



PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced today that approval has been given to Canadian representation at the Sixth Decennial Conference for the Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death, to be held in Paris from April 25 to April 30, 1948. The Canadian delegation will be as follows:

Senior delegate

Dr. F. S. Burke, to represent the Department of National Health and Welfare and other medical services in the Government of Canada

Delegates

Dr. J. A. Melanson, of the Department of Health, Province of New Brunswick, to represent the provinces

Dr. John Wyllie, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Queens University, to represent the national private schools and the schools of public health

Mr. J. T. Marshall, to represent the Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Technical Adviser

Miss Winnifred O'Brien, R.N., Medical Classification Section, Division of Social Welfare Statistics, Dominion Bureau of Statistics

This Sixth Decennial Conference which will be attended by representatives of most of the nations of the world will be the culmination of the statistical study of diseases and causes of death which has now been in progress for more than a century. The accurate study of the incidence of diseases and of the causes of death is dependent upon the use of a uniform classification. Attempts to establish a uniform classification have been made at various International Statistical Congresses since 1853; and the most recent revision of the International Lists of Causes of Death dates from 1933 when for the fifth time revision was made by international agreement.

As a consequence of agreements which will probably be reached in Paris toward the end of this month, there will undoubtedly result a great improvement in the international comparability of illness statistics, and a more refined comparison of mortality with morbidity will be possible. Among the subjects to be discussed at the forthcoming Revision Conference will be the following:

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- (a) Medical certification;
- (b) Joint cause problem;
- (c) Structure of the detailed list of International List of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death;
- (d) Structure and uses of intermediate and abridged lists;
- (e) Definitions of stillbirth, abortion and immaturity;
- (f) Size of age groups by which data should be tabulated;
- (g) Methods of standardizing rates;
- (h) Residence allocation;
- (i) Technical machinery for future revision of the International Classification.

It is thought that as a result of the forthcoming Conference in Paris, no further international conferences on a large scale will be necessary. Revision of the lists, as modification becomes necessary, will likely be henceforth one of the continuing responsibilities of the World Health Organization of the United Nations which is to meet in assembly for the first time in Geneva in June of this year.
