

13th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C.
23 April - 1 May 1951

Topic 25: PASO RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE ACTIVITIES

Background

Article 23 of the Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization provides that:

"The Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with other organizations having interest in or relation to public health, and to this end may conclude special agreements with such organizations".

In the course of implementing its programs in certain fields, the Bureau has developed relations with a number of non-governmental organizations engaged in public health activities and has had occasion to undertake several projects in cooperation with such organizations involving the use of Bureau personnel and funds. In general, the experience of the Bureau in these joint activities has been satisfactory in the absence of definite written agreements between the Bureau and the organizations concerned.

At the Tenth Meeting of the Executive Committee in April 1950 it was suggested that possibly the Bureau should not conduct the activities of other organizations but should rather make its contributions as a definite limited one established by agreement with the organization concerned.

The situation of the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering (AIDIS) has been the subject of extensive discussion with the officers of this organization and interested parties, but no practical means has been found to carry on the activities of this organization without the direct use of Bureau funds and personnel.

The following is a brief account of the Bureau's relations with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering.

In 1946 the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, through its special committee on Sanitary Engineering, organized in accord with a mandate of the X Pan American Sanitary Conference, Rio 1942, sponsored the foundation of this Association. An officer of the U.S. Public Health Service assigned

to work with the Bureau devoted the major part of his activities to the membership campaign and to the preparation of materials for publication in the Quarterly Journal of the Association. Considerable time was also given to the preparations for the holding of Inter-American Congresses of Sanitary Engineering, the first of which was held in Santiago, Chile in 1948 and the second in Mexico City in March, 1950. Attention should be called to the fact that the Institute of Inter-American Affairs has shown great interest in the Association and has been an important factor in the success of these Congresses.

In addition, the Bureau has contributed office space, equipment facilities and personnel for the membership activities and in the editing of the Journal.

The relationship of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to the Engineering Association is complicated by the fact that the Quarterly Journal is distributed to members as part of the return from membership dues and that this Journal is in turn partially supported by paid advertisements.

After extensive discussion of all of the factors involved, the officers of AIDIS have proposed that the Bureau should:

- a) Permit its Sanitary Engineer to devote part-time to act as Secretary and Advisory Editor to AIDIS
- b) provide a trained assistant to do the bulk of the above duties, so as to permit the Bureau's Sanitary Engineer to devote himself to urgent PASB duties which must take priority
- c) provide a membership and file clerk
- d) provide an additional employee in the Editorial Section to issue the Journal, from the manuscripts provided by employees of the Engineering Section as described above.
- e) provide \$10,000 for publication of the Journal.
- f) provide accessories: office space, equipment, supplies and assistance in organizing conventions.

On its part, AIDIS would commit itself to:

- a) provide a treasurer
- b) turn over its entire income to the Bureau, estimated as possibly as much as \$9,000 for the year.
- c) appoint committees to do detail work and relieve the sanitary engineering Secretary of much detail.

- d) operate in important particulars as an international promotional agency for the Bureau's programs.
- e) operate as an accessory health education agency and convening group in environmental sanitation.
- f) plan its operations so as to become self-supporting.
- g) extend the Bureau's influence among equipment manufacturers' associations of materials, suppliers and other groups which spend money in promotion of sanitary engineering works.

The over-all cost to the Bureau of the above proposal is estimated to be US \$24,858.

The acceptance of this proposal would practically mean that the Bureau would subsidize the Association and the Journal insofar as the Association and the Journal could not be subsidized from membership dues and paid advertisements.

Proposed Resolutions

To meet the foregoing situation, the following resolution is proposed:

"WHEREAS:

Support by the Pan American Sanitary Organization of non-governmental organizations in the international public health field can be a strong means of furthering the objectives of the PASO; and

A specific proposal has emerged from conversations between the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering (AIDIS), for a cooperative agreement with AIDIS during the year 1952,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES:

To authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to enter into an agreement or make other appropriate arrangements with AIDIS to be carried out in 1951 and 1952 within budgetary limitations with the hope that the Association may achieve financial self-sufficiency in the shortest possible time.