



COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS

PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Tuesday, 22 May 1962, at 9 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr B. D. B. LAYTON (Canada)

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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should reach the Chief Editor, Official Records, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, before 13 July 1962.

1. REVIEW OF PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1963: Item 3.4 of the Agenda

Organizational Meetings: Item 3.4.1 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 113 and No. 116, Chapter IV, paragraphs 11-22; Document A15/AFL/9)

Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, Secretary, said that the estimated expenditures for 1963 on organizational meetings were as follows: for the Health Assembly, \$ 329 310; for the Executive Board and its committees, \$ 191 290; and for the regional committees, \$ 80 600. That amounted to a total of \$ 601 200.

Dr van Zile HYDE, representative of the Executive Board, said that the Board had examined the estimates for 1963 and had been satisfied as to the reasons for the differences between those estimates and the estimates for 1962, as would be seen from the report of the Executive Board on the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1963 (Official Records No. 116, pages 29 and 30).

Decision: the budget estimates for Part I - Organizational Meetings were approved.

Administrative Services: Item 3.4.2 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 113 and No. 116, Chapter IV, paragraphs 129-141; Document A15/AFL/9)

The SECRETARY said that the estimates for administrative services in Official Records No. 113, pages 85-99 covered the office of the Director-General and of the Assistant Director-General in charge of the administration and finance; and also administrative management, personnel, conference and office services, budget, finance and accounts, public information, the legal office, internal audit, external relations, liaison with the United Nations, common services and other statutory staff costs. These estimates had been revised first, to give effect to changes in salaries and allowances, and secondly, to give effect to the reductions devolving from the change in travel policy.

Dr van Zile HYDE, representative of the Executive Board, drew attention to Chart 10 in the report of the Board on the proposed programme and budget estimates for 1963 (Official Records No. 116, page 47). That showed that on a based index of 100 for 1952, the index for established posts in administrative services was 138 in 1962 by comparison with a total staff index for the same year of 211. The Board considered that this development was a tribute to the efficiency of the administration of the Organization.

The SECRETARY said that the revised estimates for 1963 for administrative services excluding statutory staff costs were \$ 1 722 427; the revised estimates for statutory staff costs were \$ 527 790, thus making the total revised estimate of \$ 2 250 217.

Dr DOUBEK (Czechoslovakia) said that the Czechoslovak delegation had drawn attention during the discussion on the budget estimates for 1962 to the disproportion between expenditure on projects in the regular budget of WHO and other expenditure. That disproportion remained in the budget estimates for 1963. In fact, whereas the expenditure on the working programme and the contribution to the Malaria Eradication Special Fund together amounted to 87.87 per cent. of the revised budget for 1962, the estimated expenditure under those two headings would only amount to 86.5 per cent. of the budget for 1963. Although that ratio was influenced to a certain extent by the reimbursement to the Working Capital Fund of the \$ 700 000 used for financing the increased budget in 1962, it was clear that the disproportion had not been reduced. When it was realised that the estimated expenditure on the operating programme in 1963 would represent a rise of 30.28 per cent. over the level for 1961, while administrative expenditure would increase by 20.35 per cent. over the 1961 level, it would be seen

that a considerable part of the contributions from Member States was being used for purposes other than fulfilling the tasks of the Organization. He believed that every effort should be made to determine where possibilities of economies in the administrative services existed, with particular reference to the public information services, in order to ensure that the maximum possible part of the budget be devoted to operational programmes to the increased benefit of less developed countries and countries which recently gained their independence.

Dr VANNUGLI (Italy) said that the review of the budget estimates and the comments thereon of the Executive Board gave a very clear picture of the situation. With reference to Chart 10, mentioned by the representative of the Executive Board, he noted with satisfaction that whereas the increase in established posts at headquarters amounted to approximately 50 per cent. since 1952, the increase throughout the whole Organization amounted to more than 100 per cent. However, it should be noted that for every established post at headquarters there were less than three posts outside headquarters; for the time being, that was in keeping with the harmonious development of the Organization, but it might well be that, as operating programmes developed, that ratio should be modified.

Dr van Zile HYDE, representative of the Executive Board, said that the Board and its Standing Committee on Administration and Finance gave constantly most careful and detailed consideration to administrative costs, both in regular reviews and in special studies, in order to achieve any possible economies for the benefit of the operating programme. The Board would welcome any specific suggestions as to means of achieving additional economies.

Decision: The budget estimates for Part III - Administrative Services were approved.

Other Purposes: Item 3.4.3 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 113 and No. 116, Chapter IV, paragraphs 142-153)

The SECRETARY said that the budget estimates for Other Purposes (Official Records No. 113, page 100) covered the repayment of loans in respect of the headquarters building, the contribution to the Malaria Eradication Special Account and the African Regional Office Building Fund. As a result of the decision taken during the current session of the Health Assembly regarding housing of staff of the Regional Office for Africa (WHA15.15), a further item of \$ 482 000 should be entered under the heading, bringing the total to \$ 4 969 000.

Decision: The budget estimates for Part IV - Other Purposes were approved.

2. DRAFT SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS (Document A15/AFL/31)

The draft sixth report of the Committee was read section by section and approved.

Dr CAYLA (France), referring to paragraph 7 of the draft report, expressed his appreciation to the Secretariat for providing a list of countries and territories receiving assistance from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (Document A15/AFL/35).

Decision: The draft sixth report of the Committee was adopted.

3. REVIEW OF PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1963 (resumed)

Text of the Appropriation Resolution for the Financial Year 1963:
Item 3.4.4 of the Agenda (Official Records No. 113 and No. 116,
Chapter V, paragraphs 34-35; Document A15/AFL/WP/9)

The SECRETARY said that the text of the Appropriation Resolution proposed for 1963 followed the same form as in the past few years, with the addition of Appropriation Section 13 which resulted from the decision of the Health Assembly (WHA15.15) regarding housing for the staff of the Regional Office for Africa. Schedule A contained a list of those Members eligible for credits towards the payment of contributions. He proposed to read out the text of the Appropriation Resolution with the figures to be inserted as a result of earlier decisions of the Committee. The text was as follows:

"The Fifteenth World Health Assembly

RESOLVES to appropriate for the financial year 1963 an amount of US\$ 32 105 570 as follows:

I	Appropriation Section	Purpose of Appropriation	Amount US\$
		PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS	
	1.	World Health Assembly	329 310
	2.	Executive Board and its Committees	191 290
	3.	Regional Committees	80 600
		Total - Part I	<u>601 200</u>
		PART II: OPERATING PROGRAMME	
	4.	Programme Activities	
	5.	Regional Offices	
	6.	Expert Committees	
	7.	Other Statutory Staff Costs	
		Total - Part II	<u>22 135 583</u>

Appropriation Section	Purpose of Appropriation	Amount US\$
PART III: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
8.	Administrative Services	1 722 427
9.	Other Statutory Staff Costs	527 790
	Total - Part III	<u>2 250 217</u>
PART IV: OTHER PURPOSES		
10.	Headquarters Building: Repayment of Loans	387 000
11.	Contribution to the Malaria Eradication Special Account	4 000 000
12.	African Regional Office Building Fund	100 000
13.	African Regional Office: Staff Housing	482 000
	Total - Part IV	<u>4 969 000</u>
	Sub-total - Parts I, II, III & IV	<u>29 956 000</u>
PART V: RESERVE		
14.	Undistributed Reserve	2 149 570
	Total - Part V	<u>2 149 570</u>
	TOTAL - ALL PARTS	<u><u>32 105 570</u></u>

II Amounts not exceeding the appropriations voted under paragraph I shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the period 1 January to 31 December 1963 in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, the Director-General shall limit the obligations to be incurred during the financial year 1963 to the effective working budget established by the World Health Assembly, i.e. Parts I, II, III and IV.

III The appropriations voted under paragraph I shall be financed by contributions from Members after deduction of:

- (i) the amount of \$ 721 000 available by reimbursement from the Special Account of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance
 - (ii) the amount of \$ 195 040 representing assessments on new Members from previous years
 - (iii) the amount of \$ 304 960 representing miscellaneous income available for the purpose
- Total -
 \$ 1 221 000

thus resulting in assessments against Members of \$ 30 884 570.

IV The Director-General is authorized to transfer an amount not exceeding US\$ 282 470 from the cash balance available in the Malaria Eradication Special Account to cover the credits towards the payment of contributions of Members, in accordance with Schedule A attached.

SCHEDULE A

to the Appropriation Resolution for the Financial Year 1963

Members eligible for credits of 50 per cent.¹ towards the payment of their contributions in respect of that portion of their assessments corresponding to the total amount voted for Appropriation Section 11 under Part IV (Other Purposes) of paragraph I of the Appropriation Resolution:

Afghanistan	Lebanon
*Albania	Liberia
*Argentina	Libya
*Bolivia	Malagasy Republic
*Brazil	Malaya
Bulgaria	Mali
*Burma	Mauritania
Cambodia	*Mexico
Cameroun	Mongolia
Central African Republic	Morocco
Ceylon	Nepal
*Chad	Nicaragua
*China	Niger
Colombia	Nigeria
Congo (Brazzaville)	Pakistan
Congo (Leopoldville)	Panama
Costa Rica	Paraguay
Cuba	Peru
Dahomey	Philippines
Dominican Republic	Portugal
Ecuador	Romania
El Salvador	Ruanda-Urundi
Ethiopia	Saudi Arabia
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	Senegal
Gabon	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Somalia
Greece	*South Africa
Guatemala	*Spain
Guinea	Sudan
Haiti	Syrian Arab Republic
*Honduras	Tanganyika
*India	Thailand
Indonesia	Togo
Iran	Tunisia
Iraq	Turkey
Israel	United Arab Republic
Ivory Coast	Upper Volta
Jordan	Venezuela
Korea, Republic of	Viet Nam, Republic of
Laos	Yemen
	Yugoslavia

¹ In accordance with resolution WHA14.15

* Eligible under resolution recommended for adoption under agenda item 3.10.2

The SECRETARY added that the figure of \$ 282 470 in paragraph IV was the amount that would be required to cover the credits of 50 per cent., for Members eligible under Schedule A, towards the payment of their contributions in respect of that portion of their assessments corresponding to the total amount voted for Appropriation Section 11 under Part IV (Other Purposes) of paragraph I of the Appropriation Resolution.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) said that resolution WHA14.15, which had been adopted after very lengthy discussion, recommended to the Fifteenth World Health Assembly that the credits to Members eligible should be reduced in 1963 from 75 per cent., to 50 per cent. In view of the present financial situation of the Malaria Eradication Special Account, the Committee might wish to consider whether it would accept that recommendation of the Fourteenth Health Assembly or whether it should recommend that credits for 1963 should be maintained at 75 per cent. He believed that the additional cost of such a decision could be met from the Malaria Eradication Special Account, as it stood or after receipt of pledged contributions, without detriment to the acceleration of the eradication programme; and it would certainly relieve the burden which would otherwise be placed on the Members eligible for credits.

The SECRETARY said that if 75 per cent. credits were allowed for 1963, the amount required to cover those credits would be \$ 423 705. Sufficient funds were not at present available to cover that increase but the pledges already received would make possible the adoption of such a measure, although to do so would naturally reduce the funds available for accelerating the eradication programme.

Dr CAYLA (France) believed that the text of the Appropriation Resolution should stand as drafted and formally moved its adoption.

Dr AFRIDI (Pakistan) said that 50 per cent. credits against assessments of a share of \$ 4 000 000 were reasonable as compared with 75 per cent. credits against assessments of a share of \$ 2 000 000, but that the real burden would fall on countries in 1964 when, in accordance with the recommendation of the Fourteenth World Health Assembly, the credits allowed to the Members eligible would only be 25 per cent. against the assessment of their share of the total cost of the eradication programme. Although he fully appreciated the need for accelerating that programme, he believed that it would be wise to request the Executive Board to consider whether funds available in the Special Account might not be better employed in 1964 in maintaining credits at 50 per cent. for that year.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the delegate of Pakistan wished to make a formal proposal or whether it would be acceptable that, if there were no objection, the representative of the Executive Board be asked to include in his report to the Board a request that the level of credits for 1964 be examined.

Dr AFRIDI (Pakistan) said that the latter procedure would be quite satisfactory.

It was so agreed.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) said that he was surprised at the lack of response to his suggestion from the delegates of the eighty-one Members eligible to receive credits. Under the circumstances, he would not propose an amendment to the Appropriation Resolution although he was convinced that 75 per cent. credits in 1963 would be financially feasible.

Mr GUNewardene (Ceylon) said that he strongly supported the remarks of the delegate of Pakistan concerning the heavy burden which would be placed on countries eligible for credits when the percentage was reduced to 25 per cent. in 1964. He was certain that any measures that could be taken to alleviate that burden would be welcome.

Decision: The draft appropriation resolution was adopted.

4. DRAFT THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (Document A15/AFL/33)

The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee's draft third report to the Committee on Programme and Budget contained only the Appropriation Resolution.

Decision: The draft report was adopted.

5. ASSESSMENTS FOR 1961 AND 1962 OF NEW MEMBERS: Item 3.7 of the Agenda
SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR 1963: Item 3.8 of the Agenda (Document A15/AFL/32)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Secretary to introduce the item.

The SECRETARY, introducing the Director-General's report on the item (document A15/AFL/32), recalled that the Health Assembly had to fix the assessment of Western Samoa, the new Member, for 1962 and 1963. No similar action was required in respect of the new Associate Members, Jamaica and Uganda, since, by resolution WHA13.16, the assessment for all Associate Members was already fixed at 0.02 per cent.

The report contained a suggested draft resolution for the Committee's consideration (paragraph 4), whereby the Health Assembly would decide that Western Samoa be assessed for 1962 and 1963 at 0.04 per cent.

The Committee might also wish to consider whether Jamaica and Uganda, which were carrying out malaria programmes, should be eligible for credits in 1962 and 1963 in the same way as the Members listed in Schedule A attached to the Appropriation Resolutions for those years. Again, a suggested form of resolution to that effect was included in the report (paragraph 5).

In answer to a point raised by Mr SAITO (Japan), the CHAIRMAN confirmed that Western Samoa had no malaria programme in operation.

Dr AFRIDI (Pakistan) remarked that most of the members of the Committee would probably know that Western Samoa was one of the islands in the Western Pacific that had no indigenous malaria; there was a line beyond which no anophelines occurred.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 4 of the report, reading as follows:

The Fifteenth World Health Assembly,

Noting the admission of Western Samoa to membership in the Organization,

DECIDES that Western Samoa shall be assessed for 1962 and 1963 at 0.04 per cent.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved.

Mr FATU (Western Samoa) expressed his country's gratitude for the welcome given to it on admission to the Organization as a full Member. He had greatly appreciated the expeditious way in which the application had been handled, and he would convey to his Government and people the warm welcome received.

Since Western Samoa had no malaria programme, it would not benefit from the system of credits for which the new Associate Members would be eligible. He wondered therefore whether the Committee might not be disposed to consider waiving part of Western Samoa's assessed contribution for the year 1962, in consideration of the fact that almost half the year had elapsed before its membership of the Organization had become operative. He made it plain, in so asking, that he had no desire to give rise to any difficulty for the Organization.

The SECRETARY thought it would be useful for the Committee to know that when a similar question had arisen in the past, attention had been drawn to the fact that, in WHO, Members were assessed in full for the year during which they were admitted to membership; no pro rata reduction was made in respect of the months prior to membership becoming operative. The practice in the United Nations was different in that the United Nations made some adjustment of the assessed contribution for that year on a pro rata basis, possibly because new Members were normally admitted towards the end of the year. As a general rule WHO made no exception to its practice. He directed attention to Article 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, which stated that:

New Members shall be required to make a contribution for the year in which they become Members and to provide their proportion of the total advances to the Working Capital Fund at rates to be determined by the Health Assembly.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) said that his delegation fully sympathized with the position of Western Samoa. It was a small country with very limited resources and possibly financial stringency more than other factors was responsible for persuading its Government not to join the United Nations. And although its assessed contribution to WHO might be an insignificant amount to other countries, it represented a great deal of money to the people of Western Samoa.

Some way might perhaps be found of interpreting Article 5.8 of the Financial Regulations so as to allow an exception to be made for Western Samoa. That article merely stipulated "a contribution"; which need not necessarily be interpreted as meaning the full contribution for the year of admission. Moreover, whatever the amount Western Samoa was called upon to contribute for the year 1962, the assessment of other Members would not be affected, since it was the practice, he understood, for the contributions of new Members for the year of their admission to be credited to casual income.

He accordingly wondered whether it would not be possible to accede to the request made and, if the Financial Regulations so allowed, waive perhaps 50 per cent. of the amount.

Mr GUNewardene (Ceylon) also supported Western Samoa's appeal. He saw no reason why in the special case of such a very small country, WHO should not fall into line with United Nations practice, and agree to a pro rata contribution. He saw nothing in the Financial Regulations that would preclude such action. Moreover, there had been one occasion when the Health Assembly had agreed to waive the contribution of Korea, when that country had found itself in financial difficulties.

Membership of the United Nations should not be confined to the big countries only; nothing should be done to make it impossible for the tiniest country in the world to join the Organization and thus gain WHO's collaboration in maintaining and improving its health standards. He accordingly sincerely hoped some way would be found whereby relief could be given in the particular instance of Western Samoa.

Mr ZOHRAB (New Zealand) said that, naturally, his delegation felt that there was a very good case for waiving part of Western Samoa's contribution in the current year, for the reasons already cited by Iraq and Ceylon. He welcomed the support in the Committee for examining, at least, the possibility of waiving 50 per cent. of that contribution.

Mr SAITO (Japan) recalled that, when his country had been admitted to membership by the Fifth Health Assembly, the Government of Japan had asked for a cut in its contribution for the year of admission, on the grounds that no peace treaty had then been concluded and that the country was in a poor economic state. The Health Assembly had acceded to that request, an action which had been greatly appreciated by his country.

Mr de CONINCK (Belgium) was of the opinion that Western Samoa's request was fully justified. Moreover, it was supported by the fact that other Members with far larger populations were assessed at the same percentage.

While agreeing that the first part of Article 5.8 of the Financial Regulations need not necessarily require payment of the full contribution for the year, he nevertheless believed that the second part definitely laid down that the new Member must provide its full proportion of the total advances to the Working Capital Fund. In the circumstances, therefore, he wondered whether the Executive Board, at its next session, might not with advantage consider whether there was need for making the text in question more explicit in order to rule out similar discussions in the future.

Answering the CHAIRMAN, he said he was willing to leave the question of procedure on that suggestion to the decision of the Chairman.

The SECRETARY explained that his earlier remarks had been for the purpose of giving the Committee the relevant background information on the matter. The records would clearly show that Article 5.8 of the Financial Regulations had been interpreted by the Health Assembly in the past as requiring a new Member to pay the full amount of its assessed contribution for the year of admission. The legislative history of the matter was therefore entirely plain.

The special arrangements made in respect of Japan had been based on the consideration that a peace treaty had not at that time been negotiated. There had also been other examples where the Health Assembly had made a special concession, based on special considerations.

If the Committee wished to take similar action with regard to Western Samoa, it would be possible to add a paragraph to that effect to the resolution already adopted and he was ready to suggest an appropriate form of wording if the Committee should decide to re-open its discussion on the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN noted that, according to Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure, a two-thirds majority would be needed to re-open discussion on the resolution just adopted.

Mr GUNewardene (Ceylon), seconded by Mr SAITO (Japan) and Mr BABIKIR (Sudan), moved that the discussion be re-opened on the resolution, in order that a further paragraph waiving 50 per cent. of Western Samoa's assessment for the year 1962 might be added.

Decision: The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) thought there was no need to go into detail on the considerations underlying the proposed course of action. The main reason was that Western Samoa was a small country with very limited resources. He accordingly proposed that an additional paragraph be added to the resolution, reading as follows:

DECIDES further to waive 50 per cent. of Western Samoa's contribution for the year 1962.

Mr BABIKIR (Sudan) found himself in a somewhat awkward situation since he did not agree that the criterion for such action should be the size of a country. Some small countries possessed better resources than many a larger one. The criterion should be lack of financial resources.

Dr AFRIDI (Pakistan) said he was very sympathetic to Western Samoa and would like to see a reduction made in its contribution. At the same time, bearing in mind that other newly independent countries had recently joined the Organization, he wondered what the effect of such action would be on the membership as a whole. Some of those that had joined in 1961 might feel that they had come in just too soon. Moreover, it was likely that in a few years a number of further new Members would be admitted whose situation was much the same as that of Western Samoa. Provided those points were borne in mind, he was willing to support the amendment of the resolution.

Mr FATU (Western Samoa) said he was grateful for the kind reception given to his plea but he did not want the Committee to waste its time in lengthy debate on the matter. Once again he explained that he was asking for the concession as a mark of kindness and co-operation to a small new Member and in consideration of the fact that only little over a half of the year still remained. He had no desire to embroil the Committee in action against the established rules of the Organization.

The SECRETARY said that the point raised by the delegate of Pakistan had been in the Secretariat's mind. To cite a specific example, he recalled that Sierra Leone had become a full Member of the Organization on 20 October 1961 and had been assessed in full for the year 1961. He would therefore suggest that it would be advisable to mention the special circumstances militating in favour of a reduction in the assessment of Western Samoa and the matter might be covered by adding at the end of the operative paragraph of the resolution the words:

"provided that, because of the difficulties of this newly independent country, the contribution for 1962 shall be reduced by 50 per cent."

Mr KITTANI (Iraq) withdrew his proposed amendment and formally proposed the adoption of the wording suggested by the Secretary.

The point raised by the delegate of Pakistan had been very much in his delegation's mind during discussion on the question of assessment of the Members admitted in 1961. No request similar to that made by Western Samoa had been made at that time, so that it might be concluded that the countries in question were willing and able to accept the usual terms. His delegation was sympathetic to the Western Samoan request in the same way as it would have been to any such request on the part of Sierra Leone.

Dr MTAWAMI (Tanganyika) recalled that his country had joined the Organization during 1961 but the circumstances facing Western Samoa at the moment were such that he must assure the delegate of Pakistan that his country did not consider itself as having joined too soon. His delegation therefore supported the proposed amendment.

Mr GUNewardENE (Ceylon) also supported the proposed amendment, adding that it was open to any future new Member to make a similar request which would be considered on its merits.

Dr AFRIDI (Pakistan) was reassured by the remarks of the Tanganyikan delegate and did not wish the point to be pursued further.

The proposed amendment was approved.

Decision: The resolution, as amended, was approved.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the second draft resolution contained in the Director-General's report, reading as follows:

The Fifteenth World Health Assembly

DECIDES that, since Jamaica and Uganda are carrying out malaria programmes, they are eligible for credits in 1962 and 1963 in the same way as those Members listed in Schedule A attached to the Appropriation Resolutions for the financial years 1962 and 1963.

Dr MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, in view of the statement made by his delegation in plenary session when Jamaica and Uganda were admitted as Associate Members, he would like on their behalf to express appreciation of the suggestion made in the draft resolution and to say that there seemed to be no reasons why they should not be regarded as eligible for credits.

Decision: The draft resolution was approved.

6. FINANCING OF THE MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAMME: Item 3.10 of the Agenda (continued)

Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps (Resolutions EB26.R10, EB29.R28 and WHA14.27; Document A15/AFL/WP/8) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of France, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (document A15/AFL/WP/8); and explained that it had been prepared on the basis of the previous day's discussion by the sponsors of the original draft, with the guidance of other members of the Committee, meeting informally the evening before. It read as follows:

The Fifteen World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on malaria eradication postage stamps;¹

Noting with satisfaction that the issue of malaria eradication postage stamps is appreciably contributing to increased publicity, in this way creating a better knowledge and conscience in the public in relation to the malaria eradication programme, and will also provide some financial assistance for the malaria eradication programme for the Malaria Eradication Special Account as well as for certain national programmes;

Considering the desirability that malaria eradication postage stamps and related philatelic items be issued in sufficient quantities to ensure the wide distribution which is essential for the publicity aspects of this project,

1. NOTES with satisfaction the progress and the arrangements which have been made;
2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the large number of governments who are participating;
3. THANKS those governments who have made donations of stamps and other philatelic material;
4. URGES the governments, which have not yet done so, to issue postage stamps devoted to the malaria eradication programme as a further demonstration of their interest in the world-wide campaign against malaria and of their support of the efforts to participate in "The World United Against Malaria" campaign;

5. APPEALS to the governments concerned to take the necessary measures to publish and distribute all antimalaria postage stamps and related philatelic items in ample quantities, in the interest of the international character of this philatelic project;

6. EXPRESSES the hope that governments will find it possible to donate adequate quantities of antimalaria postage stamps and all related philatelic items to the Organization for philatelic sale, thus also helping to increase the confidence of philatelists in the possibility of acquiring antimalaria stamps;

7. REAFFIRMS the arrangements announced that any postage stamps related to malaria issued after 31 December 1962 are not a part of the Organization's malaria eradication postage stamp plan;

8. CONGRATULATES the Director-General for his continued and successful efforts to carry out the antimalaria postage stamp plan in compliance with the ethical standards of such plans.

Mr LIVERAN (Israel) recalled that he had been prevented by the procedure adopted at the previous meeting from commenting on the draft resolution then under consideration. Many of the comments he had intended to make applied equally to the draft now before the Committee.

In the first instance, he would like some information regarding the meaning of operative paragraph 7. He assumed it was not intended to discontinue sales of postage stamps or other activities necessary to the success of WHO's stamp scheme after 31 December 1962. If that were the intention, there seemed no point to the paragraph in question. On the other hand, it would have some meaning if it were meant to indicate that benefits would accrue to the countries issuing malaria postage stamps through forming part of the WHO scheme and that such stamps would no longer be available for sale after December 1962. But the fact was that governments were being asked to help the scheme and not vice versa. Moreover, if it were merely intended to serve as an inducement to new Members to participate in the scheme prior to the deadline date, that purpose could perhaps be achieved in some more delicate manner.

Coming to suggested amendments, he pointed out that there seemed little fundamental difference between the second paragraph of the preamble and operative paragraph 1. Secondly, it was not plain whether the arrangements referred to in operative paragraph 1 were those of governments or of WHO. Thirdly, the wording of the second paragraph of the preamble did not follow that of earlier resolutions of the Executive Board. He accordingly suggested that operative paragraph 1 be incorporated in the second paragraph of the preamble and that the wording of that paragraph be changed in line with earlier texts, to read as follows:

"Noting with satisfaction the programme and the arrangements which have been made, and noting further with satisfaction . . . contributing to the dissemination of information and is stimulating interest in the malaria eradication programme and that it will also provide . . . programme through the Malaria Eradication Special Account as well as through certain national programmes".

He further suggested that the final clause of the third paragraph of the preamble, after the word "distribution", be deleted, as adding nothing to the substance.

The same was true of the final phrase in operative paragraph 5, after the word "quantities", and he suggested that it too be deleted.

If he understood the purpose of operative paragraph 6 aright, the idea was to create the situation which would generate confidence on the part of philatelists. Again, therefore, it would be better to revert to the wording of earlier Executive Board resolutions. He accordingly suggested that the word "adequate", in the second line be replaced by the word "such"; and that the last phrase be reworded as follows: "as will be adequate to assure philatelists of the possibility of acquiring such stamps through the usual channels".

He would be grateful to hear the views of the sponsors of the draft resolution on his suggested changes, before making any formal proposal.

The SECRETARY explained that operative paragraph 7 was intended to establish a deadline date for the issue of stamps on the theme of malaria by postal administrations; it did not relate to a deadline date for the period of sale of such stamps.

The establishing of such a deadline date had been an integral part of the WHO stamp scheme right from its inception and had been referred to in previous resolutions on the subject and in circular letters addressed to governments. The main object was to make plain to all interested stamp collectors that only stamps issued prior to the end of 1962 would be recognized by WHO as forming part of the stamp scheme for which it had assumed responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the suggestions for amendment of the draft resolution put forward by the delegate of Israel.

Dr VASSILOPOULOS (Cyprus) expressed his Government's sincere congratulations to the Director-General for his great and successful efforts to carry out the stamp scheme.

Although it was drawing no benefit from the Malaria Eradication Special Account, his country had been one of the first to respond to the appeal of the Director-General and its issue of malaria stamps had come into circulation on 1 May 1962. The contribution of his Government in that respect was equivalent to £1000. He took the opportunity to appeal to Members that had not yet done so to participate in the scheme.

Dr CASTILLO (Venezuela) recalled that the subject had been discussed at length the previous day and, since the delegate of Israel had made no formal proposals for amendment, he would therefore propose that the draft resolution before the Committee be put to a vote as submitted.

Dr CAYLA (France), although recognizing that some of the amendments suggested would improve the text, nevertheless wondered whether it was really essential to the success of the scheme that the text arrived at after so much work should again be changed. Perhaps the delegate of Israel would consider that point.

Answering points raised by Dr VANNUGLI (Italy) the SECRETARY repeated the earlier explanations he had given regarding the significance of operative paragraph 7, adding that any postal administration was free to issue stamps on any subject, including malaria, at any date in the future. Issues on malaria, however, subsequent to 31 December 1962 would not form part of the WHO scheme. He further drew attention to resolution EB29.R28, which in operative paragraph 4 covered precisely the same point as operative paragraph 7.

From information available to the Secretariat, he could add that stamp collectors deciding to form a collection of stamps issued as part of the WHO-sponsored scheme would be glad to know that they need buy no stamps on malaria issued after 31 December 1962 to complete their sets. That was an additional factor supporting the establishment of the deadline date.

Dr CASTILLO (Venezuela) noted that, despite his earlier motion for an immediate vote on the draft resolution, the discussion had gone on, contrary to the Rules of Procedure. As, however, the views put forward were useful, he would withdraw his proposal.

The CHAIRMAN apologized for not having correctly interpreted Venezuela's earlier remarks.

Mr KHANACHET (Saudi Arabia) thought it expedient to clarify the position, as one of the delegates that had taken part in preparing the text of the draft resolution under consideration.

Those who had taken part in that work had been asked to provide a text reconciling to the maximum proposals that had been made at the previous meeting. That had been done to the best of their ability and it was disheartening to find that a new discussion was now taking place on further amendments and changes.

With regard to operative paragraph 7, he pointed out that the scheme had two aspects: a philatelic one coming within the framework of the programme advocated by WHO and a commercial operation outside that framework completely. It was a most wise move to limit the time during which valid issues of stamps could be made within the framework of the WHO programme.

He did not agree that there was overlapping between the second paragraph of the preamble and operative paragraph 1. Both paragraphs should therefore be maintained as they stood.

Lastly, he reverted to the proposal of the delegate of Venezuela and formally moved that the draft resolution be put to the vote immediately.

Mr LIVERAN (Israel) reminded the delegate of Venezuela that he had already expressed his regret at the need for making his comments on the basis of the draft resolution prepared by the informal working group. He greatly appreciated the work that group had done but there was nothing in the Rules of Procedure to preclude continuing discussion of the item, following the procedure adopted at the previous meeting.

The suggestions for amendment that he had put forward did not affect the substance of the draft resolution; whether or not they were approved would in no way affect the working of the scheme. Indeed, the same would be true if no resolution on the subject were adopted. In making his suggestions he had been moved purely by the desire to fulfil the obligation and duty incumbent upon him, as a member of the Committee, to try to ensure that any draft resolution recommended should be as perfect as possible in form and substance. If that consideration was not regarded as of prime importance, he would not press his proposals.

Dr KHABIR (Iran) and Dr MUDALIAR (India) seconded the motion of the delegate of Saudi Arabia for an immediate vote on the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution contained in document A15/AFL/WP/8 was approved.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.