs for properly planned national programmes, to explore ways in which governments can be assisted in ensuring continued supplies of the necessary drugs, and to encourage local production wherever this is found feasible.