

BOLETÍN
de la
Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana
(REVISTA MENSUAL)

♦

AVISO—Aunque por de contado despiégase el mayor cuidado en la selección de los trabajos publicados in toto o compendiados, sólo los autores son solidarios de las opiniones vertidas, a menos que conste explícitamente lo contrario

Año 26

ENERO de 1947

No. 1

HEALTH DECLARATION OF HABANA

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for some time had been intending to call a meeting of the Directing Council of the Bureau in order to discuss various matters on which he desired to have guidance and council. The postponement of the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference made the calling of the meeting without delay even more urgent. Habana was selected as the meeting place because of the generous and friendly invitation received from the Government of the Republic of Cuba, and particularly, His Excellency the President, the Minister of Health and Welfare, and the National Director of Health. It is unnecessary to state that the sessions were held in most cordial and agreeable surroundings, with unanimous agreements in all actions taken.

A complete idea of the ground covered may be obtained through the Final Act and its annexes, which are given below.

**MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL OF THE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU**

Habana, October 1-10, 1946

FINAL ACT

The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau met in Habana, from the first to the tenth of October, 1946, under the Presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, and with Dr. Aristides A. Moll as Secretary; it held seven plenary sessions, including the closing session.

There were in attendance the following Honorary Members: Drs. J. de Barros Barreto, Luis Gaitán, Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán; Counselors: Enrique Claveaux and Víctor Arnoldo Sutter; and Members: Guillermo García de Paredes, Luis F. Thomen, Félix Veintemillas, Romualdo Zepeda, Rubén Ramírez Pane and Romeo de León; and as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference, Dr. Armando Castillo Plaza; and as *ex-officio* Member, Dr. John

D. Long, Chief Traveling Representative of the Bureau. At the invitation of the Council, Dr. Pedro Nogueira attended the meetings as an appointed representative of the Government of Cuba.

At the invitation of the Director, there were present as observers, Drs. John R. Murdock and Anthony Donovan, of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The absence of Drs. Jorge Bejarano, Vice-Director; François Duvalier, Member; and M. Martínez Báez, Honorary Member, was excused for justifiable reasons.

The Council studied carefully the report presented by the Director reviewing the work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau since the previous meeting of the Council in Washington in April, 1944, and in order to act more authoritatively on the subjects destined for its consideration, formed three committees, as follows:

Committee on Finances: Drs. Luis F. Thomen, Romualdo Zepeda, Armando Castillo Plaza, and Romeo de León.

Committee on International Relations: Drs. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán; Enrique Claveaux, Guillermo García de Paredes, Pedro Nogueira, Rubén Ramírez Pane, and John D. Long.

Committee on Future Programs: Drs. João de Barros Barreto, Luis Gaitán, Félix Veintemillas, Víctor Arnoldo Sutter, and Aristides A. Moll.

These Committees held various meetings and presented their reports at plenary sessions; these reports were approved and constitute appendices to the Final Act, of which they are an integral part, with the following titles:

- (1) Health Declaration of Habana;
- (2) Draft of Reorganization of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;
- (3) Program for the Caracas Conference; and
- (4) Recommendations of the Committee on Finances.

The Directing Council gave a standing vote of applause and thanks to the Government of the Republic of Cuba, and particularly to H. E. the President, Dr. Ramón Grau San Martín; to the Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare, Dr. José R. Andreu, the Undersecretary of Public Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Ramiro de la Riva, and the Director of Health, Dr. Pedro Nogueira, and the Health Authorities in general, for their generous hospitality, which contributed so greatly to making the meetings of the Council both fruitful and pleasant; to the scientific institutions for their kindly welcome, and especially to the Academy of Medical, Physical, and Natural Sciences and its President, Dr. José A. Presno; to the Habana press for its efficient collaboration; and in general, to the Cuban people, who surrounded the Members of the Council with so much kindness during their stay in a country linked by old and cordial bonds with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Signed in Habana the tenth of October, the year one thousand forty-six.

HUGH S. CUMMING
Director

ENRIQUE CLAVEAUX
Counselor
GUILLERMO GARCÍA DE PAREDES
(Panama)
LUIS F. THOMEN
(Dominican Republic)
ROMUALDO ZEPEDA
(Honduras)
ROMEO DE LEÓN
(Guatemala)
JOÃO DE BARROS BARRETO
Honorary President
CARLOS ENRIQUE PAZ SOLDÁN
Honorary Member

VÍCTOR A. SUTTER
Counselor
RUBÉN RAMÍREZ PANE
(Paraguay)
FÉLIX VEINTEMILLAS
(Bolivia)
PEDRO NOGUEIRA
(Cuba)
ARMANDO CASTILLO PLAZA
(Venezuela)
LUIS GAITÁN
Honorary Member
JOHN D. LONG
ex officio Member

ARÍSTIDES MOLL
Secretary

I Adhere:
JORGE BEJARANO
Vice-Director

HEALTH DECLARATION OF HABANA

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU, convened in Habana, after being informed of, and giving approval to, the position taken by its Director regarding the time and manner of integrating the Bureau with the World Health Organization under the provisions of Article 54 of the Constitution signed in New York on July 22 of this year, in the exercise of its authority, issues the present

DECLARATION
ON THE RELATIONS OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY
BUREAU WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
which is based on the following facts:

I—That the Governments of the Nations included in the Pan American Union expressed themselves foresightedly on this subject in the Final Act of the Chapultepec Conference (*).

* "That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau continue to act as the general co-ordinating sanitary agency of the American Republics and of all other countries of the Western Hemisphere that may wish to utilize its services." "That any world-wide public health organization duly recognize the continental character of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau." "That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau be given such financial aid, technical and other personnel as may be necessary in order that this institution may be in a position to render the best service in its work of coordination and technical direction of sanitary activities in the Americas." (Res. XLV, Final Act of the Chapultepec Conference.)

II—That the Pan American Sanitary Code signed in Habana in 1924 has the force of national law in the 21 Continental Republics, and governs inter-American sanitary cooperation in all its aspects.

III—That the Governing Board of the Pan American Union has repeatedly stated that the continental solidarity of the Republics, members of the Union, is essential to cooperation of all kinds among the countries of the New World; this American creed having been confirmed by the President of the United States in his statement of September 23, 1946 (**) in listing among the fundamentals inspiring the international policy of his country, his belief "that the sovereign states of the Western Hemisphere without interference from outside the Hemisphere must work together as good neighbors in the solution of their common problems."

IV—That the San Francisco Assembly, in 1945, in drafting the United Nations Organization and adopting its Charter, expressly recognized therein the importance of preserving, because of their value and their usefulness for the peace and the social progress of the United Nations, inter-governmental arrangements or agencies organized by specific countries in certain geographical areas for the better service of their regional interests consistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and

V—That the United Nations, in calling a Conference to lay the bases for a single World Health Organization, to replace the organizations paralyzed by the war, did not specify that organizations in full operation and capable of achieving, in part, such objective, were to disappear.

To the foregoing facts, the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau believes it pertinent to add the following:

A—Even though the war paralyzed the international health organizations then existing in Europe and Asia, and compelled the creation of new ones, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau not only continued its normal operations but increased them as its accomplishments show.

B—The meeting of the Committee of Experts, in Paris, and the calling of the International Health Conference of New York, this year, by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, indicate the attempt to draft a World Health Organization.

C—The American countries have cooperated in this objective, bringing the support of their continental health organization, with the reservations specified in the Final Acts of the two above-mentioned Assemblies, to the effect that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall maintain its present constitution.

The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in view of the foregoing,

DECLARES:

I—That the basic policies governing the continental cooperation of the American Republics include public health matters.

II—That the progressive development of the Pan American Health

** See State Department Wireless Bulletin No. 228 of September 23, 1946.

Organization has been a determining factor in the medical-social advances of the Americas and that this system should be maintained to guarantee the essential purposes of the World Health Organization.

III—That in order to enable the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the World Health Organization to integrate their aims, it is necessary or the Republics, members of the Pan American Union, to define the actual scope of Article 54 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, so as to prevent this integration from affecting the identity of the Bureau, lessening its administrative autonomy, limiting its economic independence, disturbing its essential and progressive development and failing to recognize its character as a continental coordinating health organization of the peoples of the Americas.

IV—That to this end, the Governments of the American Republics should make the following reservations when ratifying the New York agreements:

a—That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and its supporting Organizations will maintain their identity, integrity and future development under their own policies, which will be available to all the countries of the Hemisphere.

b—That when the Pan American Sanitary Bureau is integrated as the American Regional Organization, under the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the provisions of Chapter XI shall not be applicable to the Bureau whenever they conflict with its own policies and statutes.

c—And that the integration agreement with the World Health Organization shall specify that the quotas of the American countries for the maintenance of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be deductible from their respective contributions for the maintenance of the World Health Organization. This agreement shall be submitted to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union for approval.

For the purposes of Article 54 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Council considers the Governments of the American Republics to be the competent authorities, and the Pan American Sanitary Conferences to be the interested organizations.

The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau requests the Government of the Republic of Cuba to transmit this document, signed on October 10, 1946, and entitled the Health Declaration of Habana, to the Pan American Union and to the American Governments.

DRAFT OF REORGANIZATION OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau recommends that the Director appoint a Committee which, in accordance with the general outlines of the plan expressed below, shall make a draft of the Constitution and Regulations for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for submission to the Caracas Conference, according to the following general lines:

PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

I.—Purposes of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.—Official center of consultation, information, coordination, orientation, and cooperation for the American countries in public health matters.

II.—Central Organization

A—*Direction* { Director
Sub-director
Secretary-General

B—*Technical Advisory Committee*, including permanent members

C—*Sections*

(a) Health Administration

(b) Epidemiology

(c) Sanitary Engineering

D—*Consultative Committees* (others may be added as they become necessary)

(a) Health Administration:

Public health legislation

Nutrition

Social Security

Control of biologic, pharmaceutical, and narcotic products and other chemical products of public health interest

Medical and Hospital Assistance

(b) Epidemiology:

Malaria

Tuberculosis

Venereal Diseases

Rickettsias

Leprosy

Leishmaniasis

Brucellosis

Communicable Diseases of the Nervous System

III.—Regional Activities

A—*North America* (in charge of the Central Office): Canada, United States, Mexico.

B—*Central America*: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, and European Colonies. (Provisional seat: Guatemala)

C—*South America*: (Eastern zone): Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the Guianas. (Provisional seat: Rio de Janeiro)

D—*South America*: (North-Western zone): Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. (Provisional seat: Lima)

Note: Local representatives may also be appointed in accordance with circumstances.

IV.—Activities in Cooperation with the American Countries

A—Immigration (selection and public health protection in points of concentration and ports of embarkation and disembarkation).

B—Concentration in the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of governmental cooperative activities of public health among different American countries.

C—Interchange of sanitarians and other experts.

D—Training and preparation of public health, medical, and related personnel.

E—Nursing schools.

F—Nutrition.

- G—Tuberculosis.
- H—Venereal Diseases.
- I—Malaria.
- J—Plague.
- K—Rickettsias.
- L—Intestinal infections and parasitoses.
- M—Onchocerciasis.
- N—Public health control along the Pan American Highway.
- O—Sanitary engineering.
- P—Climatologic Studies, including Altitude.
- Q—Exchange and distribution of medical-public health literature, including the *Bulletin* of the Bureau and other special publications.

PROGRAM OF THE CARACAS CONFERENCE

The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, after studying the program for the Conference of Caracas, recommended that it remain as originally prepared with the following changes:

- 1.—To limit Subject 3, "Zoonoses communicable to man," especially to Plague, Rabies and Brucellosis.
- 2.—To appoint two additional committees: one on the Pan American Sanitary Code; the other on relations of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau with the World Health Organization.

Furthermore, it is recommended that all participating countries be advised that the papers on various subjects which are not formal Reports be limited to summaries and conclusions.

With regard to convening committees of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, it was agreed that only the Malaria Committee meet during the Conference. This should not prevent calling meetings of the other committees, should the occasion arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1—That in view of the fact that the quotas contributed by the Republics of the Continent to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau are not sufficient for carrying out its present work, and much less that recommended now by the Program Committee, that the quotas of the different countries be increased in order that the total amount made available to the Bureau may amount to one dollar per each one thousand inhabitants of the Continent.

2—That in view of the fact that the Central Office of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington is inadequately housed, additional space be rented for the better development of its activities.

3—That an annual Budget be prepared for the programs to be carried out and that it be submitted for approval to the Directing Council.

4—That the annual reports of the Director be accompanied by detailed financial reports, including a description of the work done during the period covered by the report.