



# PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 49

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 1948

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Health and Welfare announced today that approval has been given to Canadian representation at the First World Health Assembly which will meet in Geneva beginning on June 24. The World Health Organization has hitherto met as an Interim Commission but with the ratification of its constitution by the requisite number of member states, this Organization will now become a fully constituted specialized agency of the United Nations.

The Canadian delegation will be composed as follows:

Chief delegate: Dr. G. D. W. Cameron,  
Deputy Minister of Health, Department  
of National Health and Welfare

Delegates: Dr. G. F. Amyot,  
Deputy Minister of Health,  
Province of British Columbia

Dr. T. C. Routley,  
General Secretary,  
Canadian Medical Association

Technical Advisers: Dr. Armand Frappier,  
University of Montreal

Mr. L. A. D. Stephens,  
Department of External Affairs

Mr. J. G. H. Halstead,  
Department of External Affairs

The World Health Organization, with an annual budget of about six million dollars, will consider in Geneva its programme of activities for next year. This programme will include study and action in many fields of public health, including malaria, maternal and child welfare, tuberculosis and venereal diseases. Committees of experts will be appointed to consider and to make recommendations on such specialized problems as public health organization, mental health, tropical hygiene and virus diseases. The World Health Assembly will very likely continue and expand its establishment of medical fellowships to the world's great medical centres for students and research workers from war-devastated areas.

Among the more urgent tasks of the World Health Organization is the international standardization of therapeutic, prophylactic and diagnostic agents, and the development of an international pharmacopoeia. The WHO has established and will extend its controls over potential international epidemics including cholera, plague, smallpox, typhus and yellow fever, and will have under review the most effective measures for the supervision of quarantine in the world's sea-ports.

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The World Health Organization has been one of the most effective and least controversial of the United Nations specialized agencies. Its sessions so far have been marked by a spirit of objective co-operation on the part of all member states, irrespective of their political convictions. The Canadian contribution to the work of WHO for next year will be approximately \$200,000.

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