

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

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Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR D. 1684

London, November 15, 1944

SECRET. As you will be aware, it was agreed at the Montreal Conference that there should be a special meeting of the UNRRA Health Committee to prepare final drafts of the two Sanitary Conventions drawn up under the auspices of UNRRA. This meeting is now to be held at Washington December 5th.

2. Before the outbreak of war, administration of International Health Conventions and Agreements was controlled by the International Office of Public Hygiene in Paris. Now that Paris has been freed, the French authorities are anxious that the future of this office shall not be prejudiced, and in commenting on the draft Sanitary Conventions they have objected to the substitution for the Paris office of another organisation. In view of the forthcoming meeting of the UNRRA Health Committee, it is important that an understanding should be reached with the French which will induce them to sign the Agreements in their present form, accepting the administration of the Sanitary Conventions by UNRRA as a temporary arrangement. But it is clear that there is no prospect of securing French agreement to this unless some assurance is given about the future of the Paris office.

3. For this and other reasons, we have been considering what form of permanent International Health Organisation we should like to see established, and following proposals have been formulated as our long term aim for the creation of an International Health Organisation:

(a) An International Health Commission which would be associated with a constituent body of the proposed Economic and Social Council of World Organisation. The Commission would be responsible for determining the scope of other international health bodies and preventing overlap between them. It would also be responsible for promoting international research for the collection and dissemination of technical information and for advisory services. Its Secretariat might be in Washington, but no decision on this point should be taken until the location of other international bodies contemplated under the Dumbarton Oaks proposals has been considered.

(b) The continuance of the Paris office as an Epidemiological Bureau responsible for the administration of International Health Agreements, including the Sanitary Conventions and the collection and the dissemination of epidemiological information.

(c) The creation of a new Standards Bureau preferably in London.