

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE II (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Held at Hunter College, New York on Thursday 11 July 1946 at 2:40 p.m.

Chairman: G.B. Chisholm (Canada)

1. Consideration of the report of the Drafting Committee (E/H/AF/W.32)

The CHAIRMAN said that according to the agenda, they now came to the Report of the Drafting Committee with a view to adopting the final version thereof. It was understood that delegates might suggest certain amendments intended to bring out more clearly the purpose of decisions taken by the Committee in the course of its work.

Dr. PARISOT (France), Chairman of the Drafting Committee, read the report (E/H/AF/W.32) the drafting of which he said had involved the study of twenty-five amendments and had called for six working meetings in which they had been assisted by two drafting sub-committees and a committee of lawyers. He said that the English text had been drawn up on the basis of the French text and that it was therefore possible that certain words of the English text did not exactly render the meaning of the French text. Consequently some further changes might still have to be made in the product of their labours. In conclusion, Dr. PARISOT paid a tribute to the excellent spirit of international co-operation shown by all members of the committee and thanked Dr. G.B. Chisholm (Canada), Chairman of the Committee, whose helpful advice had been greatly appreciated.

The CHAIRMAN then read the proposed text: Section 5. "Organs".

Dr. H.S. GEAR (Union of South Africa) did not think that the term "Secretariat" was sufficiently clear, but the CHAIRMAN and Dr. PARISOT (France) explained that this expression, the use of which was firmly established in all the organizations of the United Nations, had the required meaning. Section 5 was

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adopted.

Dr. Georges HAKIM (Lebanon) expressed the fear that sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1, of Section 6, "World Health Assembly" - "Composition", might give rise to ambiguity. The French text referred to "Les Etats membres" which was the equivalent of the English expression "the member States". The delegate of the Lebanon proposed adding the words "and Associate Members", which could sit on the Executive Board without however being entitled to vote. After Dr. MCKENZIE (United Kingdom) and Dr. MANI (India) had spoken, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that the term "member" as meaning a Member State was also firmly established in the organization of the United Nations. The Committee saw no purpose in submitting the point to the General Drafting Committee and adopted sub-paragraph (a) in the form proposed.

With reference to sub-paragraph (b), the CHAIRMAN said that the text as proposed was not categorical. Dr. TANGE (Australia) said that if the word "technical" were retained in the drafting of the second sentence, there would be a risk of making it impossible for certain Governments, which preferred to send their Ministers as delegates, to be represented in the Assembly; this applied to Australia particularly. A Minister of Health was not necessarily a technical expert in the medical profession. Therefore it was proposed that the word be omitted.

Dr. LEON (Mexico) did not share this view. The Assembly was concerned with technical problems which had to be solved by technical experts.

Dr. MANI (India) asked that the word "delegates" (i.e. plural) be used in the alternative text (ii) proposed for sub-paragraph (d) and said he also agreed with the delegate of Mexico regarding the Australian proposal. It was not intended to exclude statesmen from the Assembly but to give preference to technical experts.

The CHAIRMAN then pointed out that the text appearing in document E/H/AF/W.32 had to be slightly amended so that the end of sub-paragraph (b) of Section 6, 1., should read:

"who should, preferably, represent the national health administration of the member State",

whilst the number of delegates should not be referred to.

The delegate of CANADA pointed out that such a text ran the risk of turning the Assembly into a rather bureaucratic body.

When the CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee wished to reconsider the whole problem or accept the Paris text, Mr. Gotahoun TESSIMA (Ethiopia) said that if the Paris text were accepted his country could not be represented at the Assembly since all Ethiopian doctors had been killed by the enemy during the 1935-1936 war. He was therefore in favour of the Australian amendment and said that ETHIOPIA would do her utmost to be represented by the most highly qualified persons.

The delegate of VENEZUELA said that sub-paragraph (b) did not rule out the possibility of non-technical representation, but he thought that the Committee was now reverting to drafting points which had already been settled by the Committee by 23 votes to 11. Now they had to find out whether the proposed text accurately represented the views of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the discussion be closed by a vote on two points:

1. The retention of the word "technical"
2. The text as it appeared in the Paris proposal.

By twenty-four votes to two, the Committee decided to retain the word "technical" in the second sentence of sub-paragraph (b), and by twenty votes to ten decided in favour of the text as it appeared in the Paris Report, subject to the proposed amendments.

Dr. PARISOT (France), Rapporteur, then pointed out that the text of the Paris Report was in the first place calculated to give the organization as elastic a constitution as possible. Then the CHAIRMAN proposed that the whole of sub-paragraph (b) be voted on. Sub-paragraph (b) as amended was adopted as were sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) and the Committee now proceeded to consider paragraph 2. "Meetings"; sub-paragraph (a) thereof was adopted without discussion.

After the Committee had rejected by twenty-three votes to two the proposal of the delegate of IRAN that the word "region" be omitted, sub-paragraph (b)

was adopted unchanged.

Sub-paragraph (c) was adopted without discussion.

In reply to Dr. LEON (Mexico) who proposed that the word "annual" at the end of sub-paragraph (d) be omitted, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that the President and officers were to remain in office for one year. By twenty-one votes to seven the Committee decided against such an amendment and adopted the proposed text as also the whole of paragraph 2; the CHAIRMAN had pointed out that due to unforeseen circumstances (such as resignation, death, etc.) there might be changes amongst the officers during the year of office.

The Committee then proceeded to consider Paragraph 3. "Functions". Two observations were submitted concerning sub-paragraph (a). Dr. MCKENZIE (United Kingdom) thought that the word "broad" should be omitted; Dr. H.S. GEAR (Union of South Africa) thought that the word "determine" (établit) should be replaced by the word "define" (definit). The United Kingdom proposal was adopted by twenty-three votes to two whilst the South African proposal was defeated by fourteen votes to eight. Sub-paragraph (a) was adopted as amended.

Dr. F.G. ECUDREAU (United States), seconded by Dr. LEON (Mexico) said that the word "delegate" in sub-paragraph (b) might give rise to confusion with "delegate to the Assembly". He was in favour of using the term "person". After the CHAIRMAN had pointed out that the word "member" was used for referring to delegates to the Assembly, the Committee adopted the United States proposal.

Dr. MCKENZIE was afraid that as the work of the Executive Board required a heavy attendance, eminent personalities might not be able to devote sufficient time to it. Therefore they ought to be accompanied or be capable of being replaced by advisors or alternates. If the Committee wished to express an opinion on this point, the proper time to do so would be in connection with Section 7 "Executive Body". The Committee decided to reconsider this matter when discussing Section 7. Sub-paragraph (b) as amended in accordance with the United States proposal was adopted.

Sub-paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) were adopted without discussion.

The Committee now proceeded to consider sub-paragraph (h) (i), in connection with which Dr. H.S. GEAR (Union of South Africa) thought that by listing the functions of the Assembly they were implying a limitation of those functions. He proposed a new text:

"The Assembly shall have authority to adopt regulations on all matters which it may deem fit".

Dr. PARISOT (France) pointed out that sub-paragraph (m) which later became sub-paragraph (n), met this objection and the CHAIRMAN, speaking in his capacity as rapporteur of the Technical Preparatory Committee of Paris, emphasized that the point it had been intended to stress particularly were the measures of an international nature in order to reassure the States which were, after all, alone in a position to take decisions on internal measures.

The delegates of LEBANON and URUGUAY proposed new texts which were similarly intended to widen the scope of the Assembly. These proposals were defeated by the Committee by twenty-one votes to seven and twenty votes to three, respectively.

Sub-Paragraph (h) (i) was adopted.

Sub-paragraphs (h) (ii) and (iii) were adopted without discussion.

In reply to the delegate of PANAMA, the CHAIRMAN said that vitamins and similar products came under sub-paragraph (h) (iv) which was adopted without further discussion.

Sub-paragraph (v) was adopted without discussion.

In connection with sub-paragraph (h) (vi), Dr. MEDVED (Ukraine) thought that the purpose of the organization was to serve the needs of the peoples of the various nations and not to protect the one or other section of their industry. He was in favour of omitting this sub-paragraph since if it were retained, he said, it would amount to protecting the national industry of certain countries where such industry had been able to attain a higher degree of evolution than in other countries.

Dr. F.G. BOUDREAU (United States) reminded the Committee that the United States amendment had been adopted at a previous meeting and that sub-paragraph (h) (vi) had been drafted in the form submitted to them to-day

so as to avoid giving it the effect of an injunction.

An observation made by Dr. MCKENZIE (United Kingdom) concerning the expression "territories under its jurisdiction" was referred to the Legal Committee.

By a first vote, the Committee by eighteen votes to four, decided in favour of retaining sub-paragraph (h) (vi). Dr. Julio BUSTOS (Chile), like the delegate of the UKRAINE, made a protest and said that the retention of the sub-paragraph under discussion would produce unfortunate consequences for the chemical industry of his country and requested that this protest be recorded in the summary record.

The delegation of the UKRAINE asked for another vote, by roll call, which showed that the Committee was in favour of retaining sub-paragraph (h) (vi) by nineteen votes to six and five abstention, twenty-one countries not being present.

The meeting rose at 5.00 p.m.
