

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
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ET SOCIAL**

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

SUMMARY RECORD OF PLENARY SESSION, COMMITTEE V (REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS)

FIFTH MEETING

Held at Hunter College, 2 July 1946 at 10:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. W. A. TIMMERMAN (Netherlands)

General Discussion (continued)

Mr. TESSEMA (Ethiopia) stated that it was encouraging to note unanimous support of the principle of a strong United Health Organization with supreme authority to co-ordinate health services throughout the world, and added that accomplishment of this purpose was of particular importance to Ethiopia in view of its present state of development. The need for regional offices had also been universally recognized, and the only point of difference in the Committee had been the disposition of International Health Organizations already in existence. The Ethiopian delegation would be in complete accord with the Delegations for Norway, Yugoslavia and other nations in supporting Alternative A, but the realities of the situation should be recognized with regard to the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau. No one wished to abolish so useful an organization; rather, he recommended it should be transformed into a regional office subordinate to the World Health Organization. He therefore supported the proposal of the United States Delegation with an amendment such as that suggested by France and China, to provide for and facilitate the gradual merger of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau with the World Health Organization.

Dr. TUFUNJI (Transjordan) believed that the creation and normal functioning of regional organizations would contribute to the better development of a strong World Health Organization. Existing organizations, however, should be recognized and new regional offices be created wherever

needed. He stated that whatever had been said in support of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau was also true of the Pan-Arab Sanitary Bureau at Alexandria, and felt that this Bureau should be treated on the same basis as the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau. His Delegation would consequently support the declarations of the Delegates for Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

Dr. KOPANARIS (Greece) said that although many Delegates had expressed divergent points of view in discussing existing regional organizations, it was notable that all unanimously supported the principle of a united organization which would utilize existing moral and material forces while anticipating those to be created in the future. The Conference must be certain to avoid any decisions which would lessen the strong, world-wide character, and therefore also the power and efficacy, of the new World Health Organization. As he had stated at Paris, he earnestly hoped that this Conference would be able to create a union of all peoples for the protection of health, the most precious of all possessions, and for the realization of the noblest aspirations of humanity.

Prof. BERGLUND (Sweden) stated that although his Government was represented only by an observer, he wished to express its viewpoint in endorsing the pleas of Norway, China and Yugoslavia for wholehearted support of a strong, united World Health Organization. Although he supported Norway on this question, he particularly wished to emphasize that no "Scandinavian bloc" existed, either politically or in the field of public health. There was, however, a high degree of identity in the two nations as to their social ideals and in the realization of these ideals, especially with regard to health services.

He paid tribute to the remarkable achievements of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, under the excellent leadership of Dr. Cumming. Many new health problems, nevertheless, existed which required a new attack and a new solution - for example, that of making medical knowledge and services available to all, regardless of social or economic position, and that of the growing need for wider application of the psychiatric sciences, which

had been mentioned by the Delegate for Canada.

Although he was attracted by the proposals of the Delegation for China, it would be a still happier solution if the United States Delegation could find a formula upon which they could agree in support of Alternative A.

Statement by the Chairman

The CHAIRMAN stated that, the Delegate for Haiti not being present, Delegates who had wished to take part in the discussion had spoken. He would, therefore, make a general summary of the viewpoints expressed.

It was not surprising to find a divergence of opinion regarding the relations of the World Health Organization and existing regional organizations; this had been already expressed by the two alternatives in the Report of the Preparatory Committee. However, he wished to emphasize the complete agreement which had been reached on many points, such as (a) the common and unique objective of raising the general standards of health throughout the world, and (b) the necessity for establishing a single world health organization. The only real point at issue appeared to be the type of relations between existing bureaux such as the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau and the World Health Organization.

The Committee would perhaps do well to consider the question as to whether, if no regional organizations were now in existence, the Conference would wish to establish a united or a federated type of world organization. Did the existing circumstances alter the goal to be pursued? And was merging not necessarily the final answer? He felt that negotiations would not be difficult if undertaken in the right spirit, no obstacles be impossible to surmount. It was essential, however, that the work of existing regional organizations should not be impaired. He concluded his remarks with a strong plea for a spirit of mutual confidence and good will in proceeding with the work of the Committee.

Election of Harmonizing Sub-Committee

The nominating committee, composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the Drafting Committee, in presenting their list of candidates,

pointed out that they had felt it advisable to make the sub-committee of sufficient size to represent fully the divergent points of view. They therefore suggested the appointment of three ex-officio members and ten members.

Decision:

This proposal was adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then announced the following names:

Ex-officio members:

Chairman:	Dr. TIMMERMAN (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. THOMEN (Dominican Republic)
Chairman of drafting committee:	Dr. MANI (India)

Members:

Dr. PAULA SOUZA (Brazil)	Dr. EVANG (Norway)
Dr. SZE (China)	Dr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom)
Dr. CAVAILLON (France)	Dr. PARRAN (United States)
Dr. HAKIM (Lebanon)	Dr. GROMASCHEVSKY (U.S.S.R.)
Dr. ROVIROSA (Mexico)	Dr. GUZMAN (Venezuela)

Dr. CAVAILLON (France) announced that since he must return to Paris immediately, he would propose the name of Dr. Parisot as substitute for his own. This suggestion was accepted by the Committee.

Dr. PANE (Paraguay) suggested that five members be added to the committee as sub-committee, and proposed the Delegates for Argentina, Peru, Chile, El Salvador, and Ecuador:

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee had already agreed unanimously to a membership of ten, excluding ex-officio members.

Dr. PAZ SOLDAN (Peru) supported the proposal of the Delegate for Paraguay. He believed that after all Delegates had had the opportunity to express their opinion, it was clear that the majority favoured the continued existence of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, and that this viewpoint would not be adequately represented on the sub-committee as proposed.

The CHAIRMAN again pointed out the previous acceptance of a membership of ten members, and asked if the Committee wished to reconsider its decision.

Dr. SZE (China) suggested that in the interests of harmony, a slight increase of the number of members of the sub-committee might well be

contemplated. An increase of five, however, would in his opinion be disproportionate. He therefore recommended an addition of two members, and nominated the delegates of El Salvador and Peru.

Decision: The Committee decided, by a vote of 22 to 12, to reopen the question of the number of members on the harmonizing committee.

Dr. EVANG (Norway) believed that it would be unfortunate for the success of a "harmonizing sub-committee" if the South American republics did not feel adequately represented, and therefore supported Dr. Sze's proposal that two, or even three, members be added.

Dr. PANE (Paraguay) withdrew his previous suggestion of five additional members in favour of the proposal of the Delegate for China.

Dr. VALLARINO (Panama) supported the Delegates for Paraguay and China.

Mr. YATES (United Kingdom) nominated the Delegates for Canada and the Ukraine as two additional members of the sub-committee.

Dr. GROMASCHEVSKY (U.S.S.R.) nominated Dr. Stampar (Yugoslavia) because of his important contribution to the discussion of the Committee. In reply to a question from the Chair, Dr. Gromashevsky added that his Delegation would likewise support the addition of some other members, but primarily supported the inclusion of Dr. Stampar.

Dr. MAKHLOUF (Lebanon) moved that the Committee proceed to a vote by written ballot, and the motion was seconded by Dr. MORA (Uruguay).

Dr. MEDVED (Ukraine) deemed that since two clearly defined points of view had been presented in the Committee, it was advisable for the committee to vote on the issue at stake, for the guidance of the harmonizing sub-committee. He seconded the nomination of Dr. Stampar, and also suggested the inclusion of Dr. Mani, the CHAIRMAN, however, pointing out that Dr. Mani, as chairman of the drafting committee, was already an ex-officio member of the sub-committee.

Dr. PANE (Paraguay) stated that his proposal to enlarge the membership of the sub-committee had been made with the purpose of more adequately representing the viewpoint of the South American republics. If additional

members were to represent the opposing point of view, it would be necessary for his Delegation to propose other additional members. He therefore seconded the proposal of the Delegate of Lebanon that the committee choose twelve members by written ballot.

Dr. THOMEN (Vice-Chairman, Dominican Republic) pointed out that the nominating committee had chosen the original slate on a geographical basis and that of the three ex-officio members and ten other members, five represented the Western Hemisphere, three, Asia, and five, Europe. He regretted the oversight of not including the name of Dr. Stampar.

The Delegates for Paraguay and the United Kingdom rose to points of order and suggested that the Committee consider motions already presented.

Dr. PARRAN (United States) expressed full confidence in the officers of the Committee. He proposed a short recess to allow the nominating committee to consider suggestions made.

Dr. MANI (India), as a member of the nominating committee, stated that in his opinion a recess would not solve the problem. He therefore proposed that to the thirteen members proposed by the nominating committee, there should be added the names of the Delegates for Peru, El Salvador, and Yugoslavia. He therefore seconded the nomination of these three Delegates.

Four motions were therefore before the Committee: that of India, for the inclusion of the Delegates for Peru, El Salvador, and Yugoslavia; that of the United Kingdom, of the Delegates for Canada and the Ukraine, that of China, of the Delegates for Peru and El Salvador, and that of the U.S.S.R., for the inclusion of Dr. Stampar.

Mr YATES (United Kingdom) and Dr. SZE (China) then withdrew their proposals in favour of the suggestion of the Delegate for India.

Decision: The proposal of the Delegate for India was then unanimously adopted, and the names of Dr. PAZ SOLDAN (Peru), Dr. MOLL (El Salvador) and Dr. STAMPAR (Yugoslavia) were added to the list of members of the harmonizing sub-committee, which was then approved.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the harmonizing sub-committee would meet immediately after the adjournment of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 11:45 a.m.
