

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

WHO Conference Hall, Manila
Thursday, 4 September 1975 at 9.20 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr T.M. McKendrick (Western Samoa)

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Fifth MeetingThursday, 4 September 1975 at 9.20 a.m.

PRESENT

I. Representatives of Member States

AUSTRALIA	Dr C.P. Evans Mrs A.E. Broinowski
CHINA	Dr Chen Chih-ming Dr Chen Wen Chieh Dr Wang Lien Sheng Mr Li Ching Hsiu
FRANCE	Dr Yves Couturier
JAPAN	Dr A. Tanaka Mr S. Kaneda
LAOS	Dr Phouy Phoutthasak Dr Keo Phimpachanh
MALAYSIA	Tan Sri Datuk (Dr) Abdul Majid bin Ismail Mr Onn bin Kayat Dr Lim Ewe Seng
NEW ZEALAND	Dr R. Dickie
PHILIPPINES	Dr J. Sumpaico Dr A.N. Acosta Dr J. Dizon Dr A. Galvez Dr F. Aguilar Dr R. Villasis Dr E. Fernando Dr T. Elicaño, Jr. Mrs L.J. Zamora
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Dr Kyong Shik Chang Mr Se Iin Huh Mr Sun Dong Yin

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|--|---|
| REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET-NAM | Dr Tran Cuu Kien
Dr Le Van Loc |
| SINGAPORE | Dr Oon Beng Bee |
| TONGA | Dr S. Tapa |
| UNITED KINGDOM | Dr J.A.B. Nicholson |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | Dr J.C. King
Mr E. Noziglia
Dr M. Kumangai |
| WESTERN SAMOA | Dr T.M. McKendrick |
| II. <u>Representative of Associate Member</u> | |
| PAPUA NEW GUINEA | Dr Ako Toua |
| III. <u>Observer</u> | |
| DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
VIET-NAM | Professeur Hoang Dinh Cau
M. Nguyen Van Trong
Dr Doan Xuan Muou |
| IV. <u>Representatives of the United Nations and Related Organizations</u> | |
| UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S
FUND | Mr Wah Wong |
| V. <u>Representatives of Other Intergovernmental Organizations</u> | |
| INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY | Captain J.E. Batoon, MC |
| VI. <u>Representatives of Non-governmental Organizations</u> | |
| INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
ARCHITECTS | Mr O.A. Arellano |
| INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
BLOOD TRANSFUSION | Dr G.C. Caridad |
| WORLD FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL
EDUCATION | Dr J. Cuyegkeng |
| THE INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY
ASSOCIATION | Dr J.N. Rodriguez |

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION	Dr C. Asuncion Dr I.Y. Zalamea
WORLD FEDERATION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY	Dr L.S. Villadolid
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CATHOLIC NURSES	Mrs M.R. Ordoñez
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION	Dr J. Ilano
WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION	Dr A. Umali
INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION	Dr T. Elicaño, Jr.
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY	Dr H. Zialcita
LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES	Dr G.C. Caridad
COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES	Dr A.M. Dalisay
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS	Dr L. Martinez
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS	Dr M.M. Alimurung
VII. <u>WHO Secretariat</u>	
SECRETARY	Dr Francisco J. Dy

1 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The Committee considered the following draft resolutions:

1.1 International programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in rural areas of developing countries
(Document WPR/RC26/WP/7)

Dr SUMPAICO (Philippines), Rapporteur, noted in reading out the resolution that Malaysia had been included in the list of countries to take part in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Rural Potable Water Supply and Sanitation, in conformity with that country's expressed interest and desire.

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC26.R8).

1.2 Infant nutrition and breast-feeding (Document WPR/RC26/WP/8)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC26.R9).

1.3 WHO's role in the development and coordination of biomedical research: greater involvement of the Regions in research
(Document WPR/RC26/WP/9)

Dr DICKIE (New Zealand) supported by Dr KING (United States of America) expressed the view that the word "implementing" in paragraph two did not reflect the intention of the resolution. WHO could be expected to promote and coordinate research programmes, but not to implement them.

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) favoured replacement of "implementing" by "promoting and coordinating". "Implementing" suggested that WHO would play an active role in research as opposed to encouraging it.

The CHAIRMAN said that if the Regional Office was involved in research programmes, that would imply promotion and coordination. Did Dr Toua nevertheless want the word "implementing" to be removed?

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) said that he merely wished to emphasize that WHO should if possible assist countries to develop research, through promotion and encouragement.

Dr MAJID (Malaysia) noted that the resolution as it stood made no mention of applied research which had been emphasized in the discussions. Such reference could be made in paragraph 2, which would thus read "...biomedical research, with emphasis on applied research".

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) said that there was no reference to the availability of national resources in paragraph three. Also, would the research be centralized in, or conducted outside, the Regional Office? That point required clarification.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that a further clause might be added as sub-paragraph 3(c), reading: "the availability of adequate national resources and facilities".

Dr NICHOLSON (United Kingdom) asked whether the WHO regional centre for research and training in tropical diseases, mentioned in paragraph 5, would award a diploma to physicians trained there. There was a school of tropical medicine in Bangkok. Was it to be designated a WHO collaborating centre?

Dr KAPLAN (Director, Division of Research Promotion and Development) said that the school in Bangkok would be a collaborating centre. It was not, however, the intention that it should award a diploma: it would provide training in research on tropical diseases and field techniques in areas such as epidemiology. The precise arrangements would depend on the outcome of a feasibility study on the subject.

Mr KANEDA (Japan) mentioned that the word "and" would have to be placed at the end of sub-paragraph 3(b) if a sub-paragraph 3(c) were included.

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendments should be included in the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC26.R10).

1.4 Drug dependence and alcoholism (Document WPR/RC26/WP/10)

Dr KING (United States of America) noted that Item 16 of the Agenda referred to drug dependence only while the draft resolution before the Committee mentioned drug dependence and alcoholism. While the two fields were similar, they were nevertheless distinct. As indicated at the twenty-fifth session, alcoholism warranted consideration as a separate topic. It should be studied not only by the Regional Committee but also by the Region as a whole. The intention was not to eliminate the reference to alcoholism in the resolution, but merely to highlight the problem.

Mention should also be made in the present context of the important role played by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

A sub-paragraph 5(c) might be added to the draft resolution, which would thus read: "CALLS the attention of the Members to the assistance that may be available to them from UNFEDAC".

A sixth paragraph might also be added, reading: "REQUESTS the Regional Director to include the topic of alcoholism as a separate agenda item at the next meeting of the Regional Committee and to prepare a report on this subject in collaboration with the governments of the Region prior to that meeting."

Dr EVANS (Australia) supported the Representative of the United States of America and referred to the emphasis he had placed upon this point during the discussion on Item 16 of the Agenda when he had said that alcoholism was the greatest problem faced by many countries or areas in the Region and it should be studied separately from drug dependence. The two treaties controlling international trade in drugs of dependency should also be kept in mind. He supported the amendment regarding the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) said he wished to support the amendment proposed by the Representative of the United States of America because alcoholism was a more important problem in the Pacific area, whereas drugs were a more important problem in Asia.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR suggested that the amendment regarding the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control might be better treated as a separate paragraph. There would then be a paragraph 6 which would read: "CALLS the attention of the Member States to the assistance that may be available to them from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control".

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendments should be included in the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC26.R11).

1.5 Preparation of the Sixth General Programme of Work covering a Specific Period (1978-1983 inclusive) (Document WPR/RC26/WP/11)

Dr SUMPAICO (Philippines), Rapporteur, drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to document WPR/RC26/WP/11, paragraph 3 of which now read: "DECIDES to consider at its twenty-seventh session whether it will be advantageous to prepare a regional programme of work, as has been done in the past, or if the Sixth General Programme of Work will be a sufficient guide".

In reply to a query from the Representative of Malaysia, the REGIONAL DIRECTOR explained that the Executive Board would submit the proposed Sixth General Programme of Work to the World Health Assembly in May 1976. The Regional Committee for the Western Pacific would decide in September 1976 whether it wished to prepare a separate Programme of Work for a specific period as in the past or if the Sixth General Programme of Work, which was expected to be adopted by the Assembly, would be sufficient as a guide for the programme of the Region.

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendments should be included in the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC26.R12).

1.6 Topic of Technical Presentation in 1976 (Document WPR/RC26/WP/12)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC26.R13).

1.7 Twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions of the Regional Committee
(Document WPR/RC26/WP/13)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment (see resolution WPR/RC26.R14).

1.8 Frequency of meetings of the Regional Committee
(Document WPR/RC26/WP/14)

Dr EVANS (Australia) agreed with the substance of the draft resolution but thought it did not go far enough. He considered the reasons leading up to the resolution should be included. He had prepared a suggested re-draft of the resolution for the consideration of the Committee.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR drew attention to the fact that the reasons leading up to the resolution were available in the Summary Record and could be referred to there.

Dr EVANS (Australia) then read out the following draft resolution:

The Regional Committee,

Having heard the statement of the Representative of Australia in regard to:

1. Changes towards a biennial cycle generally in WHO affairs as evidenced by

- (a) a biennial programme and budget;
- (b) a recent decision by the Director-General to publish his full report every second year, with only an interim statement in the alternate year; and

2. The savings of costs in manpower and financial resources in both the Regional Office and for Member States which would accrue if the meetings of the Regional Committee were held every other year instead of annually;

DECIDES to include as an agenda item for the twenty-seventh session of the Regional Committee a possible change in frequency of the meetings of that Committee to every second year.

Dr NICHOLSON (United Kingdom), supported by the Representative of Malaysia, said that although the draft resolution stated the full case in support of the proposal of the Representative of Australia he recalled that there had been some opposition to the proposal. Reference to this should also be included.

Dr DICKIE (New Zealand) stated that he agreed with the proposal of the Representative of Australia, and also with the comments of the Representative of the United Kingdom.

Dr KING (United States of America) suggested that the Representatives of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom should meet with the Rapporteurs to draft a resolution which would include both sides of the issue.

It was so agreed.

After the meeting with the Rapporteurs a revision of the draft resolution was submitted to the Committee.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 1(a) of the draft resolution and said the biennial programme budget had not been implemented, as the amendments to Articles 34 and 55 of the Constitution had not yet been ratified. Two-thirds of the Members of the Organization must first signify their acceptance of the amendments before there could be any changes in the Articles of the Constitution. He suggested that the following phrase be added to paragraph 1(a) "which will come into being at such a time as the amendments to Articles 34 and 55 of the Constitution have been ratified".

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendments should be included in the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC26.R15).

1.9 Development of the antimalaria programme (Document WPR/RC26/WP/15)

It was noted that this draft resolution should be considered as the report of the Working Group on Malaria.

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) suggested that the words "Member States" in paragraph 4(d) should be replaced by "member countries or areas".

Mrs BROINOWSKI (Australia) asked whether paragraph 3(iv) should be modified to take account of the fact that there were some reservations regarding the effectiveness of DDT. The use of DDT also had environmental implications which were now considered to be significant.

Mrs Broinowski read out a suggested wording.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR said that DDT in the malaria eradication programme was not used in the same way as it was in agriculture. Its use had been approved by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board. Since DDT was the insecticide needed, he strongly recommended that the present wording of the resolution remain.

Dr MAJID (Malaysia) endorsed the views expressed by the Regional Director. Experience in Malaysia had shown that DDT was the ideal insecticide. There was no danger to the environment from the way it was used. If it was applied to specific areas such as the walls of houses and not used widely in agriculture there was no danger to the environment.

Dr TOUA (Papua New Guinea) said that although he supported the remarks of the Regional Director the point raised by the Representative of Australia was that there were problems which arose from the use of DDT. There were some areas where DDT was not fully accepted. It might be that another insecticide should be mentioned in the resolution in case DDT could not be used.

Professor HOANG DINH CAU (Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam) said that his country's malaria control activities had been based on the use of DDT. Experience had shown that it had practically no adverse effect on the environment of Viet-Nam, which could not be said of other chemicals that had been used in nature for quite different purposes.

Dr NICHOLSON (United Kingdom) suggested paragraph 3(iv) be left as it was. He questioned what other insecticides were available. Malathion was regarded as a reserve when there was resistance to DDT on the part of the vector. Dr Nicholson considered reference to DDT should be kept in the resolution and that no other insecticides should be mentioned unless DDT was failing in its antimalaria function.

The REGIONAL DIRECTOR suggested the addition of the following words to paragraph 3(iv) "or such other insecticides as may be required".

Dr MAJID (Malaysia) said that paragraph 3 was meant to contain an indication of areas where improvements were needed. Since the problem was the shortage of DDT, the recommendation was simply an endeavour to improve the supply of it in the Region.

Dr TRAN CUU KIEN (Republic of South Viet-Nam) supported the suggestion that other insecticides should be referred to in the resolution. In the areas of Viet-Nam that for some time had been under the control of the Provisional Government, DDT had proved effective against *Anopheles*, but it had had practically no effect in the neighbourhood of newly liberated towns and cities.

The CHAIRMAN recommended that the Committee accept the amendment proposed by the Regional Director.

Referring to the proposed amendment to paragraph 3(iv), Mrs BROINOWSKI (Australia) asked if a similar amendment should not be made to paragraph 4(e), which requested the Regional Director to explore the possibility of producing additional DDT in the Region.

In reply the REGIONAL DIRECTOR assured the Chairman that there was no problem regarding the production of other insecticides.

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendments should be included in the draft resolution.

Decision: The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (see resolution WPR/RC26.R16).

2 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT PRESENTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: Item 7.2 of the Agenda (Document WPR/RC26/16)

The Committee considered and adopted this report without comment. It also considered the following draft resolutions submitted by the Sub-Committee on Programme and Budget.

2.1 Budget performance 1974 - Direct services to governments
(Document WPR/RC26/P&B/WP/1)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment
(see resolution WPR/RC26.R17).

2.2 Revisions to the programme budget for 1976 and 1977
(Document WPR/RC26/P&B/WP/2)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment
(see resolution WPR/RC26.R18).

2.3 Revised tentative projections of the budget estimates for
1978 and 1979 (Document WPR/RC26/P&B/WP/3)

Decision: The draft resolution was adopted without comment
(see resolution WPR/RC26.R19).

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.