

REGIONAL COMMITTEE:

WP/RC3/6

Third Session
Saigon
25th to 30th September 1952

MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR

At its Second Session the Regional Committee considered that, in order to assist in the development of an informed professional opinion concerning mental health problems and to place emphasis on the mental hygiene aspect of general public health practice, it would be advantageous to hold a Regional Mental Health Seminar in 1953. It was thought that a short term consultant would be provided, that intra-regional fellowships would be made available to enable member governments to send selected participants and that a small amount of supplies and equipment would be furnished to assist the institution in which the Seminar would be held.

The following resolution was adopted:

THAT subject to consultation between the Regional Director and the country concerned, the Mental Health Seminar will be held in Australia.

In accordance with this resolution, the Regional Director has communicated with the Government of Australia and has been advised that the Government would be pleased to have the Seminar held in Australia in 1953. The Seminar will be held in Sydney. By means of personal visits and communications, a number of the practical problems concerned with the holding of this Seminar have been solved and progress has been made with the preparations. The Government has agreed to provide conference rooms for the Seminar and a limited amount of secretarial assistance. Further, the Government has decided to meet the expenses of Australian lecturers. The Government has arranged through the National Health and Research Council for reports to be prepared on the policies and programmes for mental health of children in the various States. These State reports will be combined in a composite Commonwealth report.

The Organization in consultation with its Headquarters has given consideration to the choice of a suitable consultant. It is probable that a decision on this point will be reached within the next few months.

The Second Session did not reach any decisions concerning the precise aspects of the mental health of children which should be considered during the Seminar. It is suggested by the Organization that perhaps three-fifths of the discussion could be devoted to the mental hygiene aspects of public health work and perhaps two-fifths to the psychiatric aspects of paediatrics. The detailed subjects could be decided later.