

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

WHO Conference Hall
Monday, 15 August 1960 at 12.00 noon

CHAIRMAN: Dr. R.K.C. LEE

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The second meeting of the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget was held on Monday, 15 August 1960, at 12.00 noon, under the chairmanship of Dr LEE (United States of America), with Mr SAITA, WPRO Administration and Finance Officer, as Secretary.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (Document WP/RC11/P&B/Min/1)

The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that any member with corrections or comments to make on this document might either bring these up now or see the Documents and Reports Officer later.

Dr KIM (Korea) drew attention to the discussions on the Seminar on Japanese B Encephalitis and other Arthropod-Borne Diseases and suggested that the second and third lines of the first paragraph on page 21 be changed to read: "He was happy that this programme had been included in the budget".

The CHAIRMAN referred to the second paragraph on page 22 which he had asked should be amended as follows: "The CHAIRMAN stated that the Malaria Eradication Special Account was an important agenda item at the Thirteenth World Health Assembly, as well as at the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Executive Board. There would be an opportunity to discuss this subject further next week." He also drew attention to the fact that the statement in the second paragraph of item 4 on page 23 had been made by the Secretary and not by the Chairman.

Regarding the third paragraph on page 8, Dr DOWNES (Australia) asked that the phrase "in field activities" be inserted after "\$75 000" in the second line, the sentence to read: "He noted that the 1961 budget might be

further modified in two directions, that was in respect of a possible reduction of \$75 000 in field activities for staff costs and in respect of the utilization of Australian and New Zealand Pounds."

On page 16, first paragraph, Dr KIM (Korea) asked that "Dr YUN" be changed to "Dr KIM".

The SECRETARY stated that the minutes of the meeting would be corrected accordingly.

2 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (Document WP/RCLL/11)

The SECRETARY explained that the draft had been prepared by the Secretariat and, when approved by the Sub-Committee, it would be presented to the Regional Committee at tomorrow's plenary session. He asked that the figure "\$160 539" on the first line on page 5 be corrected to "\$159 182".

Dr DOWNES (Australia) referred to the final paragraph on page 3 where it was stated that "the Regional Director had been advised by the Director-General that, due to possible additional overall requirements in the way of statutory staff costs and other unforeseen expenses, it might be necessary to reduce the budget for both 1961 and 1962 in the amount of \$75 000 per year by relegating additional projects to the supplementary list". He commented that the statement was true but it looked bad, as it meant that the amount for field activities was being cut down in favour of staff costs. The "unforeseen expenses" had been explained at the last meeting, and these were in relation to the international crisis in the Congo. He thought that "the Congo crisis" should replace "other unforeseen expenses" in that sentence.

The SECRETARY explained that he had mentioned the Congo crisis at the last meeting only to give the Sub-Committee a clear picture of unforeseen requirements in 1961 and 1962. Actually, no instructions had been received from Headquarters for the Regional Office to set aside funds for the Congo crisis.

Dr DOWNES (Australia) said that the Deputy Director-General had previously told the Committee about the situation in the Congo.

The SECRETARY remarked that he was not sure whether such a statement should be included in the report or whether it should just be noted in the minutes. However, he would leave it to the Sub-Committee to decide.

Dr DOWNES (Australia) referred to the \$75 000 cut. If it was required for additional staff costs and if the money required to cover the staff costs in the Regional Office went 50% further as a result of the devaluation of the peso, where were the \$75 000 going?

The SECRETARY drew attention to the first paragraph on page 4, which stated that "In addition to statutory staff costs, the reductions, if required, might also be needed to cover emergencies, as in the Congo where WHO was undertaking responsibility for medical services although no budgetary provision had been made."

Dr DOWNES (Australia) believed that there was no harm in changing the phrase "other unforeseen expenses" to "the Congo crisis".

The CHAIRMAN said that reference to the Congo crisis had already been covered in the paragraph on page 4.

Regarding Dr. Downes' question on statutory staff costs, the SECRETARY

referred to the second sentence on page 4 - "After discussions on the question of the possible decrease in country programmes to cover statutory staff costs, the SECRETARY pointed out that statutory staff costs for the whole of the Organization were now covered under one Appropriation Section held by Headquarters and that in order to cover the total cost of the items under that Section, Headquarters had advised that it might be necessary to make certain reductions on the field projects in order to cover the possible deficiencies."

The money referred to would be handled by Headquarters on a global basis to cover deficiencies in connection with statutory staff costs occurring in any of the six regions of WHO, not only WPRO. He further explained that this region always had deficiencies when it came to statutory staff costs in view of the fact that recruitment expenditures usually exceeded the average figures. When such deficiencies had been covered and if there was still a balance, he hoped that Headquarters would return the money for use in the implementation of field projects in the supplementary list.

The CHAIRMAN said that Dr. Downes might wish to introduce an additional resolution to this effect during the plenary session.

Decision: There being no further comments, the Sub-Committee approved the report for submission to the main Committee.

3 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (Draft resolutions WP/RC11/P&B/WP/1-4 inclusive)

The Sub-Committee then considered draft resolutions WP/RC11/P&B/WP/1-4 inclusive.

Dr KRANENDONK (Netherlands) referred to paragraph 2 of draft resolution WP/RC11/P&B/WP/2, which stated that the Regional Committee "NOTES with satisfaction the programmes proposed for implementation under the Malaria Eradication Special Account", and wondered whether this could be deleted in view of the statement on page 5 of the draft report of the Sub-Committee (document WP/RC11/11).

The Deputy Director-General had explained that, in view of the uncertainty of the MESA programme and resources, it was the policy of the Director-General to maintain certain basic malaria activities under the regular budget at about the same level as was done prior to the MESA programme, and to consider the MESA programme as a supplement to these basic activities. He pointed out the critical position of the MESA programme and advised that it might be necessary in the future to charge even more malaria activities to the regular budget if the position did not improve.

The SECRETARY suggested that the words "with satisfaction" should be deleted.

Dr KRANENDONK (Netherlands) agreed with this proposal.

Decision: There being no further comments, the Sub-Committee agreed to submit the draft resolutions to the main Committee, resolution WP/RC11/P&B/WP/2 being amended as agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 12.35 p.m.