

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Hunter College, New York 12:30 P.M. on Monday, 8 July 1946

There were present:

Dr. Parran	(U.S.A.) Chairman
Dr. de Paula Souza	(Brazil)
Dr. Chisholm	(Canada)
Dr. Sze	(China)
Dr. Shousha Pasha	(Egypt)
Dr. Parisot	(France)
Dr. Lakshmanan	(India)
Dr. Timmerman	(Netherlands)
Dr. Evang	(Norway)
Dr. Paz Soldan	(Peru)
Dr. Mackenzie	(United Kingdom)
Dr. Krotkov	(U.S.S.R.)
Dr. Gabaldon	(Venezuela)
Dr. Stampar	(Yugoslavia)

With a view to setting a target date for the adjournment of the Conference the Chairman called upon the Chairmen of Committees to estimate the time required for completion of their work.

Dr. SHOUSHA PASHA (Egypt) stated that a meeting of Committee I was fixed for 2:15 p.m. on 9 July 1946. He hoped that this would be the final meeting.

Dr. CHISHOIM (Canada) said that the only real difficulty before Committee II was that of Section XIII (Budget and Expenses). He did not think Committee II could completely settle this matter but that it would have to be referred to the United Nations, or to a sub-committee, or possibly to the Interim Commission. It would, however, be necessary to hear what countries wished to say on the question. Dr. CHISHOIM estimated that Committee II would finish its work at the end of the present week.

In reply to a question from the Chairman as to the status of discussion on Section VI (3) (f), Dr. CHISHOIM said that this was now being discussed in a

sub-committee which should be ready to report that day or the next.

With regard to Section XIII (Budget and Expenses), the CHAIRMAN with the concurrence of Dr. CHISHOLM asked the Committee whether they thought the matter should be taken up in detail in Committee II or whether it should be referred to the Interim Commission.

The Secretary expressed his purely personal opinion that it would be preferable to take advantage of the work which had been done by a special committee of the United Nations. He thought Committee II would have to decide two matters - (1) whether the Organization should have a specialized budget or one dependent upon the United Nations, and (2) the question of who should collect the contributions.

Dr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) felt that the only immediate decision necessary was whether the budget should be integrated with that of the United Nations. So far as the constitution was concerned he thought a general statement was all that was necessary and that the Interim Commission could be left to work out details with the co-ordinating committee of the United Nations.

Dr. CHISHOLM (Canada) drew attention to the fact that a great many other countries not members of the United Nations would be members of the Health Organization and that a scale would have to be worked out for these.

Dr. EVANG (Norway) thought that the General Committee should authorize the Chairman of Committee II to limit committee discussion of this matter to whether the budget should be consolidated with that of the United Nations or not.

Dr. SOUZA (Brazil) felt very definitely that the Health Organization budget should be separate from that of the United Nations. He called attention to an additional point not covered by the United Nations scales, that of territories falling within regions, and he thought that the question of regional contributions should be studied fully by the Interim Commission.

The CHAIRMAN, whilst agreeing that the details of the amount of contribution need not be decided upon immediately, pointed out that representatives of some countries which had to obtain legislative approval to such measures felt it

important to be able to give their governments some idea of the contribution which would be payable. He wondered whether an indication could be given, e.g., that the scale would be in accordance with that of the United Nations but that the burden would be shared more widely.

Dr. PAZ SOLDAN (Peru) supported Dr. CHISHOLM (Canada) and the CHAIRMAN but felt that two different arrangements would be necessary, one for the period of the Interim Commission and one for that following the establishment of the Organization.

Dr. STAMPAR (Yugoslavia) thought it would be extremely difficult to work out a new scale and emphasized that the special commission appointed by the United Nations to study the question of contribution scales was still working. This Commission had taken into consideration such relevant matters as the amount of war devastation suffered by the various countries. The scale of contribution adopted by the World Health Organization for member States should, he felt, be that laid down by the United Nations Commission. States at present not members of the United Nations would quite shortly come within that category and that the question of territories could be decided later. The United Nations should be asked to collect the World Health Organization contributions.

Dr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) stated that his delegation had put the question of commitment to their government since there might be reluctance on their part to join without knowing what contribution would have to be paid. The Delegation had suggested, however, that the importance of the matter should not be overestimated. He considered that whether the United Nations scale or another were adopted no details should appear in the constitution. He supported Dr. STAMPAR's views with regard to non-member States and suggested something on similar lines to the scale of contributions to the ILO applicable to members who were not members of the League of Nations.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that the question of Budget and Expenses should be referred to the Interim Commission, that the scale of contributions for member states should be that of the United Nations, and that a contribution scale should be worked out for those States who are not members of the United Nations.

With regard to the method of collection of contributions, the Committee agreed that in the Constitution authority to collect should be reserved to the Organization. It was believed, however, that the Organization might wish to delegate this duty to the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN raised the question of the financing of the Organization in the interim period and its possible integration with the United Nations. He stressed the importance of the Organization's having the authority to vote its own budget and not having it determined by the United Nations.

Dr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) however, registered an objection to the discussion. He felt that the question was beyond the scope of the General Committee. Further consideration was therefore left to Committee II.

Dr. CHISHOLM (Canada) mentioned that he had heard a number of expressions of opinion on this matter and agreed that it was necessary that it should be discussed in full committee and that no details should be entered into. The Committee agreed.

The question of the financing of the Interim Commission was then raised. Dr. EVANG (Norway) suggested that this could better be discussed in Committee IV with the question of the Commission as a whole, and Dr. GABALDON (Venezuela) reported that a meeting of a special sub-committee of Committee IV was being held that afternoon when a draft on the Interim Commission would be considered. He would like to complete this part of the work before discussing finances. The Committee agreed that the question of the financing of the Interim Commission should be discussed initially in Committee IV.

Dr. EVANG (Norway) Chairman of Committee III reported that final discussion on associate membership be taken place on Saturday, 6 July: another meeting would be required in order to adopt the draft prepared by the Drafting Committee. He hoped that the final meeting of his Committee could be held on Wednesday, 10 July.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the appointment of a Harmonizing Sub-committee of Committees III and V which had been discussed in Committee V that morning, and Dr. EVANG requested that the General Committee accept this on behalf of Committee III.

Dr. GABALDON (Venezuela), Chairman of Committee IV, reported that the Interim Commission Sub-committee would meet that afternoon. A second meeting of the Drafting Sub-committee would be held on 9 July and he hoped to have a full committee meeting on 11 July.

Dr. TIMMERMAN (Netherlands) found it difficult to forecast the possible date of completion of the work of Committee V. The Joint Harmonizing Sub-committee (with Committee III) was meeting on 9 July for the first time. He would be happy if the work could be finished at the end of the week, but he was not too hopeful that it could be. He agreed, however, that the target of 12 July might be set.

On a point of order the CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that the "Proposals for Facilitating Procedure of Working Committees" which had been adopted by the General Committee had laid down that "all amendments to the draft constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Conference not later than Monday noon, 1 July, after which date amendments may only be considered after approval by the General Committee." He was informed that amendments from a considerable number of countries had been received in committee after 1 July and in order to regularize the action of committees in considering these amendments he proposed that the General Committee approve the submission of these amendments. This was agreed.

The question of the desirability of changing the "Proposals" in this respect, arose, since it was generally agreed that as situations were clarified in committee it became important for delegates to submit further amendments to bring the general thinking into line. After discussion, however, this was not considered necessary, the difference between drafting amendments designed to harmonize amendments already submitted and new amendments of substance being noted. The Committee agreed that amendments of substance must be referred to them for approval, whilst harmonizing amendments could be dealt with by drafting sub-committees after consideration by committees.

At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed that a Plenary Session should be fixed for 13 July 1946:

- (a) to give substantive approval to committee reports,
- (b) to give formal approval to protocols relating to the Paris Office and the Interim Commission, and
- (c) to consider resolutions with reference to UNRRA and the Health Organization of the League of Nations.

He then asked for the Committee's assistance in outlining the additional steps necessary before the Conference could be concluded. After discussion, the following arrangements were provisionally adopted:

- (a) According to the tentative programme, Committee work would be concluded on Friday, 12 July.
- (b) A Plenary Session would be held on Saturday, 13 July.
- (c) The Central Drafting Committee would need Saturday, 13 July, through Monday, 15 July, for their work.
- (d) This Committee would then be able to report on 16 July.
- (e) Formal legal review of the report would be made, Sub-committee documents having been reviewed immediately upon completion.
- (f) Two days - 17 and 18 July - would be required for translation and the morning of 19 July for duplication and distribution.
- (g) A Plenary Session could be held on the afternoon of 19 July.
- (h) The estimated date of departure would therefore be 20 July.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the Interim Commission would be convened immediately after the close of the Conference. In reply to a suggestion from Dr. EVANG (Norway), that the Committee should start its meetings prior to the end of the Conference, it was pointed out, such meetings would have no legal standing. The CHAIRMAN thought that the question of the Interim Commission could be discussed more intelligently after Committee IV had presented its report.

Dr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) noted that if it were decided to set up an Interim Executive Board, governments would be required to name representatives and might wish to be considering the matter. The CHAIRMAN thought an important legal point was involved since most of the delegates had no authority from their governments to serve on an executive board. He thought the best course

would be to await a further report from Dr. GABALDON. The latter hoped to be ready to present his Committee's report on the Interim Commission on 9 or 10 July.

Dr. MACKENZIE, Chairman of the Central Drafting Committee, informed the General Committee that he had selected Dr. RENE SAND, Dr. SZE, Dr. MOLL, and Dr. SANDIFER as members of his Committee, and the first three being proficient in English in addition to their mother tongue of French, Chinese and Spanish, respectively. He asked Dr. KROTKOV (U.S.S.R.) to be good enough to suggest a Russian member of the Committee and Dr. KROTKOV named Dr. GROMASHEVSKY. In reply to a question from Dr. MACKENZIE, it was recalled that it had been decided that the final document should be prepared in English and translated.

The scheduling of a time-table of committee meetings was left to the Secretary and the Chairmen of Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.
