

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE****SEVENTEENTH MEETING**

Held on Monday, 1 April 1946, at 2.30 p.m. at the
Palais d'Orsay, Paris

Chairman - Dr. René SAND

1. Regional Offices - continued

Dr. CHISHOLM remarked that the Committee seemed to be losing sight of the urgency of present day problems. The world had drastically changed and the time had come to aim for an ideal; this ideal should be to draw lines boldly across international boundaries and this should be insisted on at whatever cost to personal or sectional interests.

The duty of this Committee was clear. This was a unique opportunity for the Members to escape sectionalism, to fulfil international obligations and to plan an ideal organization for the health of the world.

Although the present staff of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau could very well carry on the work, the Bureau should certainly not continue as a sectional organization. Surely at the present time no member of the Committee could be thinking in terms of international prestige; yet there was no other reason for carrying on an organization under those conditions.

As world citizens, all should wipe out the history of the past, formulate an ideal, and try to realize it. Above all, they should not swerve from it because of the possibility of their decision being opposed by politicians.

It was pointed out by Dr. Paulo SOUZA that there was evidently a division of opinion. He believed that the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau should be accepted as a regional office rather than that it should be an independent organization. Everyone was in agreement about the desir-

ability of having, (a) one single health organization, and (b) regional offices.

Dr. BERMANN believed that the draft presented by Dr. Sze and Dr. Mani (E/H/PC/W.11) had shown the Committee the road to agreement. It had been decided to establish one single organization and he deplored the use of the word "co-existence". Of the three possible solutions of the problem of regional office - liquidation, merger or autonomy - he preferred that of a merger and suggested that the draft of Drs. Sze and Mani be adopted, with the addition, in paragraph three, of the phrase "with a view to unifying in the World Health Organization all existing institutions, paying due regard to the pre-existing agreements, to the Organization, and to experience."

Dr. CAVAILLON observed that although the first two paragraphs of the draft submitted by Drs. Sze and Mani had already been adopted, he had a text to replace paragraphs two and three. After "Regional Committees", he would like to insert: "there shall be constituted, besides regional committees, regional offices entrusted with the carrying out of decisions made by these committees within the scope of their powers. These regional offices may be constituted entirely by the World Health Organization. They may also emanate from the transformation of the already existing regional offices, this transformation to be carried out according to agreements ratified by the World Health Organization. Not more than one regional office shall be created for each region."

Dr. EVANG agreed that there should be only one organization, not a federation of autonomous bodies. This was not an idealistic aim but a practical one, for if doctors had not been practical before, the war had certainly made them so. He suggested changing the third paragraph of the text of Drs. Sze and Mani by amending the first sentence to read: "Special transitional arrangements should be made", and inserting after "exist", the phrase "in such a way that their facilities and services may be fully utilized without interruption or with a view to developing them as quickly as possible into branches of the World Health Organization, or parts of these branches".

Dr. CUMMING pointed out that the 1926 Convention had provided that the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau should be a regional branch of the Office; Dr. CANCEK believed that the only way to help effectively the war-torn cities of Europe and the East would be through the united action of one strong world health organization; and Dr. STAMPAR reminded the Committee of the feeling in the Economic and Social Council with regard to having a single world health organization. Experience in the past had shown the necessity for complete unity in the successful functioning of an international organization. The Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, which had achieved so much, should certainly not be abolished but should be preserved as a very important regional headquarters. He supported the proposal of Dr. Evang, and suggested that as the Committee could not be unanimous on the subject, it should vote, and the results of the vote submitted as a guide to the Conference.

It was therefore decided to close the discussion and to consider at the next meeting of the Committee, the three texts proposed by Drs. Hermann, Cavailon and Evang, which should be combined into one text.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.
