

World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé
FORTY-SEVENTH-WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 25 A47/37
28 April 1994

Consideration of the situation of certain
Member States falling under the purview of
Article 7 of the Constitution
Cambodians request for restoration of voting rights
and waiver of arrears
Report by the Director-General

This document transmits a letter dated 25 March 1994 from the Government of Cambodia
' to the Director-General concerning Cambodians request for restoration of voting rights
for
consideration by the Health Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the
Constitution and Health Assembly resolution WHA44.12, together with a request for a
simultaneous waiver of arrears of contributions due from Cambodia.

1. Article 7 of the Constitution of WHO reads as follows:

If a Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization or in other exceptional
circumstances, the Health Assembly may, on such conditions as it thinks proper, suspend the
voting
privileges and services to which a Member is entitled. The Health Assembly shall have the
authority to
restore such voting privileges and services.

2. The voting rights of Cambodia were suspended by resolution WHA44.12 adopted by the Forty-fourth
World Health Assembly in May 1991, operative paragraph 7(3) of which reads as follows:
that this decision shall be' without prejudice to the right of any Member to request restoration of its
voting privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution.

3. In a letter to the Director-General dated 25 March 1994, the Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister
of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia requested that, in view of the exceptional
situation prevailing in his country in recent years as described in his letter, the voting
rights of Cambodia
should be restored and that the Health Assembly should simultaneously waive the payment of
arrears of
contributions due from Cambodia. The full text of the letter is attached as an Annex for
consideration by
the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of
the Constitution
and Health Assembly resolution WHA44.12.

ANNEX

TEXT OF LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION OF CAMBODIA TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

(Translation from the French)

Sir,

As I told you in our discussions during your visit to Phnom Penh, Cambodia wishes to take an active

part again in the work of WHO.

During these last two decades, the people of Cambodia have suffered terribly. Countless human lives

have been lost, and the destruction and damage to our heritage are beyond measure.

Moreover, on account of the developments that the Cambodia question has undergone within the

United Nations system since 1979, WHO has no longer been able to be officially represented in our country,

and this has severely affected its ability to provide its services throughout the country.

The situation deteriorated to such an extent that from 1986 onwards it was no longer possible for us

to meet our financial commitments to the Organization. With the formation of the Supreme National

Council in 1990 and the signature of the agreement for the overall political settlement of the conflict in

Cambodia, after which the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was set up,

Cambodia has gone through a difficult period of transition.

Thanks to cooperation from all the parties concerned, this period ended with the holding of free

elections in 1993 and the formation of a new government.

During this transitional period, Cambodia was unable to take part in the work of WHO and has not

been represented at the Assembly since 1990. With the formation of the democratically elected

Government, reconstruction of the country is under way with participation by all sections of the Cambodian

people. We are now ready and willing to resume our active participation in the work of the Organization.

Consequently, a Cambodian delegation will take part in the forthcoming World Health Assembly.

In view of the situation I have described and aware of your Organization's interest in our country,

an interest which took concrete form last month in your official visit to Cambodia, I urge you, Mr Director-

General, to draw the Assembly's attention to our situation when it considers the question of the payment

of arrears of contributions to the WHO budget.

It is my very earnest hope that the Assembly, aware of what our country has undergone during the

past years, will forgo demanding the payment of the arrears due from Cambodia and will restore the voting

privileges in accordance with Article 7 of the WHO Constitution.

I am convinced, Mr Director-General, that you will do everything in your power to enable us to solve

our problems, and that Cambodia will very soon be able to take a full part in the work of your

Organization, to which it is greatly attached.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Isignedj