

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

SEVENTEENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

DIX-SEPTIEME ASSEMBLEE MONDIALE DE LA SANTE



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

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Provisional Verbatim Record	Compte rendu in extenso provisoire
<p>FIRST PLENARY MEETING</p> <p><u>Tuesday, 3 March 1964</u> <u>at 10 a.m.</u></p> <p>Palais des Nations Geneva</p>	<p>PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE</p> <p><u>Mardi 3 mars 1964</u> <u>à 10 heures</u></p> <p>Palais des Nations Genève</p>

CORRIGENDA

Page 8, third line

delete: WHA 6.36

insert: WHA16.38

Page 41, première ligne

au lieu de: M. COLY

lire: Dr BÂ

Page 42, first line

delete: Mr Coly

insert: Dr BÂ

Page 42, second line

delete: Dr OMOTOWOJU

insert: Dr OMITOWOJU

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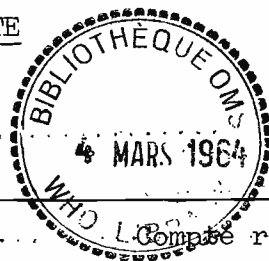
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FIRST PLENARY MEETING Tuesday, 3 March 1964 at 10 a.m. Palais des Nations Geneva	PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE Mardi 3 mars 1964 à 10 heures Palais des Nations Genève

President : Dr M. A. MAJEKODUNMI (Nigeria)
Président :

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1. OPENING OF THE SESSION
OUVERTURE DE LA SESSION

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly is called to order.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as President of the last Assembly, on me has fallen the honour of opening this Seventeenth World Health Assembly. It is my great privilege to greet on your behalf and on behalf of our great organization the Presidents of the Conseil d'Etat of Geneva and of the Geneva Town Council, who have been hosts of many previous Assemblies. I should also like to greet Mr Pierre Spinelli, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the representatives present of all other organizations with which our work is so closely connected.

I welcome most cordially the delegates of Kenya and of Zanzibar, countries which have become Members of the World Health Organization since last we met in this historic building. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to observers from non-Member States who are present here with us this morning.

At the commencement of our deliberations in this session, I deem it important to invite the attention of delegates and distinguished guests here assembled to an event of the greatest international significance which has taken place since last we met here. I refer to the Moscow Test Ban Treaty, which, though limited in its scope, is of profound interest to all of us men and women who are dedicated to service in the field of health. Although the Treaty is limited in the sense that it is confined only to the banning of atmospheric and under-water nuclear tests, yet its effects will be far-reaching. We are all aware of the hazards, genetic and others,

of nuclear bomb tests; apart from the fact that the continuing increase in the level of radiation which these tests will inevitably cause is inimical to the welfare of the human race, there is also the fact that these tests could well lead to an accidental nuclear war. We should be happy, therefore, that a beginning has been made to ensure that in the future human life will not be plagued by the deleterious effects of such tests. In addition to other advantages resulting from the Test Ban Treaty, we may expect that part of the resources hitherto devoted to the manufacture and the testing of these deadly weapons will be available for the execution of much-needed health projects. We look forward with great optimism to the day when the major powers of the world will finally agree to a treaty which will completely ban atmospheric, under-water and under-ground testing of nuclear weapons.

We should remind ourselves, at the commencement of another session, that our Constitution defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. This very broad definition of our responsibility has many implications, some of which will be mentioned briefly this morning.

There are today 119 Member States and three Associate Members of this ever-growing organization. Membership of the World Health Organization extends to the four corners of the earth and embraces every clime and all conceivable political, economic and social groupings. Within our organization can be found today peoples in all stages of social, political and economic development; as a result, our Organization caters for peoples at different stages of health development. This

universality of the World Health Organization at once raises a number of problems connected with the scope and nature of its activities, the methods employed to achieve its objectives and the financial implications of those activities.

The activities of our organization cover a wide field ranging from the provision of short-term consultants to the staging of elaborate and complicated disease-eradication programmes. Within these limits are innumerable other activities undertaken by our organization. This unlimited scope and unlimited variety of activities are dictated by the almost insatiable demand for the services which our organization can provide. The fact that these increasing demands from all countries and, in particular, from the developing countries are directed towards and are, by and large, satisfied by WHO is itself a living testimony to the usefulness and efficiency of our organization. However, I am constrained to say that our organization cannot continue to expand the scope of its activities indefinitely; because no organization, however powerful, can continue to spread itself out thinly without, by so doing, reducing its ultimate effectiveness. It may therefore not be inappropriate at the beginning of another year to address ourselves to the need for the World Health Organization to explore the possibility of delimiting the areas of its activities. This suggestion does not mean a reduction in our efforts; but it does mean that WHO will become a little more selective in its activities and within the selected area prosecute its functions with greater intensity.

Because the World Health Organization has to deal with problems relating to countries in varying degrees of political, social and economic development, our methods must be elastic: we must keep an open mind on all problems and adopt the

experimental method, always ready to put new methods to the test of experiment. Experience has taught our organization that the method of approach to different problems varies broadly as between the developed countries and the emerging nations. It behoves the World Health Organization, therefore, in planning the projects and the methods of execution, to lay especial emphasis on methodology of approach, and in this connexion I would suggest that, as soon as it is practicable, we should undertake an evaluation of various methods of approach to the different problems with which the Organization deals.

I suggest that we should briefly examine the financial implications of the universality of the membership of our organization. Whatever may be the amount of goodwill existing between Member States and whatever may be the quality of our methods of approach, our organization cannot achieve much unless our goodwill and methods are sustained by adequate financial resources. Our expenditure is necessarily high because our commitments are large. The effective working budget for 1963 is a little over 30 million United States dollars and it will be noticed that by resolution WHA16.13 the effective working budget for 1964 is 34 million US dollars. If the Organization is able to keep its activities within the proposed effective working budget for 1964, then expenditure in 1964 will be more than ten per cent. higher than in 1963. Although this is a large increase in expenditure, there is hardly any cause for alarm because our organization is noted for its frugality and close attention to financial details (thanks to the Director-General and his staff), and the increase in expenditure is therefore attributable entirely to increase in the services provided by the Organization.

The problem to which we have to address ourselves as far as our finances are concerned is, therefore, how to increase our revenue. I crave your indulgence to repeat what I said during the Sixteenth World Health Assembly when I paid tribute to a number of rich and economically developed countries for the magnanimous way in which they had discharged their financial responsibilities to our organization. Nothing has happened since last I spoke to make me feel that these countries are not deserving of those tributes. It seems to me appropriate also, at this juncture, to appeal to the smaller and emerging nations which enjoy a disproportionately large part of the services provided by our organization to explore the possibility of increasing their contributions. Our organization is based upon the principles of mutual aid; it therefore behoves every Member to strive to the utmost to ensure that she gives more into the Organization than she takes out of it.

Whilst still discussing the financial implications of our commitments, I would like to draw attention to resolutions WHA16.26 and WHA16.27, dealing with the voluntary fund for health promotion in the fields of medical research and community water supply. It seems to me that these admirable resolutions of the Sixteenth World Health Assembly can now be extended to cover a much wider area of the activities of our organization. We should ask ourselves whether the time has not come when, in addition to the regular subscriptions of Member States, we should explore the possibility of setting up a machinery whereby increasing proportions of our commitments would also be met from voluntary contributions. I do not pretend that it would be easy to establish such a machinery, but I have great enough confidence in the goodwill and the generosity of Member States to make me feel that, at any rate, an examination of such a possibility should be undertaken now.

I would like to draw the attention of delegates and distinguished representatives to two of the resolutions carried during the Sixteenth World Health Assembly. Firstly, resolution WHA16.36, dealing with the standard of drugs. That resolution could not have come at a more opportune moment. Experience in my country and in a few other places has shown that a few exporters do export to other countries drugs which are sub-standard in quality. This is a very serious matter and it is the duty of Member States to ensure that their nationals do not export drugs which are below standard. We shall be failing in our primary duty of ensuring health should we allow our nationals, under whatever pretext, to export drugs which can be injurious to health.

The other resolution, WHA16.43, deals with the meeting of the Regional Committee for Africa. Members will recall the lively discussions which took place on this subject during the Sixteenth World Health Assembly. We must remember that the humanitarian principles and the objectives of the World Health Organization as enunciated in our Constitution will be vitiated if any governmental or political actions are taken to deny a group of persons their inalienable right to a complete state of health, which by definition includes both physical, social and mental. The problems raised for our organization by the racial policy of one of the Member States are yet to be solved, and it is obligatory on this Assembly to invite, once more, the attention of Member States to General Assembly resolution 1761 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, and to use all constitutional methods to get the Government of the Republic of South Africa to renounce its policy of apartheid.

Although time has been allocated on the agenda for a full discussion on the Report of the Director-General for the year 1963, yet I think I should refer to one or two interesting points. Firstly, the malaria eradication projects. The progress so far made in continental Europe, South-East Asia, the Americas and Eastern Mediterranean is most noteworthy. In the African Region efforts are, at present, in the main concentrated on the pre-eradication phase. In all these measures one cannot over-estimate the importance of inter-country co-ordination, on which, as much as on any other factor, depends the success of the scheme.

As far as the communicable diseases are concerned, the year has witnessed a series of experiments, pilot surveys and various studies dealing with various methods of combating these diseases. Comprehensive studies have been undertaken during the year in various regions as to effective methods of combating tuberculosis. In Nigeria we have embarked upon an experiment in giving financial assistance to destitute tuberculosis patients, and the result, as far as attendance for treatment and consequent increase in the rate of cure are concerned, has been most encouraging.

The new regional reference centre for enteroviruses at the Department of Bacteriology, University of Singapore, is a welcome addition to the total of international and regional centres for influenza and arthropod-borne viruses.

It is gratifying to note the programmes of assistance in national health planning in several countries of the African Region. Such programmes are invaluable because unless a firm foundation of public health service is laid in the various countries it will be difficult for the necessary superstructure to develop.

More and more emphasis is being laid on the need for comprehensive central health planning on a national basis, in those countries which do not yet possess such plans, and on a review, reorientation and expansion of the plans in those countries which already have them. Because countries which have a good supply of medical staff and institutions tend to have better plans and different medical needs and problems from countries with very few doctors and hospitals, it was customary to think and talk as if it would require basically different medical philosophies to solve the problems in the developed as opposed to the under-developed areas of the world. This general assumption is now being questioned. It is not only in developing countries that a high proportion of unnecessary sickness and death occurs. A significant fact is that, just as the unsophisticated member of a developing country finds it difficult to see the association between his poor environmental sanitation and the high level of morbidity and mortality; so the sophisticated person finds it difficult to see the association between smoking and lung cancer; road accidents and inadequate control of road traffic, road development, motor vehicle development and road safety education. It is not only in under-developed countries that much medical effort is spent treating conditions which can be prevented, with relatively little attention to action directed to their prevention.

Recent attention which is being paid to the immunological factors in the body's defences against malignant tumours holds out some hope that in due course some clinically applicable procedure may be evolved. Cancer is second only to cardiovascular disease as the most important cause of death in Europe, and cancer

of the lung is now the most serious form of this disease. The results of cancer studies in Europe, Canada and the United States of America, including the work of a study group set up by this organization five years ago, suggest that the most profitable line of lung cancer control would be to bring the facts of the association between tobacco smoking and lung cancer to the notice of as many people as possible; to discourage young people from acquiring the smoking habit; to persuade governments to discourage smoking in public places and medical institutions; to try and control the extent to which smoking is advertised as being a sign of maturity, wisdom and social grace; to strive to abolish atmospheric pollution; and to make people aware of the early symptoms and signs of malignant diseases. This organization has already played an important part in all this; much more can be done by individual Member governments.

The control of cardiovascular disease is even more closely related to our daily activities since it is generally agreed that diet, a sedentary life, alcohol, tobacco smoking and the rush, anxiety and worry of modern urban life are important factors in its causation. Self-discipline with regard to these factors is now recognized as an effective prophylactic measure against cardiovascular diseases.

It will be remembered that the subject for technical discussions during the Fifteenth World Health Assembly was "Mental health programmes in public health planning". For quite a long time the medical world has accepted it as a truism that the incidence of mental ill-health in developing countries was much lower than

in highly developed ones. Today the fallacy of this "truism" has been proved beyond doubt in many emerging countries. The low recorded incidence in developing countries in years gone by was an under-estimation of the real state of affairs because diagnostic methods were either non-existent or rudimentary. With improved methods of diagnosis and procedures more cases which would normally have escaped attention have been detected at an early stage. The problem which arises, therefore, is that the emerging nations themselves require as much attention in the study of the methods for dealing with mental ill-health as the advanced nations. It would be of the greatest interest if the World Health Organization would study the methods of treatment which are peculiar to cases in developing countries and those peculiar to highly developed ones; and in particular, it would be of interest if WHO could explore the possibility of any of its study groups devoting special attention to the design of psychiatric hospitals to suit conditions in tropical countries. In this connexion I cannot but pay tribute to the pioneering work of my distinguished compatriot, Professor Thomas O. Lambo, who has attained international reputation in the field of psychiatric medicine and who was also, until quite recently, on the panel of advisers to the World Health Organization.

I must now mention briefly personnel training, which is basic to the health problems of all nations. Inevitably this problem is more acute in emerging nations but at the same time it is never absent from any nation. The World Health Organization has played a vital part in the training of the health personnel of Member States. Unfortunately, the activities of WHO in this direction are inevitably

limited to the higher cadres of personnel, both for reasons of economics and also for reasons connected with language difficulties and local customs. As was pointed out during the technical discussions at the Sixteenth World Health Assembly, there should be increasing emphasis on the training of physicians for public health work. The World Health Organization should also conduct study groups to examine the problems involved in the integration of pre-clinical and clinical courses in the training of undergraduate medical students. A start in this direction has been made in many training centres: for instance, in my country, in our new Medical School in Lagos, a large degree of integration has been achieved in the use of laboratory space, equipment facilities, and in lectures.

As far as the training of paramedical staff is concerned, it would seem that the present method adopted by the World Health Organization of seconding consultants to Member States to train indigenous junior staff is the best one, for it is cheaper in the long run and allows those trainee nationals to contribute to the development of the health services of their country while in training. Whatever methods are adopted, the World Health Organization will have to increase its efforts in the direction of personnel training.

I note with satisfaction that the World Health Organization continues to co-operate with various international organizations in matters of health; this is as it should be because health cannot be treated in isolation. I should invite our attention, however, to a new international organization which came into existence early this year. We all remember that as a result of a series of meetings the

States in Africa have formed the Organization for African Unity which has set up a number of commissions, one of which is the Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Commission, the inaugural meeting of which was held in Alexandria in January this year. The functions of the Health Commission are to promote inter-African co-operation in accordance with the directives of the Assembly of the Council of Ministers of the Organization for African Unity. In discharging these functions the Health Commission will co-operate with the World Health Organization to the fullest and with similar agencies operating already in the field of health. It is not the intention of the Organization for African Unity that its Health Commission should compete with or usurp some of the functions now being adequately performed by the World Health Organization. Rather it is the intention that the Commission will be able to take on a number of activities which at present do not fit into the structure of the World Health Organization but which are essential to Member States of the African continent. It is hoped that the World Health Organization will explore all methods of achieving effective co-operation with this new commission, as it has done with other international agencies in the field of health.

No review of the health activities in 1963 would be complete without reference to the International Red Cross, which celebrated its Centenary last year. The Red Cross has been our worthy ally in alleviating human suffering. On the occasion of their Centenary celebration we salute the men and women of the Red Cross all over the world for their selfless service to humanity.

When looking back over the past years' events, we remember with sorrow some outstanding health workers who were also devoted friends of our organization, and who are no longer with us. Among those who have passed away, I feel I should mention

the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. Death has taken from us, just a few weeks ago, this great lady who was the first Health Minister of independent India and also the President of the Third World Health Assembly.

Before concluding this address I would like to pay tribute to the Director-General, Dr Candau, and his able lieutenants and his staff both at the headquarters here and in the regional offices. I would also like to thank all the men and women who have laboured in various parts of the world to make the past year a success for the World Health Organization. They can rest assured that their labours will not be in vain.

We look back to the past year with appreciation for the tremendous success which has crowned the efforts of the World Health Organization, but we should also look forward to the unfinished tasks of this organization in promoting a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being for all men and women. When we look into the horizon we find that the problems still facing us are great and that our resources are slender, but our courage immeasurable; the magnitude of the problems should act as a spur to move us on to another year of enterprise and dedication. I have no doubt that fellow delegates here present this morning will accept the challenge.

2. ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ALLOCATION DU REPRESENTANT DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ORGANISATION DES
NATIONS UNIES

The PRESIDENT: I now recognize Mr Spinelli, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr SPINELLI, Director of the European Office of the United Nations: The Secretary-General has asked me to represent him at this opening session of the Seventeenth World Health Assembly, and I am very pleased to greet you on his behalf.

U Thant, as we all know, has recently been much preoccupied with political problems, but he always takes a keen interest in the social and humanitarian task of the United Nations family, to which WHO contributes so much, and has frequently drawn attention to the ways in which political, economic and social problems react upon each other.

You have a long agenda with many items on which it would be rash for a layman to comment. It is clear, though, from many of the papers before you and from the discussion at recent WHO meetings, that this Assembly takes place at an exciting time in the science of medicine. New advances, as so often happens, serve to show what further progress must still be made. Discoveries, often seemingly remote from medical questions, suggest untried possibilities for fighting disease, or, as you prefer to say in the Organization, promoting health. On the debit side, modern life also poses new threats to physical and mental health alike. Paradoxically, at a time when the medical world with the due humility of ignorance feels on the threshold of new thoughts and techniques, we are unable to extend to the whole of mankind the benefits of the already existing stock of knowledge and skills. All this is very close to the concern of the Secretary-General with the application of science and technology to economic and social development. As you know, he has recently appointed an advisory committee of eighteen scientists to aid the United Nations in this work and, by overlapping membership with your own research committee, co-ordination between WHO and the United Nations will be facilitated.

May I turn from this large consideration to something more domestic, but not to be passed over in silence. You are meeting here in the Palais at a time that disrupts your accustomed procedure. The Secretary-General is very well aware of the many inconveniences this has caused you, and is grateful for the co-operative spirit shown by WHO in circumstances that have been difficult for both organizations. However, your own debates have often referred to the correlation between poverty and disease, and the successful outcome of the United Nations conference on trade may be of some eventual service to doctors - in compensation maybe for your present inconvenience.

May I, on U Thant's behalf and on my own, wish you a most successful Assembly as well as a pleasant stay in Geneva.

3. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSEIL D'ETAT OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA
ALLOCUTION DU PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ETAT DE LA REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE

The PRESIDENT: I now recognize Mr René Helg, Président of the Conseil d'Etat of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

M. René HELG, Président du Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Genève :
Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, au nom du Conseil fédéral suisse et du Gouvernement de la République et Canton de Genève, j'ai le très grand honneur de vous souhaiter la plus cordiale bienvenue à Genève.

L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé a poursuivi en 1963 avec un succès toujours plus marqué son combat contre la maladie et la souffrance. Les résultats impressionnants obtenus dans la lutte contre les principales maladies transmissibles, les progrès réalisés dans la protection de la santé et de l'action préventive et sociale, l'aide apportée à différents pays frappés par des catastrophes naturelles ou des épidémies sont autant de titres que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé s'est acquis à la reconnaissance des peuples. La Suisse et le Canton de Genève sont particulièrement fiers de pouvoir compter l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé au nombre des institutions internationales installées en notre ville.

C'est avec une conviction profonde que je forme les vœux les plus chaleureux pour le succès de vos importants travaux et pour que cette assemblée mondiale soit le point de départ de nouvelles actions internationales entraînant les effets les plus étendus et les plus heureux pour la santé de l'homme. Je pense, à cet égard, spécialement à la création du centre mondial de recherche pour la santé.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS
CONSTITUTION DE LA COMMISSION DE VERIFICATION DES POUVOIRS

The PRESIDENT: We now come to item 1.2 of the provisional agenda: Appointment of the Committee on Credentials. The Assembly is invited to appoint the Committee on Credentials in conformity with Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which reads as follows:

A Committee on Credentials consisting of twelve delegates of as many Members shall be appointed at the beginning of each session by the Health Assembly on the proposal of the President. This committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of delegates of Members and

of the representatives of Associate Members and report to the Health Assembly thereon without delay. Any delegate or representative to whose admission a Member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other delegates or representatives, until the Committee on Credentials has reported and the Health Assembly has given its decision.

Therefore, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by this rule, I propose to the Assembly the following list of twelve Member States : Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

Are there any objections to these proposals?

The Committee on Credentials as proposed by me is therefore appointed by the Assembly. This committee will meet immediately, in Room XI. The plenary meeting is suspended until 12 o'clock.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 12 noon.

La séance est suspendue de 10 h.50 à 12 heures.

5. FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS
PREMIER RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION DE VERIFICATION DES POUVOIRS

The PRESIDENT: The Committee on Credentials has just met under the chairmanship of Dr Molitor of Luxembourg. I now invite the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr Laafif of Tunisia, to come to the rostrum and read his report.

M. LAAFIF (Tunisie), Rapporteur de la Commission de Vérification des Pouvoirs :

La Commission de Vérification des Pouvoirs s'est réunie le 3 mars 1964. Etaient présents les délégués des pays ci-après mentionnés : Afghanistan, Cameroun, Colombie, Finlande, Hongrie, Irlande, Islande, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Nouvelle-Zélande, Sierra Leone, Tunisie. La Commission a élu le Dr L. Molitor, Luxembourg, président, M. Findlay, Sierra Leone, vice-président, et M. Laafif, Tunisie, rapporteur.

La Commission a procédé à l'examen des pouvoirs déposés par les délégations participant à l'Assemblée de la Santé.

1. Les pouvoirs remis par les délégations et les représentants des pays énumérés ci-après ont été trouvés en bonne et due forme, donnant ainsi à ces délégations et représentants le droit de participer aux travaux de l'Assemblée de la Santé dans les conditions définies par la Constitution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. La Commission propose donc à l'Assemblée de la Santé de reconnaître la validité des pouvoirs présentés par les délégations et représentants des pays suivants : Afghanistan, Albanie, Algérie, Argentine, Australie, Autriche, Belgique, Brésil, Bulgarie, Birmanie, Burundi, Cambodge, Cameroun, Canada, République Centrafricaine, Ceylan, Tchad, Chili, Chine, Colombie, Congo (Léopoldville), Cuba, Tchécoslovaquie, Danemark, République Dominicaine, El Salvador, Ethiopie, République fédérale d'Allemagne, Finlande, France, Gabon, Ghana, Grèce, Guatemala, Guinée, Honduras, Hongrie, Islande, Inde, Indonésie, Iran, Irak, Irlande, Israël, Italie, Côte-d'Ivoire, Jamaïque, Japon, Jordanie,

Kenya, Koweït, Laos, Liban, Libye, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaisie, Mali, Mauritanie, Mexique, Monaco, Mongolie, Maroc, Népal, Nouvelle-Zélande, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigéria, Norvège, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Pérou, Philippines, Pologne, Portugal, République de Corée, République du Viet-Nam, Roumanie, Rwanda, Arabie Saoudite, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Somalie, Soudan, Suède, Suisse, Tanganyika, Thaïlande, Togo, Trinité et Tobago, Tunisie, Turquie, Ouganda, Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, République Arabe Unie, Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Haute-Volta, Venezuela, Yougoslavie, Zanzibar, et en qualité de Membre associé, l'île Maurice.

2. Les notifications reçues des pays suivants : Bolivie, Congo Brazzaville, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Equateur, Libéria, Pays-Bas, Afrique du Sud, Espagne, Syrie, Yémen, donnant la composition des délégations de ces pays font connaître que les pouvoirs des délégués ont été envoyés. La Commission recommande donc à l'Assemblée de la Santé de reconnaître à ces délégations plein droit de participer à ses travaux en attendant l'arrivée de leurs pouvoirs officiels.

3. Le délégué de la Hongrie a contesté les pouvoirs déposés au nom de la République de Chine tels qu'ils avaient été présentés.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Laafif.

You have all heard the report of the Committee on Credentials. Are there any remarks? I recognize the delegate of Czechoslovakia.

Le Dr PLOJHAR (Tchécoslovaquie) : Monsieur le Président, chers délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, depuis plusieurs années déjà nous assistons dans notre organisation aux efforts restés jusqu'ici sans succès, en vue d'une représentation équitable de la Chine, représentation qui correspondrait à l'esprit de la Constitution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Dans cet état de choses, le droit de participer au noble résultat du travail de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé est refusé à 700 millions de personnes. Leur santé ne devrait pas faire l'objet de disputes politiques, mais devenir l'objectif de notre activité dans le sens

des meilleurs et plus nobles principes de l'humanité. Car ce sont ces principes mêmes qui furent incorporés dans la Constitution de notre organisation. Agissons donc, dans cette question aussi, en nous y conformant strictement. Pensons aux dizaines de millions de mères chinoises et d'enfants chinois : c'est à leur état actuel de santé et à leur avenir heureux que notre organisation devrait pourvoir, comme elle l'a fait ailleurs. A l'heure actuelle, il n'en est pas ainsi et, selon mon avis, c'est une preuve de manque d'humanisme, c'est une ombre morne qui ne fait pas honneur à notre organisation.

Il est temps d'en finir avec la discrimination dans le problème chinois. Donnons un exemple au monde et montrons que notre organisation s'inspire, en premier lieu, même dans la solution de problèmes bien compliqués, des principes de l'humanité et de la compréhension.

Je fais appel au coeur et à la conscience de tous les délégués de notre assemblée et je leur demande d'élever leur voix en faveur des centaines de millions d'hommes, de mères et d'enfants de la République populaire de Chine dans l'esprit de la Constitution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Une solution équitable du problème chinois aiderait sans doute au travail de notre organisation dont le caractère mondial est, tant que la République populaire de Chine n'y est pas représentée, tout au moins incomplet.

The PRESIDENT: I now recognize the delegate of China.

Mr CHENG (China) : Mr President, I resent the statement made by the representative of Czechoslovakia, questioning the right of my delegation to represent China and the Chinese people. We consider the statement as entirely out of order.

Mr President, the Government which my delegation has the honour to represent is the only legally constituted Government of China. It represents and speaks for the Chinese people in the United Nations, in the specialized agencies and in all intergovernmental organizations. The General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 October 1963 decisively rejected a proposal to unseat the delegation of the Republic of China in that organization. We are confident that this Seventeenth Assembly of the World Health Organization would not wish to consider a political issue which has already been settled by a more competent body.

Mr President, the Republic of China is one of the sponsors of WHO and has been a loyal Member of this organization. The Communist régime, as you know, on the mainland of China is but a Soviet creation imposed on my people against their will by force. It maintains its precarious hold by suppression of my people at home and by aggression against its neighbours. It is a thoroughly discredited régime. Therefore it has no right to speak on behalf of the Chinese people.

Mr President, we take exception to the observations of the delegate of Hungary in the report of the Committee on Credentials. Aside from that reservation my delegation supports the first report of the Committee on Credentials.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Cheng Paonan. I now recognize the delegate of the Philippines.

Mr PACIS (Philippines): Mr President, members of the Assembly, my delegation is made bold to make a statement at this time for two reasons which we feel are of vital importance. The first of these reasons is that my Government wishes most earnestly that nothing may happen to mar the Seventeenth Assembly of WHO in order to ensure to it fruitfulness and success. The other reason is that my Government is likewise determined, along with like-minded States, to preserve the unity and co-ordination so essential to their usefulness and effectiveness among the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The Philippines believes that a political issue such as has been discussed by the two previous speakers should not be taken up, much less decided, by a United Nations specialized agency such as WHO. The sixteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1961 approved a resolution declaring (and I quote), "in accordance with Article 18 of the Charter of the United Nations, that any proposal to change the representation of China is an important question." Any decision on an important question would need a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. By a vote of 36 in favour, 68 against and 20 abstentions, the sixteenth session of the General Assembly rejected a Soviet proposal calling for the participation of the Chinese Communists in the work of the United Nations and of all its organs. It is therefore the hope of the Philippine delegation that this eminently scientific and humanitarian organization, instead of being forced to flounder in the mire of politics, will concentrate on its own assigned task and perform it with single-mindedness and success.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Pacis. I now recognize the delegate of Korea.

Mr JONG UP LEE (Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, concerning the question raised by a certain delegation as to the representation of China, the Korean delegation wishes to associate itself with what has been said by the Philippine delegation.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of Albania.

Le Dr Vera POJANI (Albanie) : Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, un des problèmes les plus importants qui est soulevé à chaque session de cette organisation et qui, malheureusement, n'a jamais reçu la solution désirée, conformément à la Constitution de l'Organisation et à l'esprit de la Charte des Nations Unies, est celui qui consiste à donner un caractère universel à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Le fait que la République populaire de Chine se trouve toujours en dehors de notre organisation témoigne que celle-ci n'applique pas son mandat de façon normale.

Depuis des années, aucune des sessions de l'Organisation n'a permis d'apporter une solution concrète à ce problème. Ni les efforts continus faits par les délégués de plusieurs Etats Membres, ni les protestations ininterrompues d'un grand nombre de personnalités progressistes du monde entier, ne sont parvenus à mettre fin à cette situation arbitraire et nuisible à la cause de notre organisation et à la paix.

Ils n'ont pu mettre fin à l'injustice qui a été perpétrée contre le peuple de la République populaire de Chine qui compte plus de 650 millions d'habitants. Il est inconcevable que la place qui lui revient légitimement soit occupée par les représentants de la bande de Tchang Kaï-Chek. La délégation de la République populaire d'Albanie estime qu'il est nécessaire d'examiner de façon approfondie cette question, et de lui donner la solution tant désirée, au cours de la présente session de l'Assemblée mondiale de la Santé.

Le peuple chinois, qui dans le passé millénaire a apporté une contribution précieuse au trésor de la culture humaine et à la civilisation mondiale, a remporté en un temps relativement court d'importants succès dans tous les domaines de son activité. Sous la direction de son gouvernement populaire, la Chine nouvelle est en train de liquider courageusement et avec abnégation le retard séculaire et le triste héritage de l'oppression et de l'exploitation impérialistes : elle réalise de profondes transformations dans toute la vie du pays et s'est engagée sur la voie de l'édification d'une vie nouvelle, heureuse et prospère.

La République populaire de Chine pratique avec conséquence et persévérance une politique de paix et d'amitié avec tous les pays, notamment avec les pays voisins. Son rôle dans l'élaboration des cinq principes de la coexistence pacifique entre les Etats à systèmes sociaux et politiques différents, le rôle qu'elle a joué à la Conférence de Bandoeng, sont bien connus. A présent, elle entretient des relations diplomatiques

normales avec quarante-cinq Etats, elle fait du commerce avec plus de cent dix Etats et développe ses relations culturelles, sociales et amicales avec plus de cent soixante-trois pays et régions du monde. Elle a conclu des accords d'amitié ou des accords d'amitié et de non agression réciproques avec le Yémen, la Birmanie, le Népal, l'Afghanistan, la Guinée, le Cambodge, l'Indonésie et le Ghana.

Le Gouvernement de la République populaire de Chine déploie une activité inlassable en faveur de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, pour écarter le danger d'une nouvelle guerre mondiale. La visite du Président du Conseil d'Etat de la République populaire de Chine, Chou En-Laï, dans les pays du continent africain et dans certains pays d'Asie, est une autre manifestation de sa politique bien établie d'amitié et de coexistence pacifique. Cette politique de paix et le rôle que joue aujourd'hui la République populaire de Chine sont d'ores et déjà connus dans l'ensemble du monde.

Malgré cela, depuis des années, certaines puissances occidentales, et en premier lieu les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, contestent à ce grand peuple de plus de 650 millions d'habitants, par leur attitude hostile, le droit d'être représenté à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, enragés par la défaite qu'ils essayèrent en 1949 lorsque le peuple chinois triompha dans sa lutte révolutionnaire et chassa de son territoire continental la clique de Tchang Kaï-Chek et ses patrons n'ont jamais renoncé à leurs projets perfides envers la République populaire de Chine. Ils rêvent encore actuellement de reconquérir les positions à jamais perdues en Chine et recourent à tous les moyens, y compris l'agression ouverte, pour réaliser

leurs projets. C'est précisément ce but que sert l'occupation armée de l'île de Taïwan, partie intégrante du territoire chinois et des autres îles transformées en bases de provocation et d'agression contre la République populaire de Chine. Tel est aussi l'objectif des interventions fréquentes et brutales dans les affaires intérieures de la Chine populaire, des dangereux actes de provocation que les Etats-Unis d'Amérique perpètrent constamment contre son intégrité territoriale, ainsi que de toutes les intrigues, voire même des pressions envers quelques Etats Membres de notre organisation dans le but d'entraver la reconnaissance du Gouvernement central de la République populaire de Chine et de lui barrer l'accès à notre organisation.

Il ne fait aucun doute que les projets américains contre la Chine sont bâtis sur l'argile. La République populaire de Chine qui fait partie du camp invincible du socialisme devient de jour en jour plus puissante et en même temps son prestige ne fait qu'augmenter.

L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé ne doit pas ignorer cette réalité. La délégation de la République populaire d'Albanie, ainsi que les délégations de nombreux autres pays, est profondément convaincue que le fait d'exclure indûment la République populaire de Chine des travaux de l'OMS est extrêmement nuisible à l'Organisation elle-même parce qu'il limite son champ d'action et rend plus difficile la coopération entre les peuples du monde entier dans le domaine de la médecine et de la santé. La délégation albanaise estime qu'on ne peut pas refuser d'accueillir les représentants légitimes

d'un peuple qui possède une tradition si ancienne en matière de protection de la santé et une aussi riche histoire en matière de thérapeutique. Il est parfaitement évident que l'expérience acquise dans ce domaine par la République populaire de Chine présente un très grand intérêt. La Chine applique les méthodes les plus originales dans l'organisation de ses services sanitaires. Le travail créateur accompli par les médecins chinois au cours de milliers d'années fait l'objet d'une étude systématique visant à coordonner leur oeuvre avec les découvertes de la médecine moderne. La science médicale de cet immense pays est digne des plus grands éloges. Le mouvement de masse en faveur de l'éducation sanitaire, qui se développe avec beaucoup d'ampleur dans ce pays, se traduit par des améliorations dans l'état de santé de la population. De nombreux pays pourraient étudier avec grand profit les méthodes appliquées dans la République populaire de Chine, où le développement très rapide des services sanitaires pourrait servir d'exemple à plusieurs pays. Pouvons-nous donc tolérer que ce peuple soit empêché d'apporter sa contribution aux travaux de l'Assemblée de la Santé et aux activités de l'OMS ? La précieuse expérience acquise par ce peuple ne peut-elle servir à tous les pays ? L'OMS ne s'intéresserait-elle pas à ces résultats ? Pour que notre organisation acquière de plus en plus le caractère réel d'organisation mondiale et développe ses possibilités en vue de soutenir les peuples du monde pour qu'ils parviennent au niveau de santé le plus élevé possible, comme il est précisé dans

l'article 1 de sa constitution, il est très nécessaire qu'elle utilise l'expérience de tous les peuples dans le domaine sanitaire et collabore avec tous les pays afin d'améliorer l'état de santé dans le monde.

La délégation de la République populaire d'Albanie estime que, dans l'intérêt de la réalisation des buts et principes de la Constitution, dans l'intérêt de la consolidation de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, dans l'intérêt de la paix et de la coopération internationale et dans l'esprit de la Charte des Nations Unies, l'Assemblée mondiale de la Santé a le devoir de décider, à sa présente session, le rétablissement des droits légitimes de la République populaire de Chine dans notre organisation.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of Cambodia.

Le Dr BORN-HONG-KEATH-TEK LAY (Cambodge) : Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, la délégation du Cambodge, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter, soutient fermement les points de vues des délégations de la Tchécoslovaquie et de l'Albanie en ce qui concerne la représentation de la République populaire de Chine.

La République populaire de Chine, avec ses 700 millions d'habitants environ, c'est-à-dire le quart de la population du globe, ne devrait pas être absente de notre organisation. C'est pour cette raison que le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, sous la conduite très clairvoyante de son leader vénéré, le prince Norodom Sihanouk, a reconnu depuis une dizaine d'années le Gouvernement de la République populaire de Chine comme seul gouvernement légal du peuple chinois.

En conséquence, je me permets de faire appel aux honorables délégués ici présents, non seulement pour le prestige, l'honneur et la justice de l'OMS, mais aussi pour le développement et le progrès sanitaire dans le monde, afin qu'ils admettent la République populaire de Chine au sein de notre organisation.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I recognize the delegate of Cuba.

Le Dr MARTINEZ JUNCO (Cuba) (traduction de l'espagnol) : Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, le Gouvernement cubain tient lui aussi à donner son avis sur le vieux problème de l'admission de la Chine. Il apparaît que la vérité ne peut jamais être écartée. En dépit des distinctions que l'on fait entre questions politiques et questions scientifiques, et en l'occurrence questions de santé publique, cette assemblée ne peut en effet jamais se réunir et commencer ses travaux sans débattre de l'un des plus graves problèmes qui se posent actuellement, et qui est le résultat d'une situation qui est en contradiction avec le nom même de cette organisation.

La Chine a le droit de siéger parmi nous, non parce qu'il s'agit d'un problème politique ou scientifique, mais parce que c'est un droit que revendique son peuple, le grand peuple chinois. Comme le montre l'expérience de toutes nos réunions annuelles, aucun de nous ne peut en conscience éluder ce problème.

Dans son rapport, le Directeur général expose longuement la situation sanitaire de tous les pays dont les délégués sont ici réunis, mais cet exposé est incomplet, il ne donne qu'un tableau partiel, puisque la santé du peuple chinois n'y est pas réellement représentée.

C'est donc pour cette assemblée une question de principe - car il n'est pas de meilleure politique que la science elle-même - que de s'astreindre à résoudre ce problème afin qu'à l'avenir le nom de l'Organisation ne soit plus en contradiction avec la réalité et que le principe de la santé du monde soit respecté dans les travaux, les activités et les préoccupations de nous tous pour qui les problèmes de la santé du monde sont une réalité vécue.

Si j'ai tenu à exprimer ainsi l'opinion de Cuba, c'est parce que mon pays se préoccupe sincèrement de ce problème qui est débattu chaque année, mais qui, chaque année, reste malheureusement sans solution.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I recognize the delegate of Viet-Nam.

M. Vu van HIEU (République du Viet-Nam) : Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, sur la question de la représentation de la Chine au sein de notre organisation, permettez-moi de définir la position de ma délégation, position que nous avons eu l'occasion d'exposer plusieurs fois déjà devant cette assemblée lors de précédentes réunions.

Certes, ce n'est pas un sujet nouveau de discussions, mais il serait difficile à l'OMS, qui est une institution spécialisée des Nations Unies à caractère

technique, de prendre une décision d'ordre purement politique qui trouverait plutôt sa place au sein des Nations Unies. Il serait aussi difficile à l'OMS, sur la base de sa Constitution, d'envisager d'admettre un Etat Membre qui fait déjà partie de cette organisation depuis sa création.

La Chine communiste a bafoué la Charte des Nations Unies avec ses agressions en Corée, en Inde, au Laos et au Viet-Nam, semant ainsi la guerre, la misère, la subversion dans des pays qui ne souhaiteraient que de vivre en paix pour s'occuper du bien-être et de la santé du peuple.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I recognize the delegate of Bulgaria.

Dr KALAYDJIEV (Bulgaria) (translation from the Russian): Mr President, the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria also considers that the credentials of the Chiang Kai-Shek representative should not be accepted. He is continuing unlawfully to occupy, as he has done for a number of years, the place of the representative of the People's Republic of China. The universal nature of our organization is greatly prejudiced by the fact that more than 750 million inhabitants of the globe are not included in it. Surely this situation cannot be tolerated any longer? As a result of it, our organization itself is losing sight of our common cause. China is a Member of WHO and can only be represented here by the legitimate representative of the Central People's Government.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I recognize the delegate of Romania.

M. ECOBESCO (Roumanie) : Monsieur le Président, nous prenons à nouveau part à la discussion d'un problème dont la solution devait constituer depuis longtemps un point positif de l'activité de l'Organisation, lequel aurait éloquemment démontré que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, au nom de ses nobles buts, prend toutes les mesures afin de s'adapter à la réalité contemporaine. Le nombre des délégations qui se sont prononcées en faveur d'une solution immédiate, de même que les arguments présentés, démontrent pleinement combien vital et urgent est devenu pour l'Organisation le problème du rétablissement des droits légitimes de la République populaire de Chine à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.

La non-admission à l'activité de l'Organisation des représentants légitimes du peuple chinois constitue non seulement un acte d'injustice vis-à-vis d'un pays dont l'existence et l'expérience sont une réalité évidente, mais aussi une violation des principes mêmes sur lesquels l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé est fondée, une atteinte grave à son caractère d'universalité. On ne pourrait parler d'une manière réaliste de l'activité de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé et d'une coopération fructueuse entre tous les pays au sein de cette organisation tant que le pays ayant la population la plus nombreuse du monde n'est pas représenté ici et que sa place est occupée par des personnes qui ne sont pas habilitées à parler au nom du peuple chinois. Les milieux qui, par leur position non réaliste, empêchent encore la République populaire de Chine d'occuper la place qui lui revient de droit au sein de l'OMS portent un grave préjudice au prestige et à l'efficacité des programmes d'action de l'Organisation en la privant de la contribution et de l'expérience du peuple chinois.

La délégation roumaine se prononce fermement pour la mise à l'écart des fantoches de Tchang Kai-Chek et en faveur du rétablissement des droits légitimes de la République populaire de Chine à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. En procédant de cette manière, on fera preuve de réalisme, de clairvoyance et de sagesse. Nous estimons que la solution de ce problème ne doit plus être retardée.

The PRESIDENT: Merci! I now recognize the delegate of France.

Le Professeur AUJALEU (France) : Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, puisqu'un débat s'est ouvert sur la participation de la République populaire de Chine aux travaux de l'Assemblée mondiale de la Santé, je dois indiquer que le Gouvernement français est en faveur de l'admission de la République populaire de Chine à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of the United States of America.

Mr McKITTERICK (United States of America): Mr President, I will not prolong this debate. I respect the sentiments of some of the delegates who have pointed out that diseases do not respect the political divisions of this imperfect world. But to conclude from this fact that an assembly of doctors is the right place to prescribe new political divisions is surely wrong - indeed, I might say presumptuous - as it would be if the United Nations or its Economic and Social Council should begin to tell this assembly how to eradicate smallpox or prescribe a course of medical research.

China is represented rightfully in this Assembly. An absolute majority of the last United Nations General Assembly decided that the Republic of China should represent China in the United Nations. This decision came about not because Member governments were ignorant of or unmoved by the medical facts of life. The General Assembly has the prime, overriding responsibility of maintaining intact the fabric of international co-operation on which all the activities of this great organization depend. In these essentially political matters, let us not here and now challenge the authority of the General Assembly, either for innocent reasons or for propaganda purposes. In doing so we could only challenge the very foundation on which co-operation in international health is built.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of Indonesia.

Dr SUBANDRIO (Indonesia): Mr President, most distinguished delegates, I would like to raise an issue here on practicality more than on anything else. We have heard speeches concerning the representation of a very large group of people, comprising, as it was said, some seven hundred million people, which is not represented here amongst us. The pros and cons of admission of the representative of that vast group of people have been discussed here at length and now I would like to raise a question of practicality. We have been considering the issue of which delegation should represent this large group of people: the representatives of the Government of Taiwan or the representatives of the Government of the People's

Republic of China. I would like, Mr. President, to add my vote to all those people who have spoken in favour of admitting as many groups of people as possible of the population of this our world. As was said before, health problems cannot be solved in an isolated way and the World Health Organization is just an organization which is based on humanitarian principles. We are not so much a political body as a body which is trying to abolish, to eradicate, the evils of mankind, meaning disease all the world over. Now I would like here to add my vote to all those people who are of the opinion that the greatest tolerance should be practised in this World Health Organization.

And now my point of practicality is this: has the People's Republic of China ever requested admission to the World Health Organization? There are also other peoples who are not represented here - for instance, the republic of northern Viet Nam, as far as I remember - I am not quite sure because I am just a newcomer to this World Health Assembly, having taken part only since last year; so I am not quite sure about procedures - about the history of this body of the World Health Organization. But my point of view is this: if there are requests from such governments, then I believe we can consider whether those governments which are not yet represented here should be admitted or not. That is just a question of practicality that I would like to raise, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr. Subandrio. I now recognize the delegate of Mongolia.

Dr DOLGOR (Mongolia) (translation from the Russian): Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the name of our organization, of which you and I are Members, is the World Health Organization. Such being the case, this organization should embrace the entire world with all its populations. However, the People's Republic of China, the population of which is one-quarter of the population of the earth, still remains outside our organization. We consider this unjust and declare that the People's Republic of China must occupy its lawful place in the World Health Organization. The admission of the People's Republic of China to our organization would greatly strengthen the Organization's prestige and authority. We believe that many delegates at the Seventeenth World Health Assembly will adopt a more reasonable attitude in this matter. In conclusion, fully support what has been said by delegations speaking in favour of the granting to the People's Republic of China its lawful rights in the World Health Organization.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of Algeria.

Le Dr EL-KAMAL (Algérie): L'Algérie approuve les thèses développées ici en faveur de l'admission de la République populaire de Chine à l'OMS et leur donne son appui.

The PRESIDENT : Thank you. I now recognize the delegate of Mali.

Le Dr. DOLO (Mali) : Monsieur le Président, la délégation de la République du Mali, par ma voix, estime qu'il est de son impérieux devoir de formuler quelques observations sur le rapport qui vient d'être soumis à l'attention de l'Assemblée.

Une fois de plus, depuis que mon pays jouit de la plénitude de son indépendance et, en conséquence, participe aux travaux de l'Assemblée, nous constatons avec amertume, voire avec déception, la situation qui est faite à la Chine. Nous ne comprenons pas, nous ne pouvons comprendre, malgré toute la bonne volonté et toute l'objectivité qui nous animent, que les authentiques représentants de la Chine soient systématiquement écartés de cette organisation. Nous regrettons que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, par le jeu d'une baguette magique, se prive des fruits de l'expérience millénaire d'un peuple qui s'impose même à ceux qui voudraient l'ignorer.

Honorables délégués, nous avons toujours entendu clamer à cette tribune que notre organisation était de celles qui, réalistes, essentiellement objectives, faisant fi des idéologies politiques, voudraient amener les peuples du monde, tous les peuples, à un meilleur état de bien-être social. Et en flagrante contradiction, cette même organisation écarte de ses délibérations le quart de la population mondiale.

Et, paradoxe ou ironie du sort, cette même organisation tolère le Gouvernement de l'Afrique du Sud, cette organisation voudrait être aveugle devant ce cancer qui ronge l'Afrique : je veux parler de l'apartheid. Cette même organisation maintient en son sein un gouvernement fantoche d'une minorité qui écrase les populations de l'Afrique du Sud.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, ma délégation voudrait souligner toutes ces contradictions qui risquent un jour ou l'autre de paralyser notre

organisation. Elle insiste pour que, prenant conscience de ces dangers, nous éliminions sans plus tarder ce qui pourrait nuire à sa santé. Elle insiste pour que les vrais représentants de la Chine soient appelés à délibérer à la Dix-Septième Assemblée mondiale de la Santé, pour que les représentants du gouvernement actuel de l'Afrique du Sud soient éjectés de notre forum sans plus tarder, car tout le monde sait que ce gouvernement bafoue délibérément les principes qui ont présidé à la création de notre organisation. Ma délégation ne pourrait donc souscrire à ce rapport que si ces dispositions étaient prises au préalable.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sir. I now recognize the delegate of Guinea.

Le Dr KEITA (Guinée) : Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, le problème de la République populaire de Chine se pose en manière d'équation : question de population, question de son histoire, de sa civilisation et aussi question des objectifs de l'OMS. Il y a là entre ces trois points une contradiction fondamentale qu'il faut essayer de liquider. La Chine doit prendre sa place au sein de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, si nous voulons que les objectifs de cette organisation soient atteints. J'appuie donc très chaleureusement l'entrée de la Chine dans notre organisation.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sir. I recognize the delegate of Senegal.

M. COLY (Sénégal) : Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, la délégation du Sénégal voudrait attirer l'attention sur un point qui a déjà été longtemps discuté dans cette assemblée et qui demande une solution urgente pour permettre à la Région africaine, au Comité régional de l'Afrique, de continuer son travail efficacement, et pour que l'OMS dans cette zone puisse contribuer pleinement à la lutte pour l'émancipation des peuples d'Afrique.

C'est dans ce cadre que ma délégation considère que la représentation de la République sud-africaine ici est en contradiction flagrante avec l'esprit de la Charte des Nations Unies et aussi avec celui de la Constitution de l'OMS. Cette représentation est en même temps un défi aux nobles principes qui guident la lutte de nos peuples, leur promotion dans tous les domaines, leur volonté d'oeuvrer activement pour leur bien-être physique, mental et social. Elle est enfin une provocation pour la conscience universelle dans la mesure où, en dépit de nombreuses résolutions des plus hautes instances internationales, la République sud-africaine persiste dans sa politique de discrimination raciale et d'oppression sociale.

Au nom des populations de couleur de l'Afrique du Sud, qui sont actuellement victimes de la ségrégation la plus inhumaine et de l'oppression la plus tyrannique, au nom des principes affirmés dans la Charte des Nations Unies et des nobles idéaux de l'OMS, au nom de la volonté de tous les peuples africains d'intensifier la lutte contre toute forme de discrimination et d'exploitation, au nom du noble droit de tous les hommes de jouir pleinement de leur santé physique, mentale et sociale, ma délégation s'oppose à la validation des pouvoirs de la République sud-africaine.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Coly. I recognize the delegate of Nigeria.

Dr OMOTOWOJU (Nigeria): Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria most seriously objects to the credentials of the Republic of South Africa. South Africa, by her policy of apartheid, has violated the basic objectives of the World Health Organization, which were formulated to ensure complete health to all the citizens of Member States. South Africa has denied the Africans in that country their basic human right to health. South Africa is therefore unworthy to participate as a Member of this august Assembly, and its credentials should therefore be rejected.

The PRESIDENT: I wish now to put to you the report of the Committee on Credentials. I recognize the delegate of the USSR.

Mr KOSENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from the Russian): Mr President, fellow delegates, allow me on behalf of the Soviet delegation to state that the Soviet Union delegation categorically protests against recognition of the credentials of the Chiang Kai-shek clique in this World Health Assembly. We all know that it is now fifteen years since the People's Republic of China was established. During that time the People's Republic has won authority commensurate with the authority of the great Chinese people. During that time many countries have recognized the People's Republic of China and now have economic, cultural and political relations with it.

The attention of the Assembly must, however, be drawn to the fact that the representatives of the People's Republic of China, who possess great experience in health matters, are not among us at this Assembly. The absence of a representative of the People's Republic of China in our organization causes serious prejudice to the fruitful work of the World Health Organization. The question involuntarily arises as to whether the Organization can really be called a "World" Health Organization if the most populous country in the world, the People's Republic of China, with its population of well-nigh 700 million, takes no part in its activities. It is a matter for bewilderment and deep regret that the place in the Organization which belongs by right to one of the great world powers, the People's Republic of China, should be occupied, unlawfully, by a representative of Chiang Kai-shek, a person who in no way represents China.

This position has arisen only because of the opposition shown by some governments. These governments are unwilling even now to face reality and refuse to take real facts into account.

Fellow delegates, the absence from the World Health Organization of the lawful representative of the People's Republic of China is above all having an unfavourable effect on the activities of our organization. Surely we cannot reconcile ourselves to a position in which the great Chinese people is deprived of the chance to co-operate actively with our organization.

The Soviet Union delegation considers that the time has now come to settle this

matter once and for all. The Soviet Union delegation, as you all know, has always asserted with insistence at every Assembly the right of the People's Republic of China to occupy its lawful place in the World Health Organization. At the present Assembly too, the Soviet delegation will protest and vote against the acceptance of the credentials of the Chiang Kai-shek clique. The Soviet Union delegation has always considered, and still considers, that only a representative appointed by the Chinese Central People's Government can be the lawful representative of China in the World Health Organization.

As for the considerations put forward by the delegation of Mali and by other delegations regarding the policy of apartheid pursued by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Soviet Union delegation fully supports the efforts of those countries and categorically condemns the policy of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to appeal to delegates please to be brief in their comments. I now recognize the delegate of Somalia.

Dr MOUMIN (Somalia): Mr President, the Somali delegation wholeheartedly supports the admission of the People's Republic of China into WHO. The Somali delegation also supports the views of the Nigerian and Senegalese delegations on the invalidity of the credentials presented by the Republic of South Africa.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I now recognize the delegate of Ghana.

Mr ABAVANA (Ghana): Mr President, distinguished delegates, the Government of Ghana, bearing in mind the objective of our organization - namely, to promote happiness, harmonious relations and the security of all peoples - and the principles by which this objective can be attained, has always supported the view that the People's Republic of China should be admitted to our world organization for effective and useful participation in the work of this assembly.

There is no doubt in the minds of members that human intercourse, commerce and communication exist between the mainland of China and the rest of the world. Several nationalities live in China and poverty and disease exist there at all age levels; and yet no notification or epidemiological information has been received by WHO from the mainland of China since 1951, although people are living and dying there. The Ghana Government believes in a true family of nations in which each and every one counts, and which provides equal opportunities for all to contribute to the solution of world problems and the lessening of international tensions. It is our firm belief that it is only in such a framework that the success of the work of WHO can be guaranteed, for health, like its opposite number disease, knows no frontiers. In all these things that we do we should not lose sight of the fact that this is a World Health Organization calling for effective universal membership. Actuated by this belief, Ghana holds the view that it is high time that the People's Republic of China, representing some seven hundred million people, and with vast economic, scientific and technological resources, and making full use to an ever greater degree of the productive forces of science for the

well-being of its people and for social and economic progress, should be permitted its useful and constructive contribution in this organization. The outstanding achievement of the People's Republic of China can contribute tremendously to bridging the gaps in fundamental scientific knowledge and making our organization more able to carry out its effective function as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work.

Ghana holds the view that the Government of the People's Republic of China enjoys the popular support of the seven hundred million Chinese on the mainland of China. As our delegation pointed out at a previous session of the World Health Assembly, the tactical isolation of the People's Republic of China is rapidly proving abortive. A rightful representation, we believe, is not a question of liking or disliking, but of doing the right thing. The Government of Ghana is very anxious that every one of our many nations gathered here should be deeply concerned over this matter of the place of the People's Republic of China in the work of this Assembly, in the interests of international co-operation and world health. Our organization and our World Health Assembly are striving to make contributions to the advancement of medicine and public health. If we therefore look at the problem from a purely medical point of view, which is our prime concern, there will be no doubt that China should be represented by the representatives of the Government enjoying the popular support of seven hundred million people.

I should like to close here by saying that if China is to be represented here - and there is no doubt that it should - then the representation should come from the greater part of China, that is the mainland of China, and not the smaller part of China, which is Formosa.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Abavana. I recognize the delegate of the United Arab Republic.

Dr SHUKRI (United Arab Republic): Mr President, the delegation of the United Arab Republic objects to the credentials of the Government of South Africa, which insists on defying all the principles of human rights, including the humanitarian objective of WHO. I strongly support the views of the honourable delegations of Nigeria, Senegal and Mali and would ask for rejection of the credentials of South Africa.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I recognize the delegate of Upper Volta.

Le Dr LAMBIN (Haute-Volta): Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, si j'ai bien écouté l'exposé de notre rapporteur, tout à l'heure, dans la liste des pays qui ont présenté régulièrement leurs pouvoirs, l'Afrique du Sud ne figure pas. Deuxièmement, dans la liste des pays qui ont annoncé leur délégation, l'Afrique du Sud ne figure pas non plus, à moins que je ne me trompe. Je n'ai pas le texte en mains, mais j'ai cru l'entendre.

Dans ces conditions, en premier lieu, la délégation de l'Afrique du Sud ne doit pas être habilitée à être dans cette salle, et lorsqu'on fait de la discrimination, cela est contraire à la Constitution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. C'est pour cette raison que je formule le voeu suivant: l'Afrique du Sud ne doit pas se trouver dans cette salle, car dans les deux listes elle ne figure pas.

En deuxième lieu, si, dans les jours à venir, les pouvoirs de cet état arrivaient ici à Genève, ma délégation présenterait la protestation la plus formelle contre ces pouvoirs, car nous estimons que tout pays qui fait de la discrimination va contre la Constitution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, donc ce pays n'a pas sa place au sein de cette assemblée.

The PRESIDENT: I recognize the delegate of Yugoslavia.

Dr KRAUS (Yugoslavia): Mr President, the delegation of Yugoslavia has always supported and now supports the admission of the People's Republic of China to this Assembly.

Secondly, the representatives of my country have already explained on different occasions in various international organizations our stand towards the policy of apartheid pursued by the Government of the Republic of South Africa. We have strongly condemned, from the very outset, not only this policy but also the attitude of the Government of that country and its lack of readiness to co-operate. The position taken by the Government of the Republic of South Africa has made it imperative for the international organizations to take more energetic measures in order to compel that government to respect the decisions taken by

international forums and to change its policy of racial discrimination and inhuman relations. Such a policy is incompatible with the aims of the international community, which has strongly condemned the policy of apartheid.

The problem of the policy of apartheid has been under review for a number of years. There is a firm decision to find new means of solving this problem. At the seventeenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and in particular at the sessions of the Security Council held in August last, it was unequivocally confirmed that the policy of apartheid is a source of danger for world peace - that such a policy constitutes a danger for peace in Africa and in the world in general. It is therefore imperative to find an adequate solution. We can only note that at the seventeenth regular session of the General Assembly and at the sessions of the Security Council recommendations and decisions were formulated to cover diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa and to boycott its trade, and in particular to discontinue supplying the Republic of South Africa with arms and to boycott its sea, air and other forms of transport. As far as my Government is concerned I can state that, in keeping with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, it has passed a special law covering consular relations (there were no diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa) and prohibiting all trade with the said country.

Already at the last session of our Assembly, Mr President, our friends from Africa proved in a convincing manner that the Republic of South Africa does not respect the principles and aims of our organization; consequently I feel that it is not necessary to adduce new proof in order to show that the attitude of the Republic of South Africa is absurd, harmful and dangerous.

In the opinion of the Yugoslav delegation, we should now explore the possibility of taking new measures and adopting new decisions. For this reason it is necessary to exert, as a matter of urgency, further efforts in this sense and to take measures designed to solve this problem. Consequently my delegation is prepared to give its full support to such new action, in the same manner as it has given its support to the action undertaken by the African countries with a view to finding a solution to the difficult and grave problem which has arisen as a result of the attitude adopted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa with regard to the non-white inhabitants of that country - an attitude which is in contradiction with fundamental human rights and incompatible with respect of human dignity.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Kraus. I will now put to the vote the report of the Committee on Credentials. Those who are in favour of the acceptance of the report will please so indicate by raising their cards. Those who are opposed to the acceptance of the report of the Committee, please indicate. Those who wish to abstain from voting on this report, please indicate.

The result of the voting is as follows: in favour, 51; against, 21; abstentions, 22. The report is accepted.

6. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
ELECTION DE LA COMMISSION DES DESIGNATIONS

The PRESIDENT: We now come to item 1.3 of the provisional agenda - Election of the Committee on Nominations. This item is governed by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly which reads as follows:

The Health Assembly shall elect the Committee on Nominations consisting of twenty-four delegates of as many Members.

At the beginning of each regular session the President shall submit to the Health Assembly a list consisting of twenty-four Members to comprise a Committee on Nominations. Any Member may propose additions to such list. On the basis of such list, as amended by any additions proposed, a vote shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of those Rules dealing with elections.

In accordance with this rule, a list of twenty-four Member States has been drawn up and I shall submit it to the Assembly for its consideration. May I explain that in compiling this list I have followed the geographical distribution which currently exists for the Executive Board, which also consists of twenty-four members. The list is as follows: Australia, Canada, Dahomey, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Mali, Monaco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Sweden, Uganda, USSR, United Kingdom, United States of America. Would any member wish to propose any additions or amendments to this list as read out?

The Committee on Nominations according to the list which I have just read out is now elected. The Committee will meet immediately in room XI, after the adjournment of the plenary meeting. As delegates are aware, Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which defines the mandate of the Committee on Nominations, also states that the proposals of the Committee on Nominations shall be forthwith communicated to the Health Assembly. For the convenience of delegates who may not have heard the list correctly I would ask the Deputy Director-General to read the names again.

Le Dr DOROLLE, Directeur général adjoint : Monsieur le Président, vous avez lu la liste suivante de vingt-quatre Membres : Australie, Canada, Dahomey, France, République fédérale d'Allemagne, Honduras, Inde, Indonésie, Israël, Japon, Jordanie, Koweït, Mali, Monaco, Nigéria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Pérou, Pologne, Suède, Ouganda, URSS, Royaume-Uni, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, et vous avez indiqué que la réunion aurait lieu immédiatement à la salle XI.

The PRESIDENT: The plenary meeting is now adjourned. The next plenary meeting will take place here at 5 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.
La séance est levée à 13 h.35.