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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

THIRD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 19 March 1946 at 2.30 p.m.
Palais d'Orsay, Paris

Chairman: Dr. René SAND

Dr. EVANG drew attention to the fact that no delegates were representing their Governments but speaking with full liberty as private individuals. He thought that the discussion in the *general* Committee should be brief, since the principle of having a single organization had been established by the Economic and Social Council. After a summary of the historical background of recent attempts to establish an international health organization, he pointed out that present conditions of life, especially in certain countries, necessitated the establishment of the Organization as soon as possible in the interests of public health. An interim committee would not be a satisfactory substitution.

He emphasized that there should be a fundamental change in the conception of the new International Health Organization, and it should be a single specialized agency with a high degree of independence. It should co-operate with other agencies, but should prevent possible overlapping of activities by making certain adjustments. As to the governing body, he preferred a broader representation than that of only representatives of national health services in order that the danger of bureaucracy might be avoided. He agreed with the idea of establishing in each country health councils dealing with the same problems. The scope of the

Organization should be as broad as possible, to develop the spirit of initiative; the Secretariat should be composed of leading experts, and there should be a strong director and executive committee.

Finally, in regard to the scope, although the Commission should not, in effect, try to establish a more than international organization, still, in the organization itself there would be a method of approach to extremely important problems and the goal could not be placed too high.

After thanking the French Government for its warm hospitality Dr. PAULA SOUZA stated that he agreed with the remarks of Sir Wilson JAMESON, and would like to adopt the plan drawn up by Dr. PARRAN, to be circulated later, as a basis for study. The Delegates had been convened primarily as experts to perform an enduring work in the interests of international life. They must prevent the establishment of unrelated international bodies, and plan for a permanent single organization which should note the progress in the past but provide for the future. Its scope should be enlarged since its task would be a greater one than that which had ever faced a health organization before. It should lay down the general lines on which to work, and also establish relations with the other organizations in the United Nations.

Dr. STAMPAR, as a member of the Economic and Social Council, and being acquainted with the feeling of that body, stated that the Council having decided that there should be a single international health organization, this question was not open for discussion. He also was in favour of the enlargement of scope; the creation of regional offices, which would strengthen, rather than weaken, the Organization; and the idea that the Organization be a specialized agency.

In regard to the independence of the new Organization, however, he emphasized the importance of the new international law. The

Organization would be bound irrevocably by the Charter already adopted to collaborate closely with the Economic and Social Council. In his opinion, the Conference should meet in June and the Organization be established immediately. In order to obtain this result, as an alternative to having the resulting convention approved by the individual governments, he suggested that it be submitted directly as a resolution to the General Assembly, in which the Delegates would have full power to ratify it on behalf of their Governments. This process would be the more expedient one.

Dr. SHOUSHA PASHA agreed with most of the opinions expressed by his colleagues. He drew attention to the distinction between "Health" and "Political" internationalism. There should be one organization, but one of wide scope, with regional organizations as its "advance posts". He agreed that the co-operation of other related organizations, especially the F.A.O. and the Rockefeller Foundation, would be most helpful.

Dr. BERMANN, entirely in agreement with the remarks of Sir Wilson JAMESON, believed that they should be taken as a basis for discussion. It seemed to him that the only point on which there was divergence of opinion was whether the new Organization should be constituted along classical lines, or whether it should be of a new style, with an extension of powers and responsibilities. The world was in a period of medical reform, and the Organization should face new needs and even anticipate events. He called attention to the necessity of introducing psychiatric and psychological problems into the field of hygiene and public health. Those problems were recognized by all as being of greatest importance, and should be taken into account. No better occasion for the success of an international health organization could be envisaged, for the war had shown to everyone the important rôle played by science.

Major MANI stated that India welcomed the idea of forming one unified body of health control, with the merging or adoption of existing agencies. The manner of this amalgamation need not perhaps be discussed by the Commission. He agreed in general with the views expressed, but did not believe that the governing body should be composed of experts, who were excellent as advisers, but without authority; directors were accustomed to take the responsibilities of negotiation. He agreed that regional offices were desirable for answering local needs, and also that they should be of a flexible character. Concerning the scope of the Organization, he believed that it should be extended, but that, on the whole, rather than to fall short of realizing ideals set too high, it would be better to start modestly.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.
