AGENDA ITEM 2.3

PROGRAMME BUDGET POLICY

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1978 AND 1979

Page 3, ANNEX II, please add the following sentence at the end of the fourth paragraph:

"The Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania has taken note of this document."
At the request of the Delegations of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Thirtieth World Health Assembly, for its information, a document on long-term public health plans and prospects for the development of public health in the socialist States drawn up by the Seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Health of the Socialist Countries.

Annex.
ANNEX I

Sir,

In the papers presented in connexion with consideration of agenda items 1.10 and 1.11 "Review and Approval of the Reports of the Executive Board at its Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Sessions" and "Review of the Annual Report of the Director-General on the Work of WHO in 1976" the question is often raised of long-term health planning in various WHO Member States and the long-term plans for the work of the Organization. As is emphasized in the Sixth General Programme of Work, WHO must pay more attention to study and analysis of long-term plans and prospects for the development of public health in various countries and must also promote an exchange of experience in that sphere.

In view of this the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cuba, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have the honour to submit for your attention a document on long-term public health plans and prospects for the development of public health in the socialist States drawn up by the Seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Health of the Socialist Countries.

This document sets forth the principal plans for the development of public health in the socialist countries together with the prospects for the further development of cooperation between various countries in the sphere of public health, including cooperation within the framework of WHO.

We believe that this document may be of interest also to other WHO Member States and we beg you to distribute it as an information document of the Thirtieth World Health Assembly in connexion with those aspects of agenda items 2.2 and 2.3 ("Programme Budget Policy" and "Programme Budget for the Financial Years 1978 and 1979") that relate to long-term health planning.

Signed: (Chief delegates of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the USSR at the Thirtieth World Health Assembly)

Dr H. Mahler
Director-General
World Health Organization
Geneva
The common tasks standing before the public health services of the socialist countries, the identical principles of developing public health and medical science, the rapid development of international cooperation between countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis in conditions of steadily growing social, political and international significance of health protection in the world of today have made it possible and, in fact, necessary to elaborate long range plans and forecasts for the development of socialist public health.

With this aim in mind, questions of further developing public health and medical science in the socialist countries and their experience were discussed in recent years at various meetings and conferences of experts.

The result of these efforts was a draft document on the prospects for developing socialist public health for the coming 10 - 15 year period, with due consideration for the experience accumulated by all countries and their specific conditions and interests, as well as the unanimity of the very foundations of their activity in the field of protecting and improving the public's health, which represents one of the main social tasks of a socialist state.

This document was examined and adopted at the 17th Conference of Public Health Ministers of the Socialist Countries (June 28-30, 1976, Moscow, USSR) by the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Cuba, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Rumania has taken note of the given document.
1. SOCIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH - A QUALITATIVELY NEW STAGE IN THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

The uppermost goal of the policy of the communist and workers' parties in the countries of socialism is to most fully satisfy the steadily growing material and cultural requirements of the working people. "Everything for the sake of Man, for the wellbeing of Man" - this is the watchword of the communist and workers' parties in the socialist countries.

The documents of the communist and workers' parties in these countries emphasize that there is no greater a social task that concern for the people's health.

Among the measures aimed at achieving this goal in the socialist countries, a prominent role is to be played by measures for protecting and improving the health of the population. Historical experience has demonstrated that only a socialist society is capable of building a genuinely progressive, truly humane and efficient public health system, which is an inseparable part of the social-economic system and really for all the people, a concern of the state. The establishment of a state system of socialist public health was a qualitatively new and higher stage in the protection of the people's health, vividly demonstrating the advantages of socialism.

Socialist public health consists of a broad system of social-economic and medical measures, being carried out by the society to protect and steadily improve the health of the population, to ensure optimal working, living and recreational conditions; broader reproduction of the population, harmonious physical and cultural development of Man and active, creative longevity of all members of society. This is attained by broadly developing prevention and providing generally accessible, highly skilled therapeutical aid on the basis of maximal utilization of the
achievements of steadfastly continuing scientific-technological progress in the interests of protecting the people's health.

The dovetailing of ties between socialist public health and the social and economic life of society stems from the very natural of socialist production relations, the social-class structure of society, the policy and ideology of the socialist countries, which for the first time in the history of mankind, not only proclaimed, but guaranteed fully responsibility of the state for the health of each of its members.

Protection of the people's health in the socialist countries has a juridical-legal base, expressed in corresponding program documents and legislative acts, proceeding from the principles that were elaborated with the direct participation of V.I. Lenin in a number of Soviet Government Decrees, issued in the first years after the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Public Health principles common for the socialist countries are the following: the State character, unanimity and planning, free of charge and accessibility of highly skilled medical aid for the population, preventive trend, unanimity of medical theory and practice, with the extensive utilization of the achievements of science and technology in the work of public health establishments, and participation of the broad masses and public organizations in the protection of the people's health.

The general principles of socialist public health, at the same time, do not exclude certain specific features in the organization of national public health services.

Public health services in the socialist countries, based on Leninist principles, have proven the possibility that in a short period of time the establishment of a highly efficient system of protecting the people's health.
The achievements of public health in the countries of socialism were predetermined by the steadily rising material and cultural level of the population, the strengthening material and technical base of public health, the system of training skilled medical personnel and the successful development of medical science.

Socialist public health, by its social essence and tendency, differs radically from the public health in capitalist countries, where a real possibility is not ensured for receiving the necessary highly skilled preventive and therapeutical aid for all members of society, which first of all is due to the private enterprise nature of medical aid. In view of the internal antagonistic contradictions that are typical of the capitalist society, the major drawbacks of capitalist public health are not eradicated by the partial, limited participation of the state in carrying out a number of social-improvement measures.

Both the theory and practice of socialist public health are coming in for greater international acknowledgement.

Confirmation of this can be seen in the fact that the 23rd Session of the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution "On the basic principles of developing national public health services", in which the most important principles characteristic of socialist public health and tested by years of experience, were recognized as most effective and were recommended to all WHO member states to be used in building public health services and systems, taking into account their national, historical, social-economic and other conditions.

The growing unity and cohesion of the countries in the socialist community, their persistent efforts in the struggle for peace and socialism have created new, favorable conditions for progress in protecting the health of the population.
The health indices in the socialist countries are steadily improving as a result of implementing social-economic and medical measures. At the present time, the countries in the socialist community are experiencing a process of the formation of social homogeneity in public health, unlike in the capitalist countries where the state of health of different strata of the population is characterized by significant differences, which directly depend on social status and material wellbeing.

The development of present-day public health is substantially influenced by the scientific-technological revolution, by progress in medical science and practice. The achievements of medical science, the up-to-date equipment of public health establishments, the utilization of the achievements of biology, chemistry, physics, cybernetics and other sciences open up broad opportunities for further raising the quality of skilled preventive and therapeutical-diagnostic work.

The intensification of production, urbanization, the accelerated pace of life and the increasing psycho-emotional stresses, the appearance of new agents due to the development of certain branches of industry greatly changing the biosphere, place new objectives before society and public health.

In conditions of a socialist society and the planned nature of the national economy, the State's responsibility for the health of the people, the necessary conditions are created not only for eliminating, but first of all, preventing the unfavorable influence of the above-mentioned factors.

As the socialist society advances, broader measures are implemented for improving the environment, creating safe engineering and technology of production corresponding to the biological and psychic peculiarities of Man, and in the prevention of diseases.
As the levels of economic development of the socialist countries come closer to each other, new opportunities open up for progress in public health, in accordance with the requirements of the developed socialist society, for cooperation among these states in the field of public health.

II. UNITY OF PRINCIPLES AND SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

Public health in the socialist countries includes all the diverse activity of the society for protecting the health of the people on the basis of planned social-economic transformations.

The fundamental legislative acts (Constitutions) of the socialist countries proclaim the right of each and every person for health protection and guarantee that all citizens can enjoy these rights.

The socialist society, which fully utilizes the advantages of socialism, was the first to create such a public health system which is characterized by high efficacy and capability of resolving the most complicated problems in health protection and which does not experience the negative influence of crises and inflation.

The State nature and unity of the socialist public health system represents one of its most important principles.

In the socialist countries the State has fully taken upon itself the task of protecting and steadily improving the health of the population, guarantees everyone material security in old age, in cases of sickness and loss of working capacity. The State provides for the consolidation of the material and technical foundations of public health, the training of medical personnel, progress of medical science.
The planned nature of developing health protection is one of the distinguishing features of socialist public health.

The public health plan, as a component part of the State national economic development plan, ensures the advancement of public health in compliance with the tasks of steadfastly improving the people's health, raising their working capacity, increasing life expectancy and active longevity of the working people.

The State nature and planned nature ensure centralized management of health protection on a national scale, besides granting broad initiative to the local bodies of government. Moreover, all the State bodies and public organizations participate in carrying out the program of developing public health.

The preventive trend as the general line in developing socialist public health is reflected in the State's social-economic measures geared to improving the working, living and recreational conditions of the working people, in the planned measures for protecting and improving the environment, as well as in broad medical measures.

Prevention represents the main activity of all the therapeutical-preventive establishments, the determining line in the development of medical science, in the system of training physicians and other medical workers. One of the most important methods ensuring a synthesis of preventive and therapeutical work is dispensarization of the populace. Its main objective is to preserve and improve the health of the population, to prolong the active life expectancy of people and to raise their working capacity by early detection and elimination of the causes of promoting the appearance and spread of diseases. Prevention is also the goal of health education which is the imperative duty of each and every medical worker.
The implementation of the principle of prevention in the public health of socialist countries is connected with the carrying out of nationwide tasks to protect Man's environment, and to improve the working and living conditions of the population. This is ensured both by preventive and routine sanitary inspection, the implementation of measures aimed at eliminating and preventing pollution of water reservoirs, the soil and the air, observing sanitary-hygienic rules and standards in industry, agriculture, construction, introducing everything new in the national economy, as well as sweeping preventive and anti-epidemic measures.

In the socialist countries, the scientifically founded sanitary-hygienic and sanitary anti-epidemic standards and rules, adopted by public health agencies, are of a nation-wide character and are binding for all establishments and citizens.

In coping with the tasks of protecting the health of the working people, important measures are carried out by trade unions and other public organizations. A great role is played by resorts and sanatoria, physical education, sports and tourism as means of health building.

Free medical aid in the socialist countries makes it accessible to all citizens. This aid is provided by a ramified network of preventive-therapeutical and sanitary anti-epidemic establishments, staffed with a sufficient number of medical personnel offering highly skilled preventive and therapeutical aid.

Unity of medical science and practice is secured not only by the broad development of fundamental and applied scientific medical investigations, but also by the inculcation of the latest achievements of science in the practice of public health services. Medical science steadily arms the physicians with up-to-date, tested methods of prevention, diagnostics and management of diseases. Moreover, the inculcation of the results of scientific-technical
progress in public health is the object of special concern on the part of the leading public health bodies in the socialist countries. The achievements of medical science have promoted the eradication and a significant reduction in morbidity and mortality, at the same time, extending the average life expectancy of the population in the socialist countries.

The extensive participation of the public and the population in resolving tasks of protecting and improving the people's health represents one of the peculiar features of socialist public health. The initiative of the population, supported and guided by State bodies, is a powerful factor in carrying out therapeutical, health-building measures and the public movement for sanitary culture.

In the present day conditions, in the community of socialist countries, it is possible to make out the lines of a new regularity - expanding and deepening cooperation and collaboration between public health services on a multilateral and bilateral basis.

The general principles of socialist public health determine the unity of the main organizational approaches to building national public health services. Their organization is based on the territorial and production principle of rendering medical aid. Territorial therapeutical-preventive establishments (hospital, a hospital united with a polyclinic, polyclinic and so on) provide the main types of medical aid to the population, living or working in their area of operation. The main therapeutical-preventive establishments that provide the most massive type of medical aid - out-patient polyclinical aid - are the polyclinics and so-called "ambulatories" (out-patient units), which build their activity on the "uchastok" (District) - territorial principle. The establishment of a broad network of out-patient polyclinical establishments, providing accessible and highly skilled medical aid to the population, represents an important achievement of public health in the socialist countries.
Modern polyclinics provide aid in all the most important specialities. They conduct preventive work on a broad scale and dispensarization of the corresponding contingents of the population. The "uchastok" system of organizing out-patient aid ensures a synthesis of therapeutical and preventive medicine. Therapeutists, pediatricians, and in a number of countries, doctors of other specialities work according to this system. Not only do they provide therapeutical-preventive aid at the polyclinics and at the patient's home, but also study the living conditions of their patients, the sanitary state and morbidity on the territory of the "uchastok", and also draw up and carry out health-building measures on the basis of this system.

Mother and Child Health (MCH), which is a most important task facing the socialist community, creates a strong foundation for the health of future generations. With this objective in mind, a broad range of social-economic and medical measures is carried out, ensuring a combination of the functions of motherhood with the active participation of women in labor and social activity, the harmonious development of children and adolescents.

The State offers legal guarantees to protect the work of pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers, the upbringing of children in pre-school establishments, material and moral encouragement of motherhood by providing all-round medical aid to the mother and her child. Particular attention is devoted to profound examinations and planned observation of pregnant women, children in their first year of life, pupils and adolescents, on the basis of extensively employing methods of preventive medical examinations, home visiting nurses and dispensarization. In order to ensure optimal conditions for protecting the health of women and children, a broad network of special therapeutical-
preventive and health-building establishments has been created, and it is constantly being improved.

An important place in the work of public health bodies and establishments in the socialist countries is occupied by a system of measures aimed at protecting the health of industrial workers. They involve sanitary and health-building measures in industry, a planned introduction of mechanization and automation of technological processes aimed at maximum release of workers from heavy manual labor and jobs connected with occupational hazards, as well as priority to industrial workers in receiving medical aid, which is provided by a network of therapeutic preventive establishments and medical units at the industrial enterprises. The activity of the medical establishments is based on preventive medicine. The workers at industrial enterprises in the socialist countries have social insurance, sanatorium-resort treatment, and treatment at sanatoria-prophylactoria directly at the enterprises.

An important sector in public health is in-patient medical aid. In the socialist countries, the main type of in-patient unit is the general multi-profile hospital, which in the majority of cases, is united with a polyclinic. The organization of in-patient medical aid is based on stage-by-stage implementation.

The main role in organizing specialized medical aid belongs to multi-profile and specialized hospitals. In separate types of aid, scientific-methodological centres are organized. They coordinate the work of the specialized establishments, sum up and disseminate experience, carry out advanced medical training of the specialists.

In order to offer aid in a number of diseases: malignant neoplasms, nervous-psychic, skin and venereal, tuberculosis and others, there are specialized establishments (dispensaries and dispensary units). These establishments offer highly skilled out-patient and in-patient
medical aid; they keep record of the patients of the corresponding profile, carry out preventive, domiciliary, methodological and consultative work, as well as health education among the population. They perform significant work in providing social-legal assistance to patients: study their working and living conditions, actively participate in occupational rehabilitation of patients and invalids, providing them with employment and improving their living conditions, and in combatting harmful living habits.

All individuals taking part in physical culture and sports are also under permanent dispensary observation.

In the socialist countries there is an effective service of emergency and first aid. The main units of this service are emergency medical aid stations, staffed with specialists who have gone through specific training, and equipped with special sanitary transport vehicles. In order to ensure greater operativeness, in certain city districts, besides the central station, there are sub-stations and departments.

Big cities in a number of countries organize emergency medical aid hospitals, which are united with the emergency aid medical stations. These are multi-profile hospitals with departments for resuscitation and intensive therapy, and specialized departments (surgery, traumatology, urology, burns and others).

An important achievement of public health in the socialist countries is the establishment of a stage-by-stage system of medical aid provided to the rural population. The main types of specialized medical aid for the rural population are provided by hospitals and polyclinics (out-patient units). The provision of skilled medical aid is the job of territorial regional, oblast (area, territory) multi-profile hospitals and specialized dispensaries. A large volume of therapeutical-preventive aid to the rural population is provided by urban public health establishments.
To ensure the population and medical establishments with drugs and medical equipment, there is a broad network of pharmacies and other establishments, as well as a state system of control over the quality of drugs and medical equipment, which is an integral part of the public health system.

A special place in socialist public health is occupied by the sanitary-epidemiological service, which carries out a comprehensive system of state sanitary-epidemiological measures through a network of sanitary-epidemiological establishments, with the broad participation of the therapeutical-preventive establishments, industrial enterprises, organizations and the public.

An important role in socialist public health belongs to medical education, which is based on the preventive trend. Medical personnel of different profile are trained at a broad network of medical training establishments. Unity of approaches to the training of personnel has made it possible to attain total equivalency of diplomas in medical education in the socialist countries.

An ever-increasing role is played by post-graduate training and advanced medical training of medical workers.

The socialist countries have a ramified network of scientific-research establishments of different profiles, ensuring the development of all the branches of medical science and public health. Scientific research is conducted also at higher educational establishments and practical public health establishments. Scientific-research institutes participate directly in the inculcation of scientific achievements in the practical work of public health organs and establishments.
III. PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH

The development of socialist production relations, the steady upsurge in economy on the basis of scientific-technological progress, the extensive introduction of comprehensive mechanization and automation of production, as well as the intensification of agriculture, substantially change the conditions influencing the health of the population. New possibilities are created for a more profound penetration of science in the inter-relationships between the human organism and the environment, exposing the causes and mechanisms of different diseases developing, and on this basis, the elaboration of effective measures of prevention, diagnostics, management and rehabilitation.

In view of this, it opens up broad prospects for further developing public health in the socialist countries, based on the latest scientific-founded approaches to its organization, planning and management.

The main trends in developing public health in a given period are reflected in the long-range and five-year plans for the development of the national economy in the socialist countries. The elaboration of these plans is based on forecasting the development of medical science as a component part of the overall scientific-technological progress, the most significant social, economic, sanitary-hygienic and other factors, having direct influence on the health of the people, as well as the development of the public health system itself.

The broad prospects for the further progress in the public health of the socialist countries have been mapped out in the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU, the 11th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the 15th Congress of the Communist
Party of Czechoslovakia, the 1st Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, the 11th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, the 7th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party, the 9th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the 17th Congress of the Mongolian Peoples Revolutionary Party, the 11th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, the 5th Congress of the Korean Party of Labor and other important decisions of the Communist and Workers parties in the socialist countries. They envisage measures for further consolidating the material and technical base of public health, the development of medical science, broadly utilizing the achievements of the scientific-technological progress in the practice of public health, raising the quality and efficacy of all types of therapeutical and preventive aid, with total and rational utilization of the means and funds earmarked for public health.

An important condition for further development of planned socialist national economy is forecasting. Scientific forecasting of public health is based on long term tendencies in the development of the socialist society, having in mind optimal coordination of long range plans for the development of science, environmental protection and the organization of an efficient therapeutical and preventive aid for the population with the most important social-economic tasks.

Forecasting makes it possible to determine the trends in the development of public health, to ensure the selection of the most effective ways of improving it, take into account the perspective changes in the composition and numerity of the population, requirements in material resources and different types of medical aid, drugs, medical equipment and the most expedient variants of satisfying them.

The drawing up of long range public health development plans in the socialist countries is based on the data of dynamics and prognosis:
- social and demographic changes in the development of the economy, cultural level, material wellbeing and working conditions, environmental protection etc.,
- morbidity of the population, especially diseases of the cardio-vascular system, oncological, viral and others, having still quite a broad distribution,
the development of medico-biological science in such areas as molecular biology and biochemistry, virology and genetics, immunology, cardiology, oncology, ecology, social hygiene and public health organization, planning and coordination of medical research.

In organizing the forecasting of new discoveries in the field of medicine and biology, consideration is given to the research in all countries of the world and prospects of developing international scientific cooperation.

In elaborating forecasts for the development of the network of public health establishments, the training and utilization of medical personnel and so on, consideration is given to further raising the efficiency of the work of all the levels of public health.

A comprehensive approach to the drawing up of forecasts and long range plans for developing public health, one of the mandatory conditions is the coordination of singular initial principles, terminology and methods.

In the elaboration of public health forecasts, of great significance is the continuing process of urbanization, changes in the nature of labor, as well as demographic processes, in particular, an increasing proportion of older age groups in the structure of the population, groups which are potential carriers of various protracted chronic diseases.

In forecasting, it is necessary to taking into account the processes going on in the public health system itself. For example,
the development of specialized medical aid which is a progressive phenomenon, predetermines greater state expenditures for costly equipment, total expenditure of work time of doctors in providing medical aid to each patient, this also leads to swelling personnel engaged in public health.

The growing ties between the socialist countries makes it possible to determine the general tasks which can be placed before public health in these countries over a long range period.

At the given moment, the main tasks are the following:

- further expansion and improvement of the preventive trend in public health;

- improvement of the sanitary-epidemiological service, raising the level of state sanitary inspection in environmental protection, ensuring a favorable sanitary-epidemiological situation;

- stage-by-stage transition to dispensariation of the whole population, in accordance with the possibilities of each country;

- further raising the quality of medical aid, improvement of prevention, diagnostics and methods of treatment, improving the specialization of medical aid, further expansion of medical rehabilitation for patients;

- raising the quality and efficacy of therapeutical-preventive aid to women and children;

- bringing the level of medical aid of the urban and rural population closer together;

- further improving and modernizing the network of therapeutical-preventive and sanitary-epidemiological establishments;

- the development and improvement of the network of pharmacies;

- improving medical education and the system of upgrading the skills of medical workers;

- expansion of scientific research in the field of timely and long range problems of medicine and public health;
- improving the system of planning and management of public health, making use of electronic computers and economico-mathematical methods;

- further development and specialization of the production of drugs, medical equipment and instruments.

In connection with the expanded use of new, more effective drugs and methods of treatment of different diseases, it is necessary to pay greater attention to utilizing the great assortment of medicine. The quality of drugs that have been allowed to be used in medicine must be under constant control, for which it is necessary to expand and consolidate the network of pharmacological and clinical scientific centres for checking the side effects of drugs; it is necessary to conduct work among the population against irrational consumption of drugs and to explain the harm of self-curing methods.

The constant changes taking place in the environment demand a further expansion and deepening of the preventive trend in the work of public health bodies in the socialist countries and an expansion of the sphere of influence of the sanitary-epidemiological service, improving the work and raising the level of state sanitary inspection for protecting the environment and ensuring a favorable sanitary-epidemiological situation.

In view of this, the activity of the sanitary-epidemiological service will be directed toward:

- an all-round study of the sanitary state of the environment with the elaboration of comprehensive improvement measures;

- the carrying out of broad sanitary-hygienic and sanitary anti-epidemic measures aimed at protecting the health and creating favorable working and living conditions;

- improving the working conditions and preventing occupational diseases in all branches of industry and agriculture;
- the elaboration and implementation of hygienic standards in the practice of public health, based on a profound study of the combined and complex action of harmful factors in conditions of production and in inhabited settlements;

- prevention, reduction and eradication of separate infectious diseases and improving measures of specific prevention;

- improving the forms and methods of spreading medical and hygienic knowledge (health education) among the population.

In the socialist countries, as a result of the rising standard of living, the development of scientific research and the implementation of anti-epidemic measures, every year witnesses a reduction in morbidity of infectious diseases, in connection with which, the task that comes to the fore is to prevent diseases and early case detection of chronic non-infectious diseases.

In the period being forecast for public health in the socialist countries, one of the prime tasks is to implement stage-by-stage dispensarization of the entire population, the first stage and basis for which is the mass, preventive examinations of the population. In the future, dispensarization must be carried out in the form of regular, periodical medical examinations, whose main goal should be detection of initial and sub-clinical forms of diseases, followed up by therapeutical and health-building measures. Medical observations should be conducted, making extensive use of automated laboratory diagnostic centres with the processing of the obtained data on computers.

The elaboration of organizational forms and approaches to carrying out preventive examinations and dispensarization of the population acquires particular significance.

One of the trends in the work of public health bodies and establishments in the socialist countries for improving the quality of therapeutical-preventive aid to the population in the perspective
period is the further specialization of medical aid, based on a new material foundation, the establishment of large, multi-profile and specialized hospitals. Such large establishments concentrate highly skilled personnel and modern medical equipment, which creates conditions for organizing specialized departments there, departments of resuscitation and intensive therapy, rehabilitation, as well as follow-up special in-patient units for and rehabilitation.

Of prime significance is improving the network and structure of out-patient polyclinical establishments. Most of them continue to provide the population with medical aid in the main specialties (therapy, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, neurology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, stomatology and others). Narrow specialized aid must be concentrated in large polyclinical establishments.

There will be a further expansion of the network of dispensaries (departments) psychoneurological with in-patient units for management of mental cases during the day and therapeutical-productive (labor) workshops; oncological, anti-tuberculosis, dermato-venerealogical and others.

Broader use will be made of the sanitary-resort establishments as an important step in therapeutical-preventive work (follow-up after providing in-patient and out-patient aid), as well as for preventing aggravation of chronic diseases.

More attention is to be directed to the task of providing all-round medical and social aid to elderly people. There will be a significant expansion in the research of controlling diseases typical of old age groups and improving the organization of forms to provide them with medical aid.

An important task is to step up publicity of a health way of living, properly combining work and rest, to combat harmful habits, proceeding in this not only from the fact that society must look
after the health of its members, but that each and every person must look after his/her own health.

One of the most important tasks facing public health in the socialist countries in the field of the health of the agricultural (rural) population for the forecast period is to bring the levels and the quality of medical aid of the urban and rural population closer together.

In resolving this task, paramount significance is attached to further developing and improving the territorial (regional) hospitals, which are to provide skilled medical aid. In order to bring closer skilled medical aid to the rural population, the network of polyclinics in the rural areas will be expanded. Where necessary greater attention will be given to the role of mobile specialized types of medical aid (mobile polyclinics, fluorographic and stomatological units, clinical labs and others).

At the present stage, one of the most important questions in public health is forecasting requirements in medical personnel.

A forecast of long range requirements in doctors should be based on the program Party and State documents in the field of public health the long range plans for social-economic development of each country, forecast data on demographic processes and morbidity of the population, as well as for the development and specialization of the network of medical establishments.

The broad inculcation in public health practice of modern achievements of medical science, cybernetics, radio electronics, the use of electronic computers and so on predetermine the need for training such future doctors who would be capable of fully coping with the tasks at the level of the requirements of scientific-technical progress, as well as the need to train medical engineers, specialists in medical cybernetics and sanitary engineers.
An important task in raising the efficacy of utilizing the medical personnel is the introduction of scientific management of labor at all public health establishments and at all levels. The work connected with scientific management of labor and rational utilization of personnel calls for a further expansion of sociological, psychophysical investigations and studies in the field of specific organization of labor of medical workers of different profiles.

The requirements in doctors id determined not only the necessary volume of therapeutical-preventive work that is carried out taking into account the level and structure of the pathology of the population, but what is also expected in the future with the greater specialization of medical aid, possible changes in its organizational forms, types of public health establishments, the ever increasing dispensarization etc.

For certain administrative territories, it would be expedient to carry out a differentiation of requirements in doctors, first of all, taking into account the different factors having the greatest effect on final indices: age and sex composition of the population, tendencies in demographic processes, the correlation between the urban and rural population, the proportion of industrial workers in the composition of the population, climatic and geographical conditions, national customs and traditions.

In conditions of expansion of specialized medical aid and the use of sophisticated medical equipment for diagnostics and treatment, there is a greater need to train doctors of a narrow speciality. However, their training should be planned in a proper balance with the training of doctors of the broad profile.

In the future, one of the main tasks is to persistently work in upgrading the professional skills of doctors, pharmaceutical personnel with a higher education, the creation of conditions for
systematically raising their qualifications, expanding the network of institutes and other forms of advanced medical training.

A doctor in the socialist countries is highly respected by all the people. Not only does he treat patients, he is a public functionary. In view of this, an important section of his work is ideological upbringing of medical personnel in the spirit of loyalty to the ideals of socialism and communism.

Raising the scientific level and quality of medical aid today is one of the most important tasks which should be taken into account during forecasting of public health. In the practical work of all therapeutical-preventive establishments, besides the achievements of medical science, greater use will be made of the achievements of biology, physics, chemistry and modern engineering.

At the same time, the achievements of medical science must be extensively used by all state and economic bodies and establishments in all spheres of work affecting the interests of public health.

While drawing up a forecast for the development of medical science, the main attention should be devoted to:

- further developing the fundamental medico-biological investigations; elaboration of problems of molecular biology, immunology, genetics;

- study hypertension disease, atherosclerosis and ischemic heart disease; using new approaches and methods in the clinico-experimental study of pathogenesis, which will promote a better understanding of the essence and mechanisms of the development of these diseases, improvement and elaboration of new methods for early diagnostics, prevention and treatment; the elaboration of measures of primary and secondary prevention of ischemic heart disease; reducing mortality from myocardial infarction and restoration of the working capacity of such patients, reduction of the number
of lethal outcomes and complications of arterial hypertension (cerebral haemorage, renal and cardiac insufficiency and others), on the basis of the successes in studying the mechanisms of diagnostics of these diseases and complications, mass dispensarization and early case detection, differentiated use of hypotensive drugs of varying mechanisms of action;

- further development of theoretical oncology (a study of the mechanisms of carcinogenesis at molecular and cellular level);

- expanding research in the social area (role of urbanization, ethnic, epidemiological, sanitary-hygienic, occupational factors and others), the use in clinical oncology of new methods of prevention, diagnostics and combine treatment (surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, sources of high energy, enzymotherapy and so on);

- raising the quality and efficacy of **vaccine**, replacing live vaccine with chemical multivalents; improving chemotherapy of viral diseases; discovery of the main regularities of the ecology of influenza viruses, carrying out first enzymatic and then chemical synthesis of viral protozoa; study the oncological viruses, the laboration of highly effective methods of treating viral diseases, including cancer and leukoses on the basis of theoretical achievements;

- study the epidemiological, infectious and parasitic diseases, including diseases of the tropical belt;

- broader development, on the basis of studying molecular basis, hereditary human diseases, by medical science - medico-genetic consultations;

- expanding the research in the field of theoretical and clinical endocrinology;

- solving theoretical and clinical-experimental problems of transplanting organs and tissues by detailed interpretation of genetic and immunological aspects of incompatibility of tissues, elaboration of new methods of conservation and others,
expanding the introduction of transplanting organs and tissues in clinical practice; work in developing artificial organs (heart, liver, kidney and others) auxiliary or independent action;

- elaboration xxx of scientific basis and practical measures for sharply reducing the cases of production and non-production xxx traumatism;

- expanding the research on problems of reparative regeneration of bone tissue, arthroses, congential and acquired deformations, alloplastics and extensive xx use of polymers;

- searching for new ways of preventing, diagnosing and treatment of a whole number of nervous-mental diseases on the basis of the achievements in the field of neurophysiology, pharmacology, in studying enzyme mechanisms and others;

- further elaboration of standards and regimens of rational diets for different age and occupational groups and for a number of different climato-geographical conditions;

- the elaboration of social-hygienic problems, the influence of social factors and environmental factors on the health of the population, studying the morbidity of the population, the elaboration of the indices of the effective work of medical establishments and using this data as an objective scientific basis for elaborating the standards in public health, planning, organization and management;

- study the philosohical and social problems of medicine and public health and criticism of reactionary bourgeois theories.

In order to solve these most important tasks, there will have to be more scientific personnel, an expansion and improvement of the network of research establishments.

The successful development of public health in the socialist countries is determined to a great extent by the development of its material and technical base.
In the forecast period, there will be a substantial increase in the production of medical preparations, and first of all, antibiotics with a broad spectrum of action, cardiop-vascular, hormonal, enzymatic and others; a number of vaccines and sera, suture and dressing materials, rubber and polymer medical goods, modern medical instruments, equipment, devices, sanitary and specialized transport vehicles, sanitary aircraft and helicopters. The expansion of their production will promote the implementation of specialized enterprises in the medical industry of the socialist countries within the framework of CMEA.

In the planned period, an important place will be occupied by further improving the designing and construction of new medical establishments on the basis of a rational combination of constructing multi-profile and specialized hospitals, polyclinics, sanitary complexes using progressive industrial methods of construction. Measures should be carried out providing maximal use of the existing fund of public health establishments, its reconstruction and modernization. The efforts of the socialist countries for raising the quality of construction of public health establishments should be directed towards expanding the scientific-research work on questions of designing, construction and equipping public health establishments, including joint elaboration of optimal types of designs, uniform standardized approaches to organizing the economic systems in public health establishments, furnishing them with medical and pharmaceutical furniture, complying with hygienic, esthetic and ergonomic requirements.

A most important task is to find ways of most effectively and economically using the means earmarked for public health, including raising the effectiveness of utilizing the hospital bed fund, improving the structure of establishments; studying the inter-relationships between medical measures and their economic effectiveness.
The further improvement in organization, planning and management of public health should be conducted on the basis of establishing and introducing management information services. The use of electronic computers and economic-mathematical methods will make it possible to build and check various models of public health systems and its elements, integrate and analyse medico-statistical and economic information and select the most efficient way of further developing public health in the socialist countries.

Standardized principles in protecting public health in the socialist countries afford to design automatic systems of processing medical information and management of public health establishments, similar in character and concept of their functioning, which opens up possibilities for joint development of projects and exchange finished project decisions on these questions.

In these conditions, there will be a need for a certain volume and character of information for management of public health at different levels, selecting the set of indices reflecting the quality and efficacy of the work of public health establishments of different kinds. Review forms of records and accountability documents with the aim of their being standardized, as well as for adapting electronic computers for processing them, and creating possibilities for a comparative evaluation of the indices reflecting the work of public health in the socialist countries.

It is extremely important to elaborate and inculcate a standardized system of scientific medical information for the socialist countries on the basis of using modern computing equipment. The traditional methods of planning public health will also be further improved.
In order to improve public health and accelerate the rate of development of medical science, or particular significance is to further expand and deepen cooperation between public health agencies and establishments in the socialist countries.

During the past quarter century this cooperation has undergone a certain evolution, with the emergence of bi- and multilateral forms of cooperation.

Experience has illustrated that direct inter-institute cooperation has had a positive influence on the development of current problems of medicine and public health both in each individual country, as well as in the countries of the socialist community as a whole. Of particular significance is furthering cooperation between scientific medical societies.

At the present stage of social-economic development in the socialist countries, cooperation in the field of public health must be developed and improved so that it becomes more effective and purposeful.

The tasks standing before public health in the socialist countries insistently call for joint development of ways to further develop socialist public health. Hence, the greater significance of multilateral cooperation.

The establishment of a Permanent CMEA Commission on cooperation in the field of public health is of paramount significance for further advancing cooperation amongst the member-states of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the sphere of public health, medical science and engineering.

The work of this Commission will make it possible to significantly broaden the range of problems in the field of public health, medical science and engineering, which require further development of cooperation amongst the CMEA member-states and to pool their creative efforts.
The socialist countries take an understanding attitude toward the public health needs of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which have embarked upon the road of profound social-economic transformations and offer these countries significant and diverse aid in training national personnel and developing their own state public health services.

In order to promote the strengthening of national public health services in providing skilled medical aid to the population, reducing and eradicating diseases that are widespread in these states, the socialist countries will continue to render aid to the developing countries in the construction of public health and educational establishments, the training of national personnel in medicine, to send highly skilled specialists and drugs, vaccination material and medical equipment, help in establishing enterprises of the medical industry, as well as to offer them the rich experience of organizing public health in the socialist states.

The socialist countries reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate with all other countries in developing medical science and practice, in protecting and improving the health of the population, taking into account the unanimity of interests of the peoples in all countries in this humane sphere of Man's activity.

The socialist countries attach great significance to further developing cooperation with international organizations, and first and foremost, with the World Health Organization, viewing it as an important vehicle of international cooperation for resolving pressing problems of medicine, of international significance, in the interests of all states.

The socialist countries in Europe especially highly value the relaxation of international tensions and the positive changes in relations between countries, that were reflected in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki,
August 1, 1975, viewing it as an important victory for the peaceloving forces, a triumph of the Peace Program, which is steadfastly being implemented by the countries in the socialist community.

The strengthening community of fraternal socialist countries is an important factor, determining the success of socialist and communist construction. It opens up new vistas for further development in the field of public health and medical science, geared to a harmonious development of the individual, protecting and strengthening of the population's health, raising their creative activity and extending their life expectancy.

The collective creative elaboration of the chief directions and prospects in the development of public health in the socialist countries on the basis of an all-round analysis and utilization of their experience, represents a powerful factor that determines further progress of socialist public health, and an important contribution to the development of international public health, to the consolidation of peace throughout the world.
PROGRAMME BUDGET POLICY

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1978 AND 1979

At the request of the Delegations of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Thirtieth World Health Assembly, for its information, a document on long-term public health plans and prospects for the development of public health in the socialist States drawn up by the Seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Health of the Socialist Countries.

1 Annex.
Sir,

In the papers presented in connexion with consideration of agenda items 1.10 and 1.11 "Review and Approval of the Reports of the Executive Board at its Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Sessions" and "Review of the Annual Report of the Director-General on the Work of WHO in 1976" the question is often raised of long-term health planning in various WHO Member States and the long-term plans for the work of the Organization. As is emphasized in the Sixth General Programme of Work, WHO must pay more attention to study and analysis of long-term plans and prospects for the development of public health in various countries and must also promote an exchange of experience in that sphere.

In view of this the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cuba, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have the honour to submit for your attention a document on long-term public health plans and prospects for the development of public health in the socialist States drawn up by the Seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Health of the Socialist Countries.

This document sets forth the principal plans for the development of public health in the socialist countries together with the prospects for the further development of cooperation between various countries in the sphere of public health, including cooperation within the framework of WHO.

We believe that this document may be of interest also to other WHO Member States and we beg you to distribute it as an information document of the Thirtieth World Health Assembly in connexion with those aspects of agenda items 2.2 and 2.3 ("Programme Budget Policy" and "Programme Budget for the Financial Years 1978 and 1979") that relate to long-term health planning.

Signed: (Chief delegates of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the USSR at the Thirtieth World Health Assembly)

Dr H. Mahler
Director-General
World Health Organization
Geneva
MAIN TRENDS AND PROSPECTS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH

The common tasks confronting the public health services of the socialist countries, the
fact that the development of public health and medical research is based on the same principles
in all those countries, the rapid development of international cooperation between them on a
bilateral and multilateral basis under the conditions of the modern world in which health
protection is assuming ever greater political and international importance, have made it not
merely possible but essential to prepare long-range plans and forecasts for the development of
socialist public health.

With this in mind, various aspects of the further development of public health services
and medical research in the socialist countries and of the experience gained have been dis-
cussed at a number of meetings and conferences of experts in recent years.

This has resulted in a draft document on the prospects for developing socialist public
health for the coming 10-15 year period, a document which takes due account of the experience
gained by all the countries and of the conditions and interests peculiar to each of them, as
well as of the fact that their work in protecting and improving public health - one of the
main social tasks of a socialist State - is based on identical principles.

This document was considered and adopted at the 17th Conference of the Ministers of Health
of the Socialist Countries (28-30 June 1976, Moscow, USSR) by the delegations of the People's
Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the
German Democratic Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba,
the Mongolian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's
Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

I. SOCIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH - A QUALITATIVELY NEW STAGE
IN THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

The supreme aim of the policy of the Communist and workers' parties in the socialist
countries is to satisfy as fully as possible the constantly increasing material and cultural
needs of the working people. "Everything for the sake of man, for the good of mankind":
that is the watchword of the Communist and workers' parties in the socialist countries.

The documents of the Communist and workers' parties in those countries emphasize that
there is no more important social task than care for the people's health.

Among measures designed to achieve this aim in the socialist countries a prominent role
is played by measures for protecting and improving the population's health. Past experience
has shown that only a socialist society is capable of building a genuinely progressive, truly
humane and efficient public health system that is an inseparable part of the social and
economic system, genuinely a concern of the whole people and the State. The establishment of
a State system of socialist public health represented a qualitatively new and higher stage of
health protection, a striking proof of the advantages of socialism.

Socialist public health consists of a broad system of socioeconomic and medical measures
carried out by society with a view to protecting and constantly improving the health of the
population, ensuring optimal working, living and recreational conditions, ensuring improved
population growth, promoting the harmonious physical and cultural development of man, and
favouring a long, active and creative life for all members of society. This is attained by
developing prevention on a large scale and by providing universally accessible medical care
of a high standard on the basis of using to the full the achievements of uninterrupted
scientific and technological progress in the interests of preserving the people's health.
The indissoluble connexion between socialist public health and the social and economic life of society results from the very nature of socialist production relationships, the social class structure of society and the policy and ideology of the socialist countries which for the first time in the history of mankind have not merely proclaimed but have guaranteed the full responsibility of the State for the health of each of its members.

Protection of the people's health in the socialist countries has a basis in law and jurisprudence, expressed in the relevant programme documents and legislation based on the principles laid down, with the direct participation of V. I. Lenin, in various Soviet Government Decrees issued during the first few years after the Great October Socialist Revolution.

General principles of public health common to the socialist countries are as follows: public health is a State responsibility, the health services are planned and form a unified whole, medical care of a high standard must be universally available free of charge to the whole population, emphasis must be laid on prevention, there must be no gap between medical theory and practice, wide use must be made of science and technology in the activities of public health institutions, and the participation of the broad masses of the people and of mass organizations must be enlisted in the protection of the people's health.

However, the fact that socialist public health is based on common principles does not necessarily mean that the organization of national public health services in specific countries will not have its own particular features.

Public health services in the socialist countries, based on Leninist principles, have shown that it is possible for a highly efficient system of protecting the people's health to be set up in a time unprecedentedly short from the historical standpoint.

The achievements of public health in the socialist countries have been made possible by the steadily rising material and cultural standard of the population, by the strengthening of the material and technological basis of public health, by the system of training skilled medical personnel and by the successful development of medical research.

Socialist public health, by virtue of its social essence and aims, differs radically from public health in capitalist countries, where all members of society are not in practice able to obtain the necessary highly skilled preventive and curative care, primarily owing to medical services being based on private enterprise. Because of the internal contradictions that are inherent in capitalist society, the radical defects of capitalist public health are not eliminated by partial, limited State participation in carrying out various measures for improving health conditions.

The theory and practice of socialist public health are receiving increasing international recognition.

A confirmation of this is the adoption by the twenty-third session of the World Health Assembly of a resolution "Basic principles for the development of national health services", in which the main principles and postulates that characterize socialist public health and which have stood the test of time were recognized as the most effective and were recommended to all Member countries of WHO for them to take into account, having regard to their own historical, social, economic and other conditions, in establishing their health services and systems.

The growing unity and cohesion of the countries in the socialist community and their unflaging struggle for peace and socialism have created new, favourable conditions for progress in protecting the health of the population.
In the socialist countries the carrying out of socioeconomic and medical measures has resulted in a steady improvement in health indices. The countries of the socialist commonwealth are now engaged in a process of ensuring social uniformity in the provision of health care, in contrast to the capitalist countries where substantial differences exist between levels of health in different strata of the population, differences directly dependent on social status and degree of affluence.

The development of public health today is profoundly influenced by the scientific and technical revolution, by progress in medical research and practice. Progress in medical research, the provision of public health establishments with the latest equipment and utilization of advances in biology, chemistry, physics, cybernetics and other sciences are opening up broad opportunities for further raising the standard of prevention, therapeutic care and diagnosis.

The intensification of production, urbanization, the accelerated pace of life, with the resultant increase in psychological strain and emotional stresses, the appearance, due to the development of certain branches of industry, of new factors that bring about substantial changes in the biosphere, are confronting society and the public health services with new tasks.

The conditions of socialist society, the planned nature of the national economy and the State's responsibility for the health of the people provide the necessary basis not merely for eliminating, but primarily for preventing these factors from exerting an undesirable effect.

The further socialist society develops, the wider the scale of the measures taken for improving the environment, promoting safety in industry and other branches of production in a way adapted to the biological and mental features of man, and preventing disease.

As the levels of economic development in the socialist countries come closer to one another, new opportunities are opening up for progress in public health in accordance with the requirements of developed socialist society and for cooperation among these States in the field of public health.

II. UNITY OF PRINCIPLES AND SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

Public health in the socialist countries comprises all the diverse activities of society designed to protect the health of the people on the basis of planned social and economic transformations.

The fundamental laws (Constitutions) of the socialist countries proclaim the right of each and every person to enjoy health protection and guarantee that all citizens can benefit from that right.

Socialist society, which makes full use of the advantages of socialism, has been the first to create such a public health system, characterized by a high degree of effectiveness, the ability to solve the most complex public health problems and freedom from the baneful effects of crises and inflation.

The State and unified nature of the socialist public health system represents one of its most important principles.

In the socialist countries the State has assumed full responsibility for protecting and constantly improving the health of the people and guarantees everyone material security in old age and in sickness and disability. The State ensures the strengthening of the material and technical basis for the public health services, the training of medical personnel, and the promotion of medical research.
The fact that the development of the public health services is based on planning is one of the distinguishing features of socialist public health.

The public health plan, as a component part of the State national economic development plan, provides for a step-by-step improvement in public health services in line with its tasks of gradually improving the people's health, raising their working capacity and ensuring that the working people enjoy a longer life in full activity.

The fact that the health services are run by the State and on a planned basis ensures centralized management on a national scale, while leaving local authorities wide discretion in their activities. Meanwhile all State bodies and public organizations play a part in carrying out the programme for developing public health.

The emphasis on prevention as the key policy in developing socialist public health services is reflected in the socioeconomic measures taken by the State with a view to improving the working, living and recreational conditions of the working people, in the planned measures adopted for protecting and improving the environment and in the extensive medical activities undertaken.

Prevention represents the basis for the activities of all curative and preventive establishments and determines the lines along which medical research is developed and physicians and other medical workers are trained. One of the most important methods of ensuring the fusion of preventive and therapeutic work is the establishment of centres providing unified diagnostic, preventive, curative and follow-up services known in the USSR as "dispensaries". The main objective of this system is to preserve and improve the health of the population, to prolong active life expectancy and to improve working capacity by early detection and elimination of the factors responsible for the onset and spread of diseases. Health education, which forms an integral part of the duties of all medical workers, is also subordinated to the aims of prevention.

Practical implementation of the preventive principle in the public health services of the socialist countries is linked with nationwide efforts to protect the human environment and to provide healthier working and living conditions for the population. This is ensured both by preventive and routine sanitary monitoring, by measures designed to eliminate and prevent water, soil and air pollution, by observance of rules and standards for sanitation and hygiene in industry, agriculture and building and whenever anything new is introduced into the national economy, and by large-scale preventive and epidemic-control measures.

In the socialist countries, the sanitional, hygienic and epidemic-control standards and rules, based on sound scientific data, that are adopted by the public health authorities, are of nationwide application and are binding on all establishments and citizens.

As part of the task of protecting the health of the working people, important measures are carried out by trade unions and other public organizations. An important part in strengthening the people's health is played by spas and sanatoria, physical education, sport and tourism.

The fact that medical care in the socialist countries is free of charge makes it accessible to all citizens. It is provided through a well-developed network of preventive, curative, sanitary and epidemic-control establishments with an adequate staff for the dispensing of preventive and therapeutic care of a high standard.

Unity of theory and practice in medicine is secured not only by the extensive development of fundamental and applied medical research, but also by the introduction of the latest research discoveries into public health practice. Medical research is constantly providing physicians with up-to-date, tested methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Indeed, introduction of the results of scientific and technical progress into public health practice
is a matter of particular concern for the leading public health authorities in the socialist countries. The achievements of medical research have contributed to the eradication of a number of diseases and a significant reduction in morbidity and mortality from others, and to an increase in the average life expectancy of the population in the socialist countries.

Extensive participation of public organizations and the population in protecting and improving public health is a special feature of the socialist public health system. Popular initiative, supported and guided by State bodies, is a powerful factor in carrying out health-improvement measures and in the public movement for a better awareness of health problems.

Under conditions in the community of socialist countries today a new tendency is beginning to take shape - wider and more thoroughgoing cooperation between public health services on a multilateral and bilateral basis.

The fact that the principles of socialist public health are common to all the socialist countries means that the basic organizational approaches to building up national public health services will be the same. The organization of the services is based on the territorial and production principles for providing medical care. Territorial curative and preventive establishments (the hospital, the combined hospital-polyclinic, the polyclinic and so on) provide the population living and working in the area they serve with the main types of medical care. The basic curative and preventive establishments (those that provide the out-patient and polyclinic services required on a mass scale) are the polyclinics and out-patient clinics and their activity is based on the "uchastok" (district) principle. The setting-up of an extensive system of out-patient and polyclinic establishments, providing the population with easily accessible medical care of a high standard, represents an important achievement of the public health system in the socialist countries.

Modern polyclinics cater for all the most important branches of medical care, conduct preventive work on a wide scale and provide comprehensive follow-up services for certain groups of the population. The district system of organizing out-patient care ensures an amalgamation of curative and preventive medicine. Internists, paediatricians, and in a number of countries, doctors of other specialities work in this system. Not only do they provide curative and preventive care at the polyclinics and in patients' homes, but they also study the living conditions of their patients and the state of health and incidence of disease among the people of their district, devising and carrying out on the basis of their findings sets of measures to improve health conditions.

Maternal and child health (MCH), a major concern of socialist society, lays a solid foundation for the health of future generations. With this in mind, a wide variety of socio-economic and medical measures are carried out that ensure that motherhood is compatible with the active participation of women in production and social life and guarantee the harmonious development of children and adolescents.

The State provides legal guarantees for the protection of the working rights of expectant and nursing mothers, for the education of children in pre-school establishments and for the material and moral encouragement of motherhood through the provision of comprehensive medical care for mother and child. Particular attention is paid to thorough examination and regular follow-up of pregnant women, children in their first year of life, schoolchildren and adolescents, on the basis of the extensive use of methods of preventive medical examination, home visiting and the dispensary system already mentioned. With a view to ensuring optimal conditions for protecting the health of women and children, an extensive system of special curative and preventive establishments and health resorts has been set up and is constantly being improved.
An important part in the work of public health authorities and establishments in the socialist countries is played by the system of measures designed to protect the health of industrial workers. The system includes sanitary and health-improvement measures in industry, planned introduction of mechanization and automation of technological processes designed to release to the largest possible extent workers from heavy manual labour and operations involving occupational hazards, and the giving of priority to industrial workers in the provision of medical care, which is given by the whole network of curative and preventive establishments and by medical units at the place of work. The activity of these medical units is based primarily on prevention. Industrial workers in the socialist countries enjoy social insurance, treatment at spas and health resorts and treatment in sanatoria and prophylactoria attached to their place of work.

An important branch of the public health services is in-patient medical care. In the socialist countries, the main type of in-patient establishment is a general multipurpose hospital, which in most cases is combined with a polyclinic. The organization of in-patient medical care is based on treatment in well-defined stages.

The main part in organizing specialized medical care is played by large general hospitals and specialized hospitals. For some types of care centres of scientific method have been organized which coordinate the work of the specialized establishments, sum up and disseminate the lessons of experience, and provide advanced medical training for specialists.

To deal with a certain number of diseases (cancer, nervous and mental diseases, skin and venereal diseases, tuberculosis, etc), specialized establishments known as dispensaries or dispensary units have been set up. These establishments offer out-patient and in-patient care of a high standard, keep registers of the patients in their branch, undertake preventive, methodological, advisory and home-visiting activities and carry out health education among the population. They do a considerable amount of social-welfare and legal-aid work among patients, study their working and living conditions, actively participate in occupational rehabilitation of the sick and disabled, finding them work and improving their living conditions, and try to combat harmful habits.

Anybody taking part in physical culture and sport is also regularly followed up by the dispensary services.

In the socialist countries an emergency care and first-aid service has also been established and is working efficiently. Its main establishments are emergency-care stations, staffed with specialists who have been given special training and provided with special ambulances. To ensure greater efficiency and speed, substations and units have been set up in individual districts of the large cities, in addition to the central station.

In a number of countries emergency-care hospitals, combined with the emergency-care stations, have been established. They are multipurpose hospitals with resuscitation and intensive care units and specialized departments (surgery, traumatology, urology, burns, etc.).

An important achievement of public health in the socialist countries is the establishment of a multilevel system of medical care for the rural population. The main types of specialized medical care for the rural population are provided by hospitals and polyclinics or out-patient clinics. The provision of skilled medical assistance is the responsibility of territorial regional, oblast (okrug, kraj) multipurpose hospitals and specialized dispensaries. A considerable amount of curative and preventive care for the rural population is also provided by urban public health establishments.
To provide the population and medical establishments with drugs and medical equipment an extensive network of pharmacies and other establishments has been set up, together with a State system for controlling the quality of drugs and medical supplies which forms an integral part of the public health system.

A special place in socialist public health is occupied by the sanitation and epidemiology service, which carries out a comprehensive system of State sanitary and health-improvement measures through a special network of sanitation and epidemiological centres, with the curative and preventive establishments, industrial enterprises, organizations and the public participating on a considerable scale.

An important role is played in the socialist public health services by medical education, which emphasizes prevention. Medical staff for the various branches of medicine are trained in an extensive system of medical training establishments. A unified approach to the training of medical staff has ensured the total equivalence of medical degrees throughout the socialist countries.

An ever more important role is being played by the postgraduate training and advanced medical training of staff.

The socialist countries have set up an extensive system of research establishments for different subjects, ensuring the development of all branches of medical theory and public health. Research is also conducted at higher educational establishments and in public-health establishments with practical tasks. Research institutes play a direct part in the introduction of scientific discoveries into the practical work of public health authorities and establishments.

III. PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The development of socialist production relationships, the constant progress of the economy on the basis of scientific and technological achievements, the extensive introduction of comprehensive mechanization and automation, and the practice of more intensive agriculture are bringing about considerable changes in the conditions that affect the health of the population. New possibilities are being opened up enabling science to go more deeply into the inter-relationships between the human organism and the environment, to discover the causes of certain diseases and the mechanisms by which they arise, and to develop accordingly effective measures of prevention, diagnosis, management and rehabilitation.

In view of this, wide prospects are opening up for further developing the public health services in the socialist countries, based on the latest approaches to scientifically-based public-health administration, planning and management.

The main trends in the development of the public health services over a given period are reflected in the long-term and five-year plans for the development of the national economy in the socialist countries. These plans are drawn up on the basis of forecasts of the development of medical research as part of overall scientific and technological progress and of the most significant social, economic, sanitary, hygienic and other factors that directly affect the health of the people, as well as of the development of the public health system itself.

Wide prospects for further progress in the public health systems of the socialist countries have been outlined in the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU, the 11th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, the 11th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, the 7th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party, the 9th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the 17th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the 11th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, the
5th Congress of the Korean Party of Labour and other important decisions of the communist and workers parties in the socialist countries. They envisage measures for further strengthening the material and technical basis for the public-health services, for developing medical research, for making extensive use of scientific and technological advances in public health practice, and for improving the quality and efficiency of all types of curative and preventive care, by making full and rational use of the resources allocated for public health.

An important condition for the further development of planned socialist economies is forecasting. Scientific public-health forecasting is based on objective long-term tendencies in the development of socialist society, bearing in mind the need to coordinate long-term plans for research development, environmental protection and the organization of efficient curative and preventive care with the most important socioeconomic tasks.

Forecasting reveals trends in the development of public health, ensures the selection of the most effective ways of improving it, takes into account anticipated long-term changes in the composition and size of the population, the requirements in the way of material resources and different types of medical care, drugs and medical equipment and determines the most rational ways of satisfying those requirements.

The preparation of long-term public health development plans in the socialist countries is based on observation of the changes that are taking place in the following areas and on forecasts appertaining to them:

- social and demographic shifts in the development of the economic status, cultural level, material welfare and working conditions of the people, environmental protection, etc.,
- morbidity among the population, especially from cardiovascular diseases, tumours, viral diseases and other widespread conditions,
- the development of the biomedical sciences in such domains as molecular biology and biochemistry, virology and genetics, immunology, cardiology, oncology, ecology, social hygiene and public health administration; the planning and coordination of medical research.

In forecasting new discoveries in medicine and biology, allowance is made for the research conducted all over the world and for the prospects of developing international research cooperation.

In drawing up a forecast for the development of the system of public health establishments, the training and utilization of medical personnel and so on, allowance is made for a further improvement in efficiency at all levels in the public health services.

A many-sided approach to the drawing-up of forecasts and long-term plans for developing the public health services must be founded on agreed unified basic principles, terminology and methods.

In public-health forecasting great importance attaches to the continuing process of urbanization, changes in the nature of work and demographic processes, particularly the increasing proportion of older age groups in the population, i.e. the groups that are potential sufferers from various protracted chronic diseases.

In forecasting, it is necessary to take into account also the processes that are going on in the public health system itself. For example, the development of specialized medical care, which is a progressive phenomenon, calls for increased State expenditure on costly equipment, increased total doctor's working time per patient and increased numbers of public health staff.

The ever more extensive and profound relationships between the socialist countries make it possible to determine the common tasks with which their public health services will be faced during the period covered by the forecast.
At the present moment, the following are some of the main tasks:

- a further extension and improvement of the preventive trend in public health;

- an improvement of the sanitation and epidemiological service, an increase in the level of State sanitary inspection for the protection of the environment and the establishment of a favourable sanitary-epidemiological situation;

- a stage-by-stage transition to the provision of dispensary services for the whole population, in each country according to its possibilities;

- a further improvement in the standard of medical care, in prevention, diagnosis and methods of treatment and in the provision of specialized forms of medical care; a further expansion of medical rehabilitation;

- an improvement in the quality and efficiency of curative and preventive care for women and children;

- bringing the levels of medical care for the urban and rural populations closer together;

- further improving and modernizing the network of curative, preventive, sanitation and epidemiological establishments;

- the development and improvement of the pharmacy system;

- an improvement in medical education and the further training system for medical workers;

- expansion of research on topical and long-term problems in medicine and public health;

- improvement in the system of planning and management of the public health services, making use of electronic computers and the methods of mathematical economics;

- further development and specialization of the production of drugs, medical equipment and instruments.

In connexion with the expanded use of new, more effective drugs and methods of treatment of different diseases, greater attention must be paid to using the rich assortment of medicines available. The quality of drugs authorized for medical use must be constantly monitored. This will make it necessary to expand and strengthen the network of pharmacological and clinical research centres for monitoring the side effects of drugs. The population must be warned against irrational taking of medicaments and the harmfulness of self-medication must be explained.

The constant changes taking place in the environment call for still wider and more emphatic stress on the preventive principle in the work of the public health authorities in the socialist countries and a widening of the terms of reference of the sanitation and epidemiological service and for an improvement in the standard of the State sanitary inspectorate in its work of protecting the environment and ensuring a favourable sanitary and epidemiological situation.

In view of this, the activity of the sanitation and epidemiological service will be directed towards:

- an all-round study of the sanitary state of the environment accompanied by the drawing-up of comprehensive improvement measures;
- the carrying-out of extensive sanitary, hygienic and epidemic control measures designed to protect health and create healthy working and living conditions;

- ensuring healthier working conditions and preventing occupational diseases in all branches of industry and agriculture;

- the development and practical introduction into public health practice of hygienic standards based on thorough study of the combined and complex action of harmful factors in industry and in centres of population;

- the prevention, reduction or eradication of particular infectious diseases and the improvement of means of specific prevention;

- an improvement in the forms and methods of disseminating medical and hygienic knowledge among the population (health education).

In the socialist countries, as a result of the rising standard of living, the development of scientific research and the implementation of epidemic control measures, every year witnesses a reduction in morbidity from communicable diseases. As a result, the prevention of chronic, noncommunicable diseases and their timely detection is becoming a priority task.

In the forecast period the public health services in the socialist countries will be faced with the very important task of gradually extending the dispensarization system to the entire population; the first stage and basis of this is mass preventive examinations of the population. In the long run, dispensarization must take the form of regular, periodical medical examinations, whose main goal should be detection of incipient and subclinical forms of disease, followed by curative and health-strengthening measures. In medical examinations wide use should be made of automated laboratory diagnostic centres, the results obtained being processed on computers.

The development of organizational forms and methodological approaches to carrying out preventive examinations and dispensarization of the population is taking on particular significance.

One of the trends during the forecast period in the work of public health authorities and establishments in the socialist countries with a view to improving the quality of curative and preventive care is the further specialization of medical care with a new physical base - the establishment of large, multi-purpose and specialized hospitals. It is precisely in such large establishments that highly skilled personnel and modern medical equipment are concentrated, thus creating conditions for organizing specialized departments, resuscitation and intensive care units, rehabilitation centres and even whole special hospitals for follow-up treatment and rehabilitation.

Of prime importance is the improvement of the network and structure of out-patient and polyclinic establishments. Most of them will continue to provide the population with medical care in the main specialities (internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, neurology, ENT, stomatology and others). Highly specialized forms of care must be concentrated in large polyclinics.

There will be a further expansion in the system of dispensaries (dispensary departments) for mental and nervous diseases (with day hospitals for mental patients and occupational therapy workshops) and in dispensaries for cancer, tuberculosis, skin and venereal diseases, etc.

Broader use will be made of the spa and health-resort establishments, which provide an important stage in curative and preventive work (follow-up care after in-patient and out-patient care has been given), as well as being useful for preventing exacerbations in chronic diseases.
Increasing attention is to be paid to the task of providing all-round medical and social care for the elderly. There will be a significant expansion in research on the control of diseases specific to the older age groups and on improving ways of organizing the provision of medical care for such groups.

An important task is to intensify propaganda in favour of a healthy way of living, properly combining work and rest and fighting against harmful habits, on the basis that not only should society look after the health of its members, but that each individual member of society should look after his or her own health.

One of the most important tasks facing public health in the socialist countries in the field of rural health during the forecast period is that of bringing the standard of medical care in the countryside closer to that provided in the towns.

In trying to solve this task it is of paramount importance to further develop and improve the rayon hospitals, which will be called upon to provide a high standard of medical care. In order to make high-quality medical care more readily accessible to the rural population, the system of polyclinics in the rural areas will be expanded. Where necessary greater attention will be paid to the provision of mobile units for specialized medical care (mobile polyclinics, mass X-ray and stomatological units, clinical laboratories, etc.).

At the present stage, one of the most important questions in public health is forecasting medical staff requirements.

A forecast of long-range requirements for doctors should be based on the programme documents of the Party and the State as they relate to public health, the long-term plans for socioeconomic development in each country, forecast data on demographic processes and morbidity among the population and forecasts of the development and specialization of the system of medical establishments.

The extensive introduction into public health practice of the latest achievements of medical research, cybernetics and radio-electronics, the use of electronic computers, etc., mean that it will be necessary to train future doctors in such a way that they will be capable of fully solving problems in line with the requirements of scientific and technical progress, and also to train medical engineers, specialists in medical cybernetics and sanitary engineers.

An important task in improving the efficiency with which medical personnel are used is the introduction of the scientific organization of labour in all public health establishments and at all levels. Work connected with this and with the rational utilization of manpower will require a further expansion of sociological and psychophysiological research and studies on specific features of the organization of labour among medical workers of every kind.

Medical manpower requirements are determined not only by the volume of curative and preventive work that needs to be carried out in view of the level and pattern of morbidity among the population, but also by anticipated increases in the specialization of medical care, possible changes in the way that medical services are organized and in the types of public health establishment, the ever increasing scope of the dispensarization system, etc.

For certain administrative areas, it would be advisable to forecast differential rates of requirements for medical staff based primarily on differences in the factors that have the greatest influence on overall indices: age and sex composition of the population, demographic trends, the proportion between the urban and rural population, the proportion of industrial workers in the population, climatic and geographical conditions, national customs and traditions.

In view of the increase in specialized medical care and the use of sophisticated medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment, the need arises to train more doctors in narrow specialties. However, their training should be in proper balance with that of doctors for general practice.
In future some of the main tasks are to make constant efforts to improve the professional skills of doctors and university-level pharmaceutical staff, to create conditions for regularly improving their qualifications and to expand the system of institutes and other means of providing advanced medical training.

In the long run efforts must be made to change the ratio between physicians and medium-grade medical staff in favour of the latter. While strengthening the physician's prestige and preserving the priority of the care he provides, it is essential to assign a greater role to medium-grade medical staff who act as his immediate assistants, to continue work on training specialized medium-grade staff, to extend their functions and to improve the system for raising the qualifications of medium-grade medical and pharmaceutical workers.

A doctor in the socialist countries is highly respected by all the people. He not only treats patients; he is a public figure. In view of this, an important task is the ideological training of medical personnel in the spirit of loyalty to the ideals of socialism and communism.

Improvement in the scientific level and quality of medical care today is one of the most important tasks to be taken into account when making public-health forecasts. In the practical work of all curative and preventive establishments, use must be made of the achievements not only of medical research but also of biology, physics, chemistry and modern technology.

At the same time, the achievements of medical research must be used on a wide scale by all State and economic authorities and establishments in all spheres of work affecting the interests of public health.

When a forecast of the development of medical research is being drawn up attention should be concentrated on:

- further developing fundamental biomedical studies and work on problems of molecular biology, immunology and genetics;

- study of hypertensive disease, atherosclerosis and ischaemic heart disease; the use of new approaches and methods in the clinical experimental study of pathogenesis, thus promoting a better understanding of the essence and mechanisms of development of these diseases; improvement of existing and development of new methods for early diagnosis, prevention and treatment; the development of measures for primary and secondary prevention of ischaemic heart disease; the reduction of mortality from myocardial infarction and the restoration of the working capacity of infarction patients; a reduction in the number of lethal outcomes and complications of arterial hypertension (cerebral haemorrhage, renal and cardiac insufficiency, etc.), on the basis of progress in the study of the mechanisms of diagnosis of these diseases and complications, mass dispensarization and early case detection and the differentiated use of hypotensive drugs with varying modes of action;

- further development of theoretical oncology (a study of the mechanisms of carcinogenesis at molecular and cellular level);

- an expansion of research of a social nature (role of urbanization, ethnic, epidemiological, sanitary, hygienic and occupational factors, etc.), the use in clinical oncology of new methods of prevention, diagnosis and combined treatment (surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, high energy sources, enzymotherapy and so on);

- raising the quality and efficacy of vaccines, replacing live vaccines by chemical multivalent preparations; improving the chemotherapy of viral diseases; discovery of the main laws governing the ecology of influenza viruses; first enzymatic and then chemical synthesis of the simplest viruses; study of cancer viruses; the development of highly effective methods of treating viral diseases, including cancer and leukaemia, on the basis of theoretical progress;
- study of epidemic, infectious and parasitic diseases, including tropical diseases;

- extensive development, founded on studies of the molecular basis of hereditary human diseases, of a new form of medical care - medico-genetic counselling;

- expansion of research in theoretical and clinical endocrinology;

- attempts to solve theoretical and clinical experimental problems of organ and tissue transplantation by detailed study to decipher the genetic and immunological aspects of tissue incompatibility, the development of new methods of tissue storage, etc., more intensive use in clinical practice of organ and tissue transplants; the development of artificial organs (heart, liver, kidneys, etc.) acting as ancillaries or independently;

- the development of a scientific basis and practical measures for sharply reducing the number of industrial and other accidents;

- expansion of research on problems of reparative regeneration of bone tissue, arthroses, congenital and acquired deformities, and on alloplasty and the extended use of polymers;

- a search for new ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating a whole range of widespread nervous and mental diseases on the basis of progress in neurophysiology, pharmacology, the study of enzyme mechanisms, etc.;

- further development of rational dietary standards and regimens for different age and occupational groups and for a number of different climatic and geographical conditions;

- work on problems of social hygiene, the influence of social and environmental factors on the health of the population, study of morbidity, the development of indices characterizing the efficiency of medical establishments and the use of the data obtained as an objective scientific basis for establishing standards in public health, planning, organization and management;

- study of the philosophical and social problems of medicine and public health and criticism of reactionary bourgeois theories.

In order to solve these most important problems, there will have to be more research workers and an expanded and improved system of research establishments.

The successful development of public health in the socialist countries is largely due to the development of its material and technical basis.

In the period covered by the forecast, there will be a substantial increase in the production of medical preparations, and primarily of broad-spectrum antibiotics and of cardiovascular, hormonal, enzymatic and other agents; a number of vaccines and sera, suture material and dressings, rubber and polymer medical goods, modern medical instruments, equipment, apparatus and supplies, general-purpose and special ambulances and health-service aircraft and helicopters. Expansion of the production of these goods will be assisted by specialization in the various undertakings of the medical industry in the socialist countries within the framework of CMEA.

In the planned period, an important role will be played by a further improvement in the design and construction of new medical establishments on the basis of a rational combination of multipurpose and specialized hospitals, polyclinics and sanatorium complexes, using advanced industrial building methods. Measures are to be carried out to ensure maximum utilization of existing public health establishments and their reconstruction and modernization. The efforts of the socialist countries to improve the standard of building in public health establishments must be based on more extensive research on the design, construction and equipment of such establishments, including joint development of optimum types of design,
unified standardized approaches to the organization of the economic side of public health establishments and the supply of medical and pharmaceutical furniture that complies with hygienic, aesthetic and ergonomic requirements.

A most important task is to find ways of most effectively and economically using the resources allocated to public health, by, inter alia, making better use of the hospital bed complement, improving the structure of establishments and studying the inter-relationships between medical measures and economic effectiveness.

Further improvement in the organization, planning and management of public health should be based on developing and introducing automated systems. The use of electronic computers and the methods of mathematical economics will make it possible to build and check various models of public health systems and their elements, to integrate and analyse medical statistical and economic information and to select the most efficient way of further developing the public health systems in the socialist countries.

The uniformity of the principles underlying public health administration in the socialist countries makes it possible to design automated systems for processing medical information and the management of public health establishments, similar in nature and operating concepts, and this opens up prospects for joint development of projects and for the exchange of final project designs in this connexion.

Under these circumstances, it is essential to determine the volume and character of the information needed for public health management at different levels, to select a set of indices that will reflect the standard and effectiveness of the work of public health establishments of different kinds, to review record forms and registration documents with a view to standardizing them, and adapting them for computer processing and making it possible to carry out comparative evaluations of the indices concerned with the work of the public health system in the socialist countries.

It is extremely important to develop and introduce a standardized system of scientific medical information for the socialist countries on the basis of modern computer technology. The traditional methods of planning public health are also to be further improved.

To improve public health and speed up the rate of development of medical research it is particularly important to further expand and intensify cooperation between public health authorities and establishments in the socialist countries.

During the past quarter century this cooperation has undergone a certain evolution, with the emergence of bilateral and multilateral forms of cooperation.

Experience has shown that direct inter-institute cooperation has had a positive effect on research on topical problems of medicine and public health both in individual countries, and in the socialist countries taken as a whole. Further cooperation between scientific medical societies is also of great importance.

At the present stage of socioeconomic development in the socialist countries, cooperation in the field of public health must be developed and improved to make it more effective and purposeful.

The tasks facing the public health authorities in the socialist countries make it essential to develop joint ways of further improving the socialist public health services. Multilateral cooperation is assuming every greater importance in this respect.

The establishment of a Permanent CMEA Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Public Health is of paramount significance for further developing cooperation amongst the member States of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the sphere of public health, medical research and medical equipment.
The work of this Commission will make possible a significant widening of the range of public health, medical research and medical engineering problems on which the further development of cooperation amongst the CMEA member States and a pooling of their creative efforts would be desirable.

The socialist countries take an understanding attitude towards the public health needs of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which have set out along the road of profound social and economic transformations, and are granting these countries considerable assistance of many kinds in training their national personnel and developing their own State public health services.

With a view to helping them strengthen their national public health services, to provide skilled medical care for their populations and to reduce or eradicate widespread diseases, the socialist countries will continue to aid the developing countries in the construction of public health and educational establishments and the medical training of national personnel, to send highly skilled specialists, to provide drugs, vaccination material and medical equipment, to help in establishing medical supply industries and to make available the rich experience gained in organizing public health services in the socialist States.

The socialist countries again reaffirm their readiness to cooperate with all other countries in developing medical research and practice, in protecting and improving the health of the population, bearing in mind the fact that the interests of all peoples coincide in this humane sphere of man's activity.

The socialist countries attach great significance to further developing cooperation with international organizations, and first and foremost, with the World Health Organization, viewing it as an important instrument of international cooperation for solving pressing and internationally important problems of medicine, in the interests of all States.

The socialist countries in Europe attach particular importance to the relaxation of international tensions and to changes for the better in relations between countries, as reflected in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, viewing it as an important victory for the peaceloving forces, a triumph of the Peace Programme, which is being steadfastly implemented by the socialist countries.

The increasing cooperation of fraternal socialist countries is an important contributory factor in the success of socialist and communist construction. It opens up new vistas for further development in the field of public health and medical research, called upon to ensure harmonious development of the personality, the protection and strengthening of the people's health, an increase in their creative activity and an extension of their life expectancy.

Collective and creative work on the main trends and prospects in the development of public health in the socialist countries on the basis of an all-round analysis and utilization of the experience they have accumulated, represents a powerful factor in determining further progress in the socialist public health systems and an important contribution to the development of international public health and the strengthening of peace throughout the world.