MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Monday, 15 January 1962, at 10 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr A. O. ABU SHAMMA

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First Meeting
Monday, 15 January 1962, at 10 a.m.

Present
Dr A. O. ABU SHAMMA, Chairman
Dr K. SUVARNAKICH, Vice-Chairman
Dr D. CASTILLO, Vice-Chairman
Dr A. NABULSI, Rapporteur
Dr S. SIGURDSSON, Rapporteur
Dr M. K. AFRIDI
Dr O. B. ALAKIJA
Dr D. BAIDYA
Dr A. L. BRAVO
Mr A. CISSÉ DIA
Dr G. CLAVERO DEL CAMPO
(alternate to Professor J. García Oreoyen)
Dr J. D. HOURIHANE
Dr H. van Zile HYDE
Professor M. KACPRZAK
Dr Yong Seung LEE
Dr A. LYNCH C
Dr L. MOLITOR
Dr L. H. MURRAY
(alternate to Dr G. E. Godber)
Dr V. V. OLGUIN
Dr T. OMURA

Designating Country
Sudan
Thailand
Venezuela
Jordan
Iceland
Pakistan
Nigeria
Nepal
Chile
Senegal
Spain
Ireland
United States of America
Poland
Republic of Korea
Peru
Luxembourg
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Argentina
Japan
Present

Dr J. Adjei SCHANDORF
Dr J. SHAHEEN
Dr S. SYMAN
Dr R. VANNUGLI (alternate to Professor G. A. Canaperia)

Designating Country

Ghana
Iraq
Israel
Italy

Secretary: Dr M. G. CANDAU
Director-General

Representatives of Intergovernmental Organizations

United Nations
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
Technical Assistance Board
International Labour Organisation
Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration
League of Arab States
United International Bureaux for the Protection of Industrial Property, Literary and Artistic Works

Mr N. G. LUKER
Sir Herbert BROADLEY
Dr S. Flache
Mr J. R. Symonds
Dr R. A. MÉTALL
Mr T. S. BUSHA
Dr K. G. WATSON
Dr A. T. SHOUSHA
Mr R. WOODLEY
Representatives of Non-governmental Organizations

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1. OPENING OF THE SESSION: Item 1.1 of the Provisional Agenda

The CHAIRMAN declared the meeting open and welcomed the participants, particularly those who were attending a session of the Executive Board for the first time.

He also welcomed the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It was a pleasure also to note the presence of the representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, who all shared their profound interest in health and in the welfare of mankind.

He welcomed the new Assistant Director-General, Dr Baroyan, and wished his predecessor, Dr Grashchenkov every happiness in his new life. On behalf of all present he wished a speedy recovery and good health to Dr Dorolle, the Deputy Director-General, who was not able to be present, and whom they all missed very much.

Members of the Executive Board would be interested to hear that, since the twenty-eighth session of the Board, Sierra Leone had been admitted to membership of the United Nations (on 27 September 1961) and had deposited its instrument of acceptance of the WHO Constitution on 20 October 1961. Furthermore, since the resumption by the Syrian Arab Republic of its separate membership of WHO, the Organization now had 108 Member States in addition to its Associate Members.

He would begin by congratulating the Director-General and his staff on the excellent work achieved during the year; the magnitude of their efforts would become apparent as meetings proceeded.
On the threshold of the second year of a decade that the United Nations had decided to designate as a decade for the socio-economic development of nations, the Executive Board was meeting to consider in detail one more annual programme of the Organization which had contributed so much to the health of man as an individual, and had brought untold benefits to all the nations of the world.

These were times of much accomplishment, when everything around pointed to an incessant crescendo of progress. The greatness of the World Health Organization was that it placed at the service of all mankind the achievements of modern science in the fields of prevention, cure and rehabilitation, at the same time ensuring that programmes were adapted to the psychological attitudes, customs and cultural patterns of individual peoples.

He did not intend to comment in detail on all the items of the agenda; he would refer, however, to the report on assistance to the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), which was but one aspect of the larger item on continued assistance to newly-independent states. What such WHO assistance meant to the millions of newly enfranchised people was obvious to all, and he looked forward to a useful discussion to guide the Organization in meeting the numerous needs with the relatively scanty resources at its disposal.

The expert committee reports would also be given great attention and note would be taken of the invaluable technical guidance WHO was receiving from the expert committees in so many and so diverse fields. He expressed the gratitude of the Board to those experts for their efforts and assistance.
The organizational study on co-ordination with the United Nations and the specialized agencies was one of the most important subjects before the Board. Such co-ordination was a means of facilitating within reasonably economic limits the attainment of the aims and objectives of the programmes. It should, however, be ensured that co-ordination was always within the constitutional mandate of the Organization, which stipulated that the functions of WHO were to assist governments, upon request, in strengthening their health services. He stressed the importance of the technical independence of the Organization in giving direct assistance to the countries that requested it, and of ensuring that any external co-ordination of the international group of agencies, especially at country level, did not encroach upon the internal country co-ordination in which the government concerned remained sovereign and completely independent.

He would refer to two most important items - medical research, and the malaria eradication programme.

In the twentieth century one was, in a sense, living in a world of research and it was right and fully justified that the World Health Organization should keep pace with the times, playing its proper role in the co-ordination of those research activities that went beyond the purview of national activities and required international action. The scope of the research programme ranged far and wide.

The document prepared by the Secretariat on the item described the medical research programme for 1958-1961, and indicated its scope, despite the modest resources supporting it. A glance at the subject showed that the research in communicable diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, human genetics, nutrition and radiation health, were not only extremely topical but were also intimately related
to the Organization's work in the field and to nations' work in the laboratories of the world. The task of assessing the programme would be facilitated by the factual and fully documented report that had been prepared.

The malaria eradication programme continued to gather strength, and the year 1961 marked a turning point. As the world-wide battlefield against malaria shrank in size, the alertness of the health authorities in the role of surveillance assumed fundamental importance. Sound operational planning was increasingly being based on well-tried technical, financial and administrative principles. As for those countries which did not so far have a programme for malaria eradication, the pre-eradication programmes of the Organization would help them to build up operational and other facilities for the eradication campaign ahead. Again, in its evaluation of the programme and its progress, the Board would be aided by a fully-documented report covering training, operational and other aspects of a subject to which so many efforts and much of the resources of the Organization had been devoted.

The proposed programme and budget estimates for 1963 would also come before the Board. The findings of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance would guide them in their task. He paid a tribute to the invaluable work done by the Committee in analysing in detail the estimates and programme - a fact to which he could bear personal witness, since he had participated in the discussion ex officio. The programme was essentially a human programme, designed by man for the improvement of the lot of the common man everywhere. When the programme was examined, that fundamental fact must not be forgotten.
The Board would look forward to the statements of the regional directors on the
development of the programme in their regions, since the regional directors had acquired
considerable experience in helping governments to implement their health programmes
economically and on technically sound lines.

With reference to the item concerning the place of the Sixteenth World Health
Assembly, he expressed the gratitude of the Board for the generous invitation of the
Government of Argentina to convene the Assembly in Buenos Aires.

There were various other items, each important in facilitating the operations
of the Organization, e.g. headquarters accommodation, the review of non-governmental
organizations, the question of awards for scientific achievement, and in particular
item 7.6 on salaries and allowances of internationally-recruited staff.

Members would recall that at its twenty-third session, after examining the
Director-General's report on the study of certain aspects of salaries, allowances
and benefits, the Board had shared the concern of the Director-General with regard
to the inadequacy of salary levels for the recruitment of staff of the calibre required
by WHO's programmes and had requested him to continue consultation with his colleagues
on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the matter. The Board would be
gratified to hear of the recent decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly
to improve salary scales, for it had been instrumental in promoting a revision that
was long overdue.
He had begun his address by alluding to the tremendous social development and scientific progress of the times and he would conclude on that note by referring to some of the United Nations decisions that would affect the programme of work of the Organization; in particular the resolution on the United Nations Development Decade, which called upon Member States of the United Nations or the specialized agencies to intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustained growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement, through inter alia measures to accelerate the elimination of illiteracy, hunger and disease, which so seriously affected the productivity of the peoples of the less developed countries.

The brief summary of the agenda he had given sufficed to indicate the magnitude of the task before the Board and its full implication. Conscious of the repercussions of the Board's decisions, which would affect literally almost the entire world, he would have felt overawed were he not equally aware of the fact that the Board had always been sparing with words, but highly active in constructive deeds. He was confident that with the help of Board members that tradition would be more than upheld.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN recalled that Dr Martínez Marchetti and Dr Suvarnakich had been elected Vice-Chairmen at the twenty-eighth session of the Board. Since Dr Martínez Marchetti was no longer a member of the Board, however, he invited nominations for a new Vice-Chairman.

Dr BRAVO proposed Dr Castillo, who had been a member for nearly three years and had carried out excellent work on the Board.

Dr LYNCH, Dr OLGUIN, Dr VANNUGLI, Dr van Zile HYDE and Dr CLAVERO seconded the proposal.

**Decision:** Dr Castillo was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.
Dr CASTILLO expressed his sincere gratitude for the honour that had been conferred upon him and promised to show the same enthusiasm in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the Board as his predecessor.

On a point raised by Dr HOURIHANE, the CHAIRMAN confirmed that the election the previous year of Dr Suvarnakich as first Vice-Chairman was still valid.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Item 1.2 of the Provisional Agenda (Documents EB29/1 and EB29/1 Add.1)

Decision: The agenda (document EB29/1), including four supplementary items (document EB29/1 Add.1), was adopted.

4. PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN said that certain representatives of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations had expressed a wish to know in advance on what day the items in which they were interested would be considered by the Board. He therefore proposed that the programme of work for Friday, 19 January, should include the following items: item 8.2.1 (Communication from the International Diabetes Federation), item 8.2.2 (Communication from the International League against Rheumatism), supplementary item 2 (Communication from the International Fertility Association), item 2.9 (report on expert committee meetings), and supplementary item 1 (Joint FAO/WHO programme on food standards (Codex Alimentarius)).

It was so agreed.
The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Board should meet each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., with a short break at 11 a.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., with a short break at 4 p.m.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the agenda was long and covered a large number of subjects. He appealed to members to keep their discussions as short as possible, to avoid the necessity of holding meetings on Saturdays.

5. TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD

The CHAIRMAN said that he was sure the Board members would wish to pay homage to the memory of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, and the members of his staff who had died with him. That tragic event had deprived the international community of a leader whose energy and tenacity had been directed towards the achievement of the main goal of the United Nations: world peace. The best tribute that the Organization could pay to his memory was to apply itself with renewed vigour to its task of international co-operation. He invited the Board to stand in silent homage.

6. REPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD AT THE FOURTEENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: Item 1.3 of the Agenda (Document EB29/2)

Dr NABULSI, Rapporteur, read out document EB29/2.¹

At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL read the following draft resolution:

¹ Reproduced as Annex 3 of Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org. 115
"The Executive Board

1. NOTES the report of the representatives of the Board at the Fourteenth World Health Assembly; and

2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to those representatives for the able manner in which they fulfilled their responsibilities."

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted (see resolution EB29.R1).

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7. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE): Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Resolution WHA14.26, para. 5; Document EB29/37)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Director-General to introduce document EB29/37.¹

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that document EB29/37 was the fifth in a series of such reports. He expressed anxiety about the possible future deterioration of the health situation, in particular the increased incidence of certain communicable diseases resulting from the difficulty of taking large-scale preventive action in the continuing state of political unrest.

WHO staff in the Congo comprised three groups, the first giving advice to the central and provincial authorities, the second representing operational staff distributed throughout the country to provide curative and preventive services, and the third being the teaching staff serving in Lovanium University. The total staff for all three groups was 146, which represented the minimum necessary for maintaining certain basic services, and the number of operational staff would have to be increased if a further deterioration of the health situation was to be prevented. Even if account were taken of those doctors provided by private enterprise and the missionary groups, their numbers still fell far below the needs of the country.

In sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the report mention was made of the general epidemiological situation and of the kwashiorkor epidemic, followed in section 4 by details of the education and training programme, which was divided into training in Lovanium University and other local training. WHO was helping the staffing of the school of medicine in Lovanium University by the provision of eight professors and by the payment of certain stipends for the training of Congolese students, and was also planning to help the school of nursing. Besides training at university level, the Organization had been assisting in training local auxiliary personnel, for example in the field of maternal and child health in Kasai province, and in many other training programmes such as those for laboratory technicians and sanitarians.

Training outside the Congo was specially related to the training of assistants médicaux. In the academic year 1960-61, provision had been made for fellowships in French universities for sixty-one assistants médicaux, one of whom was in the advanced stage of his training. Of the sixty students who had sat their fourth-year examinations, fifty-eight had passed into the fifth year and the remaining two had shown sufficient promise to be given the opportunity of repeating their fourth year. That successful result was an outcome not only of the serious way in which the students were taking their studies but also of the system of tutorship built up by the Organization in co-operation with the French authorities. In the academic year 1961-62, fifty-three more students had been received: fifty-two under ONUC and one holding a special fellowship from the Norwegian Red Cross. Six were studying in Switzerland and forty-seven in French universities, making a total of 114 assistants médicaux currently completing medical training in France and Switzerland. There were also seven students taking the first year of the regular course in medicine,
six of whom were continuing their training in France and Switzerland during the academic year 1961-62. No new students were being taken, however, since it was felt that as many as possible should be trained in Lovanium University.

Reference was made in section 4.2.3 to the specialized training organized for infirmiers diplômés as laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians and dentistry technicians.

The document finally gave information (section 5) concerning the financial aspects, from which it would be seen that the expenditure for 1961 under the regular budget was estimated at $93,960, and that the estimated expenditure for which reimbursement was expected from the United Nations was $4,067,000.

Dr SCHANDORF said that he had listened with great interest to the information which the Director-General had given. It was always a source of great satisfaction to him to know that, in spite of the criticisms levelled at the United Nations, its presence in the Congo was amply justified by the useful role that WHO, as one of its specialized agencies, continued to play there. Board members were aware of what had been done to initiate and maintain programmes of technical assistance, education and training, as well as activities in other branches of health, in the face of tremendous difficulties. Education and training was of paramount importance not only in the Congo but in most other newly-independent states, who would remember the Organization's work with appreciation and gratitude. He also thanked those European countries who had received students to complete their medical studies.

He asked whether the time had not now come to give maximum assistance in training Congolese doctors locally in Lovanium University, which had adequate residential facilities for students. He noted with satisfaction the provision of professors to that university and asked how many such professors were now in residence and whether
it could be assumed that there was sufficient staff to undertake such local training. He recalled that the acute shortage of doctors brought about by the Second World War had been met in some countries by an accelerated programme under which, by foregoing vacations, training had been shortened by as much as six months. In spite of the hardships that would be imposed upon professors and students, he considered that, in the emergency situation which existed, such emergency methods of solution were called for.

He asked whether training in related fields of social and economic development was taking place in other faculties of Lovanium University. What were the prospects of recruitment of future students? He had understood from the Director-General's remarks that there was a vacuum between the elementary grade and the university, and it was stated in section 2.3 of document EB29/37 that "the WHO medical care staff assigned to provinces of the Congo provide a framework for the maintenance of medical care services but the figure of 450 doctors previously considered indispensable still remains a remote target".

He was pleased to note that the mobility of staff had been made easier by the addition of thirty vehicles by UNICEF. In order to assist in meeting the shortage of medical staff, he asked whether the Director-General would not consider appealing to Member governments to second such staff for short-time duties, the cost to be charged to the Congo operation.
Mr SAITO, alternate to Dr Omura, asked what was the procedure by which WHO expenditure was reimbursed by the United Nations. He wished to know in particular whether the reimbursement of $4,067,000 was intended to cover the whole of the WHO programme.

Dr MURRAY said that the point he was about to make was associated with one raised by Dr Schandorf. In section 4.1.1 of document EB29/37 it was stated: "The provision of teaching staff under the emergency programme will have to be stopped at the end of the academic year 1961-1962". He asked whether the Director-General could enlarge upon that statement, which had such important repercussions upon the continuation of the essential training programme in the Congo.

Mr CISSE DIA associated himself with those speakers who had paid a tribute to the Organization, particularly in regard to its activities in the Congo (Leopoldville). He understood those activities to be in three different categories: assistance given to the population on the spot by WHO experts; assistance to Lovanium University in the provision of professors; and training of students in French and Swiss universities.

He drew attention to the fact that Senegal possessed a university at Dakar, at which not only Senegalese but also students from most other African countries, and even from some European and South American countries, received training, and said that that university would be glad to receive students from the Congo.
Dr JUCHNIEWICZ, alternate to Professor Kacprzak, said that he had studied the Director-General's extremely lucid and complete report with great interest. He asked for more information regarding the difficulties that had been encountered in recruiting doctors. It would be recalled that at the Fourteenth World Health Assembly many countries, including those of eastern Europe, had expressed their desire to offer assistance. He asked whether the failure to recruit the 450 doctors needed was due to that promised assistance not having been forthcoming or to other factors.

The hope was expressed in section 2.3 of the report that the Government might soon be in a position to undertake recruitment through its own channels. He asked whether such recruitment was envisaged through the intermediary of the Organization or by bilateral agreement between States.

Dr HOURIHANE said that he too, like Dr Murray, had been concerned about the stopping of the provision of teaching staff to Lovanium University at the end of 1961-62. He noted that the hope was expressed in the report that some other means for the provision of such staff might be found by then.

It was also stated in section 4.2.2 that "no other fellowships are being awarded to undergraduates to study outside the Congo, since it is hoped that all the training necessary can now be provided by Lovanium University with the assistance of WHO as necessary". He asked the Director-General what were the prospects of the outside staff continuing to teach at the University; and what was the length of the complete course of medicine at the University at present.
It was gratifying to note that there had been such a high percentage of passes by the assistants médicaux in their examinations and that the remaining two were considered sufficiently promising to be kept in training. What was the remaining period of training envisaged for the fifty-eight students who had passed after their first year of study in France?

Referring to paragraph 3.4 (page 5 of the report), he asked whether the cause of the deaths mentioned in the seventh line was unknown because the deaths had not been medically observed, or because, having been medically observed, the diagnosis remained uncertain; and whether the number of the deaths involved was large or small compared with deaths from other causes, such as smallpox.

He congratulated the Organization for having carried out a tremendously efficient job in very difficult circumstances.

Dr VANNUGLI associated himself with the congratulations expressed to the Director-General and his staff on the Organization's activities in the Congo and on the information given in the report.

The question of training was one in which the greatest difficulties were encountered. He asked for more information concerning the assistants médicaux mentioned in section 4.2.1 of document EB29/37. That category of personnel had no exact equivalent in the traditional organization of health services. It was in his opinion a temporary solution, but he would like some information as to experience in the Congo with that type of personnel.
It was very important that a doctor should know the language of the people under his care: even in the case of specialties such as surgery or radiology, where the language might be less important, it was essential to know the national customs and psychology. The ideal solution was to have doctors who were nationals of the country concerned. He had listened with great interest to what had been said concerning the University of Dakar and considered that the time was approaching when training could take place in neighbouring countries where the environment was similar to that in the doctor's own country.

He noted in section 4.1.1 (page 6 of the report) that the provision of teaching staff under the emergency programme would have to be stopped at the end of the academic year 1961-62 but that it was hoped that some other means for the provision of that staff might be found by then, so as not to discontinue their service. That was a very important point and he wished to know what means were envisaged for carrying out that provision.

He would like to have more information regarding the epidemiological situation in the country, without which it was difficult to form an idea of the requirements.

Dr Afridi associated himself with the questions put by Dr Hourihane and in addition wished to know the length of the courses at Lovanium University, as well as those in the French universities. The figures given should be either inclusive or exclusive of the period of internship, to permit consideration of the possibilities of shortening training.
He asked what was the annual enrolment in the medical school of Lovanium University. It was mentioned in section 4.1.1 that a grant had been made for training twenty-five medical undergraduates and that thirty more students had received grants for the academic year beginning on 31 October 1961, but he wished to know whether those figures constituted total enrolment or whether there were others studying but not in receipt of a fellowship.

Dr MOLITOR asked whether the programme of action provided for control of the quality of smallpox vaccine produced in the Congo, since many travellers coming from the Congo were vaccinated with locally-produced vaccine.

Sir Herbert BROADLEY (United Nations Children’s Fund) said that at the last meeting of the national committee for WHO in the United Kingdom, at which he had been present as UNICEF representative, the representative of one of the private interests to which the Director-General had referred had reported that its medical officer had just returned from the Congo and had given an interesting and encouraging account of the work undertaken by WHO doctors and others serving there in very difficult conditions. The committee had asked him to convey to the Executive Board its great interest in the report it had received. It had been added that in the United Kingdom too little was known about the work done by doctors and other staff in the Congo, and the question had been asked whether WHO could not produce occasional reports for publication to enlighten the public about the work that was being done, particularly in view of the criticism that had been levelled at the United Nations and specialized agencies concerning their activities in that country.
The CHAIRMAN thanked the UNICEF representative for his comments and said that he was sure the Director-General would take note of his suggestion.

Dr NABULSI said that he had been asked by English-speaking doctors in his country what were the possibilities of working in the Congo, and he had replied that the need there was for French-speaking doctors. He asked if there was any means of taking advantage of the services of such doctors who were willing to work in the Congo but knew only the English language.

He associated himself with previous speakers in paying a tribute to the Director-General and his staff.

Dr HOURIHANE asked what could be done to avoid the risk of students who had been trained under WHO programmes failing to give their services to the end for which they had been intended.

Dr AFRIDI asked whether information could be given concerning the stage at present reached by the latest groups of trainees at Lovanium University.

The CHAIRMAN said that the questions which had been put were of two kinds: financial questions, and those concerning training and other aspects of the programme. He invited Mr Siegel to answer the financial questions.

Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, replying to the question raised by Mr Saito, said that the word "expenditure" in the first and second lines of section 5 of document EB29/37 should in both cases be replaced by the word "obligations". The procedure was that WHO used part of its regular budget to finance a small portion of the work being carried out in the Congo, i.e. the $93,960 referred to in the first
line of the paragraph. The rest of the operations, for which reimbursement was expected from the United Nations, was subject to a mutual agreement between the two organizations regarding the nature of those operations. That agreement included payment for a certain number of medical personnel and for a certain number of fellowships; reimbursement was made by the United Nations on the basis of monthly bills for the actual expenditures made by the Organization. A small advance payment had been received from the United Nations to cover estimated expenditure for one month.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL, replying first to the question raised by Dr Schandorf, said that, as stated in the document, it was preferred to train students as far as possible in Lovanium University rather than abroad; there were difficulties however with regard to provision of teaching staff, since the United Nations had agreed to reimburse only to the end of the academic year 1961-62, after which it was hoped that the Government itself would be able to meet the costs of such staff. The eight teaching staff members provided by the Organization represented only a small part of the whole university staff. They had been appointed after consultation with, and agreement by, the Rector of the University, and it was hoped that they would continue their work after the financial responsibility for it had passed to the Government.

With regard to the number of students enrolled in the University, the number for the academic year 1960-61 was 500 and that for 1961-62, 700. An effort was being made to increase the number of graduates not only from the medical school but from all schools of the University. At the end of the year 1960-61, of a total of nineteen students in the medical school, two had graduated, leaving seventeen whom it was hoped would graduate in succeeding years. The enrolment in the academic year 1960-61 was nineteen, and in 1961-62 about thirty, while the target for the following and subsequent years was forty new students.
One reason for the shortage of trainees was that many students were required at the end of their secondary-school education to fill central and local government posts and were not available for further training. The situation as regards primary and secondary education was good in comparison with many other countries in the Region, and the number available for training should be much larger in the years to come. The present situation, however, was a difficult one and it was impossible to predict how many students would be available for Lovanium University.

With regard to the number of years' training provided, the medical school of Lovanium University gave seven years and the French universities six. Internship as understood in the Anglo-Saxon system was included in that duration of training.

He would remind the Executive Board that the assistants médicaux constituted a special group of students. During the period of the Belgian administration a large number of them underwent a five or six years' course of training after three or four years of secondary school. When the moment of independence arrived in the Congo, there were no indigenous doctors and those assistants médicaux were the highest qualified health personnel existing among the local population. A means had had to be found of giving them full training and until then they were wisely not permitted full entry to the medical profession by the Government as they had requested.

The French Government, which had had the experience of training similar personnel from African and Asian countries, had agreed to receive those assistants médicaux to complete their training. The French universities were given details of the type of previous training they had received and during their course, before graduating in medicine, they had to take a special examination corresponding to the baccalauréat.
WHO was giving special tutorship to help them not only in their medical training but also in adapting themselves to the new environment. By agreement with the students, vacations had been reduced to a period not exceeding one month, the remaining time being spent in special training in hospitals, laboratories, etc. The students were of mature years, generally about thirty-five years of age, and most of them were married and had their wives and children with them. Their maturity reflected in the good examination results.

The first group would complete their studies in 1963 and the second in 1964; it was hoped that in each of those years a group of at least fifty doctors who had graduated from French universities would return to the Congo. Training had been given not only to the students themselves but also to their wives, who had received instruction in home economics and in the French language, which would help them to give support to their husbands as important members of society, and make a great contribution to the future of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville).

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.
PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

CORRIGENDA

Page 4:
Add to the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations

International Union for Child Welfare Miss A. E. MOSER

Page 19:
Delete last five lines
Replace by exact equivalent in the traditional organization of health services.
It was in his opinion a temporary solution, but he would like some information
as to experience in the Congo with that type of personnel.
PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Monday, 15 January 1962, at 10 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr A. O. ABU SHAMMA

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Note: Corrections to these provisional minutes should be submitted in writing to
the Chief, Records Service, Room A.280, within 48 hours of their distribution.
First Meeting

Monday, 15 January 1962, at 10 a.m.

Present

Dr A. O. ABU SHAMMA, Chairman
Dr K. SUVARNAKICH, Vice-Chairman
Dr D. CASTILLO, Vice-Chairman
Dr A. NABULSI, Rapporteur
Dr S. SIGURDSSON, Rapporteur
Dr M. K. AFRIDI
Dr O. B. ALAKIJA
Dr D. BAIKYA
Dr A. L. BRAVO
Mr A. CISSÉ DIA

Dr G. CLAVERO DEL CAMPO
(alternate to Professor J. Garcia Oreoyen)

Dr J. D. HOURIHANE
Dr H. van Zile HYDE
Professor M. KACPRZAK
Dr YONG SEUNG LEE
Dr A. LYNCH
Dr L. MOLITOR
Dr L. H. MURRAY
(alternate to Dr G. E. Godber)

Dr V. V. OLGUIN
Dr T. OMURA

Designating Country
Sudan
Thailand
Venezuela
Jordan
Iceland
Pakistan
Nigeria
Nepal
Chile
Senegal
Spain
Ireland
United States of America
Poland
Republic of Korea
Peru
Luxembourg
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Argentina
Japan
Present

Dr J. Adjei SCHANDORF

Dr J. SHAHEEN

Dr S. SYMAN

Dr R. VANNUGLI
(alternate to Professor G. A. Canaperia)

Designating Country

Ghana

Iraq

Israel

Italy

Secretary: Dr M. G. CANDAU
Director-General

Representatives of Intergovernmental Organizations

United Nations

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

International Labour Organisation

Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative
Organization

Technical Assistance Board

Intergovernmental Committee for
European Migration

League of Arab States

United International Bureaux for the
Protection of Industrial Property,
Literary and Artistic Works
Representatives of Non-governmental Organizations

International Association for the Prevention of Blindness
Dr F. AMMANN
Miss L. ODIER
Mrs K. KATZKI
Miss R. GRAF
Dr C. L. BOUVIER
Miss H. PAILLARD
Mr E. J. FAUCON
Dr F. AMMANN
Mr W. F. VETTER
Mr F. COTTIER
Dr Z. HANICHEF
Dr J. R. REES
Dr F. CLOUTIER
Colonel W. R. FINKS
Dr M. CALLENS
Mrs G. OWENS
Mr G. HERMANN
Mrs R. BONNER
Dr J. MAYSTRE
Mr M. KLOPMANN
Mr M. TZALA
Mr A. RONCONI

International Committee of the Red Cross
Mr F. de REYNOLD

International Conference on Social Work

International Council of Nurses
Mr F. de REYNOLD

International Dental Federation

International Federation of Midwives

International Hospital Federation

International Organization against Trachoma

International Union of Architects

International Union of Local Authorities

League of Red Cross Societies

World Federation for Mental Health

World Federation of Neurology

World Federation of Occupational Therapists

World Federation for Physical Therapy

World Federation of United Nations Associations

World Medical Association

World Union OSE

World Veterans Federation
1. OPENING OF THE SESSION: Item 1.1 of the Provisional Agenda

The CHAIRMAN declared the meeting open and welcomed the participants, particularly those who were attending a session of the Executive Board for the first time.

He also welcomed the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It was a pleasure also to note the presence of the representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, who all shared their profound interest in health and in the welfare of mankind.

He welcomed the new Assistant Director-General, Dr Baroyan, and wished his predecessor, Dr Grashchenkov every happiness in his new life. On behalf of all present he wished a speedy recovery and good health to Dr Dorolle, the Deputy Director-General, who was not able to be present, and whom they all missed very much.

Members of the Executive Board would be interested to hear that, since the twenty-eighth session of the Board, Sierra Leone had been admitted to membership of the United Nations (on 27 September 1961) and had deposited instruments of acceptance of the WHO Constitution on 20 October 1961. Furthermore, since the resumption by the Syrian Arab Republic of its separate membership of WHO, the Organization now had 108 Member States in addition to its Associate Members.

He would begin by congratulating the Director-General and his staff on the excellent work achieved during the year; the magnitude of their efforts would become apparent as meetings proceeded.
On the threshold of the second year of a decade that the United Nations had decided to designate as a decade for the socio-economic development of nations, the Executive Board was meeting to consider in detail one more annual programme of the Organization which had contributed so much to the health of man as an individual, and had brought untold benefits to all the nations of the world.

These were times of much accomplishment, when everything around pointed to an incessant crescendo of progress. The greatness of the World Health Organization was that it placed at the service of all mankind the achievements of modern science in the fields of prevention, cure and rehabilitation, at the same time ensuring that programmes were adapted to the psychological attitudes, customs and cultural patterns of individual peoples.

He did not intend to comment in detail on all the items of the agenda; he would refer, however, to the report on assistance to the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), which was but one aspect of the larger item on continued assistance to newly-independent states. What such WHO assistance meant to the millions of newly enfranchised people was obvious to all, and he looked forward to a useful discussion to guide the Organization in meeting the numerous needs with the relatively scanty resources at its disposal.

The expert committee reports would also be given great attention and note would be taken of the invaluable technical guidance WHO was receiving from the expert committees in so many and so diverse fields. He expressed the gratitude of the Board to those experts for their efforts and assistance.
The organizational study on co-ordination with the United Nations and the specialized agencies was one of the most important subjects before the Board. Such co-ordination was a means of facilitating within reasonably economic limits the attainment of the aims and objectives of the programmes. It should, however, be ensured that co-ordination was always within the constitutional mandate of the Organization, which stipulated that the functions of WHO were to assist governments, upon request, in strengthening their health services. He stressed the importance of the technical independence of the Organization in giving direct assistance to the countries that requested it, and of ensuring that any external co-ordination of the international group of agencies, especially at country level, did not encroach upon the internal country co-ordination in which the government concerned remained sovereign and completely independent.

He would refer to two most important items - medical research, and the malaria eradication programme.

In the twentieth century one was, in a sense, living in a world of research and it was right and fully justified that the World Health Organization should keep pace with the times, playing its proper role in the co-ordination of those research activities that went beyond the purview of national activities and required international action. The scope of the research programme ranged far and wide.

The document prepared by the Secretariat on the item described the medical research programme for 1958-1961, and indicated its scope, despite the modest resources supporting it. A glance at the subject showed that the research in communicable diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, human genetics, nutrition and radiation health, were not only extremely topical but were also intimately related.
to the Organization's work in the field and to nations' work in the laboratories of the world. The task of assessing the programme would be facilitated by the factual and fully documented report that had been prepared.

The malaria eradication programme continued to gather strength, and the year 1961 marked a turning point. As the world-wide battlefield against malaria shrank in size, the alertness of the health authorities in the role of surveillance assumed fundamental importance. Sound operational planning was increasingly being based on well-tried technical, financial and administrative principles. As for those countries which did not so far have a programme for malaria eradication, the pre-eradication programmes of the Organization would help them to build up operational and other facilities for the eradication campaign ahead. Again, in its evaluation of the programme and its progress, the Board would be aided by a fully-documented report covering training, operational and other aspects of a subject to which so many efforts and much of the resources of the Organization had been devoted.

The proposed programme and budget estimates for 1963 would also come before the Board. The findings of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance would guide them in their task. He paid a tribute to the invaluable work done by the Committee in analysing in detail the estimates and programme - a fact to which he could bear personal witness, since he had participated in the discussion ex officio. The programme was essentially a human programme, designed by man for the improvement of the lot of the common man everywhere. When the programme was examined, that fundamental fact must not be forgotten.
The Board would look forward to the statements of the regional directors on the development of the programme in their regions, since the regional directors had acquired considerable experience in helping governments to implement their health programmes economically and on technically sound lines.

With reference to the item concerning the place of the Sixteenth World Health Assembly, he expressed the gratitude of the Board for the generous invitation of the Government of Argentina to convene the Assembly in Buenos Aires.

There were various other items, each important in facilitating the operations of the Organization, e.g. headquarters accommodation, the review of non-governmental organizations, the question of awards for scientific achievement, and in particular item 7.6 on salaries and allowances of internationally-recruited staff.

Members would recall that at its twenty-third session, after examining the Director-General's report on the study of certain aspects of salaries, allowances and benefits, the Board had shared the concern of the Director-General with regard to the inadequacy of salary levels for the recruitment of staff of the calibre required by WHO's programmes and had requested him to continue consultation with his colleagues on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the matter. The Board would be gratified to hear of the recent decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to improve salary scales, for it had been instrumental in promoting a revision that was long overdue.
He had begun his address by alluding to the tremendous social developments and scientific progress of the times and he would conclude on that note by referring to some of the United Nations decisions that would affect the programme of work of the Organization; in particular the resolution on the United Nations Development Decade, which called upon Member States of the United Nations or the specialized agencies to intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustained growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement, through inter alia measures to accelerate the elimination of illiteracy, hunger and disease, which so seriously affected the productivity of the peoples of the less developed countries.

The brief summary of the agenda he had given sufficed to indicate the magnitude of the task before the Board and its full implication. Conscious of the repercussions of the Board's decisions, which would affect literally almost the entire world, he would have felt overawed were he not equally aware of the fact that the Board had always been sparing with words, but highly active in constructive deeds. He was confident that with the help of Board members that tradition would be more than upheld.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN recalled that Dr Martinez Marchetti and Dr Suvarnakich had been elected Vice-Chairmen at the twenty-eighth session of the Board. Since Dr Martinez Marchetti was no longer a member of the Board, however, he invited nominations for a new Vice-Chairman.
Dr BRAVO proposed Dr Castillo, who had been a member for three years and had carried out excellent work on the Board.

Dr LYNCH, Dr OLGUIN, Dr VANNUGLI, Dr van Zile HYDE and Dr CLAVERO seconded the proposal.

Decision: Dr Castillo was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

Dr CASTILLO expressed his sincere gratitude for the honour that had been conferred upon him and promised to show the same enthusiasm in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the Board as his predecessor.

On a point raised by Dr HOURIHANE, the CHAIRMAN confirmed that the election the previous year of Dr Suvarnakich as first Vice-Chairman was still valid.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Item 1.2 of the Provisional Agenda (Documents EB29/1 and EB29/1 Add.1)

Decision: The agenda (document EB29/1), including four supplementary items (document EB29/1 Add.1), was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said that certain representatives of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations had expressed a wish to know in advance on what day the items in which they were interested would be considered by the Board. He therefore proposed that the programme of work for Friday, 19 January, should include the following items: item 8.2.1 (Communication from the International Diabetes Federation), item 8.2.2 (Communication from the International League against Rheumatism), supplementary item 2 (Communication from the International Fertility Association), item 2.9 (report on expert committee meetings), and supplementary item 1 (Joint FAO/WHO programme on food standards (Codex Alimentarius)).

It was so agreed.
4. PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Board should meet each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., with a short break at 11 a.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., with a short break at 4 p.m.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the agenda was long and covered a large number of subjects. He appealed to members to keep their discussions as short as possible, to avoid the necessity of holding meetings on Saturdays.

5. TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR DAG HAMMARSJÖLD

The CHAIRMAN said that he was sure the Board members would wish to pay homage to the memory of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, and the members of his staff who had died with him. That tragic event had deprived the international community of a leader whose energy and tenacity had been directed towards the achievement of the main goal of the United Nations: world peace. The best tribute that the Organization could pay to his memory was to apply itself with renewed vigour to its task of international co-operation. He invited the Board to stand in silent homage.

6. REPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD AT THE FOURTEENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: Item 1.3 of the Agenda (Document EB29/2)

Dr NABULSI, Rapporteur, read out document EB29/2.

At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, the DIRECTOR-GENERAL read the following draft resolution:
"The Executive Board

1. NOTES the report of the representatives of the Board at the Fourteenth World Health Assembly;

2. EXPRESSES its appreciation to those representatives for the able manner in which they fulfilled their responsibilities."

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted.

7. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE): Item 2.1 of the Agenda (Document EB29/37)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Director-General to introduce document EB29/37.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL said that document EB29/37 was the fifth in a series of such reports. He expressed anxiety about the possible future deterioration of the health situation, in particular the increased incidence of certain communicable diseases resulting from the difficulty of taking large-scale preventive action in the continuing state of political unrest.

WHO staff in the Congo comprised three groups, the first giving advice to the central and provincial authorities, the second representing operational staff distributed throughout the country to provide curative and preventive services, and the third being the teaching staff serving in Lovanium University. The total staff for all three groups was 146, which represented the minimum necessary for maintaining certain basic services, and the number of operational staff would have to be increased if a further deterioration of the health situation was to be prevented. Even if account were taken of those doctors provided by private enterprise and the missionary groups, their numbers still fell far below the needs of the country.
In sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the report mention was made of the general epidemiological situation and of the kwashiorkor epidemic, followed in section 4 by details of the education and training programme, which was divided into training in Lovanium University and other local training. WHO was helping the staffing of the school of medicine in Lovanium University by the provision of eight professors and by the payment of certain stipends for the training of Congolese students, and was also planning to help the school of nursing. Besides training at university level, the organization had been assisting in training local auxiliary personnel, for example in the field of maternal and child health in Kasai province, and in many other training programmes such as those for laboratory technicians and sanitarians.

Training outside the Congo was specially related to the training of assistants médicaux. In the academic year 1960-61, provision had been made for fellowships in French universities for sixty-one assistants médicaux, one of whom was in the advanced stage of his training. Of the sixty students who had sat their fourth-year examinations, fifty-eight had passed into the fifth year and the remaining two had shown sufficient promise to be given the opportunity of repeating their fourth year. That successful result was an outcome not only of the serious way in which the students were taking their studies but also of the system of tutorship built up by the Organization in co-operation with the French authorities. In the academic year 1961-62, fifty-three more students had been received: fifty-two under ONUC and one holding a special fellowship from the Norwegian Red Cross. Six were studying in Switzerland and forty-seven in French universities, making a total of 114 assistants médicaux currently completing medical training in France and Switzerland. There were also seven students taking the first year of the regular course in medicine,
six of whom were continuing their training in France and Switzerland during the academic year 1961-62. No new students were being taken, however, since it was felt that as many as possible should be trained in Lovanium University.

Reference was made in section 4.2.3 to the specialized training organized for infirmiers diplômés as laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians and dentistry technicians.

The document finally gave information (section 5) concerning the financial aspects, from which it would be seen that the expenditure for 1961 under the regular budget was estimated at $93,960, and that the estimated expenditure for which reimbursement was expected from the United Nations was $4,067,000.

Dr SCHANDORF said that he had listened with great interest to the information which the Director-General had given. It was always a source of great satisfaction to him to know that, in spite of the criticisms levelled at the United Nations, its presence in the Congo was amply justified by the useful role that WHO, as one of its specialized agencies, continued to play there. Board members were aware of what had been done to initiate and maintain programmes of technical assistance, education and training, as well as activities in other branches of health, in the face of tremendous difficulties. Education and training was of paramount importance not only in the Congo but in most other newly-independent states, who would remember the Organization's work with appreciation and gratitude. He also thanked those European countries who had received students to complete their medical studies.

He asked whether the time had not now come to give maximum assistance in training Congolese doctors locally in Lovanium University, which had adequate residential facilities for students. He noted with satisfaction the provision of professors to that university and asked how many such professors were now in residence and whether
it could be assumed that there was sufficient staff to undertake such local training. He recalled that the acute shortage of doctors brought about by the Second World War had been met in some countries by an accelerated programme under which, by foregoing vacations, training had been shortened by as much as six months. In spite of the hardships that would be imposed upon professors and students, he considered that, in the emergency situation which existed, such emergency methods of solution were called for.

He asked whether training in related fields of social and economic development was taking place in other faculties of Lovanium University. What were the prospects of recruitment of future students? He had understood from the Director-General's remarks that there was a vacuum between the elementary grade and the university, and it was stated in section 2.3 of document EB29/37 that "the WHO medical care staff assigned to provinces of the Congo provide a framework for the maintenance of medical care services but the figure of 450 doctors previously considered indispensable still remains a remote target".

He was pleased to note that the mobility of staff had been made easier by the addition of thirty vehicles by UNICEF. In order to assist in meeting the shortage of medical staff, he asked whether the Director-General would not consider appealing to Member governments to second such staff for short-time duties, the cost to be charged to the Congo operation.
Mr SAITO, alternate to Dr Omura, asked what was the procedure by which WHO expenditure was reimbursed by the United Nations. He wished to know in particular whether the reimbursement of $4,067,000 was intended to cover the whole of the WHO programme.

Dr MURRAY said that the point he was about to make was associated with one raised by Dr Schandorf. In section 4.1.1 of document EB29/37 it was stated: "The provision of teaching staff under the emergency programme will have to be stopped at the end of the academic year 1961-1962". He asked whether the Director-General could enlarge upon that statement, which had such important repercussions upon the continuation of the essential training programme in the Congo.

Mr CISSE DIA associated himself with those speakers who had paid a tribute to the Organization, particularly in regard to its activities in the Congo (Leopoldville). He understood those activities to be in three different categories: assistance given to the population on the spot by WHO experts; assistance to Lovanium University in the provision of professors; and training of students in French and Swiss universities.

He drew attention to the fact that Senegal possessed a university at Dakar, at which not only Senegalese but also students from most other African countries, and even from some European and South American countries, received training, and said that that university would be glad to receive students from the Congo.
Dr JUCHNIEWICZ said that he had studied the Director-General's extremely lucid and complete report with great interest. He asked for more information regarding the difficulties that had been encountered in recruiting doctors. It would be recalled that at the Fourteenth World Health Assembly many countries, including those of eastern Europe, had expressed their desire to offer assistance. He asked whether the failure to recruit the 450 doctors needed was due to that promised assistance not having been forthcoming or to other factors.

The hope was expressed in section 2.3 of the report that the Government might soon be in a position to undertake recruitment through its own channels. He asked whether such recruitment was envisaged through the intermediary of the Organization or by bilateral agreement between states.

Dr HOURIHANE said that he too, like Dr Murray, had been concerned about the stopping of the provision of teaching staff to Lovanium University at the end of 1961-62. He noted that the hope was expressed in the report that some other means for the provision of such staff might be found by then.

It was also stated in section 4.2.2 that "no other fellowships are being awarded to undergraduates to study outside the Congo, since it is hoped that all the training necessary can now be provided by the Lovanium University with the assistance of WHO as necessary". He asked the Director-General what were the prospects of the outside staff continuing to teach at the University; and what was the length of the complete course of medicine at the University at present.
It was gratifying to note that there had been such a high percentage of passes by the assistants médicaux in their examinations and that the remaining two were considered sufficiently promising to be kept in training. What was the remaining period of training envisaged for the fifty-eight students who had passed after their first year of study in France?

Referring to paragraph 3.4 (page 5 of the report), he asked whether the cause of the deaths mentioned in the seventh line was unknown because the deaths had not been medically observed, or because, having been medically observed, the diagnosis remained uncertain; and whether the number of the deaths involved was large or small compared with deaths from other causes, such as smallpox.

He congratulated the Organization for having carried out a tremendously efficient job in very difficult circumstances.

Dr VANNUGLI associated himself with the congratulations expressed to the Director-General and his staff on the Organization's activities in the Congo and on the information given in the report.

The question of training was one in which the greatest difficulties were encountered. He asked for more information concerning the assistants médicaux mentioned in section 4.2.1 of document EB29/37. That category of personnel had no exact equivalent elsewhere, but their functions seemed to fall somewhere between those of a doctor and those of the nursing and public health staff. It was in practice very difficult to train such staff. He considered that their provision should be treated as an emergency solution and one which should not await the stabilization of the situation along traditional lines.
It was very important that a doctor should know the language of the people under his care: even in the case of specialties such as surgery or radiology, where the language might be less important, it was essential to know the national customs and psychology. The ideal solution was to have doctors who were nationals of the country concerned. He had listened with great interest to what had been said concerning the University of Dakar and considered that the time was approaching when training could take place in neighbouring countries where the environment was similar to that in the doctor's own country.

He noted in section 4.1.1 (page 6 of the report) that the provision of teaching staff under the emergency programme would have to be stopped at the end of the academic year 1961-62 but that it was hoped that some other means for the provision of that staff might be found by then, so as not to discontinue their service. That was a very important point and he wished to know what means were envisaged for carrying out that provision.

He would like to have more information regarding the epidemiological situation in the country, without which it was difficult to form an idea of the requirements.

Dr AFRIDI associated himself with the questions put by Dr Hourihane and in addition wished to know the length of the courses at Lovanium University, as well as those in the French universities. The figures given should be either inclusive or exclusive of the period of internship, to enable consideration of the possibilities of shortening training.
He asked what was the annual enrolment in the medical school of Lovanium University. It was mentioned in section 4.1.1 that a grant had been made for training twenty-five medical undergraduates and that thirty more students had received grants for the academic year beginning on 31 October 1961, but he wished to know whether those figures constituted total enrolment or whether there were others studying but not in receipt of a fellowship.

Dr MOLITOR asked whether the programme of action provided for control of the quality of smallpox vaccine produced in the Congo, since many travellers coming from the Congo were vaccinated with locally-produced vaccine.

Sir Herbert BROADLEY (United Nations Children's Fund) said that at the last meeting of the national committee for WHO in the United Kingdom, at which he had been present as UNICEF representative, the representative of one of the private interests to which the Director-General had referred had reported that its medical officer had just returned from the Congo and had given an interesting and encouraging account of the work undertaken by WHO doctors and others serving there in very difficult conditions. The Committee had asked him to convey to the Executive Board its great interest in the report it had received. It had been added that in the United Kingdom too little was known about the work done by doctors and other staff in the Congo, and the question had been asked whether WHO could not produce occasional reports for publication to enlighten the public about the work that was being done, particularly in view of the criticism that had been levelled at the United Nations and specialized agencies concerning their activities in that country.
The CHAIRMAN thanked the UNICEF representative for his comments and said that he was sure the Director-General would take note of his suggestion.

Dr NABULSI said that he had been asked by English-speaking doctors in his country what were the possibilities of working in the Congo, and he had replied that the need there was for French-speaking doctors. He asked if there was any means of taking advantage of the services of such doctors who were willing to work in the Congo but knew only the English language.

He associated himself with previous speakers in paying a tribute to the Director-General and his staff.

Dr HOURIHANE asked what could be done to avoid the risk of students who had been trained under WHO programmes failing to give their services to the end for which they had been intended.

Dr AFHIDI asked whether information could be given concerning the stage at present reached by the latest groups of trainees at Lovanium University.

The CHAIRMAN said that the questions which had been put were of two kinds: financial questions, and those concerning training and other aspects of the programme. He invited the Secretary to answer the financial questions.

Mr SIEGEL, Assistant Director-General, replying to the question raised by Mr Saito, said that the word "expenditure" in the first and second lines of section 5 of document EB29/37 should in both cases be replaced by the word "obligations". The procedure was that WHO used part of its regular budget to finance a small portion of the work being carried out in the Congo, i.e. the $93,960 referred to in the first
line of the paragraph. The rest of the operations, for which reimbursement was expected from the United Nations, was subject to a mutual agreement between the two organizations regarding the nature of those operations. That agreement included payment for a certain number of medical personnel and for a certain number of fellowships; reimbursement was made by the United Nations on the basis of monthly bills for the actual expenditures made by the Organization. A small advance payment had been received from the United Nations to cover estimated expenditure for one month.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL, replying first to the question raised by Dr Schandorf, said that, as stated in the document, it was preferred to train students as far as possible in Lovanium University rather than abroad; there were difficulties however with regard to provision of teaching staff, since the United Nations had agreed to reimburse only to the end of the academic year 1961-62, after which it was hoped that the Government itself would be able to meet the costs of such staff. The eight teaching staff members provided by the Organization represented only a small part of the whole university staff. They had been appointed after consultation with, and agreement by, the Rector of the University, and it was hoped that they would continue their work after the financial responsibility for it had passed to the Government.

With regard to the number of students enrolled in the University, the number for the academic year 1960-61 was 500 and that for 1961-62, 700. An effort was being made to increase the number of graduates not only from the medical school but from all schools of the University. At the end of the year 1960-61, of a total of nineteen students in the medical school, two had graduated, leaving seventeen whom it was hoped would graduate in succeeding years. The enrolment in the academic year 1960-61 was nineteen, and in 1961-62 about thirty, while the target for the following and subsequent years was forty new students.
One reason for the shortage of trainees was that many students were required at the end of their secondary-school education to fill central and local government posts and were not available for further training. The situation as regards primary and secondary education was good in comparison with many other countries in the Region, and the number available for training should be much larger in the years to come. The present situation, however, was a difficult one and it was impossible to predict how many students would be available for Lovanium University.

With regard to the number of years' training provided, the medical school of Lovanium University gave seven years and the French universities six. Internship as understood in the Anglo-Saxon system was included in that duration of training.

He would remind the Executive Board that the assistants médicaux constituted a special group of students. During the period of the Belgian administration a large number of them underwent a five or six years' course of training after three or four years of secondary school. When the moment of independence arrived in the Congo, there were no indigenous doctors and those assistants médicaux were the highest qualified health personnel existing among the local population. A means had had to be found of giving them full training and until then they were wisely not permitted full entry to the medical profession by the Government as they had requested.

The French Government, which had had the experience of training similar personnel from African and Asian countries, had agreed to receive those assistants médicaux to complete their training. The French universities were given details of the type of previous training they had received and during their course, before graduating in medicine, they had to take a special examination corresponding to the baccalauréat.
WHO was giving special tutorship to help them not only in their medical training but also in adapting themselves to the new environment. By agreement with the students, vacations had been reduced to a period not exceeding one month, the remaining time being spent in special training in hospitals, laboratories, etc. The students were of mature years, generally about thirty-five years of age, and most of them were married and had their wives and children with them. Their maturity reflected in the good examination results.

The first group would complete their studies in 1963 and the second in 1964; it was hoped that in each of those years a group of at least fifty doctors who had graduated from French universities would return to the Congo. Training had been given not only to the students themselves but also to their wives, who had received instruction in home economics and in the French language, which would help them to give support to their husbands as important members of society, and make a great contribution to the future of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville).

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.