

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Memorandum on the Expert Opinion which has been submitted to the League on the Measures of Public Health and Quarantine in the Near East which require to be considered in connection with the Terms of the New Treaty of Peace with Turkey

THE above question has recently been the subject of special investigation and report by an international commission nominated by the Provisional Health Committee of the League of Nations in consultation with the Office international d'Hygiène publique. This commission consisted of five members from the Public Health Services of Denmark, France, Great Britain, Netherlands and Portugal respectively, together with the president of the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Board of Egypt. Its report is contained in the League of Nations document C. 342, M. 193, 1922, III, dated the 10th April, 1922, and was submitted to the Council of the League and distributed. Since then the report was discussed and approved by the Office international d'Hygiène publique of Paris.

I.—*Sanitary Control of the Straits.*

The Near East Commission reported that, by the establishment of an efficient sanitary organisation, "possessing an international character," steps should be taken to put in force the following measures, which should be embodied in the next International Sanitary Convention:—

(a.) This authority should make sanitary regulations for the Straits similar to those which have been authorised for the Suez Canal in the International Sanitary Convention 1912 (see also revised text now proposed by Office international d'Hygiène publique, 1922). These regulations, in accord with the convention, should specify the measures which are required in regard to ships which arrive in the Straits from Black Sea ports or other infected areas, according as they are "healthy," "suspected," or "infected," and so on. That is to say, they would define the quarantine mooring places, the system of medical examination and the general procedure; they would also regulate the use of the quarantine stations, specify the conditions in which "surveillance" or "observation" is required, and like matters.

(b.) This authority should take special measures, consistent with the International Sanitary Convention, to deal with ships from infected Black Sea ports passing through the Straits "in quarantine," i.e., they should determine the conditions under which transit is permitted, arrange for notification of infection to ports of destination, &c.

(c.) This authority should provide and maintain a well-equipped sanitary station at the northern end of the Bosphorus for the above purposes, in substitution for the present unsatisfactory station at Kavak.

(d.) If Constantinople is infected by plague or cholera, outgoing vessels should be dealt with in the same way as outgoing vessels from Bombay or other Eastern ports, i.e., the passengers and crew must be individually examined medically at the time of embarkation.

The grounds on which the Near East Commission advocated the above measures were, in brief:—

1. The special and continual danger of ship-borne infection being conveyed to Europe and other ports as a consequence of the Black Sea traffic and the epidemics of Russia and the Near East, and the importance to other countries of protecting Constantinople from invasions of plague and cholera.

2. The exceptional means of sanitary control afforded by the geography of the Straits, comparable to that which is afforded by the Suez Canal and exercised in the Canal to prevent the conveyance of infectious diseases to Europe by vessels arriving from the south.

3. The importance of the shipping traffic concerned, its large volume, and many nationalities concerned with it (the Turkish and Russian-owned vessels being only a small fraction of the whole), and the necessity, therefore, of good sanitary and quarantine organisation and equipment. Good and impartial administration is required, which, together with the proposed regulations, should be based on the international sanitary code and on modern practices of preventive medicine.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA