

United Nations

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Nations Unies E/H/PC/27
4 April 1946
English
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FUTURE
ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER BODIES

FIRST MEETING

Held on 29 March 1946, at 10.30 a.m., at the Palais d'Orsay

Chairman: Dr. Cavaillon

Purpose of the Sub-Committee's Work

The Secretary, Mr. CALDERWOOD, drew attention to the problems which arose as regards the various categories of bodies with which relations had to be set up, either with a view to co-operation or to taking over the whole or part of their functions. He indicated the stages which would have to be gone through in the process of merging and synchronization, which was the first task assigned to the Organization.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the questions should be dealt with in order. As regards relations properly so called, there were three subjects which the Sub-Committee would have to study: firstly, that of relations between the United Nations Organization and the World Health Organization; secondly, that of relations between the Health Organization and existing international bodies such as the Health Organization of the League of Nations, the Office International d'Hygiène Publique, U.N.R.R.A. and the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau; and thirdly, that of relations between the Health Organization and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the F.A.O., U.N.E.S.C.O., etc.

Before examining each of these categories, the CHAIRMAN drew attention to the special case of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, as brought out by the discussions of the Committee. This institution seemed to offer all the characteristics of a regional office, and therefore did not seem to call for any discussion in the present Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee agreed with this view.

A. Relations between the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

Dr. SZE asked whether relations between the United Nations and the Health Organization should not be established through the Economic and Social Council, and thought that a reply to this question might be afforded by the provisions appearing on Page 41 of the Report of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations (Document PC/20 dated 23 December 1945) under the heading "Nature of Relationships".

The CHAIRMAN asked what procedure should be adopted. Would the results of the Committee of Experts be submitted to the Economic and Social Council before the General Conference to be held in June, and would the Economic and Social Council act in that case as a mere transmitting agent, or would it express its opinion on the report of the experts?

Mr. CALDERWOOD said that the report of the experts would have to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, which, at its meeting on 25 May next, would submit it with or without observations to the General Conference. In this way the Member States would be acquainted with the proposals made, with regard to which they would have to decide upon their attitude.

Dr. MACKENZIE pointed out that in the ordinary course of events the Economic and Social Council would not be able to submit questions connected with the World Health Organization to the Assembly of the United Nations until September. What interim arrangements should be taken between now and the time when a final decision could be taken?

The CHAIRMAN agreed with Dr. Mackenzie on this point but said that the problem would have to be examined later, as a special text on interim arrangements would be laid before the Sub-Committee at the end of the meeting.

The discussion on this first item was thereupon declared closed.

B. Relations between the Health Organization and Existing International Bodies (Health Organization of the League of Nations, Office International d'Hygiène Publique, U.N.R.R.A., Pan-American Sanitary Bureau).

(a) Health Organization of the League of Nations

Dr. BIRAUD said that the question of the relations between his Organization and the United Nations had already been discussed, and he referred the Sub-Committee in this connection to the Report of the Preparatory of the United Nations which, in Chapter XI, Section 2, No. 1, page 117, contained various resolutions specifying different stages for the absorption of the Geneva technical health organization by the United Nations Organization. The provisions of Section 2 were supplemented by Section 3 of the same chapter appearing on page 118.

These texts showed that the parties concerned had envisaged the transfer of the functions performed by the Health Organization of the League of Nations and not the transfer of that Organization as a whole, the purpose being to leave the Secretary-General of the United Nations free as regards the engagement of staff.

Dr. BIRAUD then submitted to the Sub-Committee the texts of various resolutions which he had drafted and which he read (see Annex 1). Their main purpose was to deal with the transitional situation.

The Sub-Committee agreed that Dr. Biraud's suggestions should be taken into consideration and harmonized with the resolutions concerning transitional provisions which, as announced by the Chairman, would be examined at the end of the meeting.

The foregoing discussion having covered all the organs of the Geneva Institution except the Far Eastern Bureau at Singapore, the Sub-Committee proceeded to an examination of this subject.

Dr. BIRAUD said that in 1945 the League of Nations had placed at the disposal of its Health Organization, as a charge against the 1946 budget, the funds necessary for putting the Singapore Bureau into operation, and he suggested that the Committee should adopt an express resolution in favour of the taking over of this Bureau. This would make it possible to utilize the funds voted by the League of Nations even after that body had been liquidated. It mattered little what body operated the Far Eastern Bureau - it might even be operated by U.N.R.R.A. - but the main thing was that the task assigned to that Bureau should be carried out with a view to the protection of public health, which might be open to special dangers in that part of the world.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that the question of Singapore might raise very complex political problems. He did not think it mattered whether it was run by U.N.R.R.A. or the League of Nations itself, but in his opinion the Economic and Social Council should not be asked to take any action at the moment.

Dr. SZE, speaking on his own behalf and on that of Dr. Mani, strongly emphasized that the question of the Singapore regional office remained entirely open and that nothing final could be settled in this connection. In any case the creation of a regional office in that part of the globe could be considered next June.

Dr. MANI supported Dr. Sze and maintained that the Committee's task was to create something new within a new framework, and not to revive old institutions; the question of the site of the regional office was still an entirely open one.

Dr. DOULL said that the question of Singapore was being considered exclusively from the technical angle, and that any political considerations should be left entirely on one side by the Sub-Committee. From the technical angle he emphasized what serious consequences might ensue from the absence of epidemiological information regarding the Far East.

Dr. PIERRET, in reply to Dr. Doull's last point, said that the Indian Government had notified the Office International d'Hygiène Publique that it would resume the despatch to it by telegraph of epidemiological intelligence regarding that country; that Indo-China was also sending information to the Office and that China was giving information to U.N.R.R.A. so that a network of information covering that part of the world was already in existence.

Dr. MACKENZIE proposed that attention should be drawn in the report to the importance of continuing the technical work done by the Singapore office without interruption.

Dr. BERAUD said that the transmission of information by the Far Eastern Bureau to Paris, Geneva and London was only a secondary task. The essential function of the Bureau was to warn countries in the immediate vicinity of a possible centre of infection. It did not matter who performed this function as long as it was performed by someone.

Dr. de Paula SOUZA supported the views expressed by Dr. Beraud.

Dr. PIERRET emphasized that there were cases in which the transmission of information might be of extreme urgency.

Dr. MACKENZIE read a text which it was agreed might be inserted in the Committee's report (see Annex II).

Dr. SZE accepted this text on the express understanding that the question of the future of a regional office in this part of the globe should be left entirely open.

The CHAIRMAN declared Dr. Mackenzie's text adopted subject to the observations made by Drs. SZE and MANT.

The meeting adjourned at 12.30 p.m. and was resumed at 2.30 p.m.
