MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

International Hotel, Golden Sands, Varna
Saturday, 28 September 1968, at 10 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr V. KALAJDŽIEV (Bulgaria)

CONTENTS

1. Report of the eighteenth session of the Regional Committee for Europe ................................................................. 2
2. Closure of the session .............................................................................. 5
1. REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (EUR/RC18/19)

Dr ŠČEPIN (Rapporteur) said that the draft report consisted of four main parts: the first, on the Regional Director's report; the second, on technical matters; the third, on the proposed programme and budget estimates; and the fourth, the resolutions adopted. That explained why certain questions were not in the same order as they had been discussed. If the report was somewhat longer than preceding ones that was because the questions considered at the eighteenth session had appeared to the Rapporteurs to be exceptionally important and they had tried to deal with them more in detail.

Amendments should be made in paragraph 21, where the words in the third line "these organizations" should read "the non-governmental organizations", and in paragraph 22, where the sentence "The commemorative session concluded with a concert" should be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee examine the draft report paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 2

Mr MICLOS (Romania) pointed out that Morocco should be included in the list of Member States represented at the session.

Decision: Paragraph 2, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 22

Sir George GOEBER (United Kingdom) pointed out that Sir Max Rosenheim was described as "Director of University College Hospital, Medical School". That should read "Professor of Medicine in University College Hospital Medical School" and the same correction should be made in the heading to Annex IV.

Decision: Paragraph 22, as amended, was approved.
Paragraph 31

Sir George GODBER (United Kingdom) drew attention to an error in the second line. The words "their utilization" should be replaced by "the utilization of manpower".

**Decision:** Paragraph 31, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 45

Professor AUJALEU (France) proposed that, in the second line, after "a free exchange of opinion" the words "within Europe" be inserted.

**Decision:** Paragraph 45, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 54

Sir George GODBER (United Kingdom) noted that in the first line, "resolution EUR/RC18/R.2" had been changed to "resolution EUR/RC18/R.4". He thought, however, that it was resolution EUR/RC18/R.1 that was intended.

Dr ŠČEPIN (Rapporteur) confirmed that a mistake had been made.

Paragraph 69

Sir George GODBER (United Kingdom) thought that the last line did not accurately reflect the discussions and suggested that instead of "juvenile mental health and environmental health", it should read "the mental health of young people and environmental pollution".

Professor KOSTRZEWSKI (Poland) suggested that the intention was to stress that a study should be made of environmental health in regard to pollution.

Sir George GODBER (United Kingdom) agreed that was a good point and suggested the wording: "the effects on health of environmental pollution".

**Decision:** Paragraph 69, as amended, was approved.
Dr GERRITSEN (Netherlands) queried the reference in paragraph 76 to "the forthcoming meeting of health officers to be held on planning at the Regional Office", as he did not remember any reference to that in the discussions.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that this phrase could be deleted so that the last part of the sentence would read simply: "would be examined by the Regional Office". He added that it would also be necessary to change the reference to environmental health in accordance with the correction made in paragraph 69.

Decision: Paragraph 76, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 82

Dr ALAN (Turkey) believed that the wording in the second sentence "that host countries may be expected to bear a part of the cost involved in holding them" went further than had been agreed in the discussion. What the Committee had agreed to was that the question of host countries bearing a part of the cost of sessions held away from regional headquarters should be considered.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR suggested that the problem might be resolved by changing the wording to: "that the question of host countries bearing a part of the cost involved should be further studied".

Decision: Paragraph 82, as amended, was approved.

Paragraph 84

Professor AUJALEU (France) asked that the last sentence should make it quite clear that the fields in which electronic data processing could probably be used in an early future were those concerned with diagnosis and medical records. Where hospital administration was concerned use was already made of electronic data processing on a large scale. He would like the term "hospital services" to be replaced by "hospital care services", which would cover his point.

Decision: Paragraph 84, as amended, was approved.
Paragraph 87

Sir George GODBER (United Kingdom) said that the term "phenylketonaemia" in the fifth line was an error. The term required was, he believed, "hyperphenylalaninaemia".

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR undertook to check the point later.

Paragraph 101

Mr EDWARDS (Chief, Administration and Finance) drew attention to an error in the second line of paragraph 101 of the French text, where the year 1968 should read 1969.

Resolutions

There were no comments.

Summary report of technical discussions

There were no comments.

Decision: The draft report of the eighteenth session of the Regional Committee for Europe, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

2. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Dr JENNINGS (Ireland) wished, on behalf of the English-speaking delegations, to express sincere gratitude to the Chairman for the able and unfailingly courteous manner in which he had guided the deliberations of the session and contributed so largely to its success. The representatives had enjoyed their stay in the delightful resort of Golden Sands and he requested the Chairman to convey the thanks of the Regional Committee to the Bulgarian Government and to all those who had helped to organize the session. He also expressed deep appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Regional Director and his efficient staff.

Dr DUHR (Luxembourg), on behalf of the representatives who spoke French, thanked the Chairman for the courteous and expert manner in which he had guided their deliberations. He asked him to be so good as to convey to the Bulgarian authorities the thanks of the representatives on the Committee for the welcome they had been
given. He expressed his gratitude to the Rapporteurs and to all the members of the Secretariat who had had to work at very high pressure, preparing all the necessary documents for the Committee in record time.

Dr Duhr announced that Dr Schindl, who for many years had represented Austria at WHO meetings, would shortly be retiring from office. All his colleagues would deeply regret his departure. Personally, he would feel his loss deeply, for Dr Schindl had become a friend to him, whose competence, modesty and courtesy he admired. He would like to offer him his most sincere good wishes.

Dr AHMETELI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that with the closure of the eighteenth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe he would like to express the sense of satisfaction felt by his delegation regarding the important and essential job the Committee had done during the present session. He asked the Chairman to convey to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Dr Ignatov, and to all his colleagues, sincere thanks for all the work they had done to promote the success of the session. The Soviet delegation also thanked the Government and people of Bulgaria for the cordiality and hospitality they had shown the participants. He wished to express his appreciation and thanks to the Chairman, Dr Kalajdziev, in person, for the exceptionally skilful and business-like manner in which he had conducted the work of the session. In addition, he would like to thank the Vice-Chairmen, the gracious Dr Ammundsen, and their good friend, Dr Faradi. His delegation had been very satisfied with the work of the Rapporteurs, Dr Šepin and his witty colleague, Mr de Coninck. The very hard work done by the Secretariat had also contributed to the success of the session and in that connexion he wished to thank Dr Kaprio and all his colleagues. He would like to see all his colleagues in the Regional Office to thank them personally, but as had been pointed out, only a few of those who helped prepare for the occasion had actually been able to come to Varna. The session had been outstanding for its scientific and exploratory approach, both in examining the questions on the agenda and during the technical discussions. In regard to the latter, special thanks were due to Professor Oszacki and to that old friend of the Regional Office, Professor Rexed, who had maintained the lively spirit of the discussions throughout. Members of the Committee spoke in various languages, but one would scarcely have known that, thanks
to the services of the interpreters, and the word "thanks" here was not given just in deference to tradition, but as a sincere expression of appreciation for their difficult task.

In leaving hospitable Bulgaria, the Soviet delegation wanted once more to say "a big Russian thankyou" to all their Bulgarian friends.

Dr SCHINDL (Austria) deeply appreciated the kind words of the representative of Luxembourg. He was retiring as Director-General of Public Health in Austria and would accordingly no longer be attending WHO sessions. He was extremely grateful to the Regional Director for all the help extended to his country and himself by the Regional Office. His successor in office in Austria, Dr Bauhofer, was at present working in the Regional Office; thus, close links with WHO would continue to be maintained. He wished his fellow representatives all success in their work for the betterment of health.

The CHAIRMAN said that as leader of the Bulgarian delegation, he attached great value to the session. In his view, it had successfully fulfilled its task, having shed light on a whole number of questions in the field of medicine and public health. There could be no doubt that it had contributed to a deeper understanding of the national and international health problems concerned. In all that, a great role had been played by the active team spirit and good will shown by all the representatives who had shared their personal experience and the experience of their countries. The Chairman also referred to the active part played by the Secretariat in bringing the work of the session to a successful conclusion. For that, he expressed his sincere thanks to Dr Kaprio and his colleagues. He would also like to thank the two Vice-Chairmen and the two Rapporteurs for their contribution, and expressed his appreciation of the leader of the technical discussions, Professor Oszacki, who had helped to make them extremely interesting. All the participants in the eighteenth session, which had commemorated the twentieth anniversary of WHO, had welcomed with satisfaction the presence of the former Regional Director, Dr van de Calseyde, and the widow of the first Regional Director, Mrs Begg. The Chairman then thanked the interpreters and the technical staff of the Regional Office for all they had done to help the Committee. Their work had made it possible to conduct the proceedings in a really business-like manner.
The Chairman wished Dr Schindl, who for many years had taken part, not only in the work of his national health administration, but also in that of WHO, a long and happy life. In conclusion, he thanked the representatives, who in their last speeches had expressed good will towards the Bulgarian people. In that connexion, he recalled the Bulgarian folklore evening held for representatives at the session by the Bulgarian Tourist Committee, during which the guests had joined the artistes in a Bulgarian dance. He would like to regard that event as symbolic of the friendly relationships between all representatives at the session. He hoped that they would leave Bulgaria as its best friends and, for his part, affirmed that they would leave many new friends behind in Bulgaria. He hoped that the smiles and the flowers given them with sincere hearts would remind them of that. He concluded by wishing the representatives a safe return to their countries and their families. He then officially declared the eighteenth session of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization closed.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.