



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION
VI MEETING

*Havana, Cuba
15-24 September 1952*

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION
IV MEETING



CD6/16. (Eng.)
15 September 1952
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN:

As the VI Meeting of the Directing Council opens, I should like to say a few words before yielding the chair to which I was elected at the Meeting last year in Washington.

First I should like to greet the Representatives and bid them a cordial welcome to this hospitable, beautiful, and generous capital.

The Meeting we are holding is of vital importance. It will have the task, of course, of considering the proposed program and budget of the Sanitary Bureau, the revision of the Constitution of the Organization, the amendments to the rules of procedure of the Directing Council, the activities that the Bureau has been carrying out in accordance with the policies and plans agreed upon at previous meetings, and other important topics.

Moreover, the Additional Protocol to the Pan American Sanitary Code will be signed. As you know, by a happy coincidence the Code itself was signed in this city in 1924.

Furthermore, the 50th anniversary of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the First Inter-American Congress of Public Health are being held, and a heart-felt tribute will be paid to the memory of the Pasteur of the Americas, Dr. Carlos J. Finlay.

With regard to the 50th anniversary of the Bureau, I believe we can look back with pride on the progress made. From being a center for information and the collection of statistics at the beginning of the century, the Bureau has taken giant strides towards the achievement of its fundamental objective, namely to collaborate with the Governments in the encouragement and coordination of efforts to combat disease and to improve the physical and mental well-being of their people. Especially important

aspects of this collaboration are the cooperation accorded the Governments in the improvement of their public health services, the demonstration programs being developed with technical assistance and material aid, the facilities for training technical personnel, the regional programs, and the close contact achieved by means of the decentralization policy that the Zone Offices are carrying out.

The topics of particular scientific interest to be discussed at the First Inter-American Congress of Public Health and the conclusions and recommendations to be adopted will be a valuable contribution toward the development of public health methods.

Finally, gentlemen, the tribute that will be rendered to the famous Cuban scientist will be an expression of the gratitude of this generation for his great discovery of the vector of yellow fever. His efforts to obtain recognition for his discovery were prodigious; truth finally prevailed, so that a fundamental step toward the knowledge and prophylaxis of the disease was taken. There is no better time than the present to render him this tribute. On the 14th of last August it was exactly seventy-one years since the great research worker made his first report to the Academy of Medicine of this city. When the countries approved the campaign for the continent-wide eradication of the Aedes aegypti in 1947, they rendered an advance tribute to him.

As I extend my greetings to the people of Cuba, may I evoke the memory of their great and brilliant scientist, Carlos J. Finlay.

Dr. Nacianceno Romero y Ortega

Havana, 15 September 1952