MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Friday, 18 January 1957 at 2.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Professor G A. CANAPERIA

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Eighth Meeting
Friday, 18 January 1957, at 2.30 p.m.

Present
Professor G. A. Canaperla, Chairman
Dr R. Pharaon, Vice-Chairman
Dr T. C. Puri (alternate to Dr C. K. Lakshmanan), Acting Vice-Chairman
Dr B. M. Clark (alternate to Dr J. J. Du Pré Le Roux), Rapporteur
Dr E. Suarez, Rapporteur
Dr R. Azuma
Sir John Charles
Dr Dia E. El-Chatti
Dr C. Diaz Coller (alternate to Dr J. Zozaya)
Dr M. Jafar
Dr Maung Maung Gyi
Dr P. E. Moore
Professor J. Parisot
Professor N. Pesonen
Dr A. da Silva Travassos
Dr L. SIRI
Dr R. Tumbokon (alternate to Dr A. C. Regala)

Designating Country
Italy
Saudi Arabia
India
Union of South Africa
Chile
Japan
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Syria
Mexico
Pakistan
Burma
Canada
France
Finland
Portugal
Argentina
Philippines
Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies

United Nations  Mr. C. REHLING

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  Dr. R. ZWEMER

Observers for Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations

International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy  Général-Médecin J. VONCKEN

International Committee of Catholic Nurses  Miss M. CALLOU

International Dental Federation  Dr. J. STORK

International Union for Health Education of the Public  Mr. L. VIBOREL

World Federation for Mental Health  Dr. J. R. REES

World Federation of United Nations Associations  Mr. R. S. SMITH

World Medical Association  Dr. J. MAYSTRE

World Union OSE  Dr. M. HERMAN

Secretary:  Dr. M. G. CANDAU

Director-General
1. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF WHO: PREPARATION OF REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS: Item 6.1 of the Agenda (Documents EB19/50 and Add.1) (continued)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL TENTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION (IN RELATION TO THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY): Item 6.2 of the Agenda (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the joint draft resolution submitted by Professor Parisot and Dr Jafar and reading:

The Executive Board,

Considering Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Constitution;

Considering resolution WHA9.28 adopted by the Ninth World Health Assembly, and in particular paragraph 1;

Recognizing that the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization should be celebrated with all due solemnity and should be the occasion of a special ceremony,

RECOMMENDS the Tenth World Health Assembly to decide that, in the place where the Eleventh World Health Assembly is to be held, two days be devoted to a special session of the World Health Assembly for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization, this to be immediately followed by the opening and proceedings of the Eleventh World Health Assembly.

Professor PESONEN agreed with those who considered that there should be a special session to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of WHO. The Organization's work was not sufficiently well known to the public, or even to political leaders in different countries; such a session might serve to obtain more money for the Organization, money which it badly needed. He recalled, as an example, that at the meeting of the Malaria Eradication Committee during the morning, it had been noted that governments were showing very little interest in WHO's malaria eradication programmes. He was in favour of arrangements being made for the special session to last one or perhaps two days, and of it being held immediately before the Eleventh World Health Assembly.
Dr da SILVA TRAVASSOS supported the draft resolution, saying that a special session to mark the anniversary would add to the solemnity of the occasion.

Dr SUÁREZ said that he agreed with everything in the draft resolution except the words "in the place where the Eleventh World Health Assembly is to be held"; to provide sufficient liberty of action, the Board should amend that clause by adding the words "or in another place in the same neighbourhood". If the special session were held at a place a short distance away from that where the Eleventh World Health Assembly was held instead of both sessions being held in the same place, there would be scarcely any additional expense.

Dr CIARK also agreed that the anniversary should be celebrated; he had urged that the ceremony to mark the anniversary should be part of the Eleventh World Health Assembly solely for reasons of economy. If it was the Board's wish to adopt the draft resolution submitted jointly by Professor Parisot and Dr Jafar, it should not however alter the clause to which Dr Suárez had just drawn attention. Moreover, if the draft resolution were adopted, he would propose that, in order to prevent the total duration of the two sessions exceeding the normal duration of a Health Assembly, the technical discussions which it was planned to hold during the Eleventh World Health Assembly should be cancelled.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that it had been decided at the eighteenth session of the Board (resolution EB18.R18) that there should be technical discussions at the Eleventh World Health Assembly, and that the subject of those discussions should be "Health education of the public".
Dr MOORE said that he would agree to Dr Clark's suggestion being followed. If a special session were held, would the officers of that special session be the same as those of the Eleventh World Health Assembly or must time be spent in electing officers specially for the anniversary celebrations?

Dr DOROLLE, Deputy Director-General, said that if a special session were held, it would be unnecessary to elect its officers, since, according to the Constitution, the officers of the special session would be those elected at the previous regular session of the Health Assembly.

Professor PARISOT, referring to the suggestion made by Dr Clark, said that it should not be forgotten that the duration of Health Assemblies depended to a large extent on the length of the statements made, which, although it could be limited, could not be forecast exactly. He suggested that Dr Clark might view the draft resolution with less apprehension if there were added at the end of its final paragraph some such words as "without the total duration of the two sessions exceeding the normal duration of the Health Assembly".

Dr JAFAR said he had no objection to that amendment. For the sake of the record, he would like to ask what was the normal duration of a Health Assembly?

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that the duration of Health Assemblies had remained fairly stable during past years; they had begun on a Tuesday and finished before the end of the third week.

Dr DIAZ COLLER said that he fully agreed with everything in the draft resolution, with the addition suggested by Professor Parisot.
Dr FURI thought that some of the provisions in the final paragraph of the draft resolution would rob the special session of part of the solemnity which should be accorded to it. He suggested that the paragraph should be amended to read:

RECOMMENDS that the Tenth World Health Assembly decide that this special ceremony should precede the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the form of a two-day special session.

Dr CLARK was grateful to Dr Jafar and Professor Parisot for agreeing to the addition to their draft resolution of the provision limiting the duration of the two sessions. But he wondered whether that clause would be effective if the Board did not indicate how the business of the regular session could be carried out in two days less than usual: it was very difficult to persuade delegates to speak for less time than they wished to. He was aware that the Executive Board had decided that "Health education of the public" should be the subject of technical discussions at the Eleventh World Health Assembly; but did that make it impossible for the Board to recommend at its present session that the technical discussions should be postponed for a year?

Dr JAFAR said that there would certainly be considerable opposition to any proposal to the effect that there should be no technical discussions at the Eleventh World Health Assembly. The time of the regular session could be easily shortened by two days, for example, by means of Saturday meetings. However, the timetable for the session could safely be left to the Director-General in view of the excellent arrangements he had made in the past.

Dr FURI agreed with what Dr Jafar had just said.
Professor PARISOT, referring to Dr Puri's proposed redraft, thought it was important that the clause reading "in the place where the Eleventh World Health Assembly is to be held" should be retained.

Dr CLARK felt it was essential that both that clause and the clause reading "this to be immediately followed by the opening and proceedings of the Eleventh World Health Assembly" be retained. To do so would not rob the anniversary celebrations of any of their solemnity.

Dr JAFAR said he thought that the clause suggested by Professor Parisot regarding the total duration of the two sessions should be kept.

Dr PURI thought it was implicit in his text that the two sessions should be held in the same place. And surely it was not necessary to add the suggested clause regarding the total duration of the two sessions in view of what Dr Jafar himself had said on the subject?

Dr JAFAR thought it was necessary, as people other than those at the present meeting would be dealing with the resolution.

Mr BOUCHER, alternate to Sir John Charles, suggested, in place of Professor Parisot's wording for that clause, the words "every effort should be made to avoid extending the total duration of the two sessions beyond the normal duration of the Health Assembly".

Professor PARISOT did not wish for one moment to insist on the inclusion of the additional clause, which he had suggested solely with a view to enabling the Board to reach a compromise agreement.
Dr CLARK said he would agree to the adoption of Mr Boucher's alternative text, although it was not as strong as that suggested by Professor Parisot.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL reminded the Board that it was laid down in Article 14 of the Constitution that "The Health Assembly, at each annual session, shall elect the country or region in which the next annual session shall be held, the Board subsequently fixing the place. The Board shall determine the place where a special session shall be held". That meant that the Board would itself select the place of the special session and of the Eleventh World Health Assembly after the Tenth World Health Assembly had decided in which country or region they should be held. But although it was not yet possible to fix the place in which they would be held, there was nothing to prevent the Board making recommendations to the Tenth World Health Assembly regarding the duration and timing of the proposed special session and of the Eleventh World Health Assembly, and expressing the view that both should be held in the same place.

Dr JAFAR said he thought the wording of item 6.2 of the Agenda should be changed.

Dr SUAREZ asked whether the Board had the right to make decisions regarding the duration of Health Assembly sessions?
The DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that the Board obviously had the right to discuss the duration of the Eleventh world Health Assembly and the proposed special session, as it was its duty to approve budget estimates for them, and the cost of the Health Assembly and the special session would depend on their duration and also on the final decision as to where they should be held.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that Professor Parisot, Dr Jafar, Dr Clark and Dr Puri should form a drafting group to produce a new text.

Dr JAFAR said that it was unnecessary for him to be a member of that group as well as Professor Parisot, since his views on the matter were the same as Professor Parisot's.

Professor PARISOT said he did not think that he could help by joining in the group's discussions; he had already put down in writing his own proposal.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the drafting group should consist of Mr Boucher, Dr Clark and Dr Puri.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the Director-General's proposals regarding the special volume to celebrate WHO's tenth anniversary, which was the subject of Annex II of document EB19/50, and the other tenth anniversary publications, films and television programmes mentioned in section 7 of that document.
Professor PARISOT thought the programme outlined in those proposals was an excellent one. He had noted during the Board's discussion on regional matters that it was planned that the regional directors would each write short monographs on the activities of their regional offices. Would those monographs be published separately or be included in the special volume which was the subject of Annex II?

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that it was possible the regional committees might recommend that such monographs should be published in the region, in addition to the accounts of regional activities in the special volume.

The CHAIRMAN proposed adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Executive Board

Having noted the Director-General's report on the various publications and public information material planned for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the World Health Organization;

1. CONSIDERS that the plans submitted by the Director-General are in line with the suggestions made by members of the Executive Board at previous sessions; and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to proceed with the work as outlined in his report.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted (see resolution EB19/R33).

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the communication from the United States Government in document EB19/50 Add.1, regarding the place of the Eleventh World Health Assembly, and the draft resolution proposed by the Director-General on page 2 of that document.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he had submitted the document in view of resolution WHA5.48 of the Fifth World Health Assembly, and in particular the last paragraph of that resolution. The resolution read:
The Fifth World Health Assembly

REQUESTS the Executive Board to continue its studies on the holding of World Health Assemblies in places other than Headquarters, taking note of the following points:

(1) the host countries should co-operate fully with the Organization and the delegates attending the session;

(2) a financial contribution of 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the excess costs involved should be guaranteed either by the host country or by the host country in co-operation with the Member States of the region concerned;

(3) the host country should extend an invitation to the World Health Organization at least eighteen months before the date of the holding of the particular session of the Health Assembly.

Dr JAFFR asked whether the Director-General, in view of the last paragraph of that resolution and of the fact that less than eighteen months remained before the date on which the Eleventh World Health Assembly would begin, thought that it would be in order for the Board to discuss arrangements for holding the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the United States of America. He pointed out that no invitation had as yet actually been received from the United States Government to hold the Health Assembly in that country.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that the document was concerned with a conversation which had taken place in November 1956 and a resolution approved by the United States Congress in July 1956 authorizing an appropriation to enable the United States Government to extend an invitation to the World Health Organization to hold the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the United States of America. He pointed out that the verb in paragraph 3 of resolution WHA5.48 was "should" and not the more mandatory "shall". He believed that paragraph had been included in order to allow the Board an opportunity to examine the details of the cost of holding a Health Assembly away from
Headquarters. It was not necessary that the actual invitation should be received eighteen months before the beginning of the Health Assembly, provided the host government indicated beforehand to WHO that it was considering making such an invitation and ample opportunity for studying costs was given to the Board. Such would be the case on this occasion.

Dr JAFAR said that in view of the statement just made by the Director-General he was fully in favour of adopting the draft resolution.

Dr MOORE strongly supported the draft resolution. Living in a country that was the close neighbour of the United States of America, he knew the facilities which that country had to offer. As the Constitution of WHO had been originally drawn up and signed in the United States and WHO's parent organization, the United Nations, had its headquarters in that country, it was particularly suitable that the special session to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of WHO, and consequently the Eleventh World Health Assembly, should be held there.

**Decision:** The draft resolution on page 2 of document EB19/50 Add.1 was adopted (see resolution EB19/R34).

The CHAIRMAN, reverting to the earlier discussion, drew attention to the draft resolution prepared by the drafting group which had just been distributed and which read:

The Executive Board

Considering Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Constitution;

Considering resolution WHA9.28 adopted by the Ninth World Health Assembly, and in particular paragraph 1;

Recognizing that the tenth anniversary of the Organization should be celebrated with all due solemnity and should be the occasion of a special ceremony;
Considering it is desirable that such special ceremony be provided for without increasing the budgetary provision included in the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1958,

RECOMMENDS to the Tenth World Health Assembly that this special ceremony should immediately precede the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the same place and in the form of a two-day special session.

He thanked the Drafting Group for its good work.

Professor PARISOT remarked that the use of the word "desirable" in the fourth paragraph of the draft resolution made the provision somewhat less mandatory than he had understood the Board to favour. Otherwise he found the draft resolution acceptable.

Mr BOUCHER said, on behalf of the Drafting Group, that the Group had desired to use language which would not be too mandatory, having regard to the various opinions that had been expressed in the course of the debate.

Professor PARISOT withdrew his objection.

Decision: The Board adopted the draft resolution prepared by the Drafting Group (see resolution EB19.R32).

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL said the Board had still to express its opinion on the question of whether the anniversary session should be devoted to any special theme decided beforehand, or whether it should follow the pattern of the San Francisco session of the United Nations General Assembly, when each government had spoken on points which it considered suitable to the occasion. The replies on the point from
Member States indicated that twenty were in favour of following the San Francisco pattern, while eleven preferred a special theme, selected in advance. Some of the replies had also contained suggestions for a theme or for the way in which the theme should be selected or dealt with (document EB19/5, Annex I, paragraph 5).

Dr MOORE suggested, by way of starting the discussion, that the time allotted to the anniversary session could well be divided into two portions: the first to be devoted to a full review of the Organization's work during the ten years of its existence and ideas for the future pattern of work given by the regional directors and the Secretariat; the remaining time to be given over to statements by Member States, possibly with a time-limit on each speaker.

Dr DIAZ COLLER supported Dr Moore's suggestion. One day might well be set aside for an evaluation of the Organization's activities over the past ten years, made in general terms so as to have the widest possible public appeal.

Dr SIRI thought that unless an attempt was made in advance to lay down an order for the second part of the proceedings, there was a risk of government statements being over-long or being devoted to extraneous matters.

Dr TUMBOKON was in favour of adopting the San Francisco pattern. That would give Member States the opportunity to speak on their own health problems.
Dr CLARK endorsed Dr Moore's suggestion. On the one hand, it would be valuable to have statements by the Secretariat and the regional directors on the overall achievements of the Organization. At the same time, Member States should have the chance to speak. He appreciated the point raised by Dr Siri: some way would have to be found of overcoming that difficulty.

Dr JAFAR thought that the Director-General might have some suggestions to make on how the proceedings should be conducted.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL regretted that he had no particular plan in mind at the present time. He had been hoping for guidance from the Board, in the light of the replies from governments.

Mr SAITA, alternate to Dr Azuma, thought that, in the absence of specific proposals from the Director-General, the best the Board could do would be to recommend Dr Moore's suggestion to the Health Assembly. He would welcome emphasis on the need for a time-limit for speeches so that no difficulty would arise in fitting in all the speakers.

Dr PURI thought that the selection of a special theme would probably unduly restrict the scope of the statements to be made, and that that would be undesirable, in view of the fact that WHO's work and achievements covered a very broad field. It was reasonable to assume that speeches at the anniversary session would not be extempore. If the Secretariat were to make prior inquiries as to governments' intentions, it should be possible to work out a programme allowing as many speakers as possible.
Dr SIRI was concerned as to whether a single day would suffice to hear all the countries who would want to express their views on their own problems and on those of the Organization. Would more time be available if it turned out that countries wished to make longer statements than could be fitted in in a single day?

What he feared would happen was that countries, pre-occupied with their own problems and considering them of the highest importance, would go into great detail. All were concerned that the occasion of the anniversary session should not be marred in any way, yet no one would wish to curtail the right of free speech. He accordingly wondered whether it would not be possible to suggest a limited number of topics to which speakers should address themselves and add some kind of proviso on the time to be allotted to each. It might be possible to form a pattern that would cover every aspect of the Organization's work in the health field.

Dr MOORE envisaged some impressive opening ceremony on the first day, followed by the statements of the Secretariat and regional directors. But that should not require more than one day. It was clear that most governments would want to speak on the health conditions in their own countries and perhaps on the future work of the Organization as well. The Director-General might take steps to inform Member governments of the programme to be adopted well in advance of the anniversary session with a view to ascertaining how many countries would wish to speak. With that information at his disposal, it would be possible to estimate the time needed.
One possibility was that several countries with similar problems might select a single spokesman to represent them. That was a suggestion that might be put forward by the Secretariat, as one means of allowing as wide a representation in the proceedings as possible.

Dr SIRI wondered whether the government statements could not be combined with the annual report each country was called upon to present to the World Health Assembly. The Organization might in advance make suggestions to the Member States on what topics from the annual reports would be most appropriate for comment in statements at the anniversary session. That would rule out any risk of any country being unable to take due advantage of the opportunity to express its ideas and views on that occasion.

Dr JAFAR remarked that, as he understood it, the special session was to celebrate the tenth anniversary of WHO. Member States must therefore be brought to appreciate that the proceedings were designed to bring to the forefront the activities and achievements of the Organization itself. In making their statements to the World Health Assembly, it was often the case that Members drifted away from the main point to give a summary of their own achievements in the health field.

The time factor should not be a matter of very serious concern. The only restriction on the session lay in the Executive Board's recommendation that it should be held without increasing the budgetary provision included in the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1958. He thought it could well be left to the General Committee of the Eleventh World Health Assembly to adjust the time-table if that should prove necessary.
Sir John CHARLES wondered whether, in the light of the suggestions already made, the programme for the anniversary session might not now be left in the capable hands of the Director-General.

Dr JAFAR supported that suggestion.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL agreed that, with the record of the Board's discussion to guide him, he would be in a position to draw up proposals on the programme of the anniversary session for the consideration of the Tenth World Health Assembly. The matter was not one on which the Executive Board was expected to take any final decision at the moment.

The CHAIRMAN said that, accordingly, the Board would ask the Director-General to follow that course.

2. REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS TO EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS AND COMMITTEES: Item 2.7 of the Agenda (Document EB19/61)

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL recalled that it was the regular practice for the Director-General, in compliance with Rule 4.1 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, to present to the Executive Board a list of appointments he had made. The present list, embodied in document EB19/61, gave the members of the panels as at 1 January 1957, and also indicated by means of an asterisk members who had attended expert committees during the past year.

Decision: The Board adopted a resolution noting the report of the Director-General on appointments to expert advisory panels and committees (see resolution EB19.R35).
Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance, introducing the Director-General's report (document EB19/48), said that the question of the rights and obligations of Associate Members had been considered by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board on a number of occasions. With the exception of the eleventh session of the Board, the decision had invariably been against any change in the established rights and obligations, pending further study of the question.

At an earlier stage, the regional committees had been asked to submit recommendations on the matter to the Board and the Health Assembly. At the Ninth World Health Assembly, the Government of Viet Nam had put forward a proposal for the amendment of those rights and obligations. The Ninth Health Assembly had, however, decided to defer re-examination of the question until the Tenth World Health Assembly, and had requested that in the meantime the regional committees should again consider the subject and submit recommendations to the Board, to be taken into account by that body in formulating recommendations to the Tenth Health Assembly (resolution WHA9.52).

The Director-General's report set out the recommendations made by the regional committees.

Dr CLARK remarked that the question of the rights and obligations of Associate Members had been very carefully studied over a long period. The most recent consideration by the various regional committees gave, it seemed to him, a plain

1 Reproduced as Annex 7 to Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 76
answer. One regional committee stood alone in expressing the view that full voting rights should be granted in the regional committees. The regional committee for the only region which had Associate Members had expressed the view that it was premature to change the rights and obligations. That being so, the Board might well recommend to the World Health Assembly that no change be made.

Mr SAITA associated himself with Dr Clark's view that the status quo should be maintained. Apart from the fact that the majority of the regional committees still considered it premature to make any change, informal conversations at the Ninth World Health Assembly had shown that there was no particular enthusiasm for change at the present time. Indeed, as a result of those conversations, the delegate of Viet Nam had expressed his readiness to withdraw his proposal.

Dr da SILVA TRAVASSOS and Dr SIRI also supported Dr Clark's proposal.

Decision: The Board adopted a resolution transmitting the comments of the regional committees to the Tenth World Health Assembly and recommending no change at the present time in the rights and obligations of Associate Members (see resolution E319.R36).

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.
PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

CORRIGENDUM

Page 14, line 11: delete "admirable" insert "acceptable"
PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING

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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should be submitted in writing to the Chief, Records Service, Room G.310, within 48 hours of their distribution or as soon as possible thereafter.
Eighth Meeting
Friday, 18 January 1957, at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Professor G. A. CANAPERIA, Chairman
Dr R. PHARAON, Vice-Chairman
Dr T. C. PURI (alternate to Dr C. K. Lakshmanan), Acting Vice-Chairman
Dr B. M. CLARK (alternate to Dr J. J. Du Pré Le Roux), Rapporteur
Dr E. SUAREZ, Rapporteur
Dr R. AZUMA
Sir John CHARLES
Dr Dia E. EL-CHATTI
Dr C. DIAZ COLLER (alternate to Dr J. Zozaya)
Dr M. JAPAR
Dr MAUNG MAUNG GYI
Dr P. E. MOORE
Professor J. PARISOT
Professor N. PESONEN
Dr A. da SILVA TRAVERSOS
Dr L. SIRI
Dr R. TUMBOKON (alternate to Dr A. C. Regala)

Designating Country

Italy
Saudi Arabia
India
Union of South Africa
Chile
Japan
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Syria
Mexico
Pakistan
Burma
Canada
France
Finland
Portugal
Argentina
Philippines
Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies

United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Observers for Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations

International Committee of Catholic Nurses

International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy

International Dental Federation

International Union for Health Education of the Public

World Federation for Mental Health

World Federation of United Nations Associations

World Medical Association

World Union OSE

Secretary: Dr M. G. CANDAU
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Dr PURI thought that some of the provisions in the final paragraph of the draft resolution would rob the special session of part of the solemnity which should be accorded to it. He suggested that the paragraph should be amended to read:

"RECOMMENDS that the Tenth World Health Assembly decide that this special ceremony should precede the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the form of a two-day special session."

Dr CLARK was grateful to Dr Jafar and Professor Parisot for agreeing to the addition to their draft resolution of the provision limiting the duration of the two sessions. But he wondered whether that clause would be effective if the Board did not indicate how the business of the regular session could be carried out in two days less than usual: it was very difficult to persuade delegates to speak for less time than they wished to. He was aware that the Executive Board had decided that "Health education of the public" should be the subject of technical discussions at the Eleventh World Health Assembly; but did that make it impossible for the Board to recommend at its present session that the technical discussions should be postponed for a year?

Dr JAFAR said that there would certainly be considerable opposition to any proposal to the effect that there should be no technical discussions at the Eleventh World Health Assembly. The time of the regular session could be easily shortened by two days, for example, by means of Saturday meetings. However, the timetable for the session could safely be left to the Director-General in view of the excellent arrangements he had made in the past.

Dr PURI agreed with what Dr Jafar had just said.
Professor PARISOT, referring to Dr Puri's proposed redraft, thought it was important that the clause reading "in the place where the Eleventh World Health Assembly is to be held" should be retained.

Dr CLARK felt it was essential that both that clause and the clause reading "this to be immediately followed by the opening and proceedings of the Eleventh World Health Assembly" be retained. To do so would not rob the anniversary celebrations of any of their solemnity.

Dr JAFAR said he thought that the clause suggested by Professor Parisot regarding the total duration of the two sessions should be kept.

Dr PURI thought it was implicit in his text that the two sessions should be held in the same place. And surely it was not necessary to add the suggested clause regarding the total duration of the two sessions in view of what Dr Jafar himself had said on the subject?

Dr JAFAR thought it was necessary, as people other than those at the present meeting would be dealing with the resolution.

Mr BOUCHER, alternate to Sir John Charles, suggested, in place of Professor Parisot's wording for that clause, the words "every effort should be made to avoid extending the total duration of the two sessions beyond the normal duration of the Health Assembly".

Professor PARISOT did not wish for one moment to insist on the inclusion of the additional clause, which he had suggested solely with a view to enabling the Board to reach a compromise agreement.
Dr CLARK said he would agree to the adoption of Mr Boucher's alternative text, although it was not as strong as that suggested by Professor Parisot.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL reminded the Board that it was laid down in Article 14 of the Constitution that "The Health Assembly, at each annual session, shall elect the country or region in which the next annual session shall be held, the Board subsequently fixing the place. The Board shall determine the place where a special session shall be held". That meant that the Board would itself select the place of the special session and of the Eleventh World Health Assembly after the Tenth World Health Assembly had decided in which country or region they should be held. But although it was not yet possible to fix the place in which they would be held, there was nothing to prevent the Board making recommendations to the Tenth World Health Assembly regarding the duration and timing of the proposed special session and of the Eleventh World Health Assembly, and expressing the view that both should be held in the same place.

Dr JAFAR said he thought the wording of item 6.2 of the Agenda should be changed.

Dr SUAREZ asked whether the Board had the right to make decisions regarding the duration of Health Assembly sessions?
The DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that the Board obviously had the right to discuss the duration of the Eleventh World Health Assembly and the proposed special session, as it was its duty to approve budget estimates for them, and the cost of the Health Assembly and the special session would depend on their duration and also on the final decision as to where they should be held.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that Professor Parisot, Dr Jafar, Dr Clark and Dr Puri should form a drafting group to produce a new text.

Dr JAFAR said that it was unnecessary for him to be a member of that group as well as Professor Parisot, since his views on the matter were the same as Professor Parisot's.

Professor PARISOT said he did not think that he could help by joining in the group's discussions; he had already put down in writing his own proposal.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the drafting group should consist of Mr Boucher, Dr Clark and Dr Puri.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the Director-General's proposals regarding the special volume to celebrate WHO's tenth anniversary, which was the subject of Annex II of document EB19/50, and the other tenth anniversary publications, films and television programmes mentioned in section 7 of that document.
Professor PARISOT thought the programme outlined in those proposals was an excellent one. He had noted during the Board's discussion on regional matters, that it was planned that the regional directors would each write short monographs on the activities of their regional offices; would those monographs be published separately or be included in the special volume which was the subject of Annex II?

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that it was possible the regional committees might recommend that such monographs should be published in the region, in addition to the accounts of regional activities in the special volume.

The CHAIRMAN proposed adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Executive Board

Having noted the Director-General's report on the various publications and public information material planned for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the World Health Organization;

1. CONSIDERS that the plans submitted by the Director-General are in line with the suggestions made by members of the Executive Board at previous sessions; and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to proceed with the work as outlined in his report."

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the communication from the United States Government in document EB19/50 Add.1, regarding the place of the Eleventh World Health Assembly and the draft resolution proposed by the Director-General on page 2 of that document.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that he had submitted the document in view of resolution WHA5.48 of the Fifth World Health Assembly, and in particular the last paragraph of that resolution. The resolution read:
"The Fifth World Health Assembly

REQUESTS the Executive Board to continue its studies on the holding of World Health Assemblies in places other than Headquarters, taking note of the following points:

1. the host countries should co-operate fully with the Organization and the delegates attending the session;

2. a financial contribution of 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the excess costs involved should be guaranteed either by the host country or by the host country in co-operation with the Member States of the region concerned;

3. the host country should extend an invitation to the World Health Organization at least eighteen months before the date of the holding of the particular session of the Health Assembly."

Dr JAFAR asked whether the Director-General, in view of the last paragraph of that resolution and of the fact that less than eighteen months remained before the date on which the Eleventh World Health Assembly would begin, thought that it would be in order for the Board to discuss arrangements for holding the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the United States of America. He pointed out that no invitation had as yet actually been received from the United States Government to hold the Health Assembly in that country.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL replied that the document was concerned with a conversation which had taken place in November 1956 and a resolution approved by the United States Congress in July 1956 authorizing an appropriation to enable the United States Government to extend an invitation to the World Health Organization to hold the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the United States of America. He pointed out that the verb in paragraph 3 of resolution WHA5.48 was "should" and not the more mandatory "shall". He believed that paragraph had been included in order to allow the Board an opportunity to examine the details of the cost of holding a Health Assembly away from
Headquarters. It was not necessary that the actual invitation should be received eighteen months before the beginning of the Health Assembly, provided the host government indicated beforehand to WHO that it was considering making such an invitation and ample opportunity for studying costs was given to the Board. Such would be the case on this occasion.

Dr JAPA said that in view of the statement just made by the Director-General he was fully in favour of adopting the draft resolution.

Dr MOORE strongly supported the draft resolution. Living in a country that was the close neighbour of the United States of America, he knew the facilities which that country had to offer. As the Constitution of WHO had been originally drawn up and signed in the United States and WHO's parent organization, the United Nations, had its headquarters in that country, it was particularly suitable that the special session to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of WHO, and consequently the Eleventh World Health Assembly should be held there.

Decision: The draft resolution on page 2 of document EB19/50 Add.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN, reverting to the earlier discussion, drew attention to the draft resolution prepared by the drafting group which had just been distributed and which read:

"The Executive Board

Considering Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Constitution;

Considering resolution WHA9.28 adopted by the Ninth World Health Assembly, and in particular paragraph 1;

Recognizing that the tenth anniversary of the Organization should be celebrated with all due solemnity and should be the occasion of a special ceremony;"
Considering it is desirable that such special ceremony be provided for without increasing the budgetary provision included in the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1958,

RECOMMENDS to the Tenth World Health Assembly that this special ceremony should immediately precede the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the same place and in the form of a two-day special session.

He thanked the Drafting Group for its good work.

Professor PARISOT remarked that the use of the word "desirable" in the fourth paragraph of the draft resolution made the provision somewhat less mandatory than he had understood the Board to favour. Otherwise he found the draft resolution admirable.

Mr BOUCHER said, on behalf of the Drafting Group, that the Group had desired to use language which would not be too mandatory, having regard to the various opinions that had been expressed in the course of the debate.

Professor PARISOT withdrew his objection.

Decision: The Board adopted the draft resolution prepared by the Drafting Group.

Dr DOROLLE said the Board had still to express its opinion on the question of whether the anniversary session should be devoted to any special theme decided beforehand, or whether it should follow the pattern of the San Francisco session of the United Nations General Assembly, when each government had spoken on points which it considered suitable to the occasion. The replies on the point from
Member States indicated that twenty were in favour of following the San Francisco pattern, while eleven preferred a special theme, selected in advance. Some of the replies had also contained suggestions for a theme or for the way in which the theme should be selected or dealt with (document EB19/50, Annex I, paragraph 5).

Dr MOORE suggested, by way of starting the discussion, that the time allotted to the anniversary session could well be divided into two portions: the first to be devoted to a full review of the Organization's work during the ten years of its existence and ideas for the future pattern of work given by the regional directors and the Secretariat; the remaining time to be given over to statements by Member States, possibly with a time-limit on each speaker.

Dr DIAZ COLLER supported Dr Moore's suggestion. One day might well be set aside for an evaluation of the Organization's activities over the past ten years, made in general terms so as to have the widest possible public appeal.

Dr SIRI thought that unless an attempt was made in advance to lay down an order for the second part of the proceedings, there was a risk of government statements being over-long or being devoted to extraneous matters.

Dr TUMBOKON was in favour of adopting the San Francisco pattern. That would give Member States the opportunity to speak on their own health problems.
Dr CLARK endorsed Dr Moore's suggestion. On the one hand, it would be valuable to have statements by the Secretariat and the regional directors on the overall achievements of the Organization. At the same time, Member States should have the chance to speak. He appreciated the point raised by Dr Siri: some way would have to be found of overcoming that difficulty.

Dr JAFAR thought that the Director-General might have some suggestions to make on how the proceedings should be conducted.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL regretted that he had no particular plan in mind at the present time. He had been hoping for guidance from the Board, in the light of the replies from governments.

Mr SAITA thought that, in the absence of specific proposals from the Director-General, the best the Board could do would be to recommend Dr Moore's suggestion to the Health Assembly. He would welcome emphasis on the need for a time-limit for speeches so that no difficulty would arise in fitting in all the speakers.

Dr PURI thought that the selection of a special theme would probably unduly restrict the scope of the statements to be made, and that that would be undesirable, in view of the fact that WHO's work and achievements covered a very broad field. It was reasonable to assume that speeches at the anniversary session would not be extempore. If the Secretariat were to make prior inquiries as to governments' intentions, it should be possible to work out a programme allowing as many speakers as possible.
Dr SIRI was concerned as to whether a single day would suffice to hear all the countries who would want to express their views on their own problems and on those of the Organization. Would more time be available if it turned out that countries wished to make longer statements than could be fitted in in a single day?

What he feared would happen was that countries, pre-occupied with their own problems and considering them of the highest importance, would go into great detail. All were concerned that the occasion of the anniversary session should not be marred in any way, yet no one would wish to curtail the right of free speech. He accordingly wondered whether it would not be possible to suggest a limited number of topics to which speakers should address themselves and add some kind of proviso on the time to be allotted to each. It might be possible to form a pattern that would cover every aspect of the Organization's work in the health field.

Dr MOORE envisaged some impressive opening ceremony on the first day, followed by the statements of the Secretariat and regional directors. But that should not require more than one day. It was clear that most governments would want to speak on the health conditions in their own countries and perhaps on the future work of the Organization as well. The Director-General might take steps to inform Member governments of the programme to be adopted well in advance of the anniversary session with a view to ascertaining how many countries would wish to speak. With that information at his disposal, it would be possible to estimate the time needed.
One possibility was that several countries with similar problems might select a single spokesman to represent them. That was a suggestion that might be put forward by the Secretariat, as one means of allowing as wide a representation in the proceedings as possible.

Dr SIRI wondered whether the government statements could not be combined with the annual report each country was called upon to present to the World Health Assembly. The Organization might in advance make suggestions to the Member States on what topics from the annual reports would be most appropriate for comment in statements at the anniversary session. That would rule out any risk of any country being unable to take due advantage of the opportunity to express its ideas and views on that occasion.

Dr JAFAR remarked that, as he understood it, the special session was to celebrate the tenth anniversary of WHO. Member States must therefore be brought to appreciate that the proceedings were designed to bring to the forefront the activities and achievements of the Organization itself. In making their statements to the World Health Assembly, it was often the case that Members drifted away from the main point to give a summary of their own achievements in the health field.

The time factor should not be a matter of very serious concern. The only restriction on the session lay in the Executive Board's recommendation that it should be held without increasing the budgetary provision included in the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1958. He thought it could well be left to the General Committee of the Eleventh World Health Assembly to adjust the time-table if that should prove necessary.
Sir John CHARLES wondered whether, in the light of the suggestions already
made, the programme for the anniversary session might not now be left in the
capable hands of the Director-General.

Dr JAFAR supported that suggestion.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL agreed that, with the record of the Board's discussion
to guide him, he would be in a position to draw up proposals on the programme of
the anniversary session for the consideration of the Tenth World Health Assembly.
The matter was not one on which the Executive Board was expected to take any final
decision at the moment.

The CHAIRMAN said that, accordingly, the Board would ask the Director-General
to follow that course.

2. REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS TO EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS AND COMMITTEES: Item 2.7
of the Agenda (Document EBl9/61)

Dr DOROLLE recalled that it was the regular practice for the Director-General,
in compliance with Rule 4.1 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and
Committees, to present to the Executive Board a list of appointments he had made.
The present list, embodied in document EBl9/61, gave the members of the panels
as at 1 January 1957, and also indicated by means of an asterisk members who had
attended expert committees during the past year.

Decision: The Board adopted a resolution noting the report of the Director-
General on appointments to expert advisory panels and committees.
3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND OTHER TERRITORIES IN THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Item 8.2 of the Agenda (Document EB19/48)

Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance, introducing the Director-General's report (document EB19/48), said that the question of the rights and obligations of Associate Members had been considered by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board on a number of occasions. With the exception of the eleventh session of the Board, the decision had invariably been against any change in the established rights and obligations, pending further study of the question.

At an earlier stage, the regional committees had been asked to submit recommendations on the matter to the Board and the Health Assembly. At the Ninth World Health Assembly, the Government of Viet Nam had put forward a proposal for the amendment of those rights and obligations. The Ninth Health Assembly had, however, decided to defer re-examination of the question until the Tenth World Health Assembly, and had requested that in the meantime the regional committees should again consider the subject and submit recommendations to the Board, to be taken into account by that body in formulating recommendations to the Tenth Health Assembly (resolution WHA9.52).

The Director-General's report set out the recommendations made by the regional committees.

Dr CLARK remarked that the question of the rights and obligations of Associate Members had been very carefully studied over a long period. The most recent consideration by the various regional committees gave, it seemed to him, a plain
answer. One regional committee stood alone in expressing the view that full voting rights should be granted in the regional committees. The regional committee for the only region which had Associate Members had expressed the view that it was premature to change the rights and obligations. That being so, the Board might well recommend to the World Health Assembly that no change be made.

Mr SAITA associated himself with Dr Clark's view that the status quo should be maintained. Apart from the fact that the majority of the regional committees still considered it premature to make any change, informal conversations at the Ninth World Health Assembly had shown that there was no particular enthusiasm for change at the present time. Indeed, as a result of those conversations, the delegate of Viet Nam had expressed his readiness to withdraw his proposal.

Dr da SIWA TRAVASSOS and Dr SIRI also supported Dr Clark's proposal.

Decision: The Board adopted a resolution transmitting the comments of the regional committees to the Tenth World Health Assembly and recommending no change at the present time in the rights and obligations of Associate Members.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.