

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE I (SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS)

Summary Record of Third Meeting Held at Hunter College New York  
at 2:15 p.m. 5 July 1946

CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shousha Pasha (Egypt)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the second meeting Dr. MONDRAGON (Mexico) had been elected vice-chairman of the Committee. Unfortunately, Dr. Mondragon was not present at the meeting to take his seat at the side of the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN also recalled that at their second meeting he had informed the Committee that the General Committee had decided that certain paragraphs of Section VI of the Paris text should be considered in Committee I. It had however, since been decided that these paragraphs should be considered by Committee II, and Committee I should, therefore, regard them as deleted from the field of discussion.

Further action taken by the Committee at their last meeting, the appointment of the delegates of Belgium, France, India, South Africa, and the Ukraine as a Drafting Sub-Committee, was also recalled by the Chairman, who reported that the Drafting Sub-Committee had appointed Dr. Rene Sand as its Chairman and Rapporteur. Dr. Sand was then invited to present the Sub-Committee's report (E/H/F/W.18).

Dr. SAND (Belgium) said that the Drafting Sub-Committee had arrived at almost complete unanimity on what they considered to be an improved text. There was one dissentient voice. Certain points - accidents, domestic and industrial, narcotic drugs, population statistics -- had been eliminated; praise of organizations of the past which had attempted to create an organization on the lines of that now being established had been excluded as being historical and lengthy; methods and means to be employed by the World Health Organization

in carrying out their functions, had not been mentioned since this was considered too complicated; similarly, the question of the diseases which should be combated at once was thought more properly to belong to the individual countries concerned. In conformity with the desires expressed by many delegates, reference to social insurance and hospitalization had been included, as well as to the improvement of economic conditions and to an amendment regarding assistance to governments, desired by the Netherlands and Mexican Delegates respectively. The length of the Preamble had been reduced but the spirit which had prevailed at the Paris conference had been preserved and the Drafting Sub-Committee felt that it was an improved text which they now submitted.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the rapporteur for his brilliant expose and recalled that Dr. Sand had been Chairman of the Commission in Paris.

The Delegate for the Netherlands said that his delegation appreciated the work of the Paris Conference and of the Drafting Sub-Committee. He wished, however, to raise the question of social care to which he considered everyone was entitled from birth to death and lack of which would lead rapidly to decrease in health conditions and to pauperism. He thought that the matter should be considered by a small committee and stressed that the fields of the International Labour Office and of the World Health Organization would necessarily overlap in certain subjects and that the two organizations should march together. Similarly, he did not agree that the World Health Organization should not concern itself with the control of narcotics.

Mr. DOWD (Observer from the World Federation of Trade Unions) stated that the relation between the World Health Organization and the WFTU was of great concern to the organized workers of the world. He considered the revised text a considerable improvement over the Paris draft and an excellent basis for the Constitution. He drew attention to sub-section C on page 5 of document E/H/F/W.18 and said that while he had not the right at the present moment to ask that the Constitution should enumerate the organizations with which the

to the name of the organization. The Australian delegation had suggested a change in title to "Health Organization of the United Nations" since all organizations so far derived from the United Nations had included the words "United Nations" in their title. This matter had been discussed in Committee II that day and he thought it might be desirable to refer it to a plenary session. Sir Raphael considered the discussions had been of value but pointed out that the meeting was a small one and that it would be desirable to adjourn at an appropriate moment in order that the report might be further studied.

Dr. FLORES-ZORILLA (Observer from the International Labour Office) thought the Drafting Sub-Committee had done excellent work. Referring to Dr. Cote's remarks on paragraph (i) on page 5 of the Report (E/H/F/W.18) he was sure no competition with any other agency was intended. He said that the ILO did not envisage any competition but wished to co-operate as closely as possible with the World Health Organization. He suggested the addition of the words "in co-operation with other agencies" to the paragraph. The importance of social security was one of which the ILO had always been seized and they desired to co-operate with the World Health Organization in this and in other fields.

Dr. SHEN (China) called attention to the inconsistency in the last paragraph on page 1 of the Sub-Committee's report and paragraph "p" on page 5. In view of paragraph "b" of Section III on page 4, he considered that "p" should be omitted.

Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) considered the inclusion of stimulation of research in the field of health of great importance in the organization's objectives. If health were to be at a high level, then research must also be at that level. Scientific research was, however, at present dependent upon the wealth of the people and was, therefore, in danger. He thought that the basic charter of the World Health Organization should include a reference to the provision of the material needs for scientific research and suggested the inclusion of some such words as "to stimulate scientific research in the field of health, notably in providing the necessary material means."

Dr. SAND thanked the speakers for their remarks and suggested amendments, and said that the Committee was, of course, quite ready to accept anything which

would improve the text. On the Preamble, however, he thought that while the text had been reduced, the ideas had been preserved. He thought, similarly, that the desires of the ILO and the WFTU were covered, although the text might be made more specific. He accepted the point made by the Chinese delegate but explained that the epidemiological and statistical service mentioned in paragraph "p" of Functions was a matter of such primary importance and urgency that it had been thought better to mention it explicitly. He agreed with and had noted the Belgian suggestion. Dr. Sand further thought that the various sections had by now been thoroughly discussed, in Paris, in several committee meetings here, and in the Drafting Sub-Committee, and he proposed that acceptance of the report be considered section by section with the necessary amendments.

Dr. KROTKOV (USSR), supported by Dr. COTE (Canada), suggested that consideration of the report section by section should take place at another meeting of the Committee and that meantime delegates wishing to present final amendments to be incorporated should submit them in writing.

The Secretary stated that if the amendments were received before noon on Saturday, 6 July, they could be reproduced and distributed shortly before a meeting in the afternoon of Monday, 8 July. This procedure was accepted by the Committee and the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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