

*directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXVI Meeting

*regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

XXXI Meeting



Washington, D.C.  
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Provisional Agenda Item 7

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE XXVI MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL OF PAHO, XXXI MEETING OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAS

In accordance with Article 14 of the Constitution of PAHO and Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, I have the honor and the duty to report to you on the two Meetings, the 81st and the 82nd, held by the Executive Committee in the last 12 months.

81st MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 81st Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO was held in St. George's, Grenada, on 4 October 1978, and was attended by all the members of the Committee, namely: Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela.

As usual, the Committee received valuable support from Dr. H. Acuña, Director of the Bureau and Secretary *ex officio* of the Meeting.

The officers of the Committee were unanimously elected and were as follows: Chairman, the Representative of Canada, who now has the honor to address you; Vice-Chairman, Dr. José Manuel Padilla (Venezuela); and Rapporteur, Dr. José Leonel Barrios (Guatemala).

The Committee held a single session at which the new members--Peru, Guatemala and the United States of America--were installed.

Peru was appointed member of the Award Committee for the PAHO Award for Administration to fill the vacancy that occurred on the expiry of the term of office of Bahamas as member of the Executive Committee.

A group composed of the Representatives of Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America was established to study changes in the structure of WHO, and to make pertinent recommendations thereon to the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee.

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Director was entrusted with convening the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, in consultation with its Chairman.

When it had dealt with these procedural matters, the 81st Meeting of the Executive Committee adopted a resolution of great interest relating to a proposed loan from the Inter-American Development Bank for expanding the program for textbooks and instructional materials. It authorized the Director to furnish the joint and several guarantee of PAHO for all the obligations that the Pan American Health Education Foundation might contract with the IDB so that the Bank could award it a loan in the amount of \$6,500,000.

#### 82nd MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is now a special pleasure for me to fulfill my constitutional duty of reporting to you on the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, of which I had the honor to be the Chairman. In that capacity I was efficiently supported by Dr. Jorge Rodríguez Díaz (Venezuela) and by Dr. Carlos L. de Paredes (Guatemala) who, at the first plenary session, were elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur pro tempore, respectively, in the absence of Dr. José M. Padilla (Venezuela) and Dr. José L. Barrios (Guatemala).

It was a very hard-working meeting in which the understanding and the spirit of service of all the members of the Committee, and the diligent, effective and constant assistance of the Director and of the staff of the Bureau, made it possible both to deal expeditiously with the agenda and to make a detailed and in-depth study of all the problems, and thus to present to the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council, XXXI Meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas, the recommendations I shall detail later and which, I am sure, are going to assist you in the difficult task you have undertaken on behalf of the health of the peoples of the Americas.

The 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO was held in Washington, D.C., in the Headquarters building, from 25 June to 3 July 1979, and was attended by Representatives of all its nine members, namely: Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela. Also present at the Meeting were four observers from non-member countries of the Committee, namely: Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, and Chile, and from the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (of the Organization of American States), and from the Pan American Federation of Schools of Medicine.

The Committee held 13 plenary sessions and a closing session. The first six plenary sessions were devoted almost exclusively to a detailed examination of items 7, 8 and 9 of the Agenda, that is, of the program and budget for the biennium 1980-1981. In this way the Executive Committee was performing an essential function, since Article 14.C of the Constitution of PAHO requires it to consider and submit to the Council the proposed program and budget prepared by the Director of the Bureau, with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I am going to give a careful account of the discussions that took place on the proposed program and budget, as well as the conclusions the Committee reached and the recommendations it is making to the Council. However, I shall deal succinctly with all the items and, by and large, follow the order in which the various agenda items were dealt with during the Meetings, since all are important and warrant the attention of the Governing Bodies.

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

As its first plenary session, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposed agenda for the Meeting, and decided to include in Item 24, "Other Matters," an examination of the Report of the Study Group on Gastroenteric Diseases, which had just finished meeting at Headquarters; the request of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) that it be granted the status of observer to the Governing Bodies of PAHO; plans for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Kellogg Foundation; the question of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research; and leprosy control.

Item 3: Date of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted, without discussion, Resolution I, which authorized the Director to convene the present Meeting at Headquarters from 24 September to 5 October 1979.

Item 5: Provisional Agenda of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

This item also did not give rise to any discussion and the provisional agenda of this Meeting was unanimously adopted in Resolution II of the Executive Committee.

Item 5: Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions

At its first plenary session, the Committee was informed that as of 30 June 1979, \$679,805 in arrears and \$11,655,205 in current quotas

had been collected. Outstanding arrears amounted to \$2,751,627 and current quotas receivable to \$23,829,295, or 67 per cent of the total. Somewhat less (33 per cent) had been collected at the same date than in the previous year (39 per cent).

The three countries with approved payment plans for liquidating their arrears had made a payment in 1979.

The Director reported that the new Government of Grenada had recognized the debt of the former government and had requested that it be written off, a request the Director was unable to accede to since he lacked the authority to do so.

There was no further discussion of the matter and, at its fifth plenary session, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution III, which took note of the situation, thanked the Governments that had already made payments, urged the other Governments to pay their current quotas as soon as possible, and requested the Director to report to the Directing Council on the status of the collection of quota contributions.

Item 6: Financial Report of the Director and Report of the External Auditor for 1978

In this connection, Dr. Cooney (Chief of Budget and Finance) explained the contents of Official Document 160 in general terms, Dr. de Quadros (PASB) gave an account of the status of the Expanded Program on Immunization, and Mr. Moore, Executive Secretary of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation, reported on the activities financed out of trust funds and on the Textbook Program. The members of the Committee carefully studied all the financial transactions of PAHO, and the results of their deliberations were embodied in two resolutions (ultimately adopted at the fifth plenary session). In the first of these resolutions (Resolution IV), the Committee took note, as is customary, of the Financial Report of the Director and the Report of the External Auditor for fiscal year 1978, and commended the Director for having maintained a sound financial position for the Organization. The second resolution (Resolution V) is of special interest to the Directing Council because in it the Executive Committee, after careful reflection, recommends to you the use to which, in its opinion, the surplus of \$1,080,846 transferred from the Working Capital Fund to a special account should be put, namely: \$800,000 to the Revolving Fund for the Expanded Program on Immunization, \$150,000 for the renovation of the Conference Room at Headquarters, and the remaining \$130,846 for the purchase of an office building for the Area II Office in Mexico City, in the light of the feasibility study now being made.

Item 7: Proposed Program and Budget Estimates of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1980-1981

Item 8: Provisional Draft of the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Health Organization for the Biennium 1982-1983

Item 9: Tentative Budgetary Projections for the Program Budget of the World Health Organization for the Region of the Americas for the Biennium 1982-1983

The Director presented the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates of PAHO for 1980-1981. He explained that Official Document 161 had been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Governing Bodies and in the light of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, the WHO General Program of Work, and the conclusions of the Meeting of Alma Ata on Primary Health Care. It was a full explanation of the essential mechanisms involved in the preparation of budgets, which showed the faithfulness of the document to the requirements of the countries, within the above-mentioned guidelines, and which at the same time constituted an integrating framework for all the health policies of the Americas and of the Region throughout the world. At the same time, the Director brought the members of the Committee up to date on the changes that were being made in the Bureau to enable it to better serve the countries.

The Proposed Program and Budget Estimates for 1980-1981, prepared by the Director, show an increase of 4.1 per cent over the previous two-year period. The proposed amount is \$75,534,600. WHO regular funds show an increase of 21.6 per cent, and were approved by the last World Health Assembly.

PAHO regular funds represent 45.2 per cent of the total budget; those of WHO account for 22.5 per cent, and the remaining 32.3 per cent comes from extrabudgetary funds.

If you approve these proposals, the activities of the Organization will have the following resources: Program of Services, \$88,998,222 or 53.5 per cent; Development of the Infrastructure, \$59,191,748 or 35.3 per cent; and Administrative Direction and Governing Bodies, \$18,608,500, which accounts for the remaining 11.2 per cent. The resources assigned to technical cooperation amount to \$148,189,970 or 88.8 per cent of the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates for 1980-1981.

The discussion that ensued following the Director's presentation was animated and interesting. It took up almost another five plenary sessions. In addition to Dr. Acuña, detailed explanations of the parts relating to their respective special fields and answers to the many

questions put were given by Mr. Muldoon (Chief of Administration), Dr. de Villiers (Chief, Division of Comprehensive Health Services), Dr. Vallejo (who spoke on the educational component of many programs), Dr. Ochoa (Chief, Division of Disease Prevention and Control), Dr. Western, who dealt with leprosy control programs, and Dr. Nájera, who gave a detailed explanation of how it was intended to deal with the malaria problem, a subject that had given rise to many questions and comments by the members of the Committee. The next speaker was Mr. Butrico (Chief, Division of Environmental Health Protection) and there was a large number of questions and comments, especially on water supply.

At the fourth plenary session, Dr. Ferreira (Chief, Division of Human Resources and Research) and Mrs. Toney reported to the members of the Executive Committee on the fellowship program and the problems of the subsequent use of the services of fellows, a subject which also aroused much interest and prompted many comments. Dr. Gerald (Chief, Division of Supporting Services) also spoke on statistical information and on automated data processing. Next, Dr. Acha dealt with the Special Program of Animal Health, and several Representatives emphasized the important bearing of foot-and-mouth disease on the economy of their countries.

At the fifth plenary session Mr. Muldoon again spoke, reporting this time on the budget for Administrative Direction and Governing Bodies, after which he reviewed the specifications country by country. This part of the study of the budget was meticulous, and a number of explanations were given by staff members of the Bureau on what appeared to be budgetary reductions because of lack of accurate information on the extrabudgetary funds that may be obtained, for example, from UNDP. The Director also clearly explained that in the budget there is a certain amount of flexibility for dealing with the changing needs of the countries or the priorities arising from changes in the policy of the governments.

At the end of the fifth plenary session, Dr. Acuña presented the part of the budget dealing with Area Representatives and Advisers and with AMRO projects.

The important discussion of the budget was completed during the sixth plenary session and the Representatives of the Member Countries of the Committee expressed their agreement with the allocations and the quotas proposed by the Director in Official Document 161.

At the seventh plenary session, the Committee unanimously approved Resolution VIII in which, after having carefully studied the matter, it recommends to you that you approve the Proposed Program and Budget Estimates of the Pan American Health Organization for 1980-1981 presented by the Director.

Finally, at the eighth plenary session the Executive Committee unanimously approved without further discussion Resolution XI, in which it recommends that you take note of the provisional draft of the proposed program and budget estimates of the Pan American Health Organization for 1982-1983 that will constitute the basis of the final budget, as well as Resolution XII, in which it again recommends to you that you approve the provisional draft of the program budget of the World Health Organization for 1982-1983 so that the Director can transmit it to the Director General of WHO.

Since the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee last June and July, the Director has been informed by WHO Headquarters in Geneva that it is not necessary for this Directing Council, in its capacity as Regional Committee of WHO, to take any action upon the 1982-1983 WHO Regular program budget. However, a resolution will be needed by the XXVII Meeting of the Directing Council in 1980 in order for the January 1981 meeting of the WHO Executive Board and the May 1981 World Health Assembly to take action on the recommendations from this Region's Governing Bodies. Therefore, no action is required at this time on Resolution XII of the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Item 15: Appointment of a Standing Subcommittee to Review Applications by Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations to Enter into Official Relations with PAHO

In accordance with operative paragraph 1.4 of Resolution XX of the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Executive Committee appointed, at its second plenary session, a Standing Subcommittee on Nongovernmental Organizations composed of the Representatives of Paraguay, Venezuela, and Guatemala (during the term of office of those countries on the Committee, one member being replaced each year in order to ensure the continuity of its functions). The corresponding Resolution (VII) was adopted at the seventh plenary session and, after receiving reports prepared by the new subcommittee, the Committee also adopted (at its thirteenth plenary session) resolutions authorizing the establishment of official working relations with the Latin American Federation of Hospitals (Resolution XXVIII) and the Inter-American Council of Psychiatric Associations (Resolution XXIX).

Item 12: Representation of the Executive Committee at the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, XXXI Meeting of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

At the third plenary session, the Executive Committee designated Dr. Lelio Bringel Calheiros (Brazil) and Dr. Jorge Rodríguez Díaz

(Venezuela) to share with me the honor of reporting to you on whatever you wish to know about the work of the Executive Committee. To that end, at the seventh plenary session, Resolution VII was officially adopted. It designates Dr. de Paredes (Guatemala) and Dr. Endara (Ecuador) alternates.

Item 10: Costs of Administering Grant Funds

The Director explained that the actual costs of administering grant funds were usually in the order of 31 per cent, and cited the example of some US agencies that accepted that figure. During the subsequent discussion, it was emphasized that it was advisable to adopt a flexible attitude towards each case and to submit reports to the Directing Council whenever the costs of administering grants had to be charged in part or in whole to the regular budget funds of PAHO. Accordingly, at the tenth plenary session, the Committee adopted Resolution XIV.

Item 14: Resolutions of the 63rd Executive Board and of the Thirty-second World Health Assembly of Interest to the Executive Committee

The Director reviewed the resolutions of the most recent WHO meetings, and commented on the points that had any implications for the program of the Americas and the activities of the Region. A short discussion followed but it was not deemed necessary to adopt a resolution on this item.

Preparatory Documentation for Meetings of the Committee

At the sixth plenary session, Colonel Ampuero Ríos, Representative of Peru, initiated a discussion on this matter which was again dealt with at the eighth plenary session. The outcome was Resolution XV, which was adopted by a majority vote of the Committee at its tenth plenary session. Some Representatives stated that they had not received the documents for the 82nd Meeting sufficiently in advance. The Secretary gave details of the measures taken for dispatching the documents, and said that, while it was known when they left the Bureau, it was not known when they reached the countries. There was a discussion on whether Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee should be understood to mean that the period of 21 days was to be calculated from the dispatch or from the receipt of the document and, finally, it was decided to amend Rule 4 to remove any doubts that the Governments should actually have three weeks in which to study the documentation of each Meeting.



Item 16: Evaluation of Pan American Centers

In presenting this item, Mr. Lostumbo (PASB) said that it had been decided to begin with the evaluation of the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), since it was a requirement of that institution to make an intermediate evaluation of its activities in December 1979. It was also decided to begin with the Latin American Center for Perinatology and Human Development because of the importance of its functions and because 1979 is the International Year of the Child. After that, the other Centers would be evaluated. Following an explanation of the evaluation arrangements, there was a short debate in which the Representatives expressed their agreement with the evaluation procedure proposed. This was duly reflected in Resolution XVI, which was adopted at the tenth plenary session.

Item 17: Amendments to the Staff Rules of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

In presenting this item, Dr. Ortega (Chief, Office of Personnel) said that the proposed amendments were based on similar amendments approved by WHO in January and May 1979, and he gave details of the various amendments proposed. He also informed the Executive Committee that the Staff Committee requested that, under specified conditions, a grant be paid to PASB staff members upon termination (Staff Rule 375). At its 78th Meeting, the Executive Committee had left the application of this Rule in abeyance until the United Nations approved the pertinent recommendation of the International Civil Service Commission. Since the United Nations had not adopted any new decision on the subject, the Staff Committee understands that there is inequality of treatment between staff members that are paid out of the WHO budget and would be entitled to a termination grant if they left the service, and staff members that are paid out of the PAHO budget and would not be entitled to that grant.

The Committee heard a report presented by Mr. Florez, Chairman of the 29th PASB Staff Committee in which, among other things, he referred to the discrepancies in employment conditions in INCAP and in CEPANZO and in the Pan American centers in general, as well as the concern caused by the continuous changes in the organization of the Bureau. Mr. Florez again expressed the wish that staff members whose contracts were not renewed after 10 years of service be paid a termination grant, whether they were paid out of the PAHO budget or out of WHO regional funds.

These questions gave rise to a lengthy discussion. The Director explained that the right to a grant had been established by the WHO Executive Board in cases of termination of employment because of the

retrenchment that required the suppression of 363 posts at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, that is to say, for persons whose posts no longer appeared in the budget. The only Region that had not had to suppress posts was the Region of the Americas and, therefore, it was not necessary to apply Rule 375.

The result of the discussion was the approval, at the seventh plenary session, of Resolutions X and XI in which the Committee confirmed the amendments to the Staff Rules of PASB presented by the Director, thus leaving paragraph 2 of Resolution VIII of the 78th Meeting of the Executive Committee unchanged, that is, to leave in abeyance the application in PASB of Rule 375.

With respect to employment systems in the Pan American centers, the Director acknowledged that it was regrettable that in INCAP, for example, employment contracts, renewable every three months if grants were received for that purpose, were awarded, and that some persons had served under such contracts for 20 years. However, that could not be avoided because of INCAP's financial structure in which the bulk of the expenditures were funded by grants instead of by regular budgetary funds. Accordingly, the Executive Committee, at its thirteenth plenary session, adopted Resolution XXX in which it requested the Director to undertake a review of the personnel employment conditions in the Pan American centers and to submit it to the Executive Committee as soon as possible, together with such recommendations as he deems appropriate.

The Executive Committee considered and subsequently confirmed the amendments to the Staff Rules which were in line with those adopted by the Executive Board of WHO at its Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth Sessions. This action of the Executive Committee introduced significant improvements in the employment conditions of the PASB staff, particularly in the areas of the education grant, a special provision for the education of disabled children, the assignment allowance, and the installation lump sum element. Certain modifications were implemented in the conditions of eligibility for the repatriation grant and the grant in case of death.

#### Item 19: Progress Report on TCDC Activities

Dr. Salazar (PASB), when presenting the item to the eighth plenary session, gave details of the United Nations Conference on TCDC in Buenos Aires and on the Action Plan adopted there. He also reported on the results of the Technical Discussions held during the Thirty-second World Health Assembly, which also dealt with technical cooperation among developing countries.

The animated debate that took place in the Executive Committee was very helpful and brought out the various fields of action in which TCDC could be more effective. The Director summed up the discussion, and the consensus was embodied in a draft resolution that was again discussed at the tenth plenary session and finally adopted at the twelfth (Resolution XXI), which gave new impulse to TCDC in the field of health in the Americas.

Item 20: Extension of Health Services

The Director presented this item at the end of the eight plenary session. After putting the extension of health services in the context of the responsibility of the Governing Bodies and of the Member Countries of PAHO for the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, the formulation of strategies for achieving "Health for all by the year 2000," and the preparation of the WHO Seventh General Program of Work (which is to begin in 1984), he suggested that all three activities be consolidated and invited the Executive Committee to cooperate in this task with the Headquarters Program Committee through a subcommittee on long-term planning and programming.

At the ninth plenary session, the Representative of Ecuador, Dr. Endara, endorsed the suggestion of the Director and officially presented a draft resolution of the establishment of a subcommittee on long-term planning and programming of the Executive Committee. The proposal was unanimously supported by the Members of the Committee, who adopted the proposed resolution (Resolution XIII).

At the eleventh plenary session, the Committee also approved Resolution XIX, in which it adopts the action plan proposed by the Director.

Finally, at the twelfth plenary session, after a short discussion, it was decided by a majority of votes that there should be two representatives of the Executive Committee on the Subcommittee on Long-term Planning and Programming. The Committee appointed the Representatives of Canada and Guatemala for that purpose. The Subcommittee on Long-Term Planning and Programming held its first meeting with the two representatives of the Executive Committee during the hours following the closure of the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Item 21: Amendments to the Financial Rules of the Pan American Health Organization

Dr. Cooney (Chief of Budget and Finance), in presenting this item, recalled that, through its Resolution XII, the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference had already amended the PAHO Financial Regulations to adapt them to the new biennial program and budget cycle. The amendments to the Financial Rules of PAHO, which the Executive Committee was requested to confirm, were also the consequence of the need to adapt to the new biennial budget cycle.

The members of the Committee requested a number of clarifications, which showed that the new system would permit greater flexibility, for example for transferring allocations from one year to another, and expressed their agreement with the proposal. Consequently, at the eleventh plenary session the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XVIII on this item.

Item 22: Report on Buildings and Installations

This item was presented at the ninth plenary session by Mr. Larrea, Chief of the Department of Conference and General Services, who reported on the status of facilities in Areas II, IV, and VI. He next referred to the report presented on the program of administration and prevention of losses in several Pan American centers, and provided a number of details of great interest.

The members of the Executive Committee expressed their agreement and satisfaction with the efficient administration of buildings and installations, but considered that it was not necessary to adopt a resolution on the subject.

Item 23: Situation Report of PAHO's Disaster Preparedness Program in the Americas

Dr. de Ville (PASB) presented this item at the ninth plenary session and dealt with the two main components of the program: assistance to countries in their preparations and assistance in actual cases of disaster.

The ensuing discussion was lengthy and animated and covered all the aspects of the activities and their coordination. The Committee was informed that Canada had pledged to donate US\$385,860 to the Natural Disaster Relief Voluntary Fund, of which \$220,860 had already been disbursed. Some members of the Committee expressed the wish that assistance not be limited to natural disasters but that it also cover man-made disasters, and should be extended to the prevention, care and rehabilitation of victims, and that the Organization should endeavor to induce other agencies to make contributions for coping with disasters. As a result of the discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously adopted Resolution XXII at its twelfth plenary session.

Item 24: Other Matters

Request for Observer Status from the Subregional Organization  
CARICOM

This request gave rise to a discussion that began at the end of the ninth plenary session and in which, without the advisability of

acceding to the request of CARICOM being questioned, the principle was established that requests of this type should be accompanied by documents on the requesting organization and should be subject to a prior study. Consequently, by a majority vote, the Committee decided to establish a working group to examine the request and to report back to the Committee. The Working Group composed of the Representatives of Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela, presented to the tenth plenary session a report that recommended that you should authorize CARICOM to appoint an observer to the meetings of the Directing Council and the Conference and in which the Director is requested to make a study of the procedures for establishing relations with intergovernmental organizations. Consequently, at its twelfth plenary session the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XXII.

#### Fiftieth Anniversary of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation

At the tenth plenary session, Dr. del Cid (Assistant Director) reminded the members of the Executive Committee of the generous and close cooperation of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation with PAHO. He stated that the Director had suggested that a recommendation be made to the Council that it adopt a resolution commemorating that anniversary and added that the celebration could take the form of the unveiling of a plaque to that effect and the joint preparation of a publication by PAHO and the Foundation on the scientific achievements of the two institutions.

The members of the Committee supported the proposals and, at the twelfth plenary session, adopted Resolution XXIV on this commemoration.

#### PAHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research

Next, Dr. del Cid described the history of this first PAHO advisory body, that has served as a model for many others of a similar nature. He gave details of its establishment and of its extremely important work, and recalled that, since 1977, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, on the invitation of the Director, has attended meetings of the Directing Council, to which he presents his report. He suggested that the submission of such reports be institutionalized as one of the obligations of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and that the matter be included on the Agenda of the meeting of the Directing Council. The members of the Committee expressed unanimous agreement with this proposal, and, consequently, the Committee decided to include this item on the Agenda of your meeting.

#### Report of the Multidisciplinary Study Group on Acute Diarrheal Diseases

Dr. Cáceres, Representative of Paraguay, opened the discussion on this item at the end of the tenth plenary session. He explained that he

had requested that this matter be dealt with under Item 24 of the Agenda (Other Matters) in response to the request of the Director that, in the light of the conclusions of the Study Group, a policy on the control of diarrheal diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean area be recommended.

Dr. Rust (PASB) then report on the discussions of the Study Group, including the new strategies developed that had been incorporated into the WHO Global Diarrheal Diseases Control Program, including oral rehydration, which would make it possible to reduce infant mortality.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, it was emphasized that it was necessary to increase contributions to the program and not to overlook the indirect causes of those diseases, for example, inadequate supply of safe water.

Dr. Rust acknowledged that oral rehydration was a short-term remedy, although it was extremely useful in the present circumstances. All the Members of the Committee approved these plans and, at the thirteenth plenary session, adopted Resolution XXVII on this item.

#### Hemispheric Plan for the Promotion and Support of Malaria Programs

Dr. Egas, Alternate Representative of Ecuador, submitted a draft resolution on this item and explained that it was in line with the instructions of the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference which, in Resolution XVII, had requested that the III Meeting of Directors of the National Malaria Eradication Services in the Americas held in Mexico in 1979 be devoted to the formulation of a hemispheric plan.

The draft resolution was warmly received in principle by the members of the Committee who, during the subsequent discussion, introduced a number of amendments into the text. Accordingly, at the tenth plenary session Resolution XVII, embodying these amendments, was adopted with a view to giving further momentum to the malaria campaign in the Americas.

#### Leprosy Control in the American Region

At the twelfth plenary session, Dr. Andrews (Trinidad and Tobago) submitted a draft resolution on this item recommending an increase in leprosy control activities and requesting the Director to endeavor to obtain extrabudgetary funds for that purpose. After a short discussion, the draft resolution was adopted with slight amendment (Resolution XXV).

#### Item 13: Report on the XII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control

At the eleventh plenary session, Dr. Germán Bula Hoyos, Minister of Agriculture of Colombia (representing RICAZ XII), and Dr. Acha

(Special Program of Animal Health, PASB) gave a full report on the results of the Meeting. They emphasized the excellent work done by both the Pan American Zoonoses Center and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and their pressing need for funds, as well as the fact that the Ministers of Agriculture, meeting in Curaçao, were of the opinion that the Centers should continue to be the responsibility of PAHO.

Mr. Rangel, Observer for the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (OAS) also spoke, and described the work of the Institute, which, he said, could assume responsibility for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center if at the same time the necessary funds for its operation were transferred to it.

The question of whether the Committee should recommend to the Directing Council that it approve a supplementary budget amounting to \$3,728,500 to restore and expand the operation of the two above-mentioned Pan American Centers in 1980-1981 was heatedly discussed. The argument of those who were opposed to a percentage increase in the budget for animal health greater than that which had been accepted in the budget of the Director for human health was defeated, and, accordingly, at the thirteenth plenary session Resolution XXVI was adopted after a number of ballots and with some amendments.

Item 11: PAHO Award for Administration, 1979

At the beginning of the twelfth plenary session, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XX, in which it took note of the decision of the Award Committee that the nomination of Mr. Antonio J. Sucre, presented by the Government of Panama, be deferred for consideration in conjunction with such other nominations as might be received in 1980. This decision was taken in the light of the report that was read to the meeting by Colonel Ampuero Ríos, Representative of Peru, who is the Chairman of the Award Committee.

Congratulations to the President of the United States of America

In accordance with the decision adopted by the Committee at the end of its twelfth plenary session, and as Chairman of the Committee, I had the honor to send a message congratulating the President of the United States of America on the occasion of Independence Day, July 4th.

Item 18: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the "Study of WHO's Structures in the Light of its Functions"

This report was presented to the thirteenth plenary session by Dr. Bryant, Representative of the United States of America and Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. He gave a detailed account of the work accomplished and of the questionnaire that had been sent to the Member Countries.

During the subsequent debate, there was unanimous praise for the empirical approach the Ad Hoc Committee had adopted in its work, and a number of suggestions were made. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution XXXI, which urged the Ad Hoc Committee and the Secretariat to continue the study and submit to you a consolidated draft final report of the Region, and urged all the Governments that had not done so to reply to the questionnaire before 31 July so that their views could be incorporated in the report.

In addition, the Committee appointed Guatemala to the Ad Hoc Committee to replace one of the two members whose term of office on the Executive Committee was now ending. The country that is to replace the other outgoing Member will have to be appointed by the Executive Committee in its 83rd Meeting, for which it will have a new membership that will be known when this XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council is over.

It now only remains for me to say that the 82nd Meeting of the Executive Committee came to its successful close at its session held on 3 July 1979.

I wish to thank you for the patience and attention with which you have heard me, and, together with my colleagues from the Committee, I am at your disposal to provide you with any further information you may need.

Thank you, Mr. President.