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**ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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**VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Lake Success, New York
Tuesday, 17 September 1946 at 4:41 pm**

PRESENT:

THE PRESIDENT: DR. STAMPAR

MR. LEBEAU	(Belgium)
HON. MR. MARTIN	(Canada)
MR. SOTO	(Chile)
DR. YANG	(China)
H.E. MR. ZULETA ANGEL	(Colombia)
MR. BLANCO	(Cuba)
MR. PAPANIK	(Czechoslovakia)
MR. HOFFMER	(France)
MR. A. LOVERDOS	(Greece)
MR. S. K. KIRPALANI	(India)
MR. HAKIM	(Lebanon)
MR. COLBJORNSEN	(Norway)
MR. ARCA PARRO	(Peru)
MR. LEV MEDVED	(Ukrainian SSR)
MR. FEONGV	(Soviet Union)
MR. NOEL-BAKER	(United Kingdom)
MR. WARREN	(United States of America)
MR. MATES	(Yugoslavia)

The PRESIDENT: The Council is now in session.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, do I understand that the item of the Health Organization is on the Agenda?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. NOEL BAKER (United Kingdom): Well, with your permission, Mr. President, I should like to add a few words to what I said the other day about the Health Organization and about the resolution which we are now asked to adopt.

I want to make a few observations: first, on the resolution itself. Document E/130. I would, myself, have preferred a small drafting amendment, in the Canadian spirit, and I should like to abandon the word "therefore" near the bottom of the first page. I do not insist, but I think it would be better drafting without it.

Secondly, I want to say that in respect of the proposals made in the resolution concerning the finance for the Interim Commission, there are a good many possible financial arrangements which might be made by the Assembly. My Government would be prepared to accept any of them, and for my part, I hope the arrangement will be generous to the World Health Organization. This Council took the responsibility of paying of the United Nations Budget for the work of the Preparatory Committee, for the work of the Conference which has produced this Constitution, and both of them were organized by the United Nations Secretariat. They have been extremely successful.

We, for our part - I speak as Representative of the United Kingdom will accept any arrangement which the Assembly may think wise. I hope it will be satisfactory to all.

The main purpose of the resolution is to urge on Governments that they should ratify both the protocol for the Interim Commission and the Constitution of the Organization itself, in order that the Organization come into full legal existence at the earliest possible moment. With that purpose, we are in full agreement and therefore I accept the resolution whether or not any minor changes are made in it, as I proposed.

Secondly, I want to make some comments on the Constitution itself, Document EH/17, on the work of the Conference which has drawn it up and on the work which the Organization will, in the future, do. This is the first international Organization which, in pursuance of the charge laid on us at San Francisco, we, as a Council, have taken the responsibility for creating. I think it is of great importance in itself; I think it is of great importance as a precedent; I think it of great importance that this first attempt has not only succeeded, but has succeeded so speedily and, as I think, so well.

We heard this morning, my colleague will forgive me if I revert to the subject, something about the proliferation of international organizations and some Members of the Council used the phrase -- which it so happens that I personally take exception when it is used in a pendantive sense, namely, "International Bureauocracy." They spoke of the heavy costs which these Organizations may involve. Sir, whatever we do, we shall not succeed in building up international organizations which will amount, for each of only ^{the} nations, to cost of a single warship. The basic truth recognized in the Charter is that international organization is far behind the real practical needs of the world today and that there is hardly a domain of national government in which there is not a need for some international instrument which will fulfill for the world at large the duties which Governments have to perform for their people. I am convinced that the bringing into existence of organizations in one form or another will prove a considerable part of the work which this Council has to do. It is ^{so} difficult anyway to set up an international organization. Surely our discussions of the last four days have shown it is so difficult that we shall certainly set up anything that isn't really needed. It is much more likely that we should set up ^{that} things ^{are} urgently required.

If I revert again to the point of expenditures, of course we must avoid every kind of waste. Of course, we must make certain that the Secretariat uses due economy in the expenditure of the funds with which it is provided. Of course, we must see that the general arrangements made are likely to produce the best use of the money. And there, I revert to the principle of which I have so often spoken to the Council, namely that of Centralization, and I will refer to it again. But Sir I repeat again, whatever we may do, the total burden on any one of our Nations will be trifling compared to the charges which we are constantly accepting in respect of preparations for war and the investment which would be made as a result of our action is likely to prove much more effective than any battleship in preventing the disaster of another war.

In any case, this Health Organization is a great advance in international cooperation in various regards. As I have said, I think that is of great importance in its relation to the subject of public health. A great man said once that preventable suffering and disease was the most powerful single cause of human suffering. Not everybody agrees with that proposition. Certainly, not everybody agrees that the action of what is called "Health Authority" is the right way to remove preventable illness and disease.

Mr. Feonov this morning was good enough to hand over to me an important printed publication which he received in an envelope marked in very large letters "important" across the front. And it starts by quoting at least purports to quote, I haven't looked up the citation -- "St. Paul." And it alleges that St. Paul "supports the causes of fools, sluggards, and squabblers." and a little later, it asserts, "that all athletes die young"; and if you turn the page, you will find that all health teaching is based on "lies, deceit, fraud, and quackery." Well Sir, I don't believe that our President, and I don't think the Members of this Council, will agree with that view put forward so aptly this morning. This is an Organization which, if it takes the development for which we may hope and the Governments of the United Nations give it the support which we ought to give it, may, in the next ten years, move an immense burden of preventable human suffering from the shoulders of humanity, but which even more, may so raise the productivity of human labor in many parts of the world that the standard of living of the whole human race can be appreciably increased ^{by} that alone.

Sir, let us exercise economy. Let us not count the pennies when we are dealing with such a task as this.

Now Sir, may I turn from that to the legal basis, the methods of action, the organizational technique which is proposed to us in this Constitution. I think the points to which I will refer are points to which the Council can give attention in future work, and others who were engaged on similar tasks can further consider with advantage.

Firstly, there is a small point which I did mention in June, namely, the question of nomenclature. This is called "the World Health Organization."

I should have hoped myself that it would have been called as I suggested in June, "The United Nations' Health Organization." In any case, none of us doubts that ^{it} is a United Nations' organ and I hope that the relation between the main structure of our institutions here and the new Organization will be very close. The Constitution speaks of the main Conference which is to be created as the "Health Assembly", though, in my belief, there ^{one} should be only one Assembly in the hierarchy of the United Nations' Institutions and I am sorry that word was adopted. I think it may lead to confusion. I hope that the future drafters will avoid it. Those are small points.

Secondly, Sir, the Membership of this Body is to be opened to others who are not yet Members of the United Nations. I think it is right. It is being done again by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Copenhagen. This Constitution proposes that the participation in its work of territories which do not yet fully control their international relations, which are not, in the jargon of international lawyers "full international persons" but which have their own health services and which now, by this Constitution, are for health purposes given a partial international personality. I rejoice in that fact. It means that red tape has been thrust aside. It means that the realities of the situation have been recognized and translated into institutional arrangements. It means that all have agreed that the common interest to suppress disease shall be the dominant factor in considering what kind of institutions we want.

I rejoice that this is to be a single world organization. There were pre-existent organizations in the domain of public health. We shall meet that situation constantly in the organizational and institutional work we shall have to do. But there are now, during the 19th century or since, international unions of different kinds with certain limited purposes which occupy part of the field. This Constitution is now setting up a single structure and I am delighted that the Health Organization, within the words of the Constitution "acts as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work." I think that is an achievement of outstanding

to part of the establishment and look at the language services and the document services and the publicity services and so on, I cannot but be convinced that any Organization which comes and works closely with the Secretariat to be of the United Nations will itself derive great benefit therefrom.

Sir, the next thing I want to speak of is the arrangements made in Articles 19 to 22 of the Constitution about the making of conventions and regulations, if you like, by a loose analogy, the legislative function, the making of new international public health laws which the Organization must carry out. These clauses of the Constitution are a most important advance in international technique. They provide not only for the making of conventions and for the ILO System of asking those who have signed the conventions to explain within the stated time why they can't accept them if they can; but they provide further that on a larger range of matters, relations can be there which shall be binding unless a government makes a declaration within a given time as to why the regulation is not accepted for its territory. Sir, no one who understands this matter, no one who lived through the inter-period war, no one who saw how international conventions could easily be made but how infinitely difficult it was to get them carried out will doubt that these clauses 19 to 22 are a great advance.

Now, Mr. President, I want to end by joining in the tribute which was paid to you by Mr. Winant on the opening day. I know that your work in this Committee and Conference has been very important. But some of us know that you have done a very great work in your own country before you ever started on international work in the domain of public health. I think it is an interesting fact that those who know best the true interests of their own country in such a matter as this and who have done most to serve it, know also that international action is now indispensably required to promote the national interest.

Sir, that is the truth. It is important in public health and also in many other domains of work. Indeed, I would say that in the whole range of the work with which our Council has to deal, it is the Alpha and Omega

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of wisdom the policy which we shall pursue.

(Interpretation from the French)

Mr. HOFFHER (FRANCE):/Mr. President the text of which we are seized concerns the organization of the International World Health Organization. It is the temporary commission which is to work out all the measures necessary and assume all the functions and charges which have been previously assumed by the organizations. But now that some of the institutions are going to disappear after having performed a considerable task, I would like to take this opportunity to salute them. I am thinking in particular of the organizations such as UNRRA and the Hygienic Section of the League of Nations which has been responsible for a considerable number of investigations on hygienic matters, and then the International Office of Public Hygiene which for more than 40 years has worked out sanitary conventions and seeing to it that these conventions were fulfilled and followed.

I want to take this opportunity to recall to the Council that the International Office of Public Hygiene had its seat in Paris and met there for its plenary session. Of course it is up to the temporary commission to decide where the seat of the organization should be located, but inasmuch as the preceding speaker has mentioned the subject of the seat, I would like to take this opportunity to speak a little bit further on the subject. I would like to extend my appreciation of the gesture made by the Representative of the Soviet Union when he recommended that the seat of this Organization should be in Paris. Those who recommended Paris as a seat thought that if it was necessary to decentralize the activities of the organization we should not hesitate in doing so. We have been reminded of the considerable part played by some of the Members of this Council in solving these problems. Europe certainly does not have the monopoly of all the misery at the present time but it is certainly quite an observation post in matters of undernourishment, deficiency and other similar health problems. This is why I would like to say that if the temporary commission decides to elect Paris as the seat of this Organization, my Government takes the opportunity through me to say that we will extend the welcome which is most appropriate for the considerable part which is to be played by that Organization.

Dr. Szeming SZE (CHINA): Mr. President, the Representative of the United Kingdom has proposed the adoption of the resolution before us. The Delegation of China has much pleasure in seconding that with one small amendment with reference to paragraph four concerning the finances of the Organization, an amendment which the Representative of the United Kingdom would, I am sure, approve as he implied in his remarks that we should, in considering financial arrangements, follow the most generous possible course.

The amendment which we would propose refers to the words in the second line " to approve a loan of \$300,000," and in the last line but one " through a further loan the activities during the year 1947."

We feel as worded here, it is inconsistent, or not entirely consistent with the report of the Secretary-General which stated that " The Assembly will decide whether the allotments should be by way of grant or loan." It would therefore be more correct to say instead of to approve a loan of so much or a further loan of so much, to word it " to approve a grant or loan," or a " further grant or loan."

I believe that all Members of the Council are in agreement with such an amendment and I therefore formally move that the resolution be adopted with that amendment.

Mr. LAUGIER (ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL): (Interpretation from the French) I should like to give some information on the Chinese amendment. I must state that the Chinese amendment is much more in agreement with the text submitted by the Secretary-General on this question, because when the question arose of financing the Organization, the Secretary-General was ready to provide the funds, leaving it to the General Assembly to decide whether those funds should be considered as a grant or as a loan. Therefore, I submit that the Chinese amendment will bring the whole text of the resolution nearer to the original idea of the Secretary-General.

Mr. LEBEAU (BELGIUM) (Interpretation from the French): Mr. President, I want to make a slight reservation which is not of a judicial character but rather of a verbal one insofar as the first paragraph is concerned

where it is stated that the Economic and Social Council recommends to the Assembly that the World Health Organization functions as soon as possible. Of course, we do wish that it should work as soon as possible, which but at the same time the wish of the Economic and Social Council/is the wish of the Assembly that it functions as soon as possible does not change the present position which are facts. It is possible that some countries such as the United Kingdom have a possibility of making contributions at the present time to the World Health Organization, but others, Mr. President, do not have the same latitude and have to consult their own Governments first. Some cases have been brought before this Council clarifying and illustrating this point. My Delegation happens to be in that position. I also remember that a certain modification insofar as the International Labor Conference was concerned had been delayed for quite some time because some of the Representatives had first to get approval from their Governments.

So without opposing the present motion, I feel that there is no change in facts right now whether certain parties desire that the World Health Organization should operate as soon as possible or not until these Representatives have obtained full satisfaction and approval from their respective Governments.

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (First Interpretation, original in Russian)

Mr. President, I should like to make it perfectly clear to the Members of the Council, first, that the Delegation of the Soviet Union will vote for the adoption of the resolution we have before us, and second, insofar as paragraph 4 is concerned, to make it also perfectly clear that the Delegation of the Soviet Union feels itself quite free to submit to the General Assembly any suggestions as to contributions, amounts and ways to make contributions, whatever these may be.

The PRESIDENT: Any other speaker? It appears therefore that the discussion of this subject is closed.

We now have to decide on the Resolution. It seems to me that all the Members of the Council agree with this Resolution. The Chinese Delegation has proposed certain Amendments to paragraph 4 to include "loan or grant". Those in favor of this Amendment please raise their hands.

Ten votes in favor of the Amendments proposed by the Representative of China. Therefore, the Resolution on World Health Conference has been approved with the changes approved by the Chinese Representative.

It is now late and I propose to adjourn our meeting with the following announcements. As you remember, yesterday was the deadline for submitting new proposals for the Agenda. Seven proposals have been submitted, first, the proposal of the Delegation of Czechoslovakia concerning the restoration of Czechoslovakian Danubian vessels; Second, the Delegation of Lebanon: Proposed resolution on sponsorship of a World Statistical Congress; third, Proposal by the United States Government for a Conference on Resources Conservation and Utilization; fourth, United States Resolution on welfare activities performed by UNRRA. On this occasion I would like to explain that UNRRA decided in Geneva to set up International Children's Fund, and Dr. Reichmann, the Representative of Poland, was nominated as Chairman of the Standing Committee and he asked that he be allowed to propose to this Council certain arrangements as regards the Administration of the International Children's Fund.

Fifth, are the proposals by the Delegation of Norway for a new Agenda relating to a consolidated budget and common fiscal services for the United Nations and Specialized Agencies; sixth, Draft Resolution concerning the Agenda of the Meeting of Experts to prepare for a World Conference on Passports and Frontier Formalities to be submitted by the United Kingdom Delegation to the Third Session of the Economic and Social Council; seventh, Draft Resolution presented to the Economic and Social Council by the French Delegation on establishment of United Nations Research Laboratories.

Seven new items should be added to our Agenda in this Session. At the next meeting of this Council we will discuss those matters and decide which additional matters should be taken up in this Session.

Tomorrow morning at 10:30, in Conference Room 1, the Refugee Sub-Committee appointed not long ago will meet. You have already been informed about the composition of this Sub-Committee. In the afternoon, at 2:45, there is again a meeting of the Refugee Sub-Committee in Conference Room 1. The Non-governmental Organizations Standing Committee will meet at the same time in Conference Room 12. The Narcotics Drafting Committee will meet in Conference Room 3. I will open a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Refugees but I will ask the Members of the Sub-Committee to choose their own Chairman as I am not able to preside at all meetings. I therefore beg the Members of the Council to think over the matter of the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee. The Representatives of UNHCR and the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees will be invited to the meetings of the Sub-Committee on Refugees.

The meeting of the Council is adjourned.

(The meeting rose at 5:40 P.M.)