IV PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

(FINAL ACT)

Reprinted from the Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana,
July, 1940

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FOURTH PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

(Held in Washington, D. C., April 30–May 8, 1940)

FINAL ACT

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health opened in Washington, April 30, 1940, with a preliminary session in which Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was elected President of the Conference by acclamation.

The following other officers were designated: Vice-Presidents, Dr. Juan Jacobo Spangenberg, Dr. Alberto Hurtado, Dr. Rafael Schiaffino, and Dr. L. García Maldonado; Secretary General, Dr. Arístides A. Moll.

The inaugural session was held May 1, 1940, at 11:15 in the morning, and was presided over by Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Welcoming addresses were given by the Hon. A. A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State of the United States; Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union; Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; and responses in the name of the Delegates of the Republics represented and of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau were made by General José Siurob, M.D. and Dr. Jorge Bejarano, whose remarks appear in the Proceedings.

The first plenary session of the Conference was held in the afternoon of May 1, 1940, under the presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

COMMITTEES

The Conference appointed the following Committees:

Credential: Dr. Carlos García B., Dr. Léon Moise, Dr. Ignacio González Guzmán, Dr. Enrique López Herrarte, Dr. M. Lares Gabaldón.

Resolutions: Dr. Jorge Bejarano, Dr. Alfredo Sordelli, Dr. João de Barros Barreto, Dr. Justo F. González, Dr. Manuel Martínez Báez, Dr. L. García Maldonado, Dr. C. V. Akin, Dr. Arístides A. Moll.

Committee to study and present recommendations on the themes pending from the X Pan American Sanitary Conference: Dr. A. V. Mastellari, Dr. José J. Puente, Dr. Guillermo Lage, Dr. Antonio Peña Chavarría, Dr. A. L. Briceño Rossi, Dr. J. A. Montalván, Dr. Dagoberto E. González, Dr. C. L. Williams.

Committee on Program for the XI Pan American Sanitary Conference: Dr. João de Barros Barreto, Dr. Juan Jacobo Spangenberg, Dr. José Siurob, Dr. Carlos E. Finlay, Dr. Fernando A. Batlle, Dr. Alberto Hurtado, Dr. Rafael Schiaffino, Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr.
Upon presentation of the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, Dr. Carlos García B., the powers of the following Delegates were definitely approved:

**Argentina:** Dr. Juan Jacobo Spangenberg, Dr. Alfredo Sordelli, Dr. José J. Puente.

**Bolivia:** Dr. José R. Quiroga.

**Brazil:** Dr. João de Barros Barreto.

**Chile:** Dr. Carlos García B. Colombia: Dr. Jorge Bejarano, Dr. Francisco Obregón Jarava.

**Costa Rica:** Dr. Antonio Peña Chavarría.

**Cuba:** Dr. C. E. Finlay, Dr. Guillermo Lage, Dr. Alberto Recio, Dr. Mario J. Le-Roy.

**Dominican Republic:** Dr. Fernando A. Battle.

**Ecuador:** Dr. Juan Antonio Montalván.

**El Salvador:** Dr. Carlos Adalberto Alfaro.

**Haiti:** Dr. Léon Moise.

**Mexico:** Gen. José Siurob, M.D., Dr. Ignacio González Guzmán, Dr. José Zozaya.

**Nicaragua:** Dr. León de Bayle.

**Panama:** Dr. A. V. Mastrellari.

**Peru:** Dr. Alberto Hurtado, United States: Dr. Thomas Parran, Dr. C. V. Akin, Dr. Martha Elliot, Dr. William B. Grayson, Dr. James P. Leake, Dr. E. V. McCollum, Dr. Joseph W. Mountain, Dr. Roy R. Sayers, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr, Dr. C. L. Williams, Dr. L. L. Williams, Dr. Merrit W. Ireland, Com. Charles S. Stephenson, Lt. Col. James F. Simmons, Dr. William DaKleine.

**Uruguay:** Dr. Rafael Schiaffino, Dr. Justo F. González.

**Venezuela:** Dr. L. García Maldonado, Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldón, Dr. M. Laires Gabaldón.

In accordance with regulations, the following were admitted to the Conference as *ex officio* members: Drs. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; Miguel Sussini, Counsellor; Aristides A. Moll, Secretary *ex officio*; Pedro Machado, Manuel Martinez Baez, Dagoberto E. González, and A. L. Briceño Rossi, Members; and John D. Long, Chief Traveling Representative. As representatives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Edward C. Ernst, Assistant Director; Dr. J. R. Murdock, Traveling Representative; Mr. William Boaz, Chief Sanitary Engineer; and Mr. Gregorio Márquez, Legal Adviser, also attended the meetings. The following attended as guests of honor: Canada: Dr. R. E. Wodehouse; Dutch Guiana (Surinam): Dr. A. E. Wolff; International Office of Public Health of Paris: Dr. R. Pierret; Rockefeller Foundation: Drs. John A. Ferrell, George K. Strode, Mark W. Boyd, and various distinguished physicians and professors. There were also present, as observers, from Colombia: Dr. José J. Escobar; Chile: Sr. R. Ríos Castro; Guatemala: Drs. Enrique Padilla and Radí Valdeavellano; and other physicians and scientists in Washington to attend the VIII American Scientific Congress.

As may be seen in the Proceedings, the sessions held from May 1 to 8 offered an excellent occasion for the interchange of impressions regarding the numerous and important problems confronting the health authorities of the various Republics. The Delegations were larger than ever, and all the sessions were characterized by the importance and number of the reports presented, and by the constant spirit of cooperation and Pan Americanism which invariably reigned over the deliberations.

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1 Dr. João de Barros Barreto also attended as Vice-Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
2 Dr. Jorge Bejarano also attended as Honorary President of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
3 Dr. Alfonso Acosta, Secretary of Public Health and Social Welfare of Costa Rica, arrived toward the end of the Conference.
4 Dr. Antonio Peña Chavarría also attended as Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
5 Dr. Juan Antonio Montalván also attended as Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
6 Dr. Justo F. González also attended as Honorary Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
An innovation was the holding, for the first time at one of these Conferences, of a Health Exhibition, to which Argentina, Chile, various organizations in the United States, Mexico, and Venezuela, sent valuable material, in addition to the display arranged by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After thorough discussion, the motions, resolutions and votes which appear below were approved unanimously:

PUBLIC HEALTH

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of appreciation for the very complete reports on public health developments submitted at the several sessions of the Conference, and hopes that future progress in the several fields of public health will be such as to justify the continued and regular presentation of such reports.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of applause to the countries which have established in their health departments centers for the scientific investigation of problems affecting public health.

SANITARY CODE

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health resolves to authorize the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to appoint a Committee to set up the fundamental bases of a model Sanitary Code to be presented to the XI Pan American Sanitary Conference.7

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of approbation of the action of the health authorities of Uruguay in drafting a sanitary code based on the general and up-to-date principles which have been recommended in the various Pan American Sanitary Conferences.

PAN AMERICAN USE OF CENTERS FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends: (1) That the American Republics intensify the specialized training of public health personnel; (2) That the Pan American Sanitary Bureau appoint a Committee to study this subject and propose a minimum program of public health education to be given in the centers specializing in such training.

TEACHING

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the institutions in charge of medical education in the American countries the orientation of such instruction from the viewpoint of preventive medicine.

PUBLIC HEALTH CAREER SERVICE

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health urges the necessity of establishing, where it does not already exist, a public health career service, on a merit basis, with the founding of schools of hygiene for the specialized training of physicians and of subordinate personnel, and expresses a vote of applause for the countries which have already made progress along these lines.

7 The Committee appointed includes: Public Health experts: Dr. João de Barros Barreto, Dr. Angel de la Garza Brito, Dr. C. E. Paz Soldán, Dr. John D. Long; Legal Advisers: Dr. Germán Vegas, Dr. Mario J. Le-Roy; Secretary: Mr. Gregorio Márquez.
The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health approves the minimum sanitary indices or tests for the evaluation of health work which appear in the Proceedings, and recommends to health authorities that they be given a trial in one or two cities in each of the American Republics, and that the results be presented to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

HEALTH EXHIBITIONS

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of congratulations to the countries which brought health exhibits, and to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for its part in the preparation of the health exposition, and recommends that this example be followed and extended in future Conferences.

HEALTH DAY

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends that a "Health Day" be held annually in the countries of the Pan American Union, for which celebration general plans may be distributed by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

AERIAL NAVIGATION

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of appreciation for the effectiveness of the procedures which have already been put into effect in several countries to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases through the medium of aerial navigation and proposes that the principles of those procedures be incorporated in the next revision of the Pan American Sanitary Code.

SANITARY ENGINEERING

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health resolves that the meeting of sanitary engineers recommended by the X Pan American Sanitary Conference shall take place at Rio de Janeiro at the same time as the XI Pan American Sanitary Conference; and that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall request the National Directors of Health to submit subjects for the agenda with special reference to sanitary engineering, in addition to the following, which have already been suggested: general report on the situation in their countries; water supplies; sewage and garbage disposal; malaria control.

WATER SUPPLIES

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the Governments of America the taking of all necessary public health and police provisions for the conservation of forest areas around water sources, both rural and urban, in order to avoid a decrease in the supply of water and its contamination by man or animals.

VITAL STATISTICS

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the health authorities of all the countries: (1) the establishment of a Bureau of Vital Statistics, if such does not already exist, and the placing of it on a level of efficiency such that it may properly fulfill its function of furnishing information to authorities and orienting public health activity; (2) That all possible means be used to require physicians and welfare institutions to furnish accurate and
prompt data concerning the reportable communicable diseases, and the accurate
certification of causes of death; (3) That the international classification of causes
of death, published by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, be adopted; (4) That
a decennial census be taken in order to furnish an accurate basis for vital statistics
computations.

NUTRITION AND ALIMENTATION

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends
to the Governments of America the intensification of propaganda and education
designed to improve the nutrition of their peoples by whatever means they may
demn advisable.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends
the introduction and encouragement of the use of school gardens in the American
countries.

In order to promote the spread of practical knowledge regarding good nutrition
within already established and applied limits, the IV Pan American Conference
of National Directors of Health resolves that the Committee on Nutrition of the
Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall prepare a series of balanced menus to serve
as a basis for diet planning in the various American countries, considering in the
preparation of such menus the moderate cost factor and the inclusion of local
food products.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health requests
that the health authorities of the American countries publish and present to the
Pan American Sanitary Conference in Rio de Janeiro a collection of their national
food folklore (that is, typical recipes based on food customs of each country).

PAN AMERICAN STANDARDS FOR VITAMINIZED FOODS

In view of the intensified commercial and industrial development in the American
countries and the preparation of vitaminized foods, the IV Pan American
Conference of National Directors of Health resolves that Pan American standards
for such products shall be established, and recommends that the Nutrition Com-
mittee of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau be entrusted with the study and
preparation of scientific standards or a draft of such standards.

PAN AMERICAN SALON OF NUTRITION

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends
that at the Health Exposition to be held in connection with the next Pan American
Sanitary Conference in Rio de Janeiro, there be displayed illustrative material
designed to encourage good nutrition among the American peoples, thus inaug-
urating the first Pan American “salon of nutrition.”

LEPROSY

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health considers
of the utmost importance the renewal of the Pan American Conferences on
Leprosy, and deems it advisable that the first of these reunions be held in the
city of Rio de Janeiro in 1945.

MALARIA

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health resolves
that the Malaria Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall, as

* The Committee appointed includes: Dr. L. L. Williams, Dr. Henry Hanson, Dr. Mark F. Boyd,
Dr. C. A. Alvarado, Dr. João de Barros Barreto, Dr. Victor A. Sutter, Dr. Luis Vargas, Dr. Arnoldo
Gabaldon.
soon as possible, draw up a program to be communicated to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which will in turn transmit to the Committee all the pertinent reports which it may have received or will receive.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health extends a vote of appreciation and congratulations to the Republic of Brazil for the success which it has obtained in its campaign against the *Anopheles gambiae*, a campaign which is serving most usefully to protect the health of all the American Republics.

**POLIOMYELITIS**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends the creation of centers specializing in the early orthopedic treatment of the paralysis produced by poliomyelitis.

**TYPHOID VACCINATION**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the health authorities of the American countries the systematic study on a rigid scientific basis and following a uniform plan, of the comparative value of typhoid vaccination by the oral and subcutaneous methods. While these studies are being carried out, it is recommended that subcutaneous vaccination be the preferred method.

**VENEREAL DISEASE**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the countries of America the study of uniform methods of clinical and laboratory diagnosis, recording, and treatment of syphilis and other venereal diseases, such uniform standards to be adopted at the Conference in Rio de Janeiro.

**POSTAL FRANK**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to all the American Republics the granting of the postal franking privilege to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, since such a step will contribute to its efficiency and will facilitate the collection and distribution of vital statistics data which are of the utmost importance to all the American countries.

**PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of applause to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and to Dr. Aristides A. Moll, Secretary of the Bureau and Editor of its Bulletin, for the efficient work which they have carried out in the last two years.

**PROGRAM FOR THE XI PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE**

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends that the following themes appear on the program of the XI Pan American Sanitary Conference:

- Chest examination survey: Tuberculosis and Pneumoconiosis
- Influenza or Grippe
- Undulant Fever
- Forms of Exanthematic Typhus in America
- Chagas' Disease, Pinto, and other American Parasitoses
- Infantile Diarrheas (Including Salmonellosis)
- Degenerative Diseases (Including Cardiovascular diseases and Cancer)
VOTES OF APPLAUSE

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health congratulates the Pan American Union on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, rendering homage to an institution which has furnished notable service to all the American Republics.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses its gratitude to Dr. Leo S. Rowe for the most gracious manner in which he has extended his hospitality to the members, and for the use of the facilities in the Building of the Pan American Union.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses a vote of greeting to Drs. R. Pierret, Director General of the International Office of Public Health of Paris, A. E. Wolf, Director of Health of Dutch Guiana, and R. E. Wodehouse, Deputy Minister of Health of Canada, thanking them for their attendance at the Conference.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses its appreciation to all the invited specialists for their excellent contributions toward the solution of the public health problems which were considered by the Conference.

The IV Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health expresses its appreciation to all the institutions and persons which extended their generous hospitality and welcome, including the Pan American Medical Association, the International Medical Club, the Children's Bureau, the Directing Board of the "Doctors' Hospital," the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities, and the Hon. Adolf A. Berle, Jr. and Mrs. Berle.

The closing session was held Wednesday, May 8, 1940, at 3:00 p.m., under the presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming. The remarks made at this meeting appear in the Proceedings of the Conference.

Done and signed in the city of Washington on May 8, 1940, a copy to be sent to each Delegation and also through diplomatic channels to the Governments of each of the American Republics; the original to be kept in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Signed:

HUGH S. CUMMING
President

ALBERTO HURTADO
Vice President
(Peru)

L. GARCÍA MALDONADO
Vice President
(Venezuela)

CARLOS GARCÍA B.
(Chile)

Jorge BEJARANO
(Colombia)

FRANCISCO OBREGÓN JARAVIA
(Colombia)

ANTONIO PÉNZA CHAVARRÍA
(Costa Rica)

CARLOS E. FINLAY
(Cuba)

GUILLERMO LAGE
(Cuba)

JUAN JACOBO SPANGENBERG
Vice President
(Argentina)

RAFAEL SCHIAPPINO
Vice President
(Uruguay)

ARISTIDES A. MOLL
Secretary General

ALFREDO SORDELLI
(Argentina)

José J. PUENTE
(Argentina)

José R. QUIROGA
(Bolivia)

JOÃO DE BARROS BARRETO
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PUBLICACIONES DE LA OFICINA SANITARIA PANAMERICANA

No. 1.-Prevención de las Enfermedades Transmisibles. 60 páginas.
No. 3.-Higiene Pre-natal. 7 páginas.
No. 4.-Higiene de la Leche. 10 páginas.
No. 5.-Ordenanza Modelo para Leche. 11 páginas.
No. 7.-Organización del Servicio de Sanidad Pública de los Estados Unidos. 29 páginas.
No. 9.-La Profilaxis del Bocio Endémico. 10 páginas.
No. 10.-Higiene de la Infancia. 6 páginas.
No. 12.-Conservación de la Vista. 6 páginas.
No. 10.-Coleta, Examen e Identificación de las Pulgas Murinas. 11 páginas.
No. 22.-El Cuidado de la Silla en la Práctica General. 23 páginas.
No. 32.-Meningitis Cerebroespinal Epidémica (Meningocócicas). 4 páginas.
No. 22.-Amigdalas y Adenoides (Vegetaciones Adenoideas). 6 páginas.
No. 26.-El Cuidado de la Sífilis en la Práctica General. 33 páginas.
No. 27.-Meningitis Cerebroespinal Epidémica (Meningocócicas). 4 páginas.
No. 22.-Amigdalas y Adenoides (Vegetaciones Adenoideas). 6 páginas.
No. 36.-Nomenclatura Internacional de las Causas de Muerte. 16 páginas.
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No. 56.-Epidemiología de la Lepra. 5 páginas.
No. 57.-Diagnóstico Retrospectivo de la Fiebre Amarilla. 6 páginas.
No. 58.-El Problema de la Alimentación en el Uruguay. 9 páginas.
No. 59.-Immunización Profiláctica de los Recién Nacidos con BCG. 22 páginas.
No. 60.-La Difteria en el Tropico. 15 páginas.
No. 61.-La Difteria en el Tropico. 15 páginas.
No. 62.-La Difteria en el Tropico. 15 páginas.
No. 63.-La Difteria en el Tropico. 15 páginas.
No. 101.—Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference. 8 pages.
No. 102.—El Saneamiento del Suelo. 17 páginas.
No. 103.—Report of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. 8 pages.
No. 104.—Fumigación de Buques con Ácido Cianhídrico. 14 páginas.
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