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**ECONOMIC  
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SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

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TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Eleventh Meeting Held on Tuesday, 26 March 1946 at 2.30.p.m. at the  
Palais d'Orsay, Paris.

Chairman: Dr. René SAND

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1. Welcome to Dr. Katial and Dr. Parisot

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Dr. Chuni Lal Katial and Professor Parisot, the distinguished authority on international health questions.

Professor PARISOT, after thanking the Chairman for his words of welcome, paid a tribute to a number of members of the Health Organization and Health Section of the League of Nations, who had done most valuable work including Professor Madsen, Professor Pelc, Dr. Rajchman and Drs. Gautier and Biraud.

The Health Section of the League of Nations had done work which would be of the utmost value to the future Organization. Professor Parisot then proceeded to enumerate some of the facts which should be borne in mind in constituting that Organization. He considered that not only should the persons filling posts in that Organization be chosen for their competence, but they should be given the necessary powers to enable them to take effective action.

The French title chosen for the future Organization, namely "Organisation Mondiale de la Santé" seemed to him a particularly happy one, as the word "santé" covered a much wider field than the word "hygiène" and took due account of all the economical, political and social factors which were necessarily involved in the solution of health problems. Thus, while the Health Section of the League of Nations had held a Conference on Rural Hygiene in 1930, it had been planning in 1939 to hold a Conference on Rural Life.

In his opinion, the Organization which was now being created should

take its place in the general framework of the United Nations, but should nevertheless, in the light of regrettable past experience, be sufficiently independent of the latter to ensure that the technical organ should not suffer from any vicissitudes which might affect the political organ.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Professor Parisot and assured him that his views would be taken fully into account.

2. Consideration of the amendments proposed by the Sub-committee presided over by Dr. Sand.

A. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

The CHAIRMAN read proposal XI of Document E/H/PC/W/9 as follows:-

"The World Health Organization shall be located in the same place as the United Nations."

A long discussion ensued on this question. Certain members of the Committee were in favour of adopting the proposal as it stood, while others urged that the Committee should take no decision regarding the site of the future headquarters, and should leave the matter to the June Conference.

The following advantages were cited by those in favour of the headquarters of the World Health Organization being in the same place as the United Nations:-

- (a) ready access to the parent Organization, particularly as regards problems necessitating the setting up of joint committees;
- (b) the authority which this proximity would give the Health Organization;
- (c) the economy which would result from the use of common administrative services and of certain auxiliary services such as the library, etc.

Those in favour of separate headquarters advanced the following arguments:-

- (a) The question was outside the province of a committee of health experts, and only an international conference of a political character was entitled to settle it.

- (b) There was no necessity for the central organization and the specialized agencies to be in the same place, as was shown by the example some of them such as U.N.E.S.C.O., the Monetary Fund, P.I.C.A.O. (Civil Aviation), etc.
- (c) It was undesirable to decide this question before settling the location of the Regional Offices, as their distribution might affect the choice of the headquarters of the World Health Organization.
- (d) The performance of the colossal task assigned to the World Health Organization would be better ensured if it had sufficient independence to obviate its suffering from events which might affect the political organization. This argument was based on the experience of the League of Nations, the political nature of which had involved the disappearance of its Health Section at a time when it would have been particularly useful.
- (e) It was desirable to place the World Health Organization near the other technical bodies working in related spheres such as the I.L.O. with which close relations were more necessary than ever. It seemed likely that the I.L.O. would return to Geneva.
- (f) It would clearly be an advantage for the World Health Organization to be situated in a large medical and cultural centre such as London or Paris. (Here the advocates of the contrary solution added the name of New York, the headquarters of the United Nations.)

The Committee noted that the difference of opinion subsisted. It considered that both views should be stated in the report which would serve as a basis for the work of the future Conference, and the Conference alone would be entitled to take a decision. On the proposal of Dr. SZE, it was agreed that the view of those who were opposed to fixing the headquarters at present would be expressed in the words "The World Health Organization shall be located at.....".

The debate on the other proposals contained in Document E/H/PC/2/9 was adjourned until the following meeting.

The Meeting rose at 5.00.p.m.

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