

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

INDEXED

Washington, D.C.
May 23-30, 1949

TOPIC III. PROPOSAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU RELATIVE TO THE
PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCES OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization contains the following resolution:

"The Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, mindful of the considerations expressed by the Representatives of Panama and Peru,

RESOLVES:

"10. To direct the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization that it take up immediately a study of the objectives of future Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health so that these may be devoted to study in toto and in situ of the progress achieved in the field of public health in the country where the respective meeting is held.

"This study should take into account the desirability of holding simultaneous annual meetings of National Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization, and should be communicated to the national health authorities six months before the next meeting, for its consideration and incorporation, if approved, as a resolution of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization."

II. COMMENTS

2. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau wishes to point out to the Members of the Executive Committee that, although the Committee has been directed to take up immediately the study of the objectives of future Pan American

Conferences of National Directors of Health, it is not possible at the present stage of rapid development of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to obtain sufficient information for the formulation of a plan for consideration by the Executive Committee, which would include methods for the evaluation of programs in the field of public health in the country where the meeting of National Directors of Health takes place.

3. Furthermore, the following should be taken into consideration:

(a) That the Directing Council will be occupied, after the next meeting, with its responsibilities as a Regional Committee of the World Health Organization;

(b) That the Executive Committee holds at least three meetings a year and that two of them are held in conjunction with the Meeting of the Directing Council, one before and one after;

(c) That several members of the Directing Council have informally expressed the opinion that it is unnecessary to hold simultaneous annual meetings of the Directors of Health and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization; and

(d) That, in consequence, it would appear to be an unduly complicated procedure to hold concurrent meetings of three groups of persons for different purposes, viz: Meeting of the Executive Committee, Meeting of the Regional Committee, and Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health.

III. RECOMMENDATION

4. In order to simplify the procedure and taking into consideration the statements made above, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau recommends:

That the Executive Committee propose that the Directing Council resolve at its Third Meeting, to take place in Lima, Peru, in September 1949, to continue holding Pan American Conferences of National Directors of Health every four years and that such meetings take place simultaneously with the Pan American Sanitary Conferences, thus making it possible for the Conferences of National Directors of Health to meet in different countries, as was instituted at the Sixth Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, which met in October 1948 in Mexico City.

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