

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 3: RELATIONS

BACKGROUND:

(1) The First Session of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization appointed a Negotiating Sub-Committee to draft an Agreement with the Pan American Sanitary Organization. Members: Brazil, the United States, Mexico and Venezuela.

(2) At the Second Session of the Interim Commission (Geneva, November 1946), the Negotiating Sub-Committee prepared a draft Agreement which was submitted for the consideration of the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference, January 1947. At Caracas, the Governments of Venezuela and of the United States, submitted statements on the problem of relations between the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the World Health Organization.

(3) The Final Act of Caracas includes a "Resolution on the Agreement between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization" and an "Annex" which contains a statement of principles.

(4) The Negotiating Sub-Committee of the World Health Organization submitted a Report transmitting the Caracas Resolution (Document WHO/IC/R/8), to the Third Session of the Interim Commission (Geneva, April 1947). The Interim Commission voted to continue the existence of the Negotiating Sub-Committee.

(5) The Negotiating Sub-Committee of the World Health Organization at Geneva, August 1947, attempted to harmonize (WHO/IC/R/24, September 4, 1947) the "discrepancies" between the draft agreements previously prepared by the said Sub-Committee and the Resolution of Caracas, taking into consideration a note submitted by the Representative of the United Kingdom (WHO/IC/R/14, April 10, 1947). At the same Session the Representative from Canada submitted a proposal (WHO/IC/118), and the Representative of Peru, an opinion (WHO/IC/118, September 11, 1947).

(6) The Interim Commission of the World Health Organization at its Fourth Session discussed the draft report of the Negotiating Sub-Committee, suggested certain changes (WHO/IC/119; WHO/IC/R/27, September 11, 1947), and voted for the continuance of the same Negotiating Sub-Committee.

After studying the original document (WHO/IC/R/24, September 4, 1947) which attempted to solve the existing discrepancies, as well as document WHO/IC/119, September 11, 1947), and interpreting that said Negotiating Sub-Committee regards as acceptable the other provisions (not included here) specified in the resolution of the XII Pan Amer-

ican Sanitary Conference of Caracas, the Committee agreed to the following:

Paragraph 2. To be worded as follows: The Pan American Sanitary Conference and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall act respectively as the Regional Committee and the Regional Office of the World Health Organization, for the Western Hemisphere, within the provisions of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. In deference to tradition, both organizations shall retain their respective names to which shall be added "Regional Committee of the World Health Organization" and "Regional Office of the World Health Organization", respectively.

Paragraphs 3 and 4. We agree that these be deleted, as they are merely a reference to Article 47 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

Paragraphs 5 and 6. We propose that these be combined into a single paragraph, reading: The Pan American Sanitary Conference may adopt and promote health and sanitary conventions and programs in the Western Hemisphere, provided that such conventions and programs are not incompatible with the policy and programs of the World Health Organization and are separately financed.

Paragraph 7. The Committee agrees that the final part of this paragraph be deleted and that the revised wording be as follows: When this agreement enters into force, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall assume the post of Regional Director of the World Health Organization, until the termination of the period for which he was elected. Thereafter the Regional Director shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article 52 of the World Health Organization Constitution and by a two-thirds vote of the American Republics.

Paragraph 8. The Committee agrees that this paragraph should be deleted.

Paragraph 10. The Committee agrees with the suggestion of the Committee on Relations of the World Health Organization, that no sum be fixed in the budget, it being phrased as follows: "It is recommended that an adequate proportion of the budget of the World Health Organization be allocated for regional work".

Paragraph 13. Although the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization recommends the deletion of this paragraph, this Committee resolves that it be retained and read as follows: "This Agreement may be revised or annulled by either of the parties, with a year's notice". (After legal consultation.)

The Committee,

taking into consideration the foregoing exposition and recognizing the necessity for continued functioning of the Pan American Sanitary Organization as an independent entity for the solution of sanitary and health problems of a continental character,

RECOMMENDS :

(a) acceptance of the solution proposed in this Report on the "discrepancies" mentioned in the original document (WHO/IC/R/24, September 4, 1947);

(b) authorization of the Executive Committee to act as negotiator with the Negotiating Sub-Committee of the World Health Organization (Article 5 of the Resolution concerning the Agreement between the Pan American Sanitary Organization and the World Health Organization, Caracas), reporting to the next meeting of the Directing Council; and

(c) suggestion to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that the recommendations on personnel contained in the original document be considered when the agreement on this point is discussed with the Director General of the World Health Organization.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS :

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL recognizes that

(a) it is important to establish relations with specialized organizations, either governmental or non-governmental, created in accordance with inter-governmental or private agreements, with international responsibilities, and whose basic instruments may contain principles related to the physical and mental integrity of the individual;

(b) it is a principle accepted by American sanitarians that all efforts directed towards prevention and cure of disease and promotion of health should be unified under one command;

(c) the program of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau also includes medical care and socio-medical activities in which independent organizations have been working without proper coordination;

(d) there is a large number of these organizations with complicated and specific internal regulations which would, without previous knowledge, render difficult the establishment of relations;

(e) it is imperative that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau maintain close relations with the Pan American Union without prejudice to the independence of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;

(f) it is of great importance to centralize the arrangements for fellowships, the interchange of specialists, and congresses, for the better development of cultural activities, and for increasing of technical personnel; and

(g) many difficulties exist in coordinating efficiently such widely separated activities;

RECOMMENDS :

(a) that the Directing Council designate the Executive Committee to act as the Relations Committee;

(b) that the Executive Committee begin the necessary studies to achieve centralization within the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of all those inter-American institutions which at present are promoting the physical and mental well-being of the inhabitants of the Continent;

(c) that a section or department be established within the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to study and suggest the type of relations which should exist with these organizations, submitting its recommendations, through the Director of the Bureau, for approval by the Executive Committee;

(d) that this section or department continue to compile data on the activities of said organizations so that it may, at any time, furnish such information to countries requesting it; and

(e) that the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau be authorized to study and draft, in agreement with the Director General of the Pan American Union, pertinent measures for the relationship between the two Organizations.