



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WPR/RC25/6  
30 May 1974

Twenty-fifth session  
Kuala Lumpur  
2-10 September 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Provisional agenda item 12

QUALITY OF WATER AND FOOD IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

Progress Report by the Regional Director

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Committee at its twenty-fourth session adopted resolutions WPR/RC24.R5 "Quality of drinking water on international flights" and WPR/RC24.R6 "Quality of food on international flights". In recognition of the fact that the problem of safeguarding health in this connexion transcends regional limits, the operative paragraphs of both resolutions referred the matter to the Director-General of WHO.

2. ACTION TAKEN

In a letter dated 14 November 1973, the Regional Director informed Member governments of the Region of the action taken up to that time and also requested them to provide information on any studies on the subject being conducted in their countries.

The topics were introduced as an agenda item for the fifty-third session of the Executive Board held in January 1974. A copy of the background document presented to the Executive Board is attached (see Annex 1).

3. FINDINGS

The Executive Board adopted resolution EB53.R27 "Quality of food on international flights", which noted the action undertaken by the Director-General, especially with respect to the need for continuing interagency

consultation, the proposed updating in 1974 of the WHO "Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation" and the establishment of international microbiological standards for food (see Annex 2).

As of 15 April 1974, only 8 replies had been received in response to the Regional Director's request for information on studies. Among these, only Fiji and Japan reported that bacteriological examinations of food had been made.

In Fiji, 15 kinds of food were sampled on a routine monthly basis. In Japan, approximately 150 examinations had been carried out from June 1972 to February 1973 on 11 kinds of food from 33 planes on arrival at Tokyo International Airport. The analyses had revealed the presence of contamination in the majority of samples, however, the results cannot be considered conclusive because the food samples were examined upon arrival of the airplanes in Tokyo and not when actually served to the passengers. The Tokyo studies were conducted on a trial basis with a view to the planning of a routine testing programme.

In May 1974 the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA27.46, "Safety of Food and Water and the Handling of Wastes in International Traffic", a copy of which is attached as Annex 3.



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

EB53/9

7 December 1973

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Fifty-third SessionProvisional agenda item 2.9

## QUALITY OF FOOD ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

During the Twenty-fourth Session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, a resolution (WPR/RC24.R6, see Annex 1) was adopted on the quality of food on international flights.

The operative paragraph of this resolution

"REQUESTS the Director-General to bring this matter to the attention of the Executive Board so that urgent attention can be given to updating the 'Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation' and to establishing international standards (including microbiological standards) for application both on the ground and in the air in respect to:

- (1) the selection,
- (2) the preparation,
- (3) the storage and
- (4) the quality control at all stages to consumption,

of food served on international flights."

The Director-General has taken steps to effect an early updating of the "Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation" which will be accomplished during 1974. The updated guide will be given the widest possible distribution in the Aviation Industry, including airline and private caterers, airport authorities and the airlines.

Regarding the question of "establishing international standards" for food attention is drawn to the existence of "Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene".<sup>1</sup> Efforts are currently being made by WHO to elaborate microbiological standards for food.

WHO is in contact with the Airline Industry through the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and other organizations in order to bring about improvements in the handling, preparation, storage and transportation of food to be served on international flights and to ensure frequent inspection of catering establishments and proper training of food handlers.

<sup>1</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius Commission).

The question of food on international flights should be seen in the larger context of the application of Article 14 of the International Health Regulations (1969).<sup>1</sup> In recognition of the importance of this problem, a resolution was adopted by the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly (resolution WHA26.54)<sup>2</sup> which, in its paragraph 4:

"STRESSES the importance of maintaining a high standard of quality of drinking-water and food in international traffic and, in this regard, calls the attention of all Member States to the provisions of Article 14 of the International Health Regulations."

A background document regarding "Quality of Water and Food in International Aviation" has been prepared for the eighteenth meeting of the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases which will take place from 4-8 February 1974 (see Annex 2). The Organization has invited the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) to send Representatives to this meeting and WHO has also invited Observers to be present from the Airport Associations Coordinating Council (AACC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO).

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<sup>1</sup> Article 14 of the International Health Regulations (1969) reads as follows:

"1. Each health administration shall ensure that ports and airports in its territory shall have at their disposal an organization and equipment adequate for the application of the measures provided for in these Regulations.

2. Every port and airport shall be provided with pure drinking-water and wholesome food supplied from sources approved by the health administration for public use and consumption on the premises or on board ships or aircraft. The drinking-water and food shall be stored and handled in such a manner as to ensure their protection against contamination. The health authority shall conduct periodic inspections of equipment, installations and premises, and shall collect samples of water and food for laboratory examinations to verify the observance of this Article. For this purpose and for other sanitary measures, the principles and recommendations set forth in the guides on these subjects published by the Organization shall be applied as far as practicable in fulfilling the requirements of these Regulations.

3. Every port and airport shall also be provided with an effective system for the removal and safe disposal of excrement, refuse, waste water, condemned food, and other matter dangerous to health."

<sup>2</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 209, pp. 28-29.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

## R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
WESTERN PACIFICCOMITE REGIONAL DU  
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTALTwenty-fourth Session

WPR/RC24.R6

31 August 1973

## QUALITY OF FOOD ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

The Regional Committee,

Taking note of the recent survey in the Western Pacific Region on food used on international flights, and noting in particular that bacteriological examination of food is not usually a routine operation;

Conscious of the growing numbers of passengers at risk in flights, and knowing that not all cases of disease are reported;

Considering the increasing public awareness of these risks generated by recent serious outbreaks of food-borne disease amongst passengers on international flights;

1. REQUESTS the Director-General to bring this matter to the attention of the Executive Board so that urgent attention can be given to updating the "Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation" and to establishing international standards (including microbiological standards) for application both on the ground and in the air in respect to:

- (1) the selection,
  - (2) the preparation,
  - (3) the storage and
  - (4) the quality control at all stages to consumption,
- of food served on international flights.

Sixth meeting, 31 August 1973  
WPR/RC24/SR/6



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

EB53/9

ANNEX 2

ESCD/COM/73.9

Working Paper No. 9

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE  
OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Geneva, 4-8 February 1974

QUALITY OF WATER AND FOOD IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

Introduction

Article 14 paragraph 2 of the International Sanitary Regulations (1951)<sup>1</sup> contained the following provision:

"every port and airport shall be provided with a supply of pure drinking water".

In the sixth report of the Committee on International Quarantine<sup>2</sup> the Committee noted the request of the Executive Board (Resolution EB 22.R24) for an opinion on the first report of the Expert Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation, and reviewed this report in detail.

As a consequence the Committee made the following recommendations:

"The Committee recommends to the Executive Board that it authorize the publication of the first report of the Expert Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation<sup>3</sup> together with relevant comments of this Committee. It further recommends to the World Health Assembly that it requests the Director-General to recommend the manual on hygiene and sanitation in aviation to health administrations for their guidance in fulfilling their obligations under the Regulations, especially Article 14, and for the provision of safe food at airports".

Subsequently, the first report of the Expert Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation was published by WHO as "Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation" in 1960. This publication was given a very wide distribution in WHO Member States.

In the 1961 annotated edition of the International Sanitary Regulations two footnotes were given to Article 14 as follows:

1. The Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation (Wld Hlth Org.techn. Rep.Ser., 1959, No.174) is recommended for use in fulfilling obligations of the Regulations, especially those of Article 14.  
(Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No.95, p.474)

2. "Pure drinking water" should be of a quality not less than that described in the 1958 WHO publication "International Standards for Drinking Water", especially as concerns bacteriological requirements (Section 2), and chemical and physical requirements (Section 3.1, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2).  
(Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No.95, p.480).

<sup>1</sup> Off.Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No.37, p.338

<sup>2</sup> Off.Rec. Wld Hlth.Org., No.95, p.473

<sup>3</sup> Wld Hlth Org. techn.Rep.Ser., 1959, No.174

The issue of this document does not constitute formal publication. It should not be reviewed, abstracted or quoted without the agreement of the World Health Organization. Authors alone are responsible for views expressed in signed articles.

Ce document ne constitue pas une publication. Il ne doit faire l'objet d'aucun compte rendu ou résumé ni d'aucune citation sans l'autorisation de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. Les opinions exprimées dans les articles signés n'engagent que leurs auteurs.

Article 14, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the International Health Regulations (1969)<sup>4</sup>  
read as follows:

"(2) Every port and airport shall be provided with pure drinking water and wholesome food supplied from sources approved by the health administration for public use and consumption on the premises or on board ships or aircraft. The drinking water and food shall be stored and handled in such a manner as to ensure their protection against contamination. The health authority shall conduct periodic inspections of equipment, installations and premises, and shall collect samples of water and food for laboratory examinations to verify the observance of this Article. For this purpose and for other sanitary measures, the principles and recommendations set forth in the guides on these subjects published by the Organization shall be applied as far as practicable in fulfilling the requirements of these Regulations.

"(3) Every port and airport shall also be provided with an effective system for the removal and safe disposal of excrement, refuse, waste water, condemned food, and other matter dangerous to health."

The Government of Japan reported that between 1967 and 1971 the Tokyo International Airport Quarantine Station sampled the potable water of 317 aircraft selected at random, and concluded that the results revealed the necessity to have international standards for potable water used on aircraft. In commenting on these findings the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases in their seventeenth report made the following statement:

"The Committee noted the findings of the survey of potable water from aircraft arriving in Tokyo reported by the Government of Japan. It considered that all the factors which would have affected the water by the time it was sampled at Tokyo must also be taken into account before firm conclusions could be drawn. In particular, without evidence of the condition of the containers in the aircraft, the sources could not be incriminated".

The Committee also "observed upon the need for special attention to the health education of the food handlers who are a group of people liable to constant change, and also to the need to prevent contamination of food and water after being placed aboard, and, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 14 (International Health Regulations (1969) ) the safe disposal of food waste and unconsumed food".<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Adopted by the Twentysecond World Health Assembly on 25 July 1969  
(Off.Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No.176, p.22 (Resolutions WHA22.46 and 47)).

<sup>5</sup>World Health Assembly Document A26/26

At the Twentythird Regional Committee for the Western Pacific Region two Resolutions were passed concerning quality of drinking water and food on international flights:

"Quality of drinking water on international flights"<sup>6</sup>

The Regional Committee

having considered the information provided by the Japanese Delegation on the quality of drinking water carried on aircrafts during international flights arriving in Tokyo from within and outside the Region,

1. notes with concern the high proportion of samples which did not meet the international quality standards for drinking water recommended by WHO;
2. urges the health agencies of Member countries in the Region to ensure that the quality of the drinking water and ice used for international flights meet the above standards;
3. requests the Director-General of the World Health Organization to submit this important matter to Member countries of other WHO Regions for their consideration.

"Quality of food on international flights"<sup>7</sup>

The Regional Committee

noting the concern of the Member countries for the standards of drinking water on international flights;

recognising that diseases are also transmitted through such media as food;  
and

considering that such food is served on international flights;

requests the Regional Director:

1. to obtain information from Member countries in the Region regarding
  - (a) the safeguards currently in effect to control the quality of food served on international flights and
  - (b) studies done in Member countries to assess the risk of food-borne diseases on international flights;
2. to present his findings to the next meeting of the Regional Committee".

<sup>6</sup> Document WPR/RC 23.R5 dated 29 September 1972

<sup>7</sup> Document WPR/RC 23.R12 dated 3 October 1972



Importation of cholera traced to contamination of food served on international flights

Among some 374 passengers and 19 crew which arrived in Sydney from London on 4 November 1972 on a scheduled flight some 40 cases of cholera were subsequently diagnosed in Australia. The cholera biotype eltor serotype Inaba was involved. All cases were relatively mild and there was no secondary spread. Among 37 passengers who continued their journey to New Zealand, there were three suspected cases including a fatal one. Two imported cases of cholera biotype eltor serotype Inaba were reported from UK, one from Gateshead and one from London.

Epidemiological investigations of all these imported cases suggested that a meal prepared in the air company kitchen in Bahrain and served to economy-class passengers was the source of infection. Only the economy-class passengers were affected and they were the only ones to receive the meal in question. The same meal was served in a flight from Sydney to London and it is believed to be the source of infection of the two imported cases into the United Kingdom. Meals for two aircraft were required at the same time and it is believed that refrigeration in the company kitchen was possibly insufficient. Bacteriological examination in Sydney of water taken aboard at Bahrain and available to all passengers was negative.

Other incidents of food-borne outbreaks traced to meals consumed on international flights have previously been reported. Various micro-organisms such as non-cholera vibrios V. parahaemolyticus and Clostridium perfringens have been incriminated in these outbreaks. The true extent of the problem, however, is unknown. Many incidents undoubtedly go unreported, partly because of the peripatetic nature of the groups at risk, and partly also because it is unlikely that infections with more than a few hours' incubation period will be traced to food consumed on aircraft.

Recent action by WHO

The Director-General of WHO in Circular Letter No.1 dated 13 January 1973 called attention of all Member States of WHO to the need for improved quality of drinking water and food on international flights.<sup>10</sup> On the same date the Director-General sent letters to the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and to the Director-General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) again calling their attention to the importance of the quality of drinking water and food on international flights.<sup>11</sup>

At the same time the matter was discussed with IATA's facilitation officer in Geneva and it was agreed that the paper on "Basic principles of sanitation in aviation", prepared by the Division of Environmental Health of WHO, should be presented to the eighteenth session of the IATA Facilitation Advisory Committee in Bangkok from 23-26 January 1973.

<sup>8</sup> Weekly Epidemiological Record, 1972, 47, 456-457

<sup>9</sup> Weekly Epidemiological Record, 1971, 15, 149

Weekly Epidemiological Record, 1972, 13, 133-134

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix 1

<sup>11</sup> See Appendices 2 and 3

The Director-General of IATA informed Dr Candau on 19 January 1973<sup>12</sup> that he had requested the IATA Medical Committee to pursue with WHO the examination of all possible precautionary measures. Attached to this communication was a "Copy of letter from Director-General, IATA, to Member Airlines - Medical Representatives"<sup>13</sup>. A technical meeting between WHO staff and members of the IATA Medical Committee was held in June 1973.

In response to an invitation by ICAO of 27 December 1972 a WHO observer attended the eighth session of the ICAO Facilitation Division from 6-20 March 1973. The main item on the agenda for this meeting was the review of the sixth edition (April 1969) of Annex 9 to the Convention of International Civil Aviation. The WHO observer made a statement<sup>14</sup> which contained a proposal by WHO for the wording for Annex 9, Chapter 8 - D. paragraph 8.10 relating to the International Health Regulations, in particular with regard to water and food in civil aviation. This proposal was adopted.

#### The future

The principles underlying the provision of safe food and water in international aviation have not changed since the WHO Expert Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation met in 1959. The application of these principles requires constant vigilance and it is hoped that full use will be made by airlines and airport managers of the provisions in the International Health Regulations (1969), as well as the standards recommended by WHO for safe food and drinking water, and safe disposal of human waste and condemned food. Only periodic surprise inspections can ensure that high standards are constantly maintained in all activities related to hygiene in civil aviation. As part of the longterm vigilance it is hoped that improved reporting can be accomplished of outbreaks traceable to consumption of water or food during flight or in airports.

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<sup>12</sup> See Appendix 4

<sup>13</sup> See Appendix 5

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix 6

APPENDIX 1

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD

Telegr : UNISANTÉ, Genève

1211 Genève, 27 Suisse

Tel. 34 60 61

Ref: C.L.1.1973

Geneva, 13 January 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to call your attention to the need for improved quality of drinking water and food on international flights. In September 1972 this matter was discussed at the twenty-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific which expressed its concern over the present situation. It was also considered at the seventeenth session of the WHO Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases, which met in Geneva in November 1972 and the report of which will be submitted to the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly. The gravity of the situation has recently been underlined by the importation of cases of cholera into Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, all of which were traceable to contamination of food on international flights.

In consultation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association we are at present examining the steps which might be taken to reduce such health hazards as much as possible. In the meantime, you may wish to bring the matter to the attention of the responsible authorities in your country, so that all protective measures now in force may be strengthened in their application.

I shall not fail to keep you informed of the conclusions of our further study of the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. G. Candau, M.D.  
Director-General

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

1211 GENEVA 27 - SWITZERLAND  
Telegr.: UNISANTE-Geneva

Tél. 34 60 61 Télex. 27821

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE  
Télégr.: UNISANTÉ-Genève

In reply please refer to:  
Prière de rappeler la référence:

13 January 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to call your attention to recent events which have pointed to the need for an increased surveillance of the quality of drinking water and food on international flights. In September 1972 this matter was discussed at the twenty-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific which expressed concern over the present situation. It was also considered, as you will know from your representative at it, by the WHO Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases which met in Geneva in November last year. The gravity of the situation has recently been underlined by the importation of cases of cholera into Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, all of which were traceable to contamination of food on international flights.

You will, I am sure, share my view of the seriousness of this matter and I am accordingly proposing that consultations take place between our secretariats at the earliest possible date to discuss what steps could be taken to improve the situation. In the meantime, I am drawing the attention of all Member States and Associate Members of the World Health Organization to the necessity of enforcing the application of all existing measures aimed at the control of drinking water and food quality on international flights. ... A copy of my letter is attached for your information. Should you consider issuing a similar communication on behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organization, this would certainly be of great help.

I am also writing to the Director-General of the International Air Transport Association on this subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. G. Candau, M.D.  
Director-General

The Secretary-General  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
International Aviation Building  
1080, University Street  
Montreal 101, P.Q.  
Canada

... Encl.

APPENDIX 3

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

1211 GENEVA 27 - SWITZERLAND  
Telegr.: UNISANTE-Geneva

Tél. 34 60 61 Télex. 27821

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE  
Télégr.: UNISANTÉ-Genève

In reply please refer to:  
Priere de rappeler la référence:

13 January 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to call your attention to recent events which have pointed to the need for an increased surveillance of the quality of drinking water and food on international flights. In September 1972 this matter was discussed at the twenty-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific which expressed concern over the present situation. It was also considered, as you will know from your representative at it, by the WHO Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases which met in Geneva in November last year. The gravity of the situation has recently been underlined by the importation of cases of cholera into Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, all of which were traceable to contamination of food on international flights.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. G. Candau, M.D.  
Director-General

The Director-General  
International Air Transport Association  
Attention Mr R. Bonhoff  
P.O. Box 315  
1215 Geneva 15

... Encl.

COPY LETTER  
INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Office of the Director General  
Knut Hammarskjöld

Geneva

19 January 1973

Dr M.G. Candau  
Director-General  
World Health Organization  
1211 Geneva 27

Dear Dr Candau,

This is to acknowledge your letter of January 13, concerning control of quality of drinking water and food on international flights. This matter has been brought to the attention of all IATA members as per the attached letter.

I have requested the IATA Medical Committee to pursue with your organization the examination of all possible precautionary measures. The next meeting of that committee will be on March 26 and its secretary, Mr A.M. Black, will be in contact with you in connection therewith in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Knut Hammarskjöld

APPENDIX 5

COPY OF LETTER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, TO MEMBER AIRLINES - MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES:

IATA has received a request from the World Health Organization for cooperation in ensuring the application of appropriate measures to control the quality of drinking water and food on international flights. This request is a result of the recent incidence of cholera in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, traceable to contaminated food on international flights.

The IATA Medical Committee has always advocated the importance of thorough and systematic hygiene measures to control and ultimately eliminate cholera. IATA therefore shares with the World Health Organization concern that all necessary precautions be taken, by governments and carriers alike, to ensure the provision of uncontaminated drinking water and food on board aircraft. I have asked the Medical Committee, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, to examine all possible means of eradicating these health hazards; in the interim it would be helpful if member airlines continue to examine food and water supplies on international flights with the utmost vigilance.

(sgd) Knut Hammar skjöld

**COPY LETTER**  
**INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION**

Office of the Director General  
Knut Hammarskjöld

Geneva

19 January 1973

Dr M.G. Candau  
Director-General  
World Health Organization  
1211 Geneva 27

Dear Dr Candau,

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Yours sincerely,

Knut Hammarskjöld



APPENDIX 5

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(sgd) Knut Hammarskjöld

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

8TH SESSION OF THE FACILITATION DIVISION

Dubrovnik, 6-23 March 1973

REPORT ON THE ATTENDANCE OF THE WHO OBSERVER, 7-9 MARCH 1973

WHO, in response to an invitation by ICAO of 27 December 1972, assigned Dr Ian D. Carter, Medical Officer, Epidemiological Surveillance of Communicable Diseases, as observer to the above-mentioned meeting.

The review of the sixth edition (April 1969) of Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation included points of mutual interest to ICAO and WHO. (The ICAO Secretariat with the agreement of the Conference kindly arranged that these points could be considered during the period of attendance of the WHO observer, 7-9 March).

The principal points of interest to WHO in consideration of Annex 9 related to:

- (a) Chapter 2 - Entry and Departure of Aircraft  
G. - Disinsecting of aircraft
- (b) Chapter 6 - International Airports - Facilities and Services for Traffic  
A. - General
- (c) Chapter 8 - Other Facilitation Provisions  
D. - Implementation of International Sanitary Regulations<sup>1</sup>  
and related provisions

(a) Chapter 2 - G. - Disinsecting of aircraft

This item was considered by the General Committee.<sup>2</sup>

Working papers concerning this item were submitted by ICAO, FAL/8-WP/9 and Add. 1, WHO, FAL/8-WP/23 and the United States of America, FAL/8-WP/47.

The Conference was in agreement that no changes (other than editorial with respect to the IHR) should be made at this time to these paragraphs of Annex 9 referring to the Disinsecting of Aircraft. This was also the view of WHO. The ICAO Secretariat drew the attention of the Conference to the letter of 22 February 1973 from the Secretary-General ICAO to the Director-General WHO. This letter indicated that the ICAO Airworthiness Committee would discuss the suitability of automatic disinsection of aircraft by DDVP at its Tenth Meeting scheduled for 22 May to 8 June 1973 and that the Air Navigation Commission would

<sup>1</sup>The opportunity was taken to draw attention to the necessary editing of all chapters of Annex 9 with reference to changes arising from the adoption of the International Health Regulations (1969) (IHR).

<sup>2</sup>The organization of the meeting with a General Committee and Committees A, B and C is described in the working paper FAL/8-WP/2.

Appendix 6

review the recommendations of the Tenth Meeting and inform WHO of the outcome. Inter alia it was suggested that the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly refrain from adopting mandatory requirements for the DDVP system until possible problems related thereto have been resolved. The WHO observer indicated that this item had not been included in the agenda of the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly but subject to the completion of a joint WHO/ICAO paper by March 1974 could be placed on the agenda of the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly.

(b) Chapter 6 - Facilities and Services for Traffic - General

It was under the item "Improvement of Sanitation at Airports" that Committee C discussed the working paper submitted by WHO, FAL/8-WP/99 (Paragraphs 1-5). The WHO proposals were strongly supported by a number of country delegations and by IATA. The two suggested Recommended Practices to follow existing paragraph 6.40 of Annex 9 and relating to the supply of safe food and water and effective and safe disposal of sewage and waste food in all forms were adopted unanimously.

(c) Chapter 8 - D. - Implementation of International Sanitary Regulations and Related Provisions

Committee B discussed the items of interest to WHO under the item "Public Health Requirements" during which working papers by ICAO, FAL/8-WP/11, paragraphs 10 and 11, and the WHO paper, FAL/8-WP/99, paragraphs 6 and 7, were considered.

The wording proposed by WHO for Annex 9, Chapter 8 - D., paragraph 8.10 relating to the International Health Regulations was adopted.

Committee B also made provision for the possible need to change other paragraphs of Annex 9 subject to the presentation of the seventeenth report of the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases to the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly.

Advantage was taken of the presence of the WHO observer in the consideration of an item relating to the elimination of the Passenger Manifest. In particular the General Committee adopted a note to the existing paragraph 2.6 of Annex 9 as upgraded to a Standard. The note requiring the maintenance of the names of passengers on international flights FAL/8-WP/114 was based on a working paper FAL/8-WP/22 submitted by Canada.

It was felt that the presence of an observer from WHO at this conference was particularly advantageous. Many of the delegations had medical officers, para-medical staff or at least specific briefing on those aspects relating to public health. The opportunity was taken, particularly during informal discussions, to emphasize the role of epidemiological surveillance in communicable disease control in general and specifically with respect to international travel.

Geneva, 16 March 1973

## RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WHO

Fifty-third Session

EB53.R27

21 January 1974

## QUALITY OF FOOD ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the quality of food on international flights following resolution WPR/RC24.R6 adopted by the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in 1973;

Bearing in mind paragraph 4 of resolution WHA26.54<sup>1</sup> of the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly;

Being aware of the existence of "Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene" in addition to several other codes of hygienic practice related to food that have been prepared or are in the course of preparation as part of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme;

Noting that the Director-General is maintaining close cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association in this matter,

1. NOTES that the Director-General has taken steps to update the "Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation"<sup>2</sup> during 1974 and give it the widest possible distribution, and that work is under way for the establishment of international microbiological standards for food;
2. NOTES that the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases will include in its eighteenth report recommendations on this subject which will be submitted to the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly.

Eleventh meeting, 21 January 1974  
EB53/SR/11

<sup>1</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., 1973, No. 209, p. 29.

<sup>2</sup> Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser., 1959, No. 174.

## RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA27.46

23 May 1974

SAFETY OF FOOD AND WATER AND THE HANDLING  
OF WASTES IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

The Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered resolution EB53.R27 adopted by the Executive Board at its fifty-third session and the recommendation made by the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases at its eighteenth session;

Recalling paragraph 4 of resolution WHA26.54;

Believing that, in view of the growth of international traffic, continuous attention should be given to the safety of food and water and the handling of wastes in such traffic,

1. STRESSES the need for each Member State to clarify the ultimate responsibility for the safety of food and water and the proper handling of wastes in international traffic;
2. RECOMMENDS that Member States coordinate and ensure the close and active participation in such a responsibility of health authorities, port and airport management, aircraft operators, shipping companies, tourist associations, and any other service or agency concerned with international traffic;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to maintain close contact with representatives of international organizations concerned with international traffic with a view to promoting the coordination and implementation of activities aimed at improving the safety of food and water and the handling of wastes; and
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to prepare appropriate guidance materials for the use of health and other agencies in this field and keep them up to date.

Fourteenth plenary meeting, 23 May 1974

A27/VR/14