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REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMEITTEE FOR AFRICA OF THE
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QIORLD PEALTH ORGANISATION HERLD IN BRAZZAVILLE, 11 - 24 SEPTEMBER, 1280.
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The Thirtieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa was opened by Dr. F. E. Vos, Deputy Chairman of the Regional Committee and Deputy Minister of Health of the People's Republic of Mozambique. His Excellency Colonel Louis - Sylvain Goma, member of the Political Bureau, Prime Minister, Head of the Government of the People's Republic of Congo, honoured the opening meeting with his presence. Dr. Comlan A.A. Quenem, Regional Direetor, ih his opening address conveyed the regrets of Dr. Mahler, Director General of WHO at his inability to attend the Session for the first time since 1973. Dr. Quenem conveyed also the statement sent by the Director General "Use your WHO". Dr. Quenem reiterated and developed the key idea of the health liberation of Africgn countries, as the only posSible)" way to redesh the secial target of health for all by the year 2000. He took the opportunity te express his joy at seeing Zimbabwe take its place as a sovereign state and also welcomed the Seychelles and Ehdatorial Guinea which now occupy thei r rightful places.

The present session was to afford an excellent opportunity for reflexion concerning . the value of the various resolutions, adopted. Those resolutions had te be put into practical exercise, for failure to translate them into facts would mean that the efforts made to promote health would be in vain.

To assure continuity and effieiciency of health development work, new programme policies had been put into effect over the previous few years:

(a) Substitution of the idea of technical cooperation for that of assistanee.
(b) Active participatiOh by Member states in their Organisations health development work. .

(c) The improvement&and propagation of managerial process for health developmeht and the premotion of primary health ease.

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The Regional Director asked the Committee for sEeggfic ggidelines to ensure work that would prepare the future of health in Africa in terms of the need for Africa to liberate itself politically, economically and socially. Health is at the heart of codtemporary economic, social and political thinking.

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:3 is impossible to think about and develop health separately from the society it has to serve.

The practice of community health is undeniably revolutionary in that it implies a painful review of the uses of technologies. Primary Health Care in this sense has a social significance that would bring about by the year 2000, radically different health systems founded on respect for human rights and equity. As a consequence, "Health for all by the year 2000" is a truly revolutionary concept. If one asked the peoples of Africa and the world what they regarded as man's most precious possession, they would straightway answer "health". To achieve that state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, Africa has to increase its knowledge, its ability to act, to be and to be and to teach, which would give it the strength for its health liberation.

23: F.E. veg, affirmed that it would be impossible to speak of health for all while people were still deprived of their freedom. Colonel Louis-Sylvain Coma, welcomed the representatives of member states on behalf of the Congolese people, the Congolese Workers Party and its leader. By signing the Charter for the Health Development of the African Region during the opening meeting, the Government of the People's Republic of Congo was solemnly declaring its political will to engage in the joint effort to bring all the peoples of the world to an acceptable health.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE WORK OF WHO IN 1982

The Regional Director asked the Committee for specific guidelines to enable him to continue or reorient health development activities for the worst (rural and periurban) served populations in the context of the social target of health for all by the year 2000. The report focussed on:

- (a) Promotion and development of primary health care.
- (b) Formulation of the regional strategy. _
- (c) Preparation of the Seventh General Programme of Work.
- (d) Study of the organisation's structure in the light of its functions.
- (e) Utilisation of managerial processes for health development.
- (f) Malaria control and strategy.
- (g) Promotion of social and health research for development.

The bulk of the report was devoted to primary health care and its eight components. It stressed the importance of support systems at both national and international. /3

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at level to sustain communities motivation and enthusiasm. Considerable efforts are still required to make the mechanism for the supply and distribution of essential drugs operational. The notification of cases of the communicable diseases subject to international surveillance was a weak point. All Member States were urged to promptly notify cases of cholera and other communicable diseases, so that epidemiological surveillance would become an effective instrument. Activities under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade had been continued by strengthening multisectoral and multidisciplinary coordination which would improve control of communicable diseases. It was felt increasingly necessary to train nationals to make effective use of managerial processes for health development such as:-

(5) Programme budgeting.

(b) Country health programming.

(0) Information systems for efficient management and evaluation.

The Regional Director's report dealt with two meetings;

(a) Communication Sciences for Health promotion which has integrated health information and education activities into the curriculum at the Regional Health Development Centre at Cotonou. The module was recommended for integration into the curricula of other teaching establishments in the Region. Workshops were planned for health officials and mass media officials for the formulation of health information and education programmes in support of Primary Health Care.

(b) Workers Health programme to be integrated into the activities of the general health services. Laws and regulations have to be revised for this purpose and the workers health should be included in manpower training for the health and allied professions. Research and technical cooperation is necessary in this field. Some medium - term programme has been modified so as to integrate workers health into the other activities for attaining health for all by the year 2000. Special attention would be paid to agro-Industrial activities. ' 0

The Committee recommended the establishment of b- '

- Standards for dangerous occupations.

- A regional training programme.

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_, A list of training establishment in the Region.

The Regional Director concluded by affirming the need for technical cooperation amongst developing countries.

INTERVENTIONS

All representatives were delighted to welcome the delegation of independent Zimbabwe. However, the situation in Southern Africa was still worrying. After our intervention racism and apartheid were recognised by all participants as an obstacle to achieving health for all by the year 2000. At our request the Committee instructed the Regional Director to organise an International Conference on Health and Apartheid.

After a statement by the representative of Equatorial Guinea, the Committee asked that a special programme of cooperation to be set up to enable that country to cope with the emergency situation prevailing there. 13 Interventions revealed the principal subjects of concern to be:-

- (a) Political commitment and national strategy.
- (b) Primary Health Care and its eight components.
- (c) Technical cooperation among developing countries.
- (d) Managerial processes and mechanisms.

DIRECTIVES FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR WHICH EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS.

1. To invite countries which had not already signed the African Health Charter to do so.
 2. To strengthen all managerial processes, in particular country health programming programme evaluation and the national health information system.
 3. To continue with the experiment with national co-ordinators and co-operate with the countries to improve their efficiency.
 4. To strengthen epidemiological Surveillance and control of a certain number of communicable diseases (yellow fever, cholera, trypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis), for onchocerciasis in particular, to enable other countries to benefit from the experience of the ongoing projects in the Volta and Senegal River basins.
 5. To grant priority to the training in the region of different grades of epidemiologists.
- To strengthen programme relating to worker's health and health education.

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7. To increase the Regional Secretariat's support for the health development of Member States; the study of UHO's structure in the light of its functions proposed a plan of action for that purpose.

8. To abide by operative paragraph four (4) of Resolution AFR/RCZ8/R12 i.e. to issue the necessary directives on programmes on programme policy during the study of the Regional Director's report on work in the Region.

9. To organise a conference on apartheid and health.

10. To integrate oral health into the ZHC programme.

DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION ON RESEARCH.

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A report was presented by the Chairman of the African Advisory Committee on Medical Research (AACMR) on the activities of the regional programme. Only 18 Member States had so far taken part in regional and global programmes.

The Region's representatives on the Joint Co-ordinating Board are Nigeria, Malawi and Mali. Approximately US\$ 13million has been allocated to the region for biomedical and health services research.

Priority, strengthening the co-ordination of research at the regional and national levels was given to research on health services and to epidemiological studies on the major communicable diseases.

The value of the courses on research methodology was recognised. The representative expressed hope that traditional medicine would be integrated into primary health care, in spite of the reluctance of the traditional healers to reveal their secrets. Zimbabwe intended to set up a research centre on traditional medicine.

The Committee hoped that the social research would be undertaken on alcoholism, sexually transmitted diseases and the consequences of migration and child labour particularly in the Member States bordering on South Africa. National Liberation Movements should be included in these activities.

With regard to scientific information, the Regional Committee accepted the idea of creating an African Index Medicus. Representatives regretted that it was not possible to launch the African Journal of Health Sciences.

Member States were invited to establish reception structures and develop plans for research workers in service or being trained: to strengthen or set up..../B

national advisory committees or medical and health research and to regularly inform the Regional Director of research work and opportunities for training research Workers, indicating nationals capable of working as regional experts. WAYS AND 111m; Q_F mpmmmmnsa RESOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL INTERST ADOPTED BY ELIE. M4M &. gr..."

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AED THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

1. REGIONAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDAS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES. mum;- .- AMAW M .n.s.m4.;T ---'.._ta'u8 1....nc... Opulma .Aa..u .w-m

There are correlations between the provisional agendas of the Executive Board and its programme Committee, the World Health Assembly and the thirty-first session of the Regional Committee.

The new procedure allowed the Committee to contribute to the preparation of the agendas of the world wide governing bodies and to improve the structure of its own agendas. The importance of sending as far as possible the same

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representative at the Regional Committee meeting were underlined.

2. REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REGIONAL COMMITTEE%

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Several representatives were in agreement with reimbursement of travel costs which was aimed at strengthening participation by countries in the work of the regional committees. However, other representatives felt that such reimbursement was not in keeping with self-reliance. It was proposed to increase the number of members in each delegation and to include at least one representative from a development sector other than health. The Regional Director should make proposals on the practical details of the reimbursement.

3. STUDY OF 'iziqyst STRUCTURES VIN THE LIGHT OF ITS FUNCTIONS

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The Committee was satisfied that the regional strategy and the outline of the Seventh General Programme of Nbrk (1987 - 1989) were in line with the policy of the Charter for the Health Development of the African Region by the year 2000.

(a) The regional Director, with the Member States would take all necessary steps to strengthen processes and mechanisms at national and regional levels.

(b) Collaboration with other regional offices would accordingly be strengthened through exchanges of information and the use of specialists on their expert panels.

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(0) Both bilateral contacts and those with the coordination mechanisms-Qt;v the non-aligned countries will be strengthened.

(d) Regional Director is to tighten the links between the African and the Global Health 2000 Resources Groups.

(0) Member States were invited to use the provisional guidelines for evaluation and the 1'st of indicators by mo.

(f) Health Ministries are to play an important role in a country's overall . 0 development. The Regional Director should strengthen management training_ H'for senior staff members of these ministries.-

(g) _The use of national expertise.was give special attention. The Regional Directoris requested to work with national authorities on reviewing the regional expert panels. .

(h)- The National Multisectoral health councils Should constitute subregional ' networks parallel to the technical cooperation_amongst the developing aer,countries (TCDC) mechanisms.

(i) Activities undertaken jointly with other organisations within the United Nations should be focussed on the promotion of TCDC.

-4. PERIODICITY OF HEALTH ASSEMBLIES

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If biennial Health Assemblies were decided upon then the links with the executive Board would have to be strngthen; the length of each session might be increased reservations about the appropriateness of changing the periodicity of Health Assemblies at a time when the Health Development strategies for the year 2000 and the Seventh General Programme of Work were being formulated. e

5. ROLE OF 330 EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS COMMITTEES AND COLLABORATING CENTRES IN THE' REGION.

.Member-States were invited to propose to the Regional Director the names of national experts and collaborating centres without delay.

6. SIXTH GENERAL PROGRAMKE OF I

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Dne year prior to the formulation of a general programme of work covering a specific programme (1.0. General Programme of Work), each medium-term programme' OHTP) would be evaluate in aCOOrdance with the methodology developed jointly by WHO and the Member States.

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7. COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: COOPERATION WITH NEWLY .
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The International Community and each Member State were invited to participate in the struggle for justice, equity and. peace; and to keep the Regional Director periodically informed of actions taken 'tQI'IardS this goal.

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8. INFANT AND YOUNG "9111an FEEDING

The Committee invited health ministries, in conjtmction with agricultural sector to examine ways of transforming local products into' broastmilk subs- . titutes and of promoting resoarch._ Member state should. already promote the use of local proteirr-rich products for infant and young child feeding. it is essential to carry out educational activities aimed at aooustoming mothers 13130 preparing meaning foods using iocal. prodhcltsw The Committee invited member states to take legal and administrative measures to encourage breast-feeding.

9. ABUSE OFNARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROFIC SUBSTAITCEf;

Each L'Iember State was urged to seek ways of putting" an end" to the scourge. Membe; States were invited to become? parties to, the relevant international convention and to inciutie control of abuse of narcotic and psychotropic sub- stances in their primary health care programmes. ' .

10. WHO'S PROGRAI-EiE QN SlIEOKII-FG AND HEALTH

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Tobacco is an important source of industrial and. agricultural income in many countries. At the same time it is .harmfult to the populations' healthh Manylfican Countries have taken no steps to limit the advertising of tobacco products. Smoking control should involve reoreentating the economic development options. This should. include coordination of action to be taken by the ministries of health, education, finance, economic affairs and planning.

11. GLOBAL SP'IALLOX ERLDICATION.

Niger is to continue its primary vaccination progmamme and would keep a. national stock of smallpox'iVacoine so long as stocks of that vaccine existed. Nairobi New Delhi, Geneva and. Toronto also have stock for use should there. be need for this. There is surveillance of monkeypox. Up to 1983, when the monkeypox situation would be re-evaluated, the Regional Director would continue to give regular reports .

12. TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

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Tuberculosis control would henceforth be integrated into Primary Health Care programme. The Committee insisted national establishments to undertake research on simplified methods of vaccination, case-finding and treatment. Documentation of tuberculosis control and the efficacy of the different types of BCG vaccine necessary. FAO and WHO should combine their efforts to combat Bovine Tuberculosis. Special attention must be paid to the control of tuberculosis and leprosy. The Regional Director will inform the Member States of the possibilities of acquiring the necessary drugs at prices they can afford.

HEALTH LEGISLATION

Member States were asked to draft legislation governing the practice of traditional medicine. Names of national specialists in health legislation, whether physician or legal experts should be sent to the Regional Director; Member States are asked to forward copies of their existing legislations.

RECRUITMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF IN mpq;

The Committee encouraged the Regional Director to persevere with his efforts, with due regard to skill, efficiency, integrity and the need for regional development.

REAL ESTATE FUND

The Committee noted that HS 960 000 was the estimated cost of the maintenance of the Djoué estate over a 10 - year period.

PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In evolution from the concept of technical assistance to that of technical cooperation in the United Nations system in general and WHO in particular was traced. National had appointed Programme Coordinators and Project Directors. African Countries have cooperated with each other in various ways, for example in the training and exchange of personnel. Technical assistance has left the countries with little influence on the development of projects financed under the regular budget or with extrabudgetary funds. 'Aware of the shortcomings of the approach, WHO had oriented its work firmly towards technical cooperation. The development of country health programming (CHP) was facilitating dialogue.

HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PHC

This is to form the regional contribution to the technical discussions at the thirty fourth World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 1981.

Primary Health Care requires the full support of the health system. That support's major components are staff, technical knowledge, premises, logistic support-for long distribution supplies and equipment, facilities for transfer or referral of patients to a higher level. The role of the Health teams should be revised in the light of the PHC needs. District hospitals should have close links with the social and health units in its catchment area and should be supported by community participation. The role of the central level is to promote and create a series of ; the PHC concept, the role of the intermediate level is to transmit and supervise. Only active community participation at local level could give PHC its true meaning. Each country was asked to organise national discussions and present its i - conclusion and recommendations in May, 1981 at the World Health Assembly. We requested that we be included in the National discussions where our committee are to be found.

TIE PROPOSED PROGRAI'ITZ-IE BUDGET 1282 - 128;

The proposed budget was the last within the sixth General Programme of Work and the first to be produced since the Conference of Alma - Ata. It falls under the extra budgetary funds of the Regional Director and Director-General's Development Programmes. Main factors identified as having influenced the preparation of the document were:- .

(a) The Declaration of Alma. - Ata.

(b) The formulation of national and regional strategies for attaining health for all by the year 2000.

(c) The preparation of the Seventh Programme of Action.

REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE SOCIAL TARGET OF HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000.

The regional strategy was the sum total of the national strategies, all of which 3 focused on the development of Primary Health Care. During the discussions the Committee laid particular stress on the political commitment that the countries ought to display. The signing of the African Health Charter was an expression of that. '

SEVENTH GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK COVERING A SPECIFIC PERIOD 1 - 1990-

The Seventh General Programme of Work for the period 1990-2000 is focused on 1990. Its objective is to serve as a basis for medium-term programmes which are used for planning specific activities. It provides for three major categories:-

1. Programme of comprehensive health system (Operational infrastructure)
2. Programme of health science and technology (health system) context.

3. Promotional and support programme (political, economic, social, technical,
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managerial and financial support.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Subregional working groups, regional expert committees, collaborating centres and intercountry projects were recommended. Recommendations that health for all by the year 2000 should be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming OAU Summit Meeting were upheld. The Committee recommended intensifying the support of the international community to the national liberation movements and the Frontline States, Lesotho and Swaziland.

PROGRAMME HEADINGS AND THE PLAN OF STUDY VISITS TO MEMBER STATES.

An indicative plan of visits was presented. He requested to be included more often than we appear and to these countries where we thought we would benefit more. We are to prepare a suggested plan to the Regional Director.

MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME BUDGET POLICY AND STRATEGY

The Committee noted the importance of involving nationals as WHO programmes because they are part of the political and administrative structures of their countries. They helped relations between the organisation and its Member States.

ANIMAL DISEASE STRATEGY

The emphasis was laid on control as a necessity for the attainment of health for all by the year 2000. Control would be possible through the PHC approach. Member States were invited to work out their national strategies, whose combination would form the regional strategy. Five themes were highlighted:-

1. Active community-involvement.
2. Adoption of measures applicable on a large scale and taking the countries' limited resources into account.
3. Manpower training.
4. Research on prevention and control methods.
5. Technical cooperation among developing countries. '

TIMES FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS; WENIE MID DATES

1. INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES - 30th Regional Committee, Brazzaville, Congo.'

Discussions analysed:-

(a) The definition of the concept and chief characteristics of an information system.

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(b) Principal problems of the system.

(c) Formulation or general guidelines for planning, organisation, introduction and evaluation of the system. 1

Gd) Links between the national health information systems and the 1310 systems.

The stress was laid on the inadequacies of the information systems. Information produced is not always analysed, -and when analysed often remains unused information systems must be used as a management tool. Strategy for the information systems should

(a) List the users of the information and their needs;

(b) Evaluate the existing system.

(c) Establish priorities within the system.

(d) Prepare an operational outline for the information systems.

(e) Set up a machinery for continuous evaluation.

Relation between national information system and the UHO systems would allow support to be given to the managerial processes of both systems.

2. 31st REGIONAL COMMITTEE 1981. VENUE: 13ch13 (11-1131: .

THEME: The Role of Programme with 1990 as a deadline _ Expanded Programme' on Immunisation, water supply and sanitation, Malnutrition control - in achieving the objective of health for all by the year 2000.

3. 32nd REGIONAL COMMITTEE 1982. VENUE: LIBREVILLE, GABON.

THEME: Mobilisation of Communities for Health Development. Approach and constraints.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The Secretariat "in an effort to make sure that South Africa was not included had decided to substitute Azania to designate our delegation in the Regional Committee. We questioned and corrected this and as a result at the end all documentation was changed to reflect South Africa instead of Azania.

2. The Regional Committee stressed the importance of having, as far as possible, the same delegate at least for the Regional Committee Sessions. Perhaps it does not matter so much for the World Health Assembly. -we are of the same opinion. Our observation was that most delegates referred all the time to 3? what had been discussed in the previous sessions. _ These discussions, of course, influenced to a great extent the decisions of the 30th Regional Committee Session.

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The Regional Committee Sessions are really a place where Member States present specific guidelines to facilitate health planning: in relation to the health needs of the populations to be served. The criticism levelled against our presentations was that they are always full of statistical illustrations and that they lack substantial effort in demonstrating our goals, priorities, approaches, strategies and evaluation indicators that would lead to rationalisation and analysis of the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of our strategies. It is therefore essential that before the Regional Committee Session, consultations be held, wherein specific guidelines for the Regional Director could be drawn.

Since we hold an observer's status at these Regional Committee Sessions, it is important that we realise that much can be achieved from the extrabudgetary funds which are at the disposal of the Regional Director. At each Session it is, therefore, important to request for a private session with the Regional Director who is always willing to guide Member States and observers on how best to approach different problems.

The WHO Regional Committee is to recommend as one item on the agenda of the OAU Head of States, summit Conference: "Health for all by the year 2000" It should benefit our organisation to prepare for this item, in view of the planned international conference table to be on Health and Development.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Regional Director in Camera:

As realising that the implementation of the health policies for the achievement of the social goal "Health for all by the year 2000" lies in the strategies of primary health care, we request the Regional Director to assist us in organising a workshop for our health teams on the concept of primary health care. This should culminate possibly in the identification of our priorities and in the proper orientation of strategies in the achievement of this global goal, "health for all in the year 2000". This department needs a Health Policy and the Development of Health Manpower. We need to study as quickly as possible the existing health situation in our country with the view of planning a country Health Pre-Programming Exercise.

The issues of the multinational liberation Health training Centre in Morogoro was raised. It was agreed that it is impossible indeed to think about and develop health separately from the society to be served.

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The Regional Office is thus prepared in this case to finance inservice training of our health personnel by us, as a strategy towards making sure that the training of our personnel was patterned in accordance with our health needs and goals. A project has to be drawn.

Since we requested for an international conference on Health and Apartheid, the Regional Director will appreciate Specific guidelines in terms of venue, objectives of this international conference and any other related matters that would assist him in planning and organising the conference.

The Regional Director will be willing to put up for early consideration in the plan of Study Visits especially to those countries that have recently acceded to national independence and to those with developed programmes for the mobilisation of communities for Health Development (Senegal). A list of place to be visited has to be submitted to the Regional Director.

To coordinate and strengthen research activities, especially in social research on topics such as effects of migratory labour, abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, alcoholism etc. etc. the Regional Director would be willing to consider to include our experts in technical panels that are appointed from time to time. Applications forms are available. These would have to be sent by our office through the line of communication that has been established.

There is need to second a member of the A.N.C. (S.A.) Health Department as coordinator of our activities with the WHO.

We need to prepare a list of essential drugs to be forwarded to the Regional Director to form part of the list of Essential Drugs for the Region.

ADDENDUM:

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It will be recalled that in October, 1979 we approached the Ministry of Health of Mozambique in connection with the setting up of a Training Centre for Health Personnel. This issue was raised with us again by the Mozambicans, who wanted to know how far we had gone with our plans as far as this arrangements was concerned. Obviously, in an effort to develop our Health Manpower that is properly geared towards our needs, this arrangement has to be revived.

The Minister of Health of the Cameroon (Cameroon is a bilingual country) will support our request for placement of our students in all health related training facilities.

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This would mean that a formal request be sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the Secretary-General and a copy be addressed to the Minister of Health of the Camercons.

3. The Regional Director approved a requisition of essential drugs for our centres to cover us for a period of one year.

E.E. Tshabalala.

Secretary.