

Geneva, January 18th, 1937.

MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEES.

Report by the Representative of Sweden.

In consequence of the discussions of its Second Committee on the problem of nutrition, the last Assembly noted the growing interest shown in all parts of the world in the movement in favour of improved nutrition. In several countries the Governments' efforts, supplemented in many cases by private action in various forms, have already enabled important results to be achieved. A fresh impetus was given to them by the work undertaken by the League in pursuance of the recommendations of the 1935 Assembly. Various technical committees of the Health Organisation have been entrusted with the study of special problems such as milk, the nutrition of children, etc. The Mixed Committee on the Problem of Nutrition which was set up by the Council on September 28th, 1935 is dealing with this question as a whole in its general aspects. This Committee's mandate has been renewed for a year to enable it to submit a final report to next year's Assembly; certain enquiries are also being conducted by the Secretariat with a view to the preparation of this Report.

In order to encourage the various researches and enquiries in progress, the last Assembly in one of its resolutions made a recommendation which if it is carried out, subject to the Council's approval, should, I think, produce satisfactory results.

This resolution reads as follows :

"The Assembly,

"Noting that National Nutrition Committees have been set up in various countries ;

"Realising that it might be desirable to co-ordinate the activities of these committees internationally and to give their leaders an opportunity of comparing experiences;

"Suggests that the Council, after consultation of the Chairmen of the Mixed Committee on the Problem of Nutrition, should arrange, if occasion offers, for exchanges of views among the representatives of these Committees on the problems with which they are all concerned."

Such committees are in fact already in existence in several countries and their number has increased considerably since the Mixed Committee began its work. At its very first meeting the latter made a definite recommendation on the matter, since it felt that a national centre was essential for the purpose of co-ordinating all public activities in this field. It considered - and its view would appear to be justified - that the sphere of action of these national bodies constituted the rational extension of the work undertaken by it. Various

countries that have already made considerable progress in this direction have acquired valuable experience; others in which the work is less advanced, cannot fail to benefit by exchanges of views and ideas with the former.

The meeting suggested by the Assembly would therefore do much to promote the progress which all States without distinction are anxious to achieve.

I would add that I got into touch with the Chairman of the Mixed Committee who informed me that he fully shared this view.

If my colleagues are of the same opinion, I will ask the Council to be good enough to adopt the following resolution which I have the honour to propose. It did not appear to me to be necessary to specify in this resolution the countries whose national committees should be invited to send representatives to the meeting. This choice might be left to the Secretary-General, who would consult the Chairman of the Mixed Committee.

"The Council,

"Taking note of the resolution in which the Seventeenth Assembly suggested a meeting of the representatives of National Nutrition Committees of various countries,

"Requests the Secretary-General to organise this meeting after consulting the Chairman of the Mixed Committee on Nutrition".

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