

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXVII Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXXII Meeting



Washington, D.C.
September-October 1980

INDEXED

Provisional Agenda Item 41

CD27/27 (Eng.)
25 July 1980
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Director transmits to the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council, for its consideration, the official letter sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain requesting the admission of Spain to PAHO as an observer country. The Constitution of PAHO makes no provision for observer countries from other Regions of the world. In the OAS, however, which recognizes PAHO as a Specialized Agency of the Inter-American System, there are precedents in this regard which the Directing Council should bear in mind in considering this matter.

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has the honor to transmit to the Directing Council in its XXVII Meeting the letter dated 4 June 1980 in which His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Mr. Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, requests on behalf of his Government the admission of Spain as an observer country to the Pan American Health Organization.

This request was presented personally by Mr. Eduardo de Zulueta, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Spain to the Organization of American States, to the Executive Committee of PAHO in its 84th Meeting. The Executive Committee took due note of the request and decided to place it on the agenda of the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council.

Copies of the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and of the reply of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau are annexed to the present document.

It may be noted that the Constitution of PAHO says nothing about observer countries in other Regions of the world. Resolution XV of the V Directing Council¹ refers to participation in the meetings of the Directing Council by certain Members of the World Health Organization not having their seats of government within the Western Hemisphere, but refers in operative paragraph 2 to countries which consider certain territories or groups of territories in the Western Hemisphere as part of their national territory, or are responsible for the conduct of the international relations of territories or groups of territories within the Western Hemisphere.

Moreover, the Organization of American States, which in the Agreement signed on 23 May 1950² recognizes the Pan American Health Organization as an Inter-American Specialized Organization, has adopted special resolutions on observer countries not having their seats of government within the Western Hemisphere.³ The Governments of these countries are represented by observers to the Permanent Council and General Assembly of the OAS.

For the information of the Directing Council, it is added that Spain was admitted as a Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States by Resolution CP/Res. 54(62/72) of 2 February 1972.

Annexes

¹Basic Documents, Official Document 163, pp. 19-20

²Op. cit., pp. 46-51

³Res. AG/Res. 50(I-0/71); Res. CP/Res. 52(61/72); CP/Res. 68(69/72)

(TRANSLATION)

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

L0-49/3

2 July 1980

Your Excellency:

... I have the honor to enclose a letter to His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, replying to a letter from him which you personally handed to me, with the request that you be so kind as to forward it to him.

... I also enclose a copy of that letter for your information.

Accept, Your Excellency, the sentiments of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(signed)

Héctor R. Acuña
Director

His Excellency Mr. Eduardo de Zulueta
Ambassador, Permanent Observer to the
Organization of American States
2915 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 102
Washington, D.C. 20008

... Enclosures

(TRANSLATION)

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

LO-49/3

1 July 1980

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to your kind letter dated in Madrid on 4 June 1980, which was personally handed to me by His Excellency, Mr. Eduardo de Zulueta, Ambassador, Permanent Observer for your country to the Organization of American States.

On the occasion of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization during the week of 23-27 June, I requested the Ambassador to personally present to the Committee the request conveyed in your letter. The Committee, following the appropriate procedure, was pleased to place it on the agenda of the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, which will take place in Washington from 22 September to 3 October.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the testimony of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(signed)

Héctor R. Acuña
Director

His Excellency Mr. Marcelino Oreja Aguirre
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Madrid, Spain

cc: His Excellency Mr. Eduardo de Zulueta
Ambassador and Permanent Observer
of Spain to the OAS

(TRANSLATION)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Madrid, 4 June 1980

Dr. Héctor R. Acuña
Director
Pan American Health Organization
525-23rd Street
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

With a view to more and better cooperation by Spain toward the objectives of the Pan American Health Organization in the terms in which it was considered in your recent meetings with the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and of Health and Social Security during your visit to Spain, I have the honor to ask that you consider as made the request of Spain for admission to the Organization as an Observer Country.

In this way the Spanish Government, which already participates in the activities of the Organization of American States as Permanent Observer, proposes to strengthen its ties to the Inter-American System.

Please accept, Sir, the expression of my highest consideration.

(signed)