



## PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that Dr. G.D. Cameron, Deputy Minister of Health, will head the Canadian Delegation to the Sixth World Health Assembly which opens in Geneva today (May 5). Dr. Donald Smith, Member of Parliament for Queens-Shelbourne, and Dr. O.J. Leroux, Assistant Director of Health Insurance Studies, Department of National Health and Welfare, will serve as delegates, and Dr. M.R. Elliott, Deputy Minister of Public Health and Welfare of the Province of Manitoba, and Mr. Bruce Williams, Permanent Delegation of Canada to the European Office of the United Nations, Geneva, will serve as alternate delegates.

The World Health Organization (WHO), which was established as a permanent body with headquarters in Geneva, in September 1948, now has a total membership of 82 countries. Its proposed budget for 1954, which will be reviewed at the forthcoming Assembly, will be approximately eight-and-a-half million dollars, of which the Canadian share would be approximately three percent. In examining the operations of WHO the Assembly is expected to devote particular attention this year to the arrangements under which WHO participates in the operations of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The Assembly will also vote on the selection of a new Director-General to succeed Dr. Brock Chisholm, who has held this post since the inception of WHO and who will be retiring in July.

The Annual Report of the Director-General which reviews WHO activities will receive close examination. Amongst major activities dealt with in this Report are the following: the administration of International Sanitary Regulations designed to limit the spread of diseases commonly transmitted by international traffic; development of maternal and child welfare; assistance with anti-malaria projects in many areas of the world; control of venereal disease; encouragement of research on virus diseases, including influenza, small-pox and poliomyelitis; cooperation in the development of nursing services and in the improvement of mental health facilities; provision of fellowships for medical study; assistance in establishing training programmes at medical institutions; exchange of scientific information in the medical field. In cooperation with the International Labour Organization, methods for advancing the health of workers in industrial and agricultural fields have been studied, and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization, WHO has undertaken the study of special aspects of nutrition. In conjunction with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, WHO has planned and administered a medical programme for Arab refugees, and it has cooperated with the Government of Korea in preparing a plan for rehabilitating health services in that country.