



REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Geneva, 30 June - 9 July 1971

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PART I

Introduction

1. The Eighth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 30 June to 9 July 1971. The session was attended by 257 participants, including the representatives and observers of 49 countries and observers from 22 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Mr. G. Weill (France) and its three Vice-Chairmen, Dr. N.A. de Heer (Ghana), Mr. A. Miklovicz (Hungary) and Mr. G.R. Grange (U.S.A.). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O. Kermode and Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO) and Dr. J. Munn (WHO).
3. The Eighth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and was opened on behalf of both Directors-General with a speech of welcome by Dr. L. Bernard, Assistant Director-General, WHO.
4. Dr. Bernard was pleased to see the ever growing interest in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as evidenced by the fact that 88 countries were now Members of the Commission (an increase in membership of 26 countries since the Commission last met in Geneva in March 1969) and further by the fact that 13 countries had already indicated their positions with respect to the four Recommended Codex Standards which had been sent out to governments for acceptance immediately after the Seventh Session of the Commission. Dr. Bernard stated that the letters requesting acceptance of the remaining 40 or so Recommended Codex Standards also adopted by the Commission would shortly be sent to governments by the Director-General of WHO. He outlined the contribution which WHO was making to the health aspects of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, referring to the steady expansion in WHO's activities in the field of food additives, pesticide residues, contaminants and food hygiene. The work of WHO was also continuing in other fields of interest to the Commission, namely food microbiology and the various aspects of food-borne diseases. WHO was also continuing to support research projects in various institutes engaged on work with pesticide residues, food additives, contaminants and food hygiene, by making available research grants.
5. The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director-General, Dr. Bernard, for having opened the meeting and expressed appreciation at the contribution which WHO was making to the Food Standards Programme, more especially to those aspects of the Programme's activities which concerned the protection of the health of the consumer. The Chairman stressed the importance of WHO's role in providing the necessary technical advice in all matters affecting the health aspects of international food standards. He also expressed the appreciation of the

Commission to Dr. C. Agthe of WHO for his services to the Codex Alimentarius Commission since its inception, and expressed the best wishes of the Commission to him in his new position in the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

6. Having briefly reviewed the progress of work of the Commission, the Chairman recalled that the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, almost ten years ago, was on the initiative of a relatively small number of countries - mainly European countries - and thought that with the membership of the Commission now standing at 38 countries, more than half of which were developing countries, the Commission might in the near future wish to consider how best to take account of the special needs of the developing countries within the context of its future work programme and activities.

7. During the session, the Commission unanimously re-elected Mr. G. Weill (France) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Eighth Session until the end of the Ninth Session. The Commission also unanimously re-elected Mr. G.R. Grange (U.S.A.), Dr. N.A. de Heer (Ghana) and Mr. A. Miklovicz (Hungary) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Eighth Session until the end of the Ninth Session.

Adoption of Agenda

8. The Commission unanimously adopted the provisional agenda with a slight rearrangement in the order of items to be discussed.

PART II

Report by the Chairman on the 16th and 17th Sessions of the

Executive Committee

9. The Commission received reports concerning the 16th and 17th sessions of the Executive Committee held in Geneva from 9 to 11 February and on 25 June 1971. In introducing the reports, the Chairman indicated that most of the substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items relating to the matters concerned. The report of the 17th session of the Executive Committee is reproduced as Appendix II to this Report.

Action taken by the 55th Session of the FAO Council and by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO concerning matters of interest to the Commission

10. The Commission noted that Rule XII of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission concerning the languages of the Commission, as amended by the Commission at its Seventh

Session, had been approved by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and confirmed by the Council of FAO. The Commission also noted that the Council of FAO had recommended to the Sixteenth Conference of FAO that the report of the Seventh Session of the Commission concerning Rule VI.3, governing the elaboration of standards for regions or groups of countries, be accepted and that the appropriateness and the timing of any amendment to Rule VI.3 might best be judged by the Commission. The Commission further noted that the Council of FAO had been informed that the procedures of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products had been fully aligned with those of the Commission, as had been requested by the Fourteenth Conference of FAO. The Council had recommended that the Sixteenth Conference of FAO be advised of this.

Natural Mineral Waters

11. The Commission recalled that at its 7th Session it had decided that no further progress could be made with the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters, which was before it for consideration at that session at Step 8, until those countries which had recognized specific natural mineral waters as having properties favourable to health were in a position to make available the criteria on which such recognition had been given. Material on this subject had been received from a number of interested countries and this material had been made available to WHO. A meeting of experts on natural mineral waters had been convened by WHO in May 1971 and the conclusions of the meeting would be placed before the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe which would be reconsidering the draft standard at Step 7.

Codex Mark or Symbol

12. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had considered the question of the possibility of adopting a Codex mark or symbol which might be used to indicate that a food conformed to the requirements of the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission noted that the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, were examining this subject in all its aspects and that the matter would be considered further by the Executive Committee at its 18th Session in the light of a report on this matter to be prepared by the Secretariat and Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO.

PART III

Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

13. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The membership as at 9 July 1971 is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last session membership had increased from 75 to 89 countries.

Europe

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Cyprus
5. Czechoslovakia
6. Denmark
7. Finland
8. France
9. Germany, Fed. Rep.
10. Greece
11. Hungary
12. Iceland
13. Ireland
14. Israel
15. Italy
16. Luxembourg
17. Malta
18. Netherlands
19. Norway
20. Poland
21. Portugal
22. Romania
23. Spain
24. Sweden
25. Switzerland
26. Turkey
27. United Kingdom
28. Yugoslavia

North America

29. Canada
30. U.S.A.

Latin America

31. Argentina
32. Barbados
33. Bolivia
34. Brazil
35. Chile
36. Colombia
37. Costa Rica

- 38. Cuba
- 39. Dominican Republic
- 40. Ecuador
- 41. Guatemala
- 42. Guyana
- 43. Jamaica
- 44. Mexico
- 45. Paraguay
- 46. Peru
- 47. Trinidad and Tobago
- 48. Uruguay
- 49. Venezuela

Africa

- 50. Algeria
- 51. Burundi
- 52. Cameroon
- 53. Zaire Rep. of
- 54. Congo, People's Rep.
- 55. Ethiopia
- 56. Gambia
- 57. Ghana
- 58. Ivory Coast
- 59. Kenya
- 60. Madagascar
- 61. Morocco
- 62. Nigeria
- 63. Senegal
- 64. Sudan
- 65. Togo
- 66. Tunisia
- 67. Uganda
- 68. United Arab Republic

South-West Pacific

- 69. Australia
- 70. New Zealand

Asia

- 71. Ceylon
- 72. China
- 73. India

74. Indonesia
75. Iran
76. Iraq
77. Japan
78. Jordan
79. Korea, Rep. of
80. Kuwait
81. Lebanon
82. Pakistan
83. Philippines
84. Qatar
85. Saudi Arabia
86. Singapore
87. Syrian Arab Republic
88. Thailand
89. Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of

Progress Report on Acceptances of Recommended Codex

Standards

14. The Commission took note of the contents of ALINORM 71/6 setting out the positions of 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Monaco, Philippines, Portugal, U.S.S.R. and U.S.A.) with respect to the acceptance of the four Recommended Codex Standards (General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon, European Regional Standard for Honey ¹ and the First Series of International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues) which had been sent to governments for acceptance shortly after the 7th Session of the Commission. In addition to the information contained in this document, the Commission noted that China had further indicated that in the case of the Recommended International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues it would be the intention of China to pass from target acceptance to full acceptance in 1973. The Commission also noted the statement of the delegate of Portugal that Portugal had now given full acceptance to all four recommended standards.

15. The Chairman expressed the special satisfaction of the Commission at the fact that the Government of Argentina, after having given acceptance to the first four Recommended Codex Standards referred to in paragraph 14 above, had additionally accepted a considerable number of the second series of Recommended Codex Standards which had recently been sent to governments for acceptance.

16. The delegate of Mexico recalled that during the 7th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Mexican delegate had requested one year at least to consider possible acceptance of the European Regional Standard for Honey. The Mexican delegate informed the Commission that the study of Mexican honey in relation to the standard was giving

favourable results. On the basis of the conclusions of the analysis of the whole study of the final results, Mexico would indicate in due course its position on this standard. This, of course, would be subject to a precise interpretation of the procedure for acceptance as outlined in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which in the opinion of the delegation was of vital importance for all the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

17. The delegate of Kuwait expressed the keen interest of the Government of Kuwait in the work of the Commission in elaborating international food standards and stressed the special importance which the Government of Kuwait attached to the subject of food hygiene.

18. The delegate of Nigeria also expressed the interest which the Government of Nigeria had in the work of the Commission. The delegate of Nigeria drew attention to the fact that there were some difficulties in connection with the acceptance of Recommended Codex Standards. These difficulties were mainly due to the inadequate facilities for ensuring compliance with the standards. Also, most of the food commodities being standardized by the Commission could not be regarded as staple products in Nigeria, although many of the products covered by the standards were in fact imported into Nigeria. The delegate of Nigeria also drew attention to the fact that in Nigeria modern basic food legislation was still only being developed and systematic arrangements for dealing with Codex matters had not yet been finalized. The delegate of Nigeria thought that these difficulties would be overcome in due course, but laid great stress on the need to create proper facilities (laboratory facilities, control services, training of personnel, etc.) and in this connection expressed the hope that FAO/WHO would be in a position to provide assistance.

19. The representative of WHO stated that FAO/WHO had received requests to assist in the setting up of control services and laboratory facilities, and that consideration was being given to the possibility of making available the services of consultants for the purpose of advising developing countries in these matters. Attention was also drawn to the possibility of WHO fellowships being made available to personnel from the developing countries for training abroad and to the possibility of arranging special training courses for such persons.

¹ See also remarks of the delegate of New Zealand in paragraph 42 of this Report.

20. The delegate of the United Arab Republic also expressed the interest of his Government in the work of the Commission and stressed the desirability of making important Codex documents available in Arabic. The position concerning the use of Arabic in FAO and in WHO was explained by the legal advisers of both Organizations. The Chairman suggested that those countries interested in having the most important documents of the Codex available in Arabic might wish to present agreed proposals to the Commission's Secretariat, indicating the documents which they would like to have in Arabic. The Secretariat would then arrange for this matter to be examined by FAO and WHO.

21. In considering likely future developments with regard to acceptances of recommended Codex standards, the Commission took note of the recommendations of the 17th Session of the Executive Committee. The Commission agreed with the recommendations of the

Executive Committee that Member Governments be requested to make available to the Secretariat prior to each session of the Commission information on the status of acceptances or other action taken on each Step 9 standard in respect of which a final reply had not yet been made by the Member Government concerned. The Commission also agreed that, in line with the idea of making as much information as possible available to Member Governments regarding action taken in individual countries having a bearing on acceptances of Recommended Codex standards, it would be useful if legislative material and studies related to Recommended Codex standards were made available to Member Governments by the Secretariat acting in cooperation with the Legislation Branches of FAO and WHO.

22. The Commission also agreed with the proposal of the Executive Committee that the task of reviewing replies of Member Governments on Acceptances of each Recommended Codex standard might best be entrusted to the Executive Committee, which would, when timely and appropriate, recommend action by the Commission or other steps such as referral to the appropriate Codex Committees. The Commission also agreed that the Executive Committee should advise the Commission whether in its view a given Recommended Codex Standard should be published in the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission agreed that in view of the very limited experience of acceptances so far, the above arrangements should be regarded as being of a tentative and experimental nature. The Commission recognized that at a later stage, in the light of experience, it might be desirable to refer to some aspects of the above matters to the Codex Committee on General Principles, since it was that Committee which had elaborated the various methods of acceptance of Codex Standards.

PART IV

Finance of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for

1970/71 and 1972/73

23. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/7 containing details of the budget for 1970/71 as approved by the governing bodies of FAO and WHO and estimates for 1972/73 which were still subject to approval by the governing bodies of both Organizations. ALINORM 71/7 also contained details of the estimated expenditure in 1970 and the estimated balance available for 1971. It was noted that the estimated balances available in 1971 in respect of (i) salaries and common staff costs, (ii) travel and (iii) meetings would be adequate to meet commitments but that there would be a significant shortfall in respect of external printing and translation of Codex documents. The shortfall was mainly the result of the need to publish in 1970 an accumulated number of Recommended Codex Standards.

24. Economy measures had been introduced to restrict the Programme's requirements concerning internal printing to within its biennial allocation. In spite of this, the Programme would be faced with an estimated shortfall of printing and translation requirements estimated to cost \$ 15,240 for the remainder of the biennium. As it would not be possible for the

Programme to exceed its approved budgetary allocations, the only means open to it to deal with the estimated shortfall would be postponement until early 1972 of the publication of Step 8 standards adopted by the Commission at its current session.

25. Account of the publication situation had been taken by FAO and WHO and a programme increase in respect of documents had been included in the 1972/73 budgetary estimates. Concerning the other items in the 1972/73 estimates for the Programme, the Commission noted that there would be no increase in the numbers of professional and general service staff, nor in the provisions for duty travel and for meetings. The main increase in the budgetary estimates of the Programme for 1972/73 was attributable to increased costs. These increases were the result of cost-of-living and pay awards common to the UN service or peculiar to Rome duty station.

26. The Commission further noted that the proposed estimates for 1972/73 had been drawn up on the basis of the proposed number of meetings contained in the schedule of meetings in ALINORM 71/28, the costs of which are borne by the budget of the Programme. The Commission noted that the proposed budgetary estimates were still subject to approval by the governing bodies of both Organizations. The Commission also noted that FAO was proposing to make available the same amount of staff translation and internal printing in 1972/73 as had been made available in the current biennium. However, owing to increases in the rates chargeable for translation and printing, the actual cost would be significantly more than in the current biennium.

27. The delegate of Argentina preferred to express his views on the budget estimates for 1972/73 after the Commission's deliberations on the question of the use of the Spanish language in Codex Committees.

28. The Commission noted that the Director-General of FAO proposed, subject to agreement with WHO, to change the status of the Recommended Codex Standards for which there had been no charge, from main documents, to priced publications. This change of status would apply to Step 9 and Step 10 standards only. Under the proposed new arrangements, governments would continue to receive a free quota of Recommended Codex Standards and Codex Standards but the quota would be in accordance with the formula for the distribution of priced publications adopted by the 12th FAO Conference in 1963. The Commission noted that further details on this subject were contained in paragraphs 13–15 of the Report of the 17th Session of the Executive Committee (see Appendix II to this Report).

29. The Commission noted that all the Recommended Codex Standards published at Step 9 bore copyright of FAO and WHO. The Commission was informed that the Organizations had done this as a precaution in order to ensure that, as and when requests to waive copyright were received, the Organizations would be in a position to insist on a statement in the preamble to any publication or translation of the texts into languages other than the official ones to the effect that the authentic and official texts were those published by FAO and WHO in English, French and Spanish.

PART V

Information on the activities of other international organizations working on the standardization of foods and related matters

General

30. In line with the fact that one of the purposes of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme was to promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations, the Commission reaffirmed its keen interest in furthering harmonious collaboration with the many international organizations assisting the Commission in achieving its aims, in order that the Commission might benefit from the expertise of these bodies.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (ALINORM 71/8 - Part I)

31. The Commission had before it a progress report on the activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the UNECE. The UNECE representative indicated that a standard for walnut kernels and a recommendation for dates would probably be adopted at the next session of the Working Party. He pointed out that the activities were entering a new phase, as standards had now been adopted for most fresh fruits and vegetables. The main new activities would be:

- a. the revision of standards, the importance of which was increasing; the tasks consisted mainly in collecting information on the application of standards, assessing whether they meet trade requirements and amending them accordingly, and
- b. the study of technical problems related to the application of standards and the maintenance of quality of perishable foodstuffs until delivery to the consumer. The Working Party did not intend to undertake studies for which various other international organizations were competent, but its role was primarily to promote cooperation at the European level. Among the priorities of the UNECE's activities was the development of European quality standards for intra-European trade, which were also intended to protect the interests of the consumer.

The UNECE Representative expressed the satisfaction of the UNECE at the excellent cooperation which existed between the UNECE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at the continued progress being made in the work of the two Joint Groups of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods and Fruit Juices.

32. The Commission was further informed that the UNECE had held several meetings for European countries to examine the possibility of coordinating the standardization policies on a

European basis. These meetings had examined the work being undertaken on a national and international level in Europe, and in all probability the UNECE would establish priorities for future work. The Commission was informed that the Executive Secretary of the UNECE had consulted FAO/WHO and had been requested not to include food standards, additives, pesticides and related matters in his work programme, which related mainly to standards for industrial products, e.g. electrical, building and machinery items, so as to avoid any duplication with the work of the Commission.

Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) (ALINORM 71/8 - Part II)

33. The Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement). The report dealt with the activities of its subsidiary bodies, Subcommittee on Poisonous Substances in Agriculture, Subcommittee for the Health Control of Foodstuffs, Working Party on Flavouring Substances, and Working Party on Packaging Materials.

34. The representative of the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) drew attention to a number of developments in their work which had taken place since the document mentioned above had been prepared. The agricultural and non-agricultural use of pesticides, which might lead to some degree of contamination of the environment with the resultant risk of contaminating foodstuffs, was under study. This study would be considered by the Subcommittee on Poisonous Substances in Agriculture.

35. The Commission was also informed that the above mentioned Subcommittee had drafted a resolution in March 1971, setting out recommendations to governments regarding the classification of formulated pesticide products. The classification proposed was based on the toxicity of the formulations. The principles governing the classification of formulated pesticide products together with the guidelines for standardized labelling of these products, from a safety in use point of view, were expected to be issued in a revised booklet on this subject "Agricultural Pesticides" in 1973.

36. The Subcommittee on Health Control of Foodstuffs would continue its study of possible risks arising from the use of antibiotics. The use of hormones would also be considered by the Subcommittee.

37. The Commission was informed that the Working Party on Packaging Materials was elaborating general guidelines for the use of additives in and components of packaging materials intended for use in connection with foodstuffs. The Working Party was continuing the toxicological evaluation of substances used in packaging materials.

38. In connection with the Working Party on Flavouring Substances, the Commission noted that the "Report on Natural and Artificial Flavouring Substances" published in July 1970 had been circulated for comment to, amongst others, the Codex Committee on Food Additives, which had decided that the report should be made available to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert

Committee on Food Additives. The Working Party would start reviewing the above-mentioned report at its next session.

39. The delegate of Ghana expressed his appreciation for documentation which the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) had made available. The delegate of New Zealand expressed interest in obtaining certain documentation from the Council of Europe concerning the work of the Subcommittee on Poisonous Substances in Agriculture. It was stated in reply that countries wishing to obtain documentation relating to the activities of the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) could obtain such documentation on request from the Council's Secretariat.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) **(ALINORM 71/8 - Part III)**

40. In the absence of a representative of the OECD at the session, the Commission took note of the progress report which had been prepared by the Secretariat of the OECD summarizing the activities of the OECD in the field of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables, and noted that this work was complementary to that of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the UNECE.

Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) (ALINORM 71/8 - Part IV)

41. The Commission had before it a report setting out the objectives and main activities of ASMO including activities under way and planned in the field of food standards, standards for food packaging and labelling and services carried out by ASMO in support of standardization activities. The Commission noted that in December 1965, the Economic Council of the League of Arab States had approved an agreement for the creation of ASMO as an inter-governmental regional specialized agency.

42. The representative of ASMO stressed the role ASMO could play as an inter-sub-regional liaison organization in furthering the aims and objectives of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The representative of ASMO also stressed the desirability of having the main documents of the Codex made available in Arabic. During the course of the discussions, it was noted that the programme of work for 1971/72 of the ASMO Technical Committee for Food Standards included consideration of draft recommendations for various products including honey. In this connection, the delegate of New Zealand stated that some countries had reservations about the Recommended European Regional Standard for Honey (paragraph 238 of the Report of the 7th Session of the Commission) and suggested to the representative of ASMO that ASMO might wish to take these reservations into account in considering its draft recommendation for honey.

43. The representative of ASMO laid emphasis on the need for close cooperation between his Organization and FAO/WHO regarding food standards and allied fields and thought that it would be desirable to envisage the creation of joint workshops and seminars with FAO/WHO

in these fields. The Commission took note of the wish expressed by the representative of ASMO and was pleased to note that ASMO was playing a coordinating role in its own region in the food standards field, and in promoting interest in the activities and objectives of the Commission.

International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) (ALINORM 71/8 -Part V)

44. The Commission noted that the Recommended International Standard for Olive Oil, Virgin and Refined, and for Refined Residue Oil had been distributed by the Secretariat of the IOOC to all Member Governments of the Council drawing their attention to the importance of accepting the standard in accordance with the Procedure for the acceptance of Codex commodity standards. The IOOC had drawn attention to the view expressed by a number of experts participating in the work of the IOOC concerning the method which had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for the determination of alpha-cocopherol in olive oils. The Commission agreed that it would deal with this matter when it came to consider the report of the 6th session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. ¹

45. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to a proposal of the IOOC concerning future work on the proposed draft standard for table olives, and the Commission agreed to deal with this matter when it came to consider the report of the Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. ²

Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) (ALINORM 71/8 - Part VI)

46. The Commission had before it a report on the state of work of the EEC in the field of harmonization of food standards, prepared by the Secretariat of the EEC. The report set out in summary form, the state of work on harmonization of legislation in respect of (i) general regulations, (ii) food additives and (iii) commodities or commodity groups.

¹ See paragraphs 181 and 182.

² See paragraph 245.

47. In the course of reviewing the progress report, the representative of the EEC indicated, with regard to the section of the report on food additives, that antioxidants should be moved from subsection 2.2 to subsection 2.1 of the report, as there were regulations in force applicable to antioxidants. As regards subsection 3.1 of the progress report, the Commission noted the remarks of the representative of the EEC that proposals relating to cocoa and chocolate, fruit juices and sugars were expected to be implemented shortly.

48. The Commission was pleased to note that the proposals relating to sugars were based on the Recommended Codex Standards for sugars.

49. As regards subsection 3.2 of the progress report, the Commission noted the statement of the representative of the EEC that proposals relating to canned milk, honey, soft drinks, mineral waters, edible ices and beer had been sent to the Council of Ministers for decision. The Commission was pleased to note the statement of the EEC that the proposal relating to honey was based on the Recommended Codex European Regional Standard for Honey.

50. The delegate of The Netherlands drew attention to proposed EEC regulations relating to pesticide residues. The Commission agreed that it attached great importance to the work of the EEC in the field of harmonization of food legislation and standards and was pleased to note the statement of the representative of the EEC that as far as possible in carrying out this task the results of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission would be taken into account, or would serve as a basis for their proposals.

51. The representative of the EEC stated that his Organization attached particular importance to the work of the Commission, but pointed out that the EEC had naturally to follow its own procedures.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (ALINORM 71/8 - Add. 1)

52. The Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretariat of Technical Committee 34 of ISO. The representative of ISO briefly reviewed the contents of the report which set out the activities and future work programme of ISO/TC 34 in the field of methods of testing and sampling of various agricultural products. The Representative of ISO drew attention to the fact that the activities of ISO, together with its future work programme were set out in considerable detail in the report which had been furnished to the Commission. In its work, ISO was paying special attention to agricultural products which were of significance in international trade.

53. The representative of ISO stated that his Organization was pleased at the excellent cooperation between the Secretariat of ISO/TC 34 and the Secretariat of the Commission and that there was no duplication of work as between the two Organizations. The Commission noted that delegations which wished to have further details of the work of ISO should communicate with the Hungarian Secretariat of ISO/TC 34.

Synopsis of Work being done by other international organizations in the food standards and related fields

54. A number of delegates drew attention, with a view to avoiding duplication of work, to the desirability of the Secretariat preparing a synopsis of work being done by other international organizations in the food standards and related fields, along the lines of that which had been prepared for the 1962 Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should submit a report in this connection to the Executive Committee at its next session. The Executive Committee would decide whether the Secretariat should proceed to prepare such a synopsis and would also determine its scope and form of presentation.

PART VI

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO OF INTEREST TO

THE COMMISSION Food Additives, Pesticide Residues and

Contaminants

55. Concerning the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees in 1970, the WHO representative informed the Commission as follows. Matters considered consisted of a review of selected topics under the general headings of contaminants, food additives, irradiation and pesticide residues. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, took cognizance of a resolution (WHA 23.50 of the twenty-third World Health Assembly that:

“1. REQUEST Member States:

- i. to communicate immediately to WHO any decision to limit or prohibit the use of a food additive; and
- ii. to supplement as soon as possible such information with the data in support of the decision taken; and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General where such action would be useful:

- i. to transmit immediately to Member States information received under paragraph (1);
- ii. to take expeditious steps to evaluate any significant new evidence of toxicity of a specific food additive, including if necessary the convening of a meeting of experts, where appropriate in consultation with FAO;
- iii. to distribute promptly to Member States any conclusions of such a meeting.”

Within the last few months in response to this resolution information regarding the use of certain food additives had been submitted to WHO for distribution to Member States.

56. In its review of the mercury problems the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives noted with concern the epidemics of poisoning, the high sensitivity of the foetus, the occurrence among fish-eaters in non-epidemic areas of mercury in the blood and hair approaching those associated with symptoms of poisoning and the correlation in man between the exposure to mercury as a fish contaminant and the incidence of chromosome breaks. Consequently, it recommended that steps be taken to reduce to the absolute minimum further contamination of the environment with mercury. The Committee found no objection to the new proposed uses for copper and sulphate in food processing and recommended no change in the previously recommended maximum intake level. Since the concentration of the stannous ion which is usually present in food as a contaminant is

relatively low, it was recommended that for tin the limits set by good manufacturing practice be adopted.

57. The Committee reviewed the available data on cyclamates and recommended that in view of several important unanswered questions, no ADI be established. The Committee recognized, however, that there might be benefits in the use of cyclamates.

58. In its review of monosodium glutamate, the Committee assigned an unconditional ADI for adults, excepting infants under one year of age. It recommended that brominated vegetable oils should not be used as food additives.

59. In addition, the Committee drew up specifications for a number of extraction solvents and recommended that the levels of their residues in food should be reduced to a minimum and below those required by purely economic considerations.

60. The Committee recommended that the computerized calculations of the per capita potential food additive intake be continued by WHO and that those responsible for the design and analysis of food consumption surveys should consult FAO and WHO so that the collective data could be used to the maximum extent for those interested in calculating the amount of the food additives ingested.

61. In order to help provide some answers to questions concerning the problem of mercury poisoning, WHO was providing partial financial assistance for studies at the National Institute of Hygienic Sciences, Tokyo, and at the University of Dundee, Scotland. In addition, the Toxicological Centre of the University of California, Davis, U.S.A., was receiving financial support from WHO for a documentary report of the distribution of mercury in foods.

62. Associated with the consumption of certain tropical fish there has been an increase in the number of outbreaks of human intoxication which were generally due to the ingestion of poisonous fish, shellfish and turtles. Furthermore, the increasing use of agricultural and industrial chemicals had led to the potential danger of contamination of marine food products. In an attempt to obtain further data with which to assess these hazards, a Joint FAO/WHO International Reference Centre on Marine Biotoxins had been established in 1969 in the World Life Research Institute in Colton, California, U.S.A. In addition, a request for a United Nations Development Programme project was being initiated to ensure the safety of marine food products.

63. In an attempt to assess the wholesomeness of irradiated products, a meeting of the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on Wholesomeness of Irradiated Food was convened in April 1969. In the light of the available data, this Committee recommended the temporary acceptance of irradiated wheat and potatoes. To further assist the Joint Committee with its work, an International Project in the Field of Food Irradiation had been initiated. WHO was participating in the project in an advisory capacity.

64. The Joint Meeting of the FAO Working Party of Experts on Pesticide Residues and the WHO Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues was held in Rome from 9 – 16 November 1970. The Committee considered a number of amendments, additions and clarifying statements relating to the tolerances or practical residue limits recommended by previous Joint Meetings. The tolerance previously recommended for DDT in fish was withdrawn.

65. In addition the Committee had considered several pesticides for the first time, in particular a number of herbicides. It has also examined new data on certain other pesticides which had previously been considered. In some cases, only temporary acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) or temporary tolerances had been assigned to these compounds. For endrin, it had been possible to establish for the first time an ADI and to recommend tolerances and practical residue limits.

66. New toxicological data had been considered for dieldrin and for the herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. The Committee had not been able to assign ADIs for the herbicides, since no chronic toxicological data was available. It was recognized that current registered uses of either 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T on cereal crops did not give rise to significant residues.

67. The Committee had also expressed concern over the serious toxic effects of diquat and parquat, especially with respect to the relatively high sensitivity of man to the latter compound.

68. The 15th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives was held on 18 – 24 June 1971 in Rome. An evaluation of chemical additives and food contaminants of interest to the Commission took place.

Food Hygiene

69. WHO had made reports available to governments on the Organization's activities concerning food hygiene. These activities had consisted of the provision of advisory services to various countries requesting assistance, the convening of seminars and training courses, the issue of reports of several meeting of expert committees, the exchange of research workers and the arrangement of fellowships.

70. In 1970, the Third Report of the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Milk Hygiene had been published. More recently, the Report of the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Brucellosis had been published which dealt, inter alia, with matters concerning the transmission of the disease through food and also contained recommendations regarding measures for the control of this disease. The World Health Assembly had agreed to the convening in 1972 of a Seminar for African countries on the Surveillance and Control of Zoonoses and of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications. The Seminar would consider, inter alia, the food-borne infections and intoxications prevalent in Africa, control of measures practicable under local conditions and the international movement of meat, fish and other animal products which can act as vehicles for the transmission of the disease.

71. Further progress had been made in the development of unified microbiological procedures for the examination of food, including sampling methods, examination techniques and the evaluation of results. Microbiological specifications for a number of food products had also been elaborated, particularly for those products which were traded internationally. WHO was collaborating closely in this field with the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods. This Commission had published a book containing a series of microbiological procedures entitled "Microorganisms in Foods, Their Significance and Methods of Enumeration", edited by F.S. Thatcher and D.S. Clark (University of Toronto Press, 1968). The methods for detection of the most important food-borne pathogens were being subjected to inter-laboratory studies supported by WHO. The collaborating group consisted of 14 laboratories located in Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, The Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Another group of laboratories in Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, supported by WHO had devoted their efforts to the unification of methods for detection of *Salmonellae* in foods. Another laboratory collaborating with WHO in Copenhagen was involved in developing techniques for the handling and preparation of food samples for microbiological examination.

72. The International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods, in close collaboration with WHO was in the process of elaboration statistical sampling plans for foods intended for microbiological examination. The results of this extremely difficult and complex work had been discussed at Conferences in Mexico City in 1970 and in Opatija in 1971. It was hoped that the work would be finalized at next year's conference. A text entitled "Sampling for the Microbiological Analysis of Foods. Principles and Specific Applications" had been prepared by the International Commission and had been discussed at the Commission's 1971 session. It contained, inter alia, sampling plans for more than 200 food products.

73. WHO had expanded considerably its programme in food virology. There was evidence that the etiology of 40–50 percent of reported food-borne disease outbreaks, even in developed countries, remains unknown. It might be that some of them were of virological origin. It had been recognized that knowledge in this field was, in general, restricted to those viruses causing characteristic clinical symptoms in man, which facilitate the detection of the source of viruses. Much additional work was required to determine the importance and infectivity for man of other food-borne viruses. WHO's programme on food virology comprised three components, namely:

1. elaboration of methods for detecting viruses in foods;
2. research on the effects of various food processing techniques on the survival or destruction of viruses in foods;
3. collection of data on the presence of viruses in foods.

Two consultations on food virology had been held in Geneva and another would be held in July. Two groups, consisting of more than 20 scientists, had been assigned the task of collecting data on the presence of viruses in raw milk and fresh meat (Czechoslovakia) and processed food (U.S.A.).

74. WHO had supported research work in various countries of the world with respect to control of some of the most important zoonoses, such as brucellosis, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, echinococcosis (hydatidosis), cysticercosis-taeniasis, trichinellosis and other parasitic diseases, for many of which, food might serve as an important vehicle for transmission to man.

75. The delegation of Morocco requested more details on the training of personnel in meat hygiene and meat inspection. The joint FAO/WHO Course on Meat Hygiene had met in 1965, 1967 and 1969 and Courses on Abattoir Management and Operations in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1968 had been conducted in Denmark. In 1970, the subjects of both courses had been combined, upon the recommendations of the participants in previous courses, and a new type of course under the title FAO/WHO Combined Centre on Meat Hygiene and Abattoir Development had been convened.

76. The FAO/WHO Training Centre for Meat Inspectors had operated in Kenya every year since 1966. An Ad Hoc Meeting on Education and Training in Meat Production, Handling, Hygiene and Marketing was convened by FAO in Rome, 11–15 January 1971. It had been recommended by the Ad Hoc Meeting that the Combined Centre on Meat Hygiene and Abattoir Development should be changed to a Meat Production and Industry Development Course. It has been further recommended that a permanent Regional Meat Training Centre be established in Africa. The delegation of New Zealand stressed the need for further development in Meat Hygiene and Inspection and also mentioned that the World Association of Veterinary Food Hygienists had convened a Round Table Conference “Today's Meat Hygiene and Inspection” in Langford near Bristol, England, from 14 to 16 December 1970, which had dealt with further developments in this field.

Food Control and Inspection

77. Priority was being given by FAO/WHO to requests for assistance from Member Governments regarding the strengthening of food control at a national level. Closer collaboration between the two Organizations had been developed to ensure that a better service would be provided to governments. A number of delegations had, during the Seventh Session and the present one, expressed their needs for strengthening the food control services in their countries, and their desire that the two Organizations should give a high priority to this activity. Member Governments determined their own inter se priorities for various development programmes. However, in case the advice of the two Organizations was called for, the Organizations would be pleased to submit advice for consideration by the national authorities. Member Governments were at present involved with their “country programming” exercises, suggested by the UNDP and the Member Governments needing assistance in this area could, if they so wished, ensure that food control was included in the programme and given a high priority. FAO and WHO would do their best to give the necessary technical advice and assistance in the different fields of food control. Such advice and assistance might include drafting of basic food legislation and the accompanying regulations, setting up of laboratories, training of food inspectors and analysts.

FAO and WHO Contribution to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Stockholm 1972

78. The Commission noted that the draft agenda for the UN Conference on Human Environment to be held in Stockholm in 1972, included the subject "Identification, effects and control of contamination through Man's Food Chain". FAO and WHO, in collaboration with other UN agencies like IAEA, were involved in the preparation of papers for the consideration of the UN Conference Secretariat. This would probably be a discussion paper which might lead to certain recommendations and follow-up action in the field of activities of the Commission. While it was premature to indicate the exact position that the Conference Secretariat and, later on, the Conference might take on this paper, the draft stressed the work of FAO/WHO in the fields of food control in general and the evaluation of hazards to health from contaminants in particular. It brought out the importance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the need for strengthening the food control arrangements at the national level and the need for developing a programme for data retrieval and evaluation in the field of food contamination at an international level under the aegis of FAO/WHO. It was possible that the deliberations at the Stockholm Conference and the recommendations of the Conference in the field of food contamination might considerably influence the work of the Commission and the future programme of work of FAO and WHO.

PART VII

FOOD STANDARDS NEEDS OF AFRICA

79. The Commission considered further at its present session the special needs of the developing countries of Africa in the field of basic food legislation, food standards, control services, laboratory facilities and training of personnel in the light of a paper on the subject (ALINORM 71/11) which had been prepared by the Secretariat and also in the light of the observations of the 17th session of the Executive Committee on this document.

80. The Commission agreed with the proposal to hold a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference in Africa in 1973 for the purpose of making an accurate assessment of the needs of the African countries in the fields mentioned above, and noted that budgetary provision was being made for the Conference. The Commission recommended that steps be taken by FAO and WHO to organize and make arrangements for the Conference.

81. The Commission noted that document ALINORM 71/11 also contained a proposed draft agenda for the Conference and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the provisional agenda for the Conference might be along the lines of that suggested in paragraph 6 of ALINORM 71/11, it being understood that the provisional agenda would be subject to change in the light of further consultation with the African countries.

82. As regards the question of establishing a Coordinating Committee for Africa, the Commission agreed in principle with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it would be useful to envisage the establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Africa, so that the necessary budgetary estimates be drawn up for inclusion in the proposed budget for 1974/75. The Commission noted that as this was a matter having budgetary implications for FAO and WHO, it would be necessary, in the first instance, for the Directors-General of both Organizations to consider these implications. The Commission further noted that the budgetary estimates for the 1972/73 biennium had already been drawn up and that it would not, therefore, be possible to convene a meeting of a Coordinating Committee in Africa in that biennium. In accordance with Rule IX.9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission the Commission expressed the wish to have before it at its next session a report from the Directors-General on the administrative and financial implications of setting up a Coordinating Committee for Africa.

83. The Commission noted the statement of a Vice-Chairman, Dr. de Heer, that the comments submitted by him to the 16th Session of the Executive Committee and which were incorporated in ALINORM 71/11 were proposals which he had discussed with a number of African countries. Dr. de Heer also added that as a result of correspondence with Tunisia, Sudan, Senegal, Nigeria and Togo, all of these countries supported the idea of establishing a Coordinating Committee for Africa, as well as the representative of the region of Africa in the Executive Committee. As regards the proposed Food Standards Conference in Africa, Dr. de Heer stated that such a conference would enable a review of the recommendation of a Food Science and Technology Conference for the American Region, held by FAO in 1965 in Accra, to be made, as well as guidelines for the work of a Coordinating Committee for Africa to be drawn up. Following a statement made by the delegate of Morocco to the effect that Recommended Codex Standards elaborated for a specific region, such as Africa, must not be at a lower level than any corresponding Recommended World-wide Codex Standards, the Commission confirmed that it was not the intention, in the elaboration of any Recommended Codex Standards for Africa, that such standards should be at a lower level than the corresponding Recommended World-wide Codex Standards.

84. During the session, the representatives of African Member Countries (Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, United Arab Republic) met together to consider what recommendations should be made to the Commission concerning future work on the food standards needs of Africa. The following are the recommendations of this meeting:

“The delegations of the African Member Countries who are attending the Commission are in full agreement that the Food Standards Conference for Africa should be held in September 1973.

They also agree that this Conference may be followed up by the establishment of the Coordinating Committee for Africa in 1974, soon after the 10th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In order to ensure the success of the African Food Standards Conference and consequently the work of the proposed Coordinating Committee, the African delegations hereby inform the Commission that they have designated Dr. N.A. de Heer, Vice-Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and leader of the Ghanaian delegation as Rapporteur. His duties shall be to assist the Commission's Secretariat in any manner that the latter may reasonably direct, in order to achieve the success of the programme outlined above. The Rapporteur should also contact all the African countries to seek their support for the Coordinating Committee.

The African delegations wish to emphasize that the venue for the Conference should be one that will ensure maximum attendance and support from the African countries, and in their opinion, Dakar would be a good choice.

The delegates further request the Commission to transmit to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO the desire of the African countries that the Coordinating Committee should be set up in 1974 and necessary budgetary and other provisions should be included in the programme of FAO and WHO in the biennium 1974–75.”

The Commission took note of the above recommendations and agreed that they should be recorded in the report of the Commission's session and that the Directors-General should be invited to have regard to these recommendations when making arrangements for the Food Standards Conference for Africa and preparing future Programmes of Work and budgetary estimates for consideration by the Governing Bodies. The Commission noted that the selection of the location for the Conference would need to be determined by the Directors-General, with due regard for available facilities and financial support.

Asia

85. A number of delegates from Asia inquired as to what action had been taken by the Secretariat on the recommendation made by the Commission in paragraph 48 of its 7th Session Report regarding the holding of a regional seminar on food standards and legislation. The Commission noted that provision was proposed in the FAO medium-term programme of activities for 1974/75 for the holding of an “Asian Food Standards Conference” in 1975. This conference was included in the proposed schedule of meetings contained in ALINORM 71/28.

86. The Commission was further informed that a Regional Seminar of the type proposed in paragraph 48 of the Report of its Seventh Session was tentatively scheduled by FAO for 1972/73 subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funds. The delegates of Asian Members of the Commission wished to place on record that FAO should make every possible effort to ensure that the proposed Regional Seminar be held early in 1973. The delegations considered that expenses for the seminar could be kept to the minimum if only one working language, namely English, were to be used.

PART VIII

SAMPLING

87. The Commission considered document ALINORM 71/17 in the light of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its 16th Session. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work which the Danish National Codex Committee had done in connection with the proposed statistical sampling plans and noted that a Danish paper on this subject had been distributed to Codex Contact Points and participants in the meetings of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

88. A proposal was made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by other delegations, to collect various sampling plans and information on their practical application in order to develop a Code of Practice for Sampling. This Code should also contain a general chapter describing the various purposes of sampling and sampling plans. Several delegates emphasized the need to clarify the role of the sampling plans in Codex standards. The Commission agreed therefore that an explanatory section should be prepared by the Secretariat to indicate the role of the sampling plans in connection with the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission also agreed that a special session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, attended both by statisticians and specialists in food inspection, would be desirable, but that it would be premature to hold such a session until experience had been gained in the use of sampling plans and the work being done by the ISO on the technical procedures for sampling and definitions of terms used in sampling had been finalized. The delegation of Cuba maintained its position in favour of the publication of the Sampling Plans as a Recommended Code of Practice which should harmonize the requirements of the consumer and the possibilities of the producer in international trade relations, through acceptable quality levels and non-acceptable quality levels or tolerances for permitted defects.

89. A number of delegates stressed that further experience was needed as regards the application of the sampling plans to prepackaged food, to foods in bulk, to different types of foods and to different criteria, in particular criteria involving health aspects such as food additives, pesticides residues and the presence of pathogenic microorganisms. ¹ The delegate of India pointed out that the generalization of sampling plans might not be practicable, in view of wider tolerances required for certain commodities. The Commission noted that it was the intention of the Codex Committee of Food Labelling to consider at its next session the principles behind the setting out of statistical sampling plans for the measurement of net contents, with a view to the possible development of such plans in consultation with the Codex Commodity Committees involved.

¹ See also paragraph 72 of this Report.

90. The Commission agreed with the following recommendations of the Executive Committee:

“Sampling

27. The Executive committee had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat dealing with the Sampling Plans for Processed Fruits and Vegetables elaborated by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, as well as the question of sampling as a whole. The Executive Committee noted that a number of Codex Commodity Committees had included provisions for defective units in their standards and had applied the Sampling Plans (AQL-6.5, probability 95%, ALINORM 69/27) to these defectives as defined in the standards. It was noted that the primary task of adopting desirable sampling plans was the responsibility of the Codex Committee which developed the product standard. It also noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling was considering a document dealing with technical procedures for sample taking. The Executive Committee considered that international agreement on sampling plans was important in order to achieve uniform enforcement of a standard, but that it was a refinement which might not require immediate attention. The Executive Committee noted that ISO had developed a layout setting out a programme of work in the field of sampling as well as a vocabulary of terms used in sampling, but that detailed sampling procedures would still have to be elaborated. The Executive Committee also noted that there was no duplication between the ISO work on sampling techniques and Codex work on statistical sampling plans.

28. The Executive Committee agreed that the Sampling Plans be published under the title Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods after appropriate editorial changes. It was understood that the Sampling Plans would not have the status of a mandatory text except insofar as they were attracted to appropriately defined ‘defectives’ in Codex standards. In this respect it was necessary to rewrite the ‘scope’ section to make this fact clear but, at the same time, describe the nature of the attributes for which the Sampling Plans would be suitable.

29. It was pointed out that the Codex Commodity Committees should give due consideration to the classification (definition) of ‘defectives’ and to the selection of appropriate acceptable quality levels (AQL) before considering the application of the above Sampling Plans or other types of sampling plans. The Executive Committee noted that a whole range of sampling plans was available with AQLs ranging from less than 0.1 to above 25 and that these would be made available to Codex Commodity Committees on request.

30. It was agreed that there would be no need to employ a consultant for the time being and that the holding of a special session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling did not appear to be necessary until ISO had developed further detailed texts for examination by the above Committee. Meanwhile, those Codex Commodity Committees which had decided to include provisions for ‘defectives’ or other criteria in their standards which required the establishment of an AQL, should examine thoroughly the existing Sampling Plans (AQL-6.5) or any other sampling plans which were appropriate.”

PART IX

General Remarks on Commodity Standards

Date Marking of Retail Units

91. The delegates of Argentina and the Federal Republic of Germany wished to reiterate their concern for the necessity to declare the date of manufacture, packing or a time limit for certain foods. In this connection, reference was made to the following standards which have been discussed by the Commission at this session: quick-frozen fillets of cod and haddock, of ocean perch, special dietary foods with low sodium content (including salt substitutes), and certain standards concerning milk products.

Declaration of Country of Origin

92. The delegate of Argentina reaffirmed the position of his Government that the declaration of country of origin was mandatory on prepackaged foodstuffs in Argentina.

JOINT ECE/CODEX GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FRUIT JUICES

Draft Standards for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars, Orange Juice, Grapefruit Juice, Lemon Juice, Apple Juice and Tomato Juice at Step 8

93. The Commission had before it the above draft standards which were contained in Appendices II to V of ALINORM 71/14 and Appendices II and IV of ALINORM 71/14(A).

94. The Chairman of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices, Prof. W. Pilnik (The Netherlands) informed the Commission that the Group had given careful consideration to all of the specific points which had been raised by the Commission at its Seventh Session (paragraph 108, ALINORM 70/43) and the replies of the Group were contained in detail in the Reports of its Seventh and Eighth Sessions (ALINORM 71/14 and 71/14(A)). The Commission noted that the Group had been able to remove the inconsistencies from the draft standards. The Commission noted that the maximum limits for tin in these standards (250 mg/kg except in the case of apple juice where the limit is 150 mg/kg) had been temporarily endorsed and would be subject to review by the Codex Committee on Food Additives in two years time when it was hoped to carry out a complete study of the levels of tin in all foods and make recommendations to the Commission in connection with all draft and recommended standards.

95. The Commission also noted the editorial amendments to be made to the draft standards for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars, Orange Juice, Grapefruit Juice and Lemon Juice in the light of the decisions taken by the Group at its Eighth Session. These were contained in ALINORM 71/30 (page 28) and are as follows:

- a. In the draft standards for Orange Juice, Grapefruit Juice and Lemon Juice, the Definition Section should be expanded in such a way that the last sentence in each of the three draft standards reads as follows:

“The juice may have been concentrated and later reconstituted with water suitable for the purpose of maintaining the essential composition and quality factors of the juice.”

- b. In the draft standards for Orange Juice, Grapefruit Juice and Lemon Juice, the sub-section entitled “Organoleptic Properties” should be editorially amended to read as follows:

“The product shall have the characteristic colour, aroma and flavour of ____ juice. Natural volatile ____ juice components may be restored to any ____ juice from which natural ____ juice components have been removed.”

In each standard the name of the appropriate juice should be inserted.

- c. In the four draft standards, the sub-section entitled “Net Contents” in the labelling section should be editorially amended to read as follows:

“Net Contents

The net contents shall be declared by volume in one or more of the following systems of measurement: Metric (“Système International”), U.S. or British Units, as required by the country in which the product is sold.”

- d. In the four draft standards, the reference in the Hygiene section to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Deep-Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Products should be changed to read: “Code of Hygienic Practice for Quick-Frozen Fruits, Vegetables and their Juices”.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR APRICOT, PEACH AND PEAR NECTARS AT STEP 8

Minimum Content of Fruit Ingredient

96. The Commission noted that some countries had suggested in their comments that the minimum fruit content of fruit ingredients should be increased to 50% for peach and pear nectars and 40% for apricot nectars. The delegate of Italy reserved the position of Italy on minimum fruit content and stated that in his opinion and according to Italy's experience, a higher percentage of fruit ingredient was necessary in these nectars. It was pointed out that these figures had been fully discussed by the Group and that the figures in the present text

represented a compromise which had been reached over a number of years. The Commission decided not to amend this provision.

Apparent Viscosity

97. The delegate of Poland proposed that this section of the draft standard should be deleted, as in his opinion there should be separate figures for each of the three nectars as they were derived from different species. It was pointed out that the Group had considered that it was necessary to establish a maximum figure based on the lowest viscosities found and that this figure would ensure a product of reasonable equality. The Commission decided not to amend this provision.

Adoption of Standard at Step 8

98. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as Recommended Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR ORANGE JUICE AT STEP 8

Volatile Acids

99. The Commission considered a proposal made by the delegate of Yugoslavia to amend Section 2.4 so as to fix a limit for volatile acids instead of allowing “traces” of these acids. As no figure was proposed for this limit, the Commission decided not to amend this section.

Contaminants

100. The delegate of Spain proposed that the maximum limit for arsenic should be lowered to 0.1 mg/kg and that the maximum limit for lead should be raised to 0.5 mg/kg. The delegate of Spain reserved his country's position on the decision of the Commission not to alter the maximum limit for arsenic. The delegate of France pointed out that children were among the highest consumers of orange juice and that a figure of 0.5 mg/kg for lead would be too high. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives informed the Commission that a figure of 0.3 mg/kg for lead had only been temporarily endorsed. This limit would be re-examined in two years. The Commission decided not to change the figures for contaminants. The delegate of Italy maintained the position taken by the Italian delegation at the 7th Session of the Group of Experts, namely to reserve the position of Italy regarding lead content.

Soluble Solids Content

101. The Commission considered a proposal made by the delegate of Australia and supported by the delegate of India that minimum soluble solids content should be lowered to 10° Brix (instead of 10.5° Brix). The delegate of Australia explained that the figure of 10.5°

Brix at 20°C as provided for in the soluble solids section of the Standard for Orange Juice was too high for Australian conditions and that if the 10.5° Brix figure were retained the developing Australian fruit juice industry would have great difficulty in meeting the requirement. The reasons for this difficulty were complex and were thought to be closely bound up with the geographic and climate conditions under which Australian oranges were produced. In some producing areas in Australia only a 9.5° Brix level could be achieved during certain months of the year, while in other areas numerous tests over a three year period had indicated quite positively that the lowest workable limit was 10.0° Brix. The Commission decided by 27 to 10 with 3 abstentions to lower the minimum soluble solids content to 10° Brix.

Citrus Reticulata

102. The Commission considered a proposal of the delegate of United States of America supported by the delegate of India to allow the addition of mandarine juice (Citrus reticulata) up to a maximum of 10% m/m to orange juice to improve its organoleptic properties (flavour and colour). The delegate of Belgium stated that if the Commission accepted this proposal then Section 2.6 should be amended to refer to a mixture of orange and mandarine juices. The delegate of The Netherlands proposed that the maximum permissible addition of mandarine juice to orange juice without declaration on the label should be reduced to 5% m/m and the addition of amounts up to 10% should be accompanied by a label declaration as “mixed juice”. Some delegates supported this view point. A number of delegates stated that, if the product was called “orange juice” it should be orange juice only and no species other than Citrus sinensis should be permitted. If the addition of mandarine juice were to be allowed, then the consumer should be informed of this addition. This view was supported by the observer of the International Organization of the Consumers' Unions. The United States delegate informed the Commission that if the addition of Citrus reticulata up to 10% were to be permitted, then the presence of mandarine juice would have to be declared in the complete list of ingredients as required by Section 6.2.1 of the Draft Standard. The Commission decided by 32 to none with 8 abstentions to permit the addition of Citrus reticulata up to a maximum of 10% in orange juice with declaration in the list of ingredients.

Sugars

103. The Commission decided not to accept an amendment proposed by the delegate of Italy to lower the maximum amount of sugars permitted to 30 g/kg.

Adoption of Standard at Step 8

104. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Orange Juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Standard.

DRAFT STANDARDS FOR GRAPEFRUIT JUICE AND LEMON JUICE AT STEP 8

Lemon Juice

105. The Commission noted that the maximum level of lead of 1 mg/kg in lemon juice had been temporarily endorsed and would be subject to review by the Codex Committee on Food Additives within two years of the adoption of the standard at Step 8.

106. The delegate of India, supported by a written proposal of the Argentine, proposed that the minimum requirement of total titratable acidity of lemon juice should be lowered to 4.0% m/m instead of 4.5%. This proposal was not accepted by the Commission as this figure had been already discussed fully by the Group of Experts on the basis of the figures found in lemon juices in international trade.

107. The Commission did not accept a proposal of the delegate of Italy to permit the addition of sugars to lemon juice as in the opinion of the Group of Experts this was not necessary as lemon juice had to be diluted for direct use as a beverage.

Adoption of Standards at Step 8

108. The Commission adopted the draft standards for Grapefruit Juice and Lemon Juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as Recommended Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR APPLE JUICE AT STEP 8

Tin

109. The Commission was informed that the Group of Experts had agreed to a maximum level of tin of 150 mg/kg in apple juice. This figure had been temporarily endorsed. The Commission decided that this figure should be reviewed in two years time by the Codex Committee on Food Additives when the Committee made its general review of the maximum limits for tin.

Processing Aids

110. The delegate of The Netherlands considered that it was not appropriate to list processing aids, such as clarifying agents and filtration aids, in a commodity standard. In his view, the Codex Committee on Food Additives should establish a list of suitable processing aids which could be used in food processing. Other delegates explained how the processing aids had come to be listed in the standard. Taking into account that the listing of individual processing aids in this standard might be taken as a precedent for other commodity standards, the Commission decided without dissent to amend section 4 of this standard to read as follows:

“4. Processing Aids

4.1 Clarifying and filtering agents as approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and used in accordance with good manufacturing practice.

4.2 Others

- 4.2.1 Pure Vegetable Carbon
- 4.2.2 Pure Nitrogen
- 4.2.3 Pure Carbon Dioxide.”

It was noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives would be taking the necessary steps in connection with the elaboration of lists of clarifying and filtering agents.

Adoption of Standard at Step 8

111. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Apple Juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Standard.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR TOMATO JUICE AT STEP 8

Use of Concentrates

112. The delegate of Italy proposed that the use of tomato concentrates should not be permitted in the manufacture of tomato juice. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts had examined this matter on several occasions and decided therefore not to amend the standard. Switzerland had proposed in its written comments that the addition of spices to tomato juice should be permitted, in the same way as the addition of salt was permitted in the standard, since there could be some carry-over of spices in juices made from concentrates. The Commission, having noted that the Group of Experts had decided not to permit the addition of spices in this standard, made no alteration in the standard.

Adoption of Standard at Step 8

113. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Tomato Juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Standard.

JOINT ECE/CODEX GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF QUICK FROZEN FOODS

Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Strawberries at Step 8

114. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/25, Appendix II which contained the Draft Standard for Quick-Frozen Strawberries. In the absence of the Chairman of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick-Frozen Foods, Mr. W. Linden (Belgium), the Secretariat gave a brief summary of the written comments which had been submitted by governments on this draft standard.

Use of the terms “frozen” and “quick-frozen”

115. The Australian delegate drew attention to the fact that the standard applied to quick-frozen strawberries only, that is to say strawberries which had been subjected to a freezing process as laid down in the process definition section of the standard. The standard

did not cover strawberries which had been subjected to any other freezing process. In these circumstances the provision in the labelling section of the standard which permitted the use, so far as the English language was concerned, of the term “frozen” as an alternative to the term “quick-frozen” could result in considerable confusion in some countries, where the term “frozen” might be used to describe a product subjected to a freezing process other than that laid down in the standard. A possible solution would be to remove one of the alternatives, so that it would be permissible to use only the term “quick-frozen” to describe the product covered by the present standard, and another standard could be elaborated to cover frozen strawberries, that is strawberries subjected to a freezing process other than that laid down in the standard. The delegates of New Zealand and Poland supported this point of view. It was made clear that the labelling provision concerning the use of the terms “frozen” and “quick-frozen” applied only in those English speaking countries where the term “frozen” was customarily used to describe the product covered by the standard. Neither the French nor the Spanish texts were affected by this. The Danish delegation expressed its concern with regard to the interpretation of the scope Section which, as drafted, appeared to permit products not complying with the standard to be freely distributed if the temperature of -18°C (0°F) was not reached during the freezing process. In this connection, some delegates indicated that if the term “frozen” was required in their countries as the correct description of the product processed in accordance with the definition of the freezing process (sub-section 2.2), strawberries described as ‘frozen’ but which did not comply with the standard could not be freely distributed; the legal position in a particular country would no doubt be clarified in its terms of acceptance.

116. The Commission recalled that it had considered this subject in considerable detail at its previous session. The Commission agreed therefore to make the appropriate changes in the present standard to bring it into line with what had been agreed upon in the Recommended Standard for Quick-frozen Peas. Thus, a footnote would appear in the text similar to that in the Recommended Standard for Quick-frozen Peas, which would read as follows:

“‘Frozen’: This term is used as an alternative to ‘quick-frozen’ in some English-speaking countries.”

The English words “frozen” and “quick-frozen” would appear in the footnote to the French and Spanish texts.

Direct Contact Refrigerants

117. The delegate of Ireland drew the attention of the Commission to the growing use of direct contact refrigerants in the quick freezing industry and to the fact that the use of such refrigerants caused residues in the food treated. As the use of these refrigerants was a comparatively new development and as the draft standard no longer contained a section on contaminants, this problem had not been previously considered by either the Joint Group of Experts or the Codex Committee on Food Additives. It was therefore suggested that the Group of Experts should study this problem, which would later need to be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The delegate of Belgium supported this proposal and

added that as Belgium permitted the quick-freezing of food products by direct contact refrigerants subject to certain conditions concerning the refrigerant residues, Belgium would supply information on this subject to these Committees. The Commission agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick-Frozen Foods.

Process Definition

118. The delegates of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Sweden reserved their positions as to the provision that “the product shall be maintained at a low temperature such as will maintain the quality during transportation, storage and distribution up to and including the time of final sale.” These delegates felt that this terminology was too vague and that the actual temperature should be stated in the standard.

Strawberries prepared with syrup

119. The Delegate of the U.S.A. felt that the total soluble solids content was too restrictive at 25% and should be increased to 30%. The delegate of India stated that, in view of the wide range of syrups permitted, it was desirable that the actual syrup strength should be mentioned on the label. The Commission made no change in the standard with respect to these proposals.

Tolerances for defects

120. The delegate of India considered that the number of stalks or parts of stalks in section 3.5.1(a) was too low and should be increased to five and that the draft standard should be amended accordingly. The Commission made no change in the standard with respect to this proposal.

Classification of ‘Defectives’

121. The delegate of The Netherlands considered that the provisions contained in section 3.6 “Classification of ‘Defectives’” of the draft standard were not properly harmonized with the preceding paragraphs on composition, quality factors and tolerances and that the Joint Group of Experts should examine this problem when elaborating other draft standards. The delegate of the U.S.A. drew the attention of the Commission to what in their opinion seemed to be an apparent inconsistency between section 3.6(c)(i) and section 3.5.1 “Tolerances for Defects” and requested that the Joint Group of Experts should study this point.

Name of the Food

122. The delegate of India proposed that the label should contain a declaration as to whether the quick-frozen strawberries were free-flowing or non-free-flowing. The Commission made no change in the standard with respect to this proposal.

Methods of Analysis

123. The delegate of the United Arab Republic considered that a method of analysis should be developed for the purpose of distinguishing, in the final product, between frozen and quick-frozen strawberries.

Adoption of the Standard at Step 8

124. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Quick-Frozen Strawberries at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Standard.

Draft Standards for Quick-Frozen Peaches and Quick-Frozen Bilberries at Step 5

125. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/25, Appendices IV and V, which contained the Proposed Draft Standards for Quick-Frozen Peaches and Quick-Frozen Bilberries.

126. The delegate of Austria proposed that the colour type 'green' should be added to the Proposed Draft Standard for Quick-Frozen Peaches as had been done in the Recommended International Standard for Canned Peaches. The Commission agreed to amend the standard to include this colour type. The delegate of India was of the opinion that the total defects (a) to (f) in the standard for Quick-Frozen Bilberries should be not more than 15%.

Advancement of the Draft Standards to Step 6

127. The Commission agreed to advance the Draft Standards for Quick-Frozen Peaches and Quick-Frozen Bilberries to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of WorldWide Codex Standards. The Commission agreed that the attention of governments should be drawn to those changes of a general nature which would be applicable to these standards in the light of the decisions taken regarding the Recommended Standard for Quick-Frozen Strawberries.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Draft Standard for Special Dietary Foods with Low Sodium Content Including Salt Substitutes at Step 8

128. The Commission considered the above standard which was contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 71/26. The Chairman of the Committee acted as Rapporteur. It was agreed that the following should be recorded in the Report.

1. Scope

1.1 The delegate of the Netherlands stated that a declaration on the label of products covered by this standard as "not salted" would be considered by them to imply that the food concerned

“is intended for special dietary use by reason of its low sodium content”. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking also in his capacity as rapporteur, strongly supported this expression of view. The delegation of Belgium reserved its position on this.

The delegate of Belgium supported by the delegate of France, wished to place on record that in their opinion a food product with the indication on the label “no salt added” should not be considered as being covered by the Scope of the standard. The use of such a term should be allowed on foods intended for ordinary consumers who wished to reduce their salt intake without, however, having to resort to special dietary foods with low sodium content as defined in the standard.

1.2 The Committee discussed a proposal to amend this sub-section which indicated that the standard dealt only with the dietetic aspect of the particular food and not with the composition as such of these foods. It was agreed to amend sub-section 1.2 to read as follows:

“The standard refers only to the specific provisions related to the sodium content of these foods which are intended for special dietary uses. It does not refer to the composition of such foods including the use of additives except salt substitutes”.

3.1.1 (c)

The delegate of Canada stated that Canada would not be able to accept the standard for special dietary foods with low sodium content, because the provisions in the standard on sodium content did not correspond to Canadian practice which, on the basis of advice from clinicians, required a lower sodium content before such claims could be made. In the absence of support for a change in the standard, Canada withdrew its suggestion but recommended that, in the best interests of the work of the Commission, the standard should be advanced to Step 9 in spite of its difference with the Canadian national position.

3.1.3

The delegate of Poland wished to record that in his view the addition of salt substitutes to a special dietary food with low sodium content should be quantified and not be subject only to good manufacturing practice. He further reiterated Poland's position against the use of glutamic acid and its salts.

4. Labelling

The Commission agreed with the proposal of the delegate of Australia that the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should examine the entirety of the label declarations of dietetic foods and further elaborate the general guidelines which the Committee had developed earlier, so that reference could be made to them in the various standards.

4.1.4 The Commission considered the provision in this sub-paragraph requiring the mandatory declaration on the label of the average carbohydrate, protein and fat content in

100 g of the product as normally consumed, as well as the Calorie value. Some delegates thought that a mandatory declaration was inconsistent with the revised scope of the standard while others considered the information essential for the consumer and medical practitioners. The Commission agreed to leave the provision unchanged.

4.1.6

On a proposal of the delegate of France for the re-wording of section 4.1.6 the Commission agreed to the following revised wording:

“4.1.6 - When a salt substitute, composed entirely or partially of a potassium salt, has been added, the total amount of potassium, expressed as mg cation per 100 g of the food as normally consumed, shall be declared on the label.”

4.2.2

The Commission agreed to a proposal by the delegate of the United States of America, endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, to add “sodium” to the list of cations listed in this sub-section 4.2.2.

ADOPTION OF STANDARD AT STEP 8

129. The Commission adopted the draft standard at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Standards as a Recommended Standard.

Proposed Draft Standard for Complete Infant Food (Complete Infant Formula) at Step 5

130. The Commission considered the above standard contained in Appendix IV to ALINORM 71/26 at Step 5 of the Procedure and noted that the delegations of Switzerland and The Netherlands had prepared a draft standard covering products other than those complying with the provisions of the above standard. This draft would be considered by the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses at its next session in conjunction with the standard for complete infant food.

131. The Commission decided to advance the draft standard for Complete Infant Food to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

132. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Committee took note of the statement by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany that the next session of the Committee would be held from 6 to 10 December 1971 in Bonn.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Tolerances and practical residue limits for pesticide residues at Step 8 General

133. Several delegates expressed the view that practical residue limits only should be established for chlorinated hydrocarbons. The delegate of Australia emphasized that in a number of cases the continued use of chlorinated hydrocarbons was essential in agriculture and therefore it was important that tolerances be established for residues of these compounds arising as a result of good agricultural practice. The delegate of Australia expressed the view that the tolerances and practical residue limits proposed at Step 8 were realistic.

134. The delegate of Canada declared that in his opinion tolerances on pesticide residue limits should not appear again on the agenda of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues until all the data asked for had been made available to and evaluated by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, and relevant monographs had been made available to governments well before the sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, at which the pesticide residue limits would be considered.

135. The delegate of Canada stated that some of the pesticides for which tolerances were proposed were not in fact allowed to be used in Canada. It would however be the intention of Canada to permit the importation of foodstuffs which complied with the recommended Codex tolerances and practical residue limits. The delegate of Poland indicated his general agreement with the recommended tolerances except those for dimethoate. The delegate of Japan expressed the view that the proposed tolerances at Step 8 for aldrin and dieldrin for various foods were too high.

136. The delegate of Canada sought clarification as to the status of the proposed temporary tolerances for certain compounds. The Commission noted that in the main the proposed temporary tolerances were so indicated as it was the intention of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee to reconsider in the near future their recommendations concerning either temporary ADIs or ADIs in the light of new toxicological data. The Commission was of the opinion that temporary tolerances might best be regarded as provisional recommendations of the Commission sent for acceptance to governments but which would remain applicable until such time as the revised tolerances had been adopted by the Commission. The delegate of Morocco drew attention to the need for the establishment of international methods of analysis and sampling for use in connection with the recommended tolerances and practical residue limits.

137. The Commission considered in detail the proposed tolerances, temporary tolerances and practical residue limits for residues of the compounds in the specified food products at Step 8 listed in Appendix II to ALINORM 71/24. The Commission adopted the proposed tolerances, temporary tolerances and practical residue limits in Appendix II as recommended standards with the exception of the practical residue limits of 0.1 ppm for aldrin and dieldrin in eggs on a

shell-free basis, the temporary tolerance of 0.3 ppm for dichlorvos in fresh vegetables and the practical residue limit of 0.1 ppm for heptachlor in carrots, which were returned to Step 7 for reconsideration by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues.

Pesticide Residues at Step 5

138. The Commission considered the tolerances temporary tolerances and practical residue limits submitted by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues at Step 5 and agreed to advance these to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards for Pesticide Residues

139. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee at its 16th Session had recommended that the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards in respect of pesticide residues and contaminants be amended so that the omission of Steps 6, 7 and 8 would be possible by two thirds majority of votes cast. The proposed amendment reads as follows:

“It shall further be open to the Commission to authorize, on the basis of a two thirds majority of the votes cast, the omission of one or more of Steps 6, 7 and 8 of the Procedure in Parts I and II of this document in respect of standards for pesticide residues and contaminants elaborated by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Food Additives, where such an omission is recommended by the Committee concerned.”

140. The Commission did not adopt the proposal, but considered that it would be appropriate to obtain the view of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues on the above amendment proposed by the Executive Committee and also upon an alternative suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. The delegate of the United Kingdom suggested that, when considering draft standards at Step 4, the Committee on Pesticide Residues should be asked to divide them into those which would, in the Committee's view, need to be passed through the full procedure for the elaboration of Codex standards and those which could be advanced directly from Step 5 to Step 8. The Committee, when formulating its recommendations, should take all appropriate matters into consideration including the need for urgency, the government comments at Step 3 and the likelihood of new evidence becoming available in the immediate future. Any standards for which it was recommended that Steps 6, 7 and 8 could be omitted should be dealt with at the Commission's next following session under the procedure for dealing with Step 8 standards and the nature of any proposed amendments would, in the view of the United Kingdom, provide the Commission with the necessary basis on which to take action. It was the view of the United Kingdom that, in all these circumstances, the Commission might be expected to take its decision on all the proposed standards for pesticide residues in a similar way to other Step 8 decisions. If the Committee was able to indicate at its next meeting which tolerances could, in its view, be advanced with Steps 6 and 7 being omitted, its recommendations could, of course, be dealt with at the Ninth Session of the Commission.

Arrangements for a meeting of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Pesticide Residues

141. The Commission was informed by the delegate of Denmark that the Government of Denmark hoped to be in a position to make the necessary preparations in order to host the above mentioned Ad Hoc working Group in Copenhagen from 11 to 16 October 1971. The Commission agreed with the proposal to hold the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group and noted that the hosting of the meeting was subject to confirmation by the Danish authorities. Subsequently during the session, the delegation of Denmark informed the Commission that the Ministry of the Interior in Copenhagen had Confirmed that it would be able to arrange for meeting of an Ad Hoc working Group on Pesticide Residues in Copenhagen from 11 to 16 October 1971, with the provision of interpretation and translation facilities in English and French.

Next Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

142. The Commission noted that the Government of Brazil had under consideration the possibility of offering to host the next session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Brazil. The delegate of The Netherlands informed the Commission that the Government of The Netherlands would be prepared to chair and provide the necessary technical secretariat for such a session. The Commission concurred with this proposal and noted the statement of the delegate of Brazil in which he reaffirmed the interest of his country in hosting the meeting and hoped to be in a position to communicate the final position of the Government of Brazil on this matter shortly.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

143. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Draft Standard for Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock and Draft Standard for Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch at Step 8

144. The Commission considered the above standards which were contained in Appendices II and III to ALINORM 71/18 and agreed to the following:

Title of the Standards

In view of the decisions taken by the Commission on the issue of the use of the terms “frozen” and “quick-frozen” (see paragraphs 115 and 116 of this Report) and of the decision which it took at its last session concerning the title of the standard for Quick-Frozen Gutted Pacific

Salmon, the Commission decided that the titles of the draft standards for Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock and Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch should read Quick-Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock and Quick-Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch, respectively.

2.1 Product Definition

The delegate of Portugal stated that he considered only the species Gadus callarias to be cod and proposed, therefore, that reference to the species Gadus ogac and Gadus macrocephalus be deleted. The Commission recognized, however, that some countries did regard these latter two species as cod. For this reason and taking into account that the matter had been fully discussed at an earlier session of the Commodity Committee, the Commission decided that these two species should be retained in the product definition. The delegate of Portugal reserved his position on this decision.

2.2 Process Definition

A number of delegates were of the opinion that the clause in the Process Definition stating that the temperature to be maintained during transportation, storage and distribution of the product should be “flow”, was too vague. The delegate of Belgium wished the temperature to be clearly defined, and thought it preferable to indicate that the product should not attain a higher temperature than -18°C (0°F), up to and including the time of final sale. It was noted, however, that the Committee had not fixed a precise figure because the temperature at which the product was stored would normally be much lower than -18°C.

The delegate of Argentina reiterated that in his country the practice of thawing and subsequent re-freezing was not allowed.

4. Food Additives

The delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany and Argentina stated that certain food additives as listed in the draft standard were not acceptable under the legislation of their countries.

5. Hygiene

The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had endorsed the hygiene provisions of the standards.

6. Labelling

The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that in his opinion the retail units should be marked with the date of the manufacture or packing. It was pointed out that this was a matter which would be dealt with in the future by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

6.1.1

The Commission agreed that the terminology it had adopted at its Seventh Session regarding the use of the terms “quick-frozen” and “frozen” in connection with peas (see para. 104, sub. 7.1(a) of ALINORM 70/43) would also apply to Quick-Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock and Ocean Perch.

Recommended Defect Table (Annex B to both Standards)

145. The Commission noted that in response to the instructions given by the Seventh Session of the Commission (1970), the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had developed defect tables for the various standards. The Commodity Committee had come to the conclusion that, for the time being and until such time as a sampling plan was agreed upon, the defect tables should have a non-mandatory character and that in the meantime governments should be asked to examine critically the usefulness of the tables. It further noted that some delegations at the Fifth Session of the Commodity Committee (October 1970) were of the opinion that the tables should be made part of the standards and thus have a mandatory character. The Commission agreed to attach the optional tables to the standards and expressed the hope that governments would be in a position to advise in due course on the usefulness of the tables and on the suitability of the demerit points to be awarded for each defect.

146. Regarding Item 4 of the defect tables, Nematodes, the Commission agreed to amend the text as prepared by the delegation of the United Kingdom to read:

“4 - Nematodes (for Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch, the title is: Nematodes and Copepodes). Each nematode (or copepode (Ocean Perch)) with a capsular diameter greater than 3 mm or each worm not encapsulated, greater than 1 cm in length, or each worm which is objectionable by virtue of its dark colour.”

147. The Commission discussed the following issues which were peculiar to the draft standard for Quick-Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch:

2.1 Product Definition

The delegate of the U.S.A. indicated that the scientific name of the species Sebastodes alutus should be changed to read Sebastes alutus. It was agreed that after verification a change would be made in the final version of the standard.

2.3 Presentation

The Commission agreed to rectify the omission in the sub-section “Presentation” of fillets as “skin-on, unscaled” so that the section would read:

“2.3 Presentation

Fillets may be presented as:

- a. skin-on, unscaled; or
- b. skin-on, scaled (scales removed); or
- c. skinless

The fillets may be presented as boneless, provided that boning has been completed including the removal of pin bones.”

Adoption of Standard for Quick-Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock at Step 8

148. The Commission agreed to adopt the above standard at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, as a Recommended Standard. The delegations of Cuba and Japan reserved their positions. They were of the opinion that the standards should not be adopted as Recommended Standards in the absence of a suitable sampling plan. Additionally, the delegate of Japan considered that such a sampling plan would need to be a mandatory part of the standard. The delegate of Portugal reserved his position, as he considered that only the species Gadus callarias should be considered as cod.

Adoption of Standard for Quick-Frozen Fillets of Ocean Perch at Step 8

149. The Commission noted that many of the comments and reservations made regarding the Standard for Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock were equally applicable to the above standard. The Commission agreed, therefore, that in the case of this standard it was not necessary to list these comments and observations individually. The Commission agreed to adopt the above standard at step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, as a Recommended Standard. The delegations of Cuba and Japan reserved their positions for the same reasons as given for Quick-Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock (see paragraph 148).

Standards for Fillets Frozen not in compliance with the Process Definition

150. The delegate of Australia was of the opinion that it would be wrong to have a standard only for such products as were subjected to the quick-freezing process definition laid down in the standard (sub-section 2.2) as this would exclude a product frozen by another process and would permit the indiscriminate use of the word “frozen”. After a thorough discussion on the pros and cons of having one standard covering “quickfrozen” and “frozen” products, the Commission decided that for the time being the quickfrozen products merited a standard for themselves, and it requested the delegation of Australia to prepare a working paper for consideration by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery products with technological details about the “frozen” product and data on the extent of the international trade of the product.

151. The delegate of Denmark pointed out that with the available methods of examination it was not possible to distinguish a product frozen at a temperature slightly higher than -18°C (0°F) from a product frozen in compliance with the process definition.

Proposed Draft Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito in Water or Oil at Step 5

152. The Commission had before it the proposed draft standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito in Water or Oil at Step 5 (Appendix V to ALINORM 71/18). The delegation of Japan reported that recent surveys on mercury in tuna caught in pollution-free areas showed an average mercury content of 1 ppm. Information collected by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare was reviewed by a meeting of Japanese specialists on “Minamata disease”, toxicology and food sanitation. In view of the fact that tuna was a pelagic fish the specialists concluded that the mercury was of natural origin and at the level previously mentioned would not lead to “Minamata disease” in spite of the fairly high intake of tuna by Japanese people. The measurement of low levels of mercury content required advanced methods of analysis and special equipment. In Japan total mercury was measured by atomic absorption methods and methyl mercury was determined by gas chromatography. There was a need for the standardization at the international level of methods for determining mercury and methyl mercury in fish. The whole question of mercury in tuna should be examined by a wide range of experts from various countries in the world (see also paragraph 216 of this report). The delegate of Canada noted with some concern the statement made by the Japanese delegate that the consumption of large amounts of tuna containing 1 part per million of mercury would not cause “Minamata disease”. The delegate of Canada did not question this statement, but expressed the view that it implied that this level of mercury in fish even when consumed in large amounts, would not cause any toxicological manifestations. The delegate of Canada, supported by the delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany, the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and Sweden, was of the opinion that individuals, consuming large amounts of fish containing 1 part per million of mercury, might not avoid all possible toxicological effects, particularly when the fish is consumed over long periods of time. The Commission was informed that the next session of Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products would examine the problem of mercury and other metallic contaminants. The Secretariat had compiled information on mercury.

153. The delegate of Peru stressed the point that sub-section 2.1 of the section on Description needed to be further elaborated by taking into account other names by which the species of fish covered by the standard were commonly known. The delegates of Italy, Japan and Brazil expressed their concern about the eight species of Thunnus, the four species of Euthynnus and four species of Sarda which, in their opinion, should not be confused under the common names of tuna and/or bonito, with the delegate of Italy stating, in particular, that the name ‘tuna’ should be limited to the species Thunnus atlanticus and Euthynnus alletteratus and that the name tuna/bonito should be limited to the species Sarda. The chairman of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products explained to the Commission that this Section, and the labelling section were a compromise obtained between countries in which commercial practices and interests were different. Attention was drawn to the fact that governments would have every opportunity to submit their comments in detail on this subject when the standard would be sent out for comments at Step 6.

154. The Chairman of the Commodity Committee informed the Commission that new provisions were being developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene regarding sampling and examination of these products for the presence of pathogenic micro-organisms. He assured the Commission that the Committee would give careful consideration to this subject.

155. The Commission, after some deliberation, agreed to advance this standard to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide codex Standards. The Commission recommended that the standard should not be submitted to the Commission at Step 8 until all matters of substance, in particular the matter of the species of fish to be covered by the standard, had been resolved.

Discussion of the Report of the Fifth Session (October 1970) of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 71/18)

156. The delegate of India drew the attention of the Commission to paragraph 92 of the above mentioned report and stated that under Indian legislation a mandatory provision for the maximum permissible bacteriological load for frozen and cooked shrimps had been established. Furthermore, a number of countries applied bacteriological standards. In the opinion of the delegate of India, there was a need, therefore, to reach international agreement on bacteriological standards. The delegate of India referred to paragraph 99 of the above report regarding a proposal made by the India delegation to the Fifth Session of the Commodity Committee to include in new work which the Committee might undertake standards for canned shrimps, dried or packed in brine and also that the Committee elaborate a standard for frogs legs.

157. The Commission was of the opinion that at present the Commodity Committee already had a very heavy workload but that, as early as possible, the proposals made by the delegate of India should be examined further.

Codes of Hygienic Practice for Fish and Fishery Products

158. The delegate of Canada drew the attention of the Commission to paragraph 14 of the Report in which the concern of some delegations to the Fifth Session of the Commodity Committee was recorded regarding the possible duplication of work and overlap as between the FAO codes of technological practice and the Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice presently being developed. The delegate of Canada drew attention to the difficulty in attempting to distinguish between technological matters and matters of hygiene, and added that at some stage of the work, the technological and hygienic codes would have to be made into one. The delegate of Canada proposed that the matter should be referred to the Executive Committee on how to proceed further. The delegate of Australia and the Chairman of the Commodity Committee supported the Canadian view. The Commission agreed that this matter should be considered by the Executive Committee at its next session.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

159. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products should continue to be under the chairmanship of Norway.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

160. The Commission had before it the Report of the above Committee (ALINORM 71/16). The Chairman of the Commodity Committee informed the Commission that the Commodity Committee had for a number of years been working on some very controversial standards for Canned Ham and Corned Beef, but that he expected that it would be possible to present these standards at Step 8 of the Procedure to the Commission at its next session. One of the main difficulties to resolve was the question of the determination of meat content or an expression for meat content.

161. The Commission decided to advance the Standard for Canned Pork Shoulder to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

162. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products should continue to be under the chairmanship of Denmark.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

163. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fifth Session of the above Committee (1970) (ALINORM 71/15). At its Fifth Session (1970), the Committee had dealt with a Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat. The Committee, at the end of the session, had concluded that the work on the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat should be continued by a special Codex Committee to be set up for this purpose. The Commission was informed that the Government of New Zealand had indicated its willingness to host such a Committee.

164. There was general agreement that a Codex committee dealing with meat hygiene would be very desirable. The Commission examined the proposed scope of activities of the new Committee.

165. Many delegates were of the opinion that, in addition to the work on the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat, which the new Committee would take over from the Codex Committee on Meat, the new Committee should deal with the hygienic aspects of international trade in boneless meat. International trade in boneless meat had rapidly increased in recent years and the main problems associated with it were of a hygienic nature. The delegate of Austria indicated that he would be willing to prepare proposals for standards for boneless meat on the basis of material made available to the Secretariat of Sub-Committee I by Australia and other countries. The delegate of Austria proposed that these proposals should cover two main aspects, namely, hygiene and composition. The former issue could be dealt

with by the new Committee on Meat Hygiene and the latter could be handled by the Sub-Committee I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses. The delegate of Australia pointed out that the trade in boneless meat was essentially in the form of wholesale packs intended for further processing and that it was not a product which would normally enter the retail market. The Commission was of the opinion that the question of composition - content of fat, muscle, fibres, etc. - of the product was a matter normally covered by the commercial specifications and contracts between buyers and sellers, and therefore any work to be done in connection with boneless meat should be confined to hygiene matters.

166. The delegate of France referred to a document prepared by the Secretariat in which the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat and the proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products (CX/M/70/5 - CX/PMP/70/15) were presented in parallel to facilitate comparison to bring consistency where necessary between the two Codes. In his opinion, the two Codes should be merged.

167. Some delegates sought clarification as to what would be the scope of the new Committee's work in connection with meat hygiene. The delegate of Spain proposed that the name of the new Committee should be Codex Committee on Meat Inspection and Hygiene. The Commission agreed that the term "meat hygiene" should be interpreted in its broadest sense and would certainly encompass ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. It was considered that there was an urgent need for a code or even a standard to cover anteand post-mortem inspection. The delegate of New Zealand informed the Commission that he had in preparation a Draft Code for Ante- and Post-Mortem Inspection.

168. The delegate of Australia proposed that the same procedure as had been adopted for the drafting of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat, namely, a small ad hoc group of experts should be established to deal with the criteria for the ante- and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals. This working group could produce a first draft which would be sent out to governments for comment, whereafter the new Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, in the light of comments received, could discuss the draft at Step 2 of the Procedure.

169. Some delegates drew attention to the need to ensure that the work of the new Committee on Meat Hygiene did not lead to any overlap with the work being done by other Codex Committees. In order to avoid any duplication of work arising concerning that of the other Codex Committees dealing with meat, the Commission reviewed the terms of reference of these Committees, and also noted the recommendations of the Sixteenth Session of the Executive Committee with regard to the liaison between the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat and the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products. It was agreed by the Commission that such codes of Hygienic practice which the new Committee on Meat Hygiene might develop would not have to be reviewed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, nor would the Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products.

170. The Commission confirmed that, meanwhile, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and the Guidelines for Codex Committees the

hygiene sections of standards for processed meat products should continue to be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for endorsement. The Commission agreed to the establishment of a Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene with the following terms of reference: "To elaborate world-wide standards and/or codes of practice as may seem appropriate for meat hygiene, excluding poultry meat."

171. The Commission was advised by the delegate of New Zealand that the New Zealand Government would be prepared to accept responsibility for the Chairmanship of the new Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene. The delegate of New Zealand, moreover, informed the Commission that sessions of the Committee would be held at the New Zealand High Commission in London and that simultaneous interpretation and translation facilities would be made available in English, French and Spanish. The Commission signified its appreciation of the offer of the New Zealand Government and confirmed under Rule IX. 10 that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should be under the chairmanship of the Government of New Zealand.

172. The Commission received a report from the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Meat on the results of its Fifth Session. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that in the light of the Commission's decision to establish a Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, it would no longer be appropriate to retain in existence Sub-Committee I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses, as the work of this Sub-Committee would be the only work remaining for the Codex Committee on Meat. The Commission agreed to this proposal and decided that the Sub-Committee should cease as such and that its work be completed within the Codex Committee on Meat. The Commission further agreed that, in view of its decisions to discontinue Sub-Committee I and establish a Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Meat should be amended to read as follows: "To elaborate world-wide standards and/or descriptive texts and/or codes of practice as may seem appropriate for the classification, description and grading of carcasses and cuts of beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork."

173. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

174. The Commission had before it the report of the Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 71/10). The delegate of Poland raised the question of the legal implications of acceptance of the FAO Model Ordinance on Cocoa Beans as compared with the acceptance of Codex Standards on Cocoa Products and Chocolate. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the work done by the FAO Working Group on Cocoa was being taken into account in the standards being elaborated by the Codex Committee. The Commission noted that the Model Ordinance dealt with the quality grading of cocoa beans intended for any use. It contained provisions for sub-standard cocoa

with the indication of the conditions under which this cocoa may be traded. Those parts of the Model Ordinance which laid down the minimum qualities of cocoa beans suitable for the manufacture of cocoa products and chocolate had been introduced in the draft Codex Standards after discussions between producer and consumer countries during several sessions of the Committee.

175. The Commission confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland.

JOINT FAO/WHO COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

176. The Commission noted that there were no matters arising from the Report of the 13th Session of the above Committee which required specific attention by the Commission. The Commission noted, however, the progress which had been made by the Milk and Milk Products Committee in redrafting the labelling sections of the milk products standards, to bring them into closer harmony with the Codex format. The revised standards had been considered by the Labelling Committee and the views of that Committee would be communicated to the Milk and Milk Products Committee at its 14th Session..

177. The delegate of India suggested that, in view of the fact that milk powders were used for reconstituting milk, the solubility index should be indicated on the label. The delegate of India also considered that the use of BHA and BHT should also be permitted in butteroil for direct human consumption as was the case with edible fats and oils. The method of drying of milk powder, whether sprayed or roller dried, should also be indicated on the label. The delegate of India concluded by stating that antioxidants should be permitted in whole milk and partly skimmed milk products. The delegate of Saudi Arabia and other delegates supported the delegate of India regarding the use of antioxidants. The delegates of Ghana and France drew attention to the problem of distinguishing, in labelling, between milk substitutes and milk products. It was pointed out that milk substitutes did not fall within the terms of reference of the Milk and Milk Products Committee. The delegate of Ghana stressed the need for giving attention to milk substitutes and was of the opinion that this was a matter which might be considered by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany agreed that this matter would be brought to the attention of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling might also look into this problem, but it was pointed out that before the matter of labelling of milk substitutes could be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, it would be necessary to know the composition of these products.

178. The Commission noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the Milk and Milk Products Committee following the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Commission

concerning the governing paragraph on the relationship between the Commission and the Committee, and the Procedure for the Elaboration of Milk and Milk Product Standards. The Commission also noted that the Committee was considering a system of classification of cheeses (paragraph 38 of the Report of the 13th Session of the Committee), which would assist in dealing with the problem of the numerous individual cheese varieties for which standards were being proposed by governments. The standards for individual cheeses would have to be considered against the background of the work criteria to which the Commission had drawn attention in paragraph 199 of the Report of its Seventh Session. The Commission stressed the importance of confining work to foods which met the work criteria and were significant in international trade. The Commission wished to draw the attention of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products to the fact that the application of “appellation d'origine” extended beyond dairy products and even beyond the whole field of food, and thought that some guidance on how to deal with this subject should be sought from the Executive Committee. While the Commission was aware of the complexity of the questions connected with “application d'origine”, it agreed that some consideration should be given to this subject by the Executive Committee at its next session insofar as the work of the Commission was concerned, in the light of background material to be made available by the Legal Office of FAO.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Status of Methods of analysis in standards at Step 9

179. The Commission was informed by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany as to the present status of methods of analysis to be included in standards at Step 9. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/30, Part II, Annex (and Appendices I-III) which contained a synopsis of the status of the endorsements with references to the appropriate paragraphs in the Reports of the Committee.

Contaminants in margarine

180. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, at its Sixth Session, considered a proposal of the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils and of the Codex Secretariat that the methods already endorsed for the determination of iron, copper, lead and arsenic should also be included in the Recommended International Standard for Margarine (CAC/RS 32-1969). The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling was in agreement with this proposal and endorsed the methods for margarine referenced in paragraph 18 of ALINORM 71/23. The Commission adopted these methods as international referee methods and instructed the Secretariat to send them to Governments for use in conjunction with the Recommended Standard for Margarine.

Determination of tocopherols in olive oil

181. The Commission, at its Seventh Session, agreed that the method for the determination of tocopherols adopted and described in the Recommended International Standard for Margarine should be considered by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling with a view to endorsing its use in the Recommended International Standard for Olive Oils, Virgin and Refined and for Refined Olive-residue Oil (CAC/RS 33-1969). The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed this method for olive oils.

182. The Commission was informed by the delegates of Spain and Italy that a new and more simple method had been developed by the Fats and Oils Section of IUPAC for the determination of tocopherols in olive oil. The Commission noted that the new proposed IUPAC method was still subject to collaborative study and therefore decided to adopt the method endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, on the understanding that when the IUPAC method had been subjected to collaborative studies, the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils would review the method and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission.

Chairmanship of the Committee

183. The Commission was informed that the Federal Republic of Germany was not in a position to continue the chairmanship and hosting of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the major contribution made by Prof. Dr. Franck as the Chairman of the Committee in successfully advancing for adoption by the Commission international referee methods of analysis. The Commission also expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the excellent facilities which it had always provided for the servicing of the Committee.

184. The Commission was advised that the Government of Hungary was willing to accept responsibility for the chairmanship and hosting of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Commission signified its appreciation of the offer of the Government of Hungary and confirmed, under Rule IX.10, that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should be under the chairmanship of the Government of Hungary. The Commission further suggested that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should review the replies of Governments concerning the future activities and scope of work of the Committee at its next session.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

185. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

186. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on General Principles should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of France.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

187. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling confirmed that the next session of this Committee would be held in Canada in May 1972 and that the agenda of the Committee would include items on date marking, advertising and claims for foods.

188. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

189. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

Proposed Draft Standard for Powdered Dextrose at Step 5

190. The delegate of the United Kingdom introduced the working papers (ALINORM 71/21, Add. 1 and 2) on the proposed draft standard for Powdered Dextrose (Icing Dextrose). The Commission noted that the matters raised in Government comments had been dealt with by proposed amendments to Section 2.2 (Quality Criteria) and Section 6.1 (Labelling) and that the labelling provisions had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The Commission agreed to the proposed amendments and to other editing changes and, on the proposal of the United Kingdom, adopted the draft standard at Step 5 and, there being no dissent, omitted Steps 6 and 7 and adopted the standard as a recommended standard at step 8 for advancement to Step 9. The standard as adopted is contained in Appendix IV to this Report.

191. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

192. The Commission had before it the Report of the Seventh Session (ALINORM 71/13) of the above Committee. The delegation of the U.S.A., which hosts the Committee, acted as rapporteur.

General

193. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany questioned the need for issuing individual codes of hygienic practice as separate booklets, in view of the fact that in most cases, particularly where products of non-animal origin were concerned, the individual codes consisted in the main of a repetition of the General Principles of Food Hygiene. This view was supported by the delegate of Poland and the delegates of a number of other countries. One of the difficulties was that amendments proposed to the individual codes of hygienic practice would, in many cases, amount to proposed amendments to the General Principles of Food Hygiene.

194. The delegate of Canada, referring to work in progress on the development of codes of hygienic practice and codes of technological practice for certain fish and fishery products, drew attention to the need for a closer coordination of activities in this area between the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the FAO ad hoc Consultations on Fish and Fishery Products. Closer coordination was necessary in order to avoid duplication of effort in the development of codes of hygienic practice and technological practice for fish and fishery products.

195. The Commission agreed to refer the above two matters to the Executive Committee for consideration at its next session.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut at Step 8

196. The Commission considered the above Draft Code which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 71/13.

197. A number of proposed amendments contained in ALINORM 71/30, some of which applied to all three codes of hygienic practice before the Commission, were reviewed. The discussions centred, in particular, on the difficulty in changing the text where it had been taken literally from the International Recommended General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969). The Commission did not consider it appropriate at this stage to make indirectly any amendments in the General Principles, even though some of the proposals might merit consideration at a later stage. The commission decided not to make any amendments in the text of the Code.

Adoption of the Draft Code at Step 8

198. The Commission adopted the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut at Step 8 of the Procedure as a Recommended Code.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables including Edible Fungi at Step 8

199. The Commission considered the above Draft Code which was contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 71/13.

Scope

200. The Commission agreed, following a proposal by the delegate of Poland, to delete the reference to maximum moisture content of 5% m/m for fruits as in the standards no exact limit was set for the moisture content of vegetables or fungi. As amended this particular paragraph in the scope section would read: "Fruits covered by this Code include, but are not limited to apples, bananas, cranberries, cherries, bilberries."

Adoption of the Draft Code at Step 8

201. The Commission adopted the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables including Edible Fungi at Step 8 of the Procedure as a Recommended Code.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Quick-frozen Fruits, Vegetables and their Juices at Step 8

202. The Commission considered the above Draft Code which was contained in Appendix IV to ALINORM 71/13. The delegation of Poland had pointed out in their written comments that in their opinion the Code was not ready for acceptance because in the document reference was made to the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick-Frozen Foods being developed by the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Quick-Frozen Foods, which was only at Step 2 of the Procedure.

203. A number of delegates agreed with the Polish observations and proposed that for the time being the Code should be held at Step 8 of the Procedure. In the meantime, the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick-Frozen Foods would have time to develop a code covering the technological aspects of the matter. The delegate of Australia stressed the need for the technological code and the code of hygienic practice to be consistent with each other so that at a given stage they might be considered together. This procedure did not necessarily imply that the two codes should be merged.

Retention of Code at Step 8

204. The Commission took no decisions on the text of the Code, and decided to hold the Code at Step 8 pending review by the Executive Committee of the overall matter of elaborating codes of technological and hygienic practice.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Poultry and Poultry Parts

205. The Commission considered the above code contained in Appendix VI to ALINORM 71/13 at Step 5 of the Procedure.

206. The Commission decided to advance the Code of Hygienic Practice for Poultry and Poultry Parts to Step 6 of the Procedure.

207. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Flour Treatment Agents

208. The Commission had before it a Recommended List of Flour Treatment Agents at Step 8 (Appendix IV, ALINORM 71/12). The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives, at its Seventh Session, had proposed that the list should be an advisory list, having the same status as the list of food colours contained in Appendix VII of ALINORM 70/43, namely an open list of additives which had been found acceptable from a toxicological point of view by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.

209. The Federal Republic of Germany, France, Poland, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia did not consider the substances on the list, other than ascorbic acid, necessary for flour treatment purposes. The delegate of the U.S.A. considered that the list was very incomplete and might even create misunderstanding, as large quantities of flour, treated with other flour treatment agents for different technological purposes, were being marketed throughout the world. The delegate of Canada drew to the attention of the Commission the importance of obtaining information from Member Governments as to which flour treatment agents they permitted. The delegate of the United Kingdom suggested that the precedent established at the Seventh Session of the Commission when dealing with food colours should be followed in every particular, for example, in the way the list was presented. The Commission agreed to treat the list as an “indicative” open list and decided to return it to the Codex Committee on Food Additives at Step 7 of the Procedure for re-consideration in the light of the above comments and additional information to be provided by the delegation of the U.S.A. concerning other flour treatment agents.

210. The Commission was informed by the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that the Committee was considering the development of lists for other classes of food additives and, in view of the action taken by the Commission regarding the flour treatment agents, there appeared to be a need for a clarification of the policy of the Commission on the status of such lists. The Commission agreed that this matter should be considered by the Executive Committee at its next session so that some guidelines could be drawn up to assist the Codex Committee on Food Additives in the preparation of such lists.

Commercial Enzyme Preparations

211. The Commission had before it the Proposed Draft General Standard for Enzyme Preparations for Food Use (Appendix III, ALINORM 71/12) for decision as to whether it should be developed as a mandatory or advisory text. The Commission noted that, since the development of the text which was before the Commission, the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, at its 15th Session (16–24 June 1971) had given detailed consideration to enzymes used in food processing and had developed a general specification for such enzymes, accompanied by a number of specifications for individual enzyme preparations. In view of this, the Commission decided not to proceed further with the present text, it being understood that the specifications prepared by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives would follow the steps of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and in due course be submitted to the Commission. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work done by the delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and the U.S.A. in the development of the proposed text and, in particular, emphasized the valuable role it had played in the deliberations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.

Sulphur Dioxide in Wine

212. The Commission had before it the recommendation of the Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives to bring to the attention of the International Vine and Wine Office (IWO) the problem of high intake of sulphur dioxide resulting from its use as an additive, especially in wine and to invite the organization to consider steps to reduce the maximum permitted loads of sulphur dioxide. (Paragraph 20, ALINORM 71/12).

213. The Commission took note of the work which was being done by the International Wine Office to reduce the concentration of sulphur dioxide in wine and the importance that was being given to carrying out various investigations in this field. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work of the International Wine Office and for the assistance and information it was making available to the Codex Committee on Food Additives in regard to this matter. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Food Additives to follow the progress of the IWO studies.

Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Specifications for Food Additives

214. The Commission had before it for consideration a Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Specifications for Food Additives proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and amended by the 16th Session of the Executive Committee (paragraphs 12-14, ALINORM 71/3). The Commission adopted the following procedure:

“Steps 1 and 2

The Secretariat distributes the specifications, when available from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, and requests comments from governments and interested international Organizations.

Steps 3 and 4

The Codex Committee on Food Additives examines the specifications in the light of comments. The comments are also made available by the Secretariat to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. The Expert Committee's opinion is also placed before the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Step 5

Only those specifications which, in the opinion of the Codex committee on Food Additives, are suitable for publication as recommended international specifications for food additives and for which Steps 6, 7 and 8 could be omitted, should be submitted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at Step 5 for final adoption.”

PROPOSED THIRD FAO/WHO CONFERENCE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

215. At the request of the Seventh Session of the Commission, the Codex Committee on Food Additives considered the question whether it would be desirable to hold a third Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives in the light of a working paper prepared by the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada (paragraphs 15-17, ALINORM 71/12), and concluded that provided its terms of reference were enlarged, it could discuss the agenda items proposed for such a conference. The proposal was considered by the Executive Committee at its 16th Session (ALINORM 71/3) and again at the 17th Session in the light of proposals for a revised agenda (paragraphs 16-21, and Appendix IV, ALINORM 71/4).

216. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany emphasized the need for holding such a conference because, since the Second Conference in 1965, a large number of Member Governments had joined the Commission and the holding of a Third Food Additives Conference would provide an opportunity for these government to review the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. The Conference would also enable FAO and WHO to elicit the views of the new members on the Expert Committee's work and afford an opportunity to prepare guidelines for future work and establish priorities for further work, especially in the area of food contaminants. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that the Commission should recommend to FAO and WHO that such a conference would be held in 1972. The delegate of Canada supported the proposal for the holding of the conference and drew particular attention to the need for reviewing the technological justification regarding the use of food additives and the need to establish priorities for the assessment of the health hazards associated with food contaminants. The delegate of the U.S.A. was not convinced of the need to hold such a conference and drew attention to paragraphs 16-21 of ALINORM 71/4 containing the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The delegate of the U.S.A. emphasized that the proposed agenda of the conference should be communicated to Member Government for comments so that these matters could be considered further in the governing or other appropriate bodies of FAO and WHO. The delegate of the United Kingdom was not convinced as to the need for such a conference. This was not meant to convey that in the opinion of the United Kingdom all was

well with the current procedure regarding the evaluation of food additives. The delegate of the United Kingdom supported the proposal made by the U.S.A. regarding the adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee. The delegate of Japan was of the opinion that there was a need for a forum to discuss the broad issues contained in the proposed agenda of the conference. The Commission adopted the views expressed by the Executive Committee at its 17th Session and the recommendations contained in paragraph 21 of their report (ALINORM 71/4). The Commission recommended that the Directors-General should communicate the proposed draft agenda to all Member Governments suggesting that they consult, where appropriate, the Codex Contact Points and request governments to indicate their views as to the desirability of convening the proposed conference and also their suggestions as to what subjects should be considered by such a conference. The Directors-General were requested to draw attention to the fact that at the next conference of FAO (November 1971) these matters would be under consideration as part of the Programme Work and Budget for 1972/73. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Food Additives to include in its list of priorities for the Expert Committee on Food Additives the need to establish an international acceptable daily intake for mercury.

Other Matters

217. The delegate of Japan suggested that there was a need to clarify the meaning of the term “not endorsed” in the classification used by the Commission to indicate the status of Guanylic Acid and Inosinic Acid. The Commission noted that these two substances could not be endorsed due to the need for further data to enable them to be toxicologically evaluated.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

218. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Additives should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Netherlands.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Draft Standard for Canned Strawberries at Step 8

219. The Commission had before it the above standard which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 71/20. The Rapporteur, Mr. L. Beacham (U.S.A.) reviewed the comments of substance which had been made on the standard. The rapporteur informed the Commission that all of these points were matters which had been considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables and on which the Committee had come to a conclusion.

Title and Product Definition

220. In the Title and Product Definition section of the Spanish version of the standard, it was noted that the Spanish text should provide for the word “freson” to be included as well as “fresa”.

Packing Media

221. The delegate of India proposed that fructose should be included in the list of sugars, but the Commission decided not to make any change in the standard in this respect at this stage, and referred the matter to the Committee for consideration. The Commission considered a proposal made by a number of delegates to limit the categories of syrup to two, namely light syrup and heavy syrup. The Commission was informed that the number of syrup categories had been thoroughly discussed in the Committee, where the great majority of the delegations present had expressed their preference for four categories of syrup strengths as appeared in the Standard. The subject of categories of syrup had again been discussed at the Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables in connection with other standards. The Committee had concluded that the four categories of syrup strengths were necessary to take into account the needs of all the producing countries, a number of which needed four syrup strengths to meet consumer demand. The Committee had also concluded that, while the four categories of syrup strengths were broad enough to cover the entire range of all the countries' needs, they were at the same time sufficiently flexible not to place any significant difficulties in the way of individual countries since a range of syrup strengths was provided in each category. The delegation of Yugoslavia proposed that the strengths of the packing media in canned strawberries, canned plums and other similar products should, in addition to being indicated by the name of the category of syrup, also be expressed in terms of percentage of sugar, so that the consumer would be fully and clearly informed. The Commission made no change in the standard in this respect.

222. The Commission decided by 17 to 14, with 8 abstentions not to amend the standard to replace the four categories of syrup strengths by two syrup strengths, namely light (not less than 18° Brix) and heavy (not less than 22° Brix).

Defects and Allowances

223. The delegate of Spain drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the Spanish word "bayas" was not a correct translation of the word "berries".

Food Additives

224. The delegate of Yugoslavia reserved Yugoslavia's position on the use of colours in canned strawberries and other similar products. The delegate of New Zealand also stated that New Zealand was opposed to the use of colours in canned fruit and vegetable products, except in the case of cherries in canned fruit cocktail. The representative of the IOCU also expressed a doubt as to the need for artificial colours in this and other similar products. The delegate of India suggested that the amount of colour be reduced from 300 to 200 mg/kg. It was pointed out that some countries permitted the use of artificial colours in canned strawberries and in various other canned fruit and vegetable products, while others did not. The Commission was informed that this subject had been thoroughly discussed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The Commission decided to make no change in the standard.

225. The Commission agreed to provide for a maximum tolerance for tin at the level of 250 mg/kg in this standard and in any other processed fruit and vegetable standards to be considered at the session in accordance with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its last session held in May 1971. The Commission emphasized that this was a provisional tolerance which would be subject to review in two years time in the Codex Committee on Food Additives. A number of delegations reserved their positions on the maximum limit for tin.

Hygiene

226. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at its last session, held in June 1971, had endorsed a revised wording of the sub-section dealing with pathogenic microorganisms. The Commission agreed that the text adopted by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should be included in this standard and in any other standards for processed fruits and vegetables considered by the Commission at the present session.

Labelling

227. The Commission noted that the labelling provisions had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Adoption of Standard for Canned Strawberries at Step 8

228. The Commission adopted the draft standard for Canned Strawberries at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards as a recommended Codex standard. The delegations of the following countries were opposed to this decision: Argentina, Italy, Spain, Mexico, India, Netherlands, Poland, Venezuela, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia. The delegation of France indicated that it had taken no position on the question of the adoption of the standard at Step 8. The Commission noted that the main reason that these delegations were opposed to the adoption of the standard at Step 8 was because many of them considered that the standard should provide for two categories of syrup instead of four, although some of these delegations did have reservations on other aspects of the standard.

Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8

229. The Commission had before it the above standard contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 71/20. The rapporteur Mr. L. Beacham (U.S.A.) reviewed the comments of substance which had been made on the standard. The rapporteur informed the Commission that all of these points were matters which had been considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and on which the Committee had come to a conclusion.

Packing Media

230. As in the Standard for Canned Strawberries, a number of countries were also opposed to the provision for four syrup strengths in the present standard.

Food Additives

231. The Commission agreed that the provision on acidifying agents in the standard for Canned Strawberries should also be included in the standard for Canned Plums. As in the case of the standard for Canned Strawberries, some delegates reserved their positions on the use of colour for canned plums. The delegate of Belgium stated that the use of SO₂ was permitted in Belgium in the course of operations preceding the canning of yellow plums. This resulted in a residue of SO₂ up to a maximum of 10 mg/kg in the final product. As colouring was allowed in the standard for red and purple plums, the delegate of Belgium requested that a new provision be included in this section to permit the presence of SO₂ in amounts not exceeding 10 mg/kg for yellow plums only. The Commission decided not to amend the standard as requested by the delegate of Belgium, and the delegate of Belgium reserved Belgium's position. The delegate of Yugoslavia, in addition to reserving Yugoslavia's position on the use of colours, also reserved Yugoslavia's position on the use of artificial flavours.

Weights and Measures

232. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany drew attention to the fact that in the reproduction of the written comments of the Federal Republic of Germany in document ALINORM 71/30, reference should have been made to the ingoing weight of the fruit component instead of to the drained weight. This applied to all the draft standards for canned fruits and vegetables.

Proposal to Adopt the Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8

233. The Commission decided not to adopt the Draft Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8 as a recommended standard by 20 to 17 with 4 abstentions.

Action Taken on the Remaining Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables before the Commission at Step 8

234. In view of the Commission's decision not to adopt the Draft Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8 as a Recommended Standard and in view of the large number of changes proposed by governments in the other Step 8 standards for processed fruits and vegetables, the Commission concluded that it should postpone discussion on these standards until a small work group could study the matter. The Chairman appointed for this purpose representatives from the Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico and the U.S.A.

235. In accordance with the recommendations of this work group, the Commission decided that these draft standards should not be considered for advancement to Step 9 at this session of the Commission and that the procedure given below should be followed with respect to the draft standards for canned plums, raspberries, fruit cocktail, mushrooms, and asparagus:

1. The draft standards should be returned to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and vegetables for consideration at Step 7.
2. The Commission urgently requested that governments who have not already done so make written new submission not later than 31 December, 1971, to the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, giving data and information to support their proposed changes in these standards.
3. The Committee should examine the government comments at Step 8 (ALINORM 71/30 and Addenda), as well as those received in response to sub-paragraph (2) above.
4. The Committee should report fully to the Ninth Session of the Commission on the outcome of its reconsideration and, after adopting such changes as it decides to be desirable, should recommend whether or not it considers the standards ready for advancement to Step 9.

The Commission noted that, in the absence of such written submissions or the attendance of representatives at the Committee's next meeting, the Committee may not be able to give proper consideration to these proposals which relate to technical provisions of the standards.

236. The delegate of China reserved his position on the Commission's decision not to proceed with a consideration of the standards for Canned Mushrooms and Asparagus. He emphasized that his delegation expressed its deep regret concerning this decision that the standards had not been considered during the session, as in his opinion the questions relating to canned fruit standards had no bearing at all on the standards for canned vegetables.

Proposed Amendments to the Recommended International Standard for Canned Peaches

237. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/29 which contained the proposed amendments to the Standard for Canned Peaches. These were as follows:

In Section 1.3 - Colour Type of the standard for canned peaches, a new subsection would be added which would become sub-section 1.3.4 and would read as follows:

“1.3.4 Green - varietal types in which the predominant colour ranges from pale green to green when fully ripe.”

In Section 6.1.2 (a) of the labelling section of the standard the colour type “green” should be added so that the text would read as follows:

“6.1.2(a) the colour type: “yellow”, “white”, “red” or “green” as appropriate.”

238. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables that Steps 6, 7 and 8 should be omitted and adopted these amendments at step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards.

239. The Commission further decided to advance to Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards the proposed amendment to Section 3 Food Additives where the following provision was added to the text:

<u>"Antioxidant</u>	<u>Maximum level of use</u>
Ascorbic acid	Not limited"

240. The delegate of Australia drew the attention of the Commission to the necessity for a labelling declaration for this provision.

Proposed Amendment to the Recommended International Standard for Canned Pineapple

241. The Commission had before it ALINORM 71/29 which contained a proposal to amend the definition of "excessive trim" in sub-section 2.2.1.3 of the Recommended International Standard for Canned Pineapple. The proposed amendment was as follows:

"2.2.1.3 - Excessive Trim - (considered a defect only in the styles of Whole, sliced including Spiral Sliced, Half Sliced, Quarter Sliced and Spear). A unit trimmed to the extent that its normal shape and conformation is destroyed and detracts from the appearance of such unit. Trims will be considered "excessive" if the portion trimmed away exceeds five percent of the apparent physical bulk of the perfectly formed unit and if such trimming destroys the normal circular shape of the outer or inner edge of the unit."

242. The Commission decided to advance this amendment to Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards.

Proposed Amendment to the Recommended International Standard for Canned Tomatoes

243. The Commission considered the proposed amendment to Section 3.2 - Firming Agents of the Recommended International Standard for Canned Tomatoes which read as follows:

<u>"3.2 Firming Agents</u>	<u>Maximum Level of Use</u>
Calcium chloride	0.080% total calcium ion content in the styles "diced", "sliced" and "wedges":
Calcium sulphate	
Calcium citrate	
Mono-calcium phosphate	0.045% total calcium ion content in the styles "whole", "whole and pieces" and "pieces"
(Others to be listed in the light of government comments to be obtained in due course at Step 3)	

244. The Commission decided to advance the amendment to Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards.

Table Olives

245. The delegate of the U.S.A. informed the Commission that the International Olive oil Council had proposed that arrangements be made with the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the standard for table olives to be elaborated by Joint Codex/IOOC meetings at the headquarters of the Council in Madrid. The delegate of the U.S.A. advised the Commission that as Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables the government of the U.S.A. had no objection to this proposal although the members of the Codex Committee had not discussed this matter. The representative of the IOOC informed the Commission that the IOOC fully agreed that the standard for table olives should be elaborated in accordance with the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards and that full meeting facilities would be arranged in consultation with the Secretariat of the Commission. The Commission was informed that there was no constitutional difficulty concerning the holding of joint meetings such as the one proposed for table olives. The delegates of Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany stated that they objected in principle to the standard for table olives being elaborated other than by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in its regular sessions. Other delegates stated a preference for the proposed joint meetings as these would provide an opportunity for a fuller consideration of the standard by all interested delegations and would also facilitate the participation of a number of developing countries in this work. The Commission expressed the hope that the matter would be settled rapidly and approved the holding of Joint meetings with the IOOC on an ad hoc basis, subject to review by the Executive Committee and subject to suitable facilities being made available and the standard following the normal steps of procedure of the Commission. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany was not in favour of this course. The Secretariat was requested to arrange in consultation with the IOOC for the first joint meeting to either immediately precede or follow the next session of the ECE/Codex Group of Experts on Quick-Frozen Foods. The Commission noted that the proposed draft standard as amended at a meeting of the IOOC Group of Experts in the Spring of 1971 would be sent to governments for comment prior to re-examination by the joint meeting.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

246. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

PART X

THE IDEA OF A GENERAL STANDARD

247. The Commission again considered the Idea of a General Standard which had been before it at its Seventh Session (paragraphs 132 – 135 of the report). The Commission had

before it ALINORM 71/27 which contained a report prepared by the Secretariat in association with the United Kingdom.

248. The delegate of the United Kingdom referred to the work previously done on the subject by members of the Commission and in particular to the nature and extent of Government comments. The United Kingdom suggested that the detailed drafting of suitable provisions needed to be considered at the next Session of the Commission, perhaps in a Working Group, especially if there was not to be a session of the Committee on General Principles in the near future. The Commission should, in any event, try to decide at its next Session whether a text should form part of a General Standard or should be otherwise included in the Codex, e.g. as a statement in the General Principles. Alternatively, the Commission could, at the proper time, and on the advice of the Executive Committee, consider referring the matter to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

249. In order to facilitate progress the United Kingdom offered to circulate a working paper for consideration by Governments. The Commission agreed to the proposed course of action; meanwhile the status quo would be maintained in regard to the text included in ALINORM 71/27.

PROPOSED PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS FOR

1972-75

250. The Commission considered the proposed provisional timetable of codex sessions for 1972-75 which had been drawn up by the Secretariat in response to the request of the Commission at its Seventh Session. The Commission noted the observations of the Executive Committee on the proposed timetable as set out in paragraphs 24–25 of document ALINORM 71/4.

251. The Commission noted that sessions for a number of subsidiary bodies of the Commission had not been included in the proposed timetable on the assumption that their current work programme might be completed in the near future. A Committee possibly falling in this category was the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate. The Commission noted that no session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe had been scheduled prior to July 1974. This was purely a tentative proposal dependent upon arrangements to be made with the new Coordinator to be appointed at the Ninth Session of the Commission.

252. The delegates of Austria and Poland expressed the view that as far as possible the Coordinating Committee for Europe should meet on an annual basis. The delegate of Canada, supported by other delegates, expressed the view that some reduction in the frequency of the meetings of the committee on Milk and Milk Products and of the Group of Experts on Fruit Juices might be contemplated in the biennium 1973-74. The delegate of Canada proposed that there should only be one session of each of these Committees in the biennium.

253. The Commission further noted that no session of the Codex Committee on General Principles had been foreseen in the proposed timetable, on the understanding that when there was a need for a session of the Committee to be held, the Secretariat would approach the French Government with a request to convene the Committee.

254. The delegate of Nigeria stated that in the light of the discussions on the food standards needs for Africa, the Secretariat would have to bear in mind arrangements in 1974-75 for the scheduling of sessions of a Coordinating Committee for Africa, should it be established. The delegate of the U.S.A. drew attention to the observation of the Executive Committee in paragraph 25 of the Report of its Seventeenth Session that “the intervals between sessions of the Commission should be such as to enable the Commission to survey satisfactorily the progress of its subsidiary bodies and to finalize standards.” The U.S. delegate was of the opinion, therefore, that there were strong arguments in favour of the Commission continuing on a more or less annual basis, and that this should be regarded as the normal procedure to be departed from only in the light of exceptional circumstances such as considerations of budget or workload of the Commission.

255. The Commission approved in principle and in the light of the recommendations of the Executive Committee the proposed timetable and frequency of Codex sessions from 1972 to 1975, subject to any modifications which the secretariat might have to make in consultation with the host Governments of Codex Committees.

Replies from host governments concerning the question of the provision of facilities in the Spanish language at Codex Committee sessions

256. The Commission, at its Seventh Session, requested the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to write to the governments which had undertaken the responsibility for hosting Codex Committees, stressing the particular importance of at least providing simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, as well as in the other two languages of the Commission (English and French), and other facilities as far as possible, at Codex Committee sessions. The replies on this subject received from host governments were contained in documents ALINORM 71/9 and ALINORM 71/9-Add.1. It was noted that the host governments were sympathetic to the wishes of the Spanish-speaking countries but that most host governments had drawn attention to the practical as well as the financial difficulties in the way of giving effect to the wishes of the Spanish-speaking countries. Switzerland, Canada and the United Kingdom had indicated their readiness to provide facilities in Spanish in addition to the existing language facilities, but the offer of Canada which hosts the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, was subject to approval by the Treasury Board in Canada. It was noted that Switzerland was prepared to provide simultaneous interpretation into and from Spanish provided that a minimum of two delegations from Spanish-speaking countries had expressed their intention of attending a given session of the Committee. In order to allow sufficient time for the recruitment

of interpreters, Switzerland requested that Spanish-speaking countries give notice two months in advance of the session that it was their intention to send delegations. In the United Kingdom it had been the practice to provide simultaneous interpretation into Spanish at meetings of the Codex Committees on Sugars and Fats and Oils if requests were received from Spanish-speaking countries. The United Kingdom had confirmed in principle that this practice would be continued and that, as before, the expenses would be met by the United Kingdom. While the United Kingdom considered that the provision of facilities in Spanish should be left to the discretion of each host government, the United Kingdom had indicated that it would be willing to provide simultaneous interpretation in Spanish but could not undertake to provide a Spanish version of the draft reports of Committee sessions which it hosted.

257. During the course of the discussions the delegate of Argentina placed before the Commission a memorandum in regard to the use of the Spanish language in Codex Committees, which is contained in Appendix III to this Report. This memorandum was supported by the Spanish-speaking delegates and by the delegate of Brazil, but the delegates of some host countries found difficulty in accepting the memorandum. These delegates stressed that the Rules of Procedure obliged host countries to provide facilities in at least two working languages of the Commission and that any additional obligation in this respect would be tantamount to seeking a change in Rule XII.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The delegates of some host countries drew attention to the fact that certain facilities in Spanish had been provided by them in the last year on an ad hoc basis at meetings of Committees for which they acted as hosts.

258. During the course of the session the Commission set up a small working group to consider the subject further and report to the Commission. The working group, which was presided over by the Chairman of the Commission, consisted of members of the delegations of Argentina, Denmark, Ireland, the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom. The recommendation of the working group is set out hereunder:

"Use of the Spanish language in Codex Committees"

The Commission noted the progress being made and expressed its confidence that host countries would facilitate to the fullest possible extent the introduction of the Spanish language in all those Committees which do not yet use that language and where, according to available information, participation of Spanish-speaking delegations is foreseen; in particular, the Commission invites those host countries to endeavour to ensure simultaneous interpretation facilities in Spanish.

The Commission asks the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, as far as both interpretation and translation are concerned, to assist host countries, more particularly those countries, the national language of which is not one of the working languages.

The Commission requests in particular the Secretariat to provide in due course for the translation into Spanish, the printing and the distribution to Spanish-speaking countries of all

“proposed draft standards” and “draft standards” which have to be examined by those Committees for which Spanish written working papers would not otherwise be available.

The Commission invites the Executive Committee to follow up the progress made along these lines.”

259. The above recommendation was approved by the Commission except that the delegates of the Netherlands and Norway reserved their position and drew the attention of the Commission to the replies of their governments reproduced in ALINORM 71/9.

260. The delegate of Argentina recalled that in the working group established by the Chairman he had stated that he could only accept the agreed text on the basis of a decision unanimously adopted by the Commission, as he considered that the above text did not meet fully the just request of the Spanish-speaking countries, particularly concerning simultaneous interpretation into Spanish. Consequently, as a result of the reservations made by the delegates of Norway and the Netherlands, the delegate of Argentina stated that, while recognizing the progress which the above text implied concerning the translation of documents, he regretted that he was obliged to withdraw his support for the above text and he reserved to himself the possibility of any other further action on the subject.

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Work

261. The delegate of India referred to paragraphs 216-227 of the Report of the Seventh Session of the Commission (ALINORM 70/43) and enquired what was the latest position regarding the subjects for which the Secretariat had been requested to undertake background studies. The Commission noted that a paper “Coffee and the Consumer. Standards and Regulations” was being finalized by the Secretariat in the light of government comments and that this study could probably be submitted to the Commission at its Ninth Session. A work had been commenced on the studies concerning pulses and cereals and information on other stimulant beverages was being collected. The Commission agreed that these studies should be presented to the Commission as and when the Executive Committee considered it appropriate. The delegate of India also referred to the subject of condiments and spices. The Commission noted that the Secretariat was awaiting the finalization of work by ISO in this field.

PART XI

Tribute to Dr. J. L. Harvey (U.S.A.) and Mr. F. L. Southerland (U.S.A.)

262. The Commission was informed of the death of Dr. J. L. Harvey (U.S.A.) who was the first Chairman of the Commission. The Commission was also informed of the death of Mr. F. L. Southerland (U.S.A.), Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The Chairman recalled the active roles that both Dr. Harvey and Mr. Southerland played in the work of the Commission since its inception. The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of Dr. Harvey and Mr. Southerland.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS *

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

* The Heads of Delegations are listed first; Alternates, Advisers, and Consultants are listed in alphabetical order.

Les chefs de délégations figurent en tête et les suppléants, conseillers et consultants sont énumérés par ordre alphabétique.

Figuran en primer lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones; los Suplentes, Asesores y Consultores aparecen por orden alfabético.

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MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION

MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION

ALGERIA

ALGERIE

ARGELIA

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Directeur de la Répression des Fraudes

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APPENDIX II

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Seventeenth Session, Geneva, 25 June 1971

Introduction

1. The Executive Committee held its Seventeenth Session at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, on 25 June 1971. The committee was presided over by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. G. Weill (France) and in the presence of the three Vice-Chairmen, Dr. N. de Heer (Ghana), Mr. A. Miklovicz (Hungary) and Mr. G.R. Grange (United States of America). The following representatives from the geographic locations mentioned were present: for Africa, Ing. A. Abderrazak from Tunisia; for Asia, Mr. Ando from Japan; for Europe, Dr. D. Eckert from the Federal Republic of Germany; for Latin America, Ing. J.H. Piazzzi from Argentina; for North America, Dr. D.G. Chapman from Canada; for South-West Pacific, Mr. I.H. Smith from Australia.

2. Before proceeding to the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman informed the Committee that, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation at its Sixteenth Session, he had written to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, drawing their attention to the extreme importance which the Executive Committee attached to the work of FAO/WHO on pesticide residues as well as to the need for ensuring that this work received high priority. The Chairman informed the Committee of the replies which he had received from the Directors-General and the Committee noted their contents with satisfaction. The Committee considered that the replies of the Directors-General should be made known to the Commission, and it was, therefore, decided that they should be annexed to this Report (Annexes I and II).

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda.

Progress Report on Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards

4. The Committee had before it document ALINORM 71/6, containing a progress report on acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards as at 31 May 1971. This document, which would also be before the Eighth Session of the Commission, set out the replies of thirteen countries (Argentina, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Monaco, Philippines, Portugal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America), with respect to the acceptance of the four Recommended Codex

Standards (General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon, European Regional Standard for Honey, and first series of International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues) which had been sent to governments for acceptance shortly after the seventh Session of the commission. The Committee was informed orally that China had further indicated that, in the case of the Recommended International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues, it would be its intention to pass from Target Acceptance to Full Acceptance in 1973.

5. The Committee noted that, since its last session, the U.S.A. had made known its position regarding the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the details of this position being contained in document ALINORM 71/6. Mr. G.R. Grange drew the Committee's attention to the fact that imported products would be permitted to move freely in the U.S.A. only if they were labelled in accordance with the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and also complied with the deviations set out in the U.S. reply. The Committee also noted the action being taken in the U.S.A. concerning the Recommended Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon and the Recommended International Tolerance for hydrogen cyanide (details of this action are given in document ALINORM 71/6).

6. The Committee was informed by the Representative of the region of Latin America that, in addition to having accepted with minor deviations the Recommended Codex Standards for the Labelling, of Prepackaged Foods, Canned Pacific Salmon and Honey and to having given Full Acceptance to the first series of Recommended International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues (see ALINORM 71/6), Argentina had now indicated that it accepted a substantial number of the Recommended Codex Standards which had very recently been sent to governments for acceptance (a summary of these acceptances is attached as Annex III to this Report). The Committee was also informed that these acceptances had the force of law in Argentina, applicable both domestically and to imports.

7. The Representative of the South-West Pacific region indicated that New Zealand expected to be in a position to indicate at an early date its position with regard to acceptance of the four Recommended Codex Standards referred to above. He communicated the view of New Zealand that Acceptances with Minor Deviations should be referred to the appropriate Codex Commodity committee concerned. He also drew the Committee's attention to the fact that in countries with a federal structure, such as Australia, replies would, of necessity, be longer in forthcoming, because of the need to consult the proper authorities in the various states in the country.

8. Dr. N. de Heer drew the Committee's attention to the useful role Codex Contact Points could play in encouraging and promoting the acceptance of Recommended Codex Standards in their countries. He also considered that the representatives of regions on the Executive Committee could perform a similar useful role in their respective regions.

9. The Committee considered the desirability of Member Governments making available at specific intervals to the Commission information on action taken in their countries related to

Recommended Codex Standards, such as the information which had been made available by the U.S.A. and which had been reproduced in Appendices to document ALINORM 71/6. The Committee agreed that such information would be very useful, and recommended that Member Governments be requested to make available to the Secretariat, prior to each session of the Commission, information on the status of acceptance or other action taken on each Step 9 standard, in respect of which a final reply had not yet been made by the Member Government concerned.

10. In line with the idea of making as much information as possible available to Member Governments regarding action taken in individual countries having a bearing on acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards, the Executive Committee considered that it would be useful if legislative material and studies related to Recommended Codex Standards was made available to Member Governments by the Secretariat acting in cooperation with the Legislation Branches of FAO and WHO.

11. The committee again considered the question of how acceptances with minor deviations should be dealt with. It also considered the question of when and under what circumstances it might be appropriate for the commission to decide that a given Recommended Codex Standard be published in the Codex Alimentarius. From a procedural point of view, the Committee endorsed the proposal that the task of reviewing replies from Member Governments on acceptances of each Recommended Codex Standard might best be entrusted to the Executive Committee which would, when timely and appropriate, recommend action by the Commission or other steps, such as referral to the appropriate Codex Committee. Similarly, the Executive Committee would advise the commission on whether, in its view, a given Recommended Standard should be published in the Codex Alimentarius. The Executive Committee felt that it was necessary to give further consideration to the criteria that might be applied for determining whether a deviation was minor and whether a standard should be published in the Codex Alimentarius. The Executive Committee agreed that, since it was not in a position to take a definite decision on this matter, it would at its next session, examine in detail the substantive and procedural problems which had been raised and that it would, therefore, be desirable to arrange for a session slightly exceeding the normal duration of mid-term sessions.

Information on Finance for 1970/71 and 1972/73

12. The Executive Committee noted the contents of document ALINORM 71/7 on the above subject, and, in particular, that the increase in the budget for 1972/73 was due almost entirely to increased costs.

Arrangements for distribution and proposed charges for Recommended Codex Standards over and above free quotas to Governments

13. The Executive Committee was informed that, having regard to the increasing demand for substantial numbers of Recommended Codex Standards both from governments and interested trade organizations, and to the request made by the Executive Committee at its last

session, the Director-General of FAO now proposed, subject to agreement by WHO, to change the status of Recommended Codex Standards for which there had been no change, from main documents to priced publications. This change of status would apply to Step 9 and Step 10 standards only. Under the proposed new arrangements, governments would continue to receive a free quota of Recommended Codex Standards, but the quota would be in accordance with the formula for the distribution of priced publications adopted by the 12th FAO Conference in 1963. This formula is based on the contribution of Member Governments of FAO to the budget of the Organization. In the great majority of cases, governments would receive substantially the same number of copies free of charge as under existing system, which is based on the requirements made known by the governments themselves some years ago. However, in certain cases, the number of copies received by governments would be somewhat different under the new formula. It would also be possible for governments to obtain supplies in excess of their free quota at half-price, and, in addition, arrangements could be made to have bulk supplies made available to governments on favourable terms. Consultations were proceeding with WHO regarding the proposed new formula with a view to making such arrangements as would be in the best interest of governments. The proposal to change the status of Recommended Codex Standards would facilitate the re-issue of standards as and when required.

14. Various members of the Executive Committee drew attention to the growing interest in and demand for Recommended Codex Standards, especially from industry, and stressed the need for adequate supplies to be readily available. The Executive Committee noted that the question of centralizing arrangements for the distribution of Recommended Codex Standards was under consideration.

15. The Executive Committee noted that when the proposed new arrangements had been finalized, governments would be informed of their free quota entitlement, and would also be invited to indicate their wishes regarding the purchase of standards at half-price. Governments would also be invited to indicate the person or body to which copies of Recommended Codex Standards should be sent and in this connection, the importance of Codex Contact Points would be brought to their attention.

Draft Agenda for Proposed Third FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives

16. At the Seventh Session of the Commission, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany drew the Commission's attention to the desirability of holding a Third Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives to provide guidance to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives on matters such as the evaluation of the technological efficacy of food additives, means of dealing with urgent problems, such as the concern which had been expressed by the Canadian delegation at the Commission regarding the levels of mercury found in food, especially fish, in certain areas, and also other matters relating to the control of food additives. The Codex Committee on Food Additives discussed this question at its last session in the light of a proposed agenda for a Third Food Additives Conference, which had been prepared by the Federal Republic of Germany.

17. The Executive Committee at its last session was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had concluded that, provided its Terms of Reference were enlarged, it could discuss the items proposed for the Conference. Having noted that FAO and WHO were considering holding a Third Food Additives Conference and that budgetary provision was being made by the Director-General of FAO for holding the Conference, the Executive Committee requested that the proposed draft agenda for the Conference be communicated to its Seventeenth Session for information. The proposed Draft Agenda is attached as Annex IV to this Report.

18. The Executive Committee was informed that the First Food Additives Conference was held in 1956, which was before the Codex Alimentarius Commission was established. The Second Food Additives Conference was held in 1965 and its purpose was to lay down guidelines governing the further work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. The reasons for the proposed Third Food Additives Conference were as stated in paragraph 16 of this report and also to plan the direction of future work on the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.

19. The representatives of the regions of Europe and North America considered that such a Conference was necessary and drew attention to the fact that its scope extended beyond that of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, although the matters to be discussed at the Conference had a significant bearing on the work of the Commission in the field of contaminants in food. On the other hand, Mr. G.R. Grange stated that the U.S.A. was not convinced that such a Conference was necessary. The representative of the South-West Pacific region indicated that a number of items on the proposed draft agenda for the Conference would be of interest, especially in their effect on the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. He expressed the hope that if such a Conference were proceeded with, there would be no duplication of effort with the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

20. In conclusion, therefore, and having noted the historical background to the previous Food Additives Conferences as well as the reasons for the proposed Third Food Additives Conference, some Members of the Executive Committee were in favour of holding such a Conference, while other Members were not convinced of the usefulness or need for such a Third Conference. It was noted that the proposed draft agenda stated that the matters to be discussed dealt specifically with contaminants in food. Some Members of the Executive Committee thought that some aspects of the proposed agenda needed to be clarified, particularly agenda item 8. Attention was drawn to the need for the relationship between the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Food Additives to be covered as well as the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Codex Commodity Committees in the field of food additives. The point was also made that the proposed agenda item 4 should be moved up to follow immediately after item 2. The Executive Committee understood that the main purpose of the proposed Conference was to suggest general policy and guidelines for dealing with contaminants in food.

21. The Executive Committee noted that the question of whether the proposed Food Additives Conference should be held would have to be decided by the governing bodies of both Organizations. The Executive Committee suggested that the Directors-General of the two Organizations draw the attention of Member Governments to the proposed Conference, send them the proposed draft agenda and point out to them that it will be a matter for them to take a final decision on the subject at the Fifteenth FAO Conference, which will have to approve the programme of work and budget for FAO for the 1972/73 biennium.

Arrangements for Ad Hoc Working Group on Pesticide Residues

22. The Executive Committee noted with satisfaction the statement of the Secretariat that the Government of Denmark had indicated its willingness to host the above meeting in Copenhagen. It was hoped that the precise date of the meeting would be given by the Danish delegation at the Eighth Session of the Commission.

Provisional Timetable of Codex Meetings for 1972–1975

23. The Executive Committee considered the proposed timetable contained in document ALINORM 71/28, which would also be before the Eighth Session of the Commission. The reasons for scheduling the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the way suggested in the document were given in document ALINORM 71/28 and elaborated upon orally by the Secretariat. Most members of the Executive Committee expressed concern at the proposal to lengthen the intervals between sessions of the Commission to a good deal more than 12 months. Concern was also expressed at the fact that no session, either of the Commission or of the Executive Committee had been scheduled for 1973. It was explained that the proposal to lengthen the interval between sessions of the Commission had been based on the consideration that the Commission, at its last session, had drawn attention to the need to increase the period between sessions in order to give Governments sufficient time to comment on Step 8 standards and also to enable governments to have sufficient time to consider these comments fully before sessions of the Commission. Taking into account that the Programme's budget for 1972/73 had been drawn up on the basis of the proposed schedule of meetings for 1972/73 contained in document ALINORM 71/28, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend no change in the schedule for 1972/73 so far as sessions of the Commission were concerned but recommended that the 10th Session of the Commission which was scheduled for July 1974 should be brought forward to a date as early as possible in 1974. This would reduce the rather lengthy interval between the Ninth and Tenth sessions of the Commission. The Executive Committee also recommended that the Twentieth Session of the Executive Committee scheduled for February 1974 should be brought forward to mid 1973, assuming that there would be a need to hold such a meeting.

24. Both Mr. G.R. Grange and the Representative of the region of North America, speaking on behalf of Canada thought that it was not necessary that the Milk and Milk Products Committee should meet on a yearly basis. The Representative of the region of North America stated that the Canadian authorities considered that, having regard to the present workload of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, it would be feasible to hold the 1972 session of that Committee

in Rome prior to the Ninth session of the Commission. The Representative of the South-West Pacific region drew attention to the fact that the New Zealand authorities had expressed the wish that the meeting of the proposed new Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene be linked with the next session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products.

25. The Executive Committee drew attention to the fact that meetings should not be scheduled on an automatic basis but only when the workload justified the convening of meetings. The Executive Committee considered that the intervals between sessions of the Commission should be such as to enable the Commission to survey satisfactorily the progress of its subsidiary bodies and to finalize standards. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend that the Ninth Session of the Commission should be held in November 1972 and the Tenth Session as early as possible in 1974, taking into account that, it would not be possible, for budgetary reasons, to schedule a meeting of the Commission in 1973 (in which it was proposed to hold the Food Standards Conference in Africa) without cancelling meetings of some of the subsidiary bodies in the 1972/73 biennium which were a charge on the budget of the Programme.

Proposal to hold Food Standards Conference in Africa in 1973

26. At the Seventh Session of the Commission, the African delegations drew attention to the special needs of the developing countries of Africa in the field of basic food legislation, food standards, control services, laboratory facilities, training of personnel, etc. In order to enable African countries to be in a position to accept and implement Recommended Codex Standards, it would be necessary to make available to them advice and assistance in establishing the necessary infrastructures. The Secretariat undertook, at the Seventh Session of the Commission, to consider how best to suggest approaching the problem of meeting these needs.

27. For the purpose of making an accurate assessment of the needs of the African countries in the fields mentioned in paragraph 26 above, budgetary provision has been made for the holding of a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference in Africa in 1973. The proposal to hold a Food Standards Conference in Africa in 1973 together with a proposed possible draft agenda for the Conference, prepared by the Secretariat, was considered by the Executive Committee at its Sixteenth Session. The Executive Committee considered that the proposed draft agenda should incorporate written proposals which had been communicated to its Sixteenth Session by Dr. N. de Heer. The revised draft agenda, set out in paragraph 6 of ALINORM 71/11, incorporates the proposals of Dr. de Heer.

28. At the current session, Dr. de Heer stressed the importance of the proposed Food Standards Conference and also the need to ensure that organizations such as ISO and the Scientific, Technical and Research Committee (STRC) of OAU should be associated with the work. He also considered that it would be desirable to appoint a Coordinator for Africa and to fix the date for establishing a Coordinating Committee for Africa, but he thought that the Coordinating Committee probably would not need to meet for some considerable time yet in view of the pending Food Standards Conference.

29. The Executive Committee recommended:

- a. that steps be taken by FAO and WHO to organize and make arrangements for a Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference in Africa in 1973;
- b. that the provisional agenda for the Conference might be along the lines of that suggested in paragraph 6 of ALINORM 71/11, but that it would be understood that the proposed provisional agenda would be subject to change in the light of further consultation with the African countries;
- c. that it might be useful to appoint a Coordinator for Africa at the Eighth Session of the Commission if, as required under the Rules of Procedure, a majority of the African Members of the Commission so proposed;
- d. that it would also be useful for the Commission to envisage the establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Africa so that the necessary budgetary estimates could be drawn up for inclusion in the proposed budget for 1974/75.

The role of the Coordinator would be to advise and assist the Secretariat in preparing for the Conference and, in time, to assist and coordinate the work of any Codex Committee that may be set up in the region, as well as serving as Chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

Annex I

Ref. ACPP - CX 4/40

Rome, 3 mai 1971

Seizième session du Comité exécutif de la Commission
du Codex Alimentarius

Monsieur le Président,

Je vous remercie de votre lettre du 29 mars dans laquelle vous attiriez mon attention sur le rapport de la seizième session du Comité exécutif de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius. J'ai en particulier apprécié vos observations au sujet du paragraphe 21 a) de ce rapport.

Je reconnais pleinement la nécessité pour la FAO d'accorder une attention accrue au très important problème des résidus de pesticides dans les denrées alimentaires et j'ai récemment pris diverses dispositions pour renforcer les efforts que nous déployons de concert avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Parmi ces mesures, je citerai les suivantes:

- a. Autorisation de recruter immédiatement un fonctionnaire du cadre organique chargé de mettre au point sur le plan technique les publications touchant à la protection phytosanitaire et de participer à la préparation des rapports et monographies qui résultent des réunions conjointes annuelles FAO/OMS d'experts des résidus de pesticides.

- b. Révision de notre accord avec l'OMS au sujet des publications conjointes afin d'accélérer l'élaboration de la documentation provenant de nos réunions conjointes annuelles d'experts des résidus de pesticides.

D'autre part, je crois savoir qu'à l'OMS, le Dr. Candau et ses collaborateurs étudient la possibilité, de recourir à des ordinateurs dans ce domaine, plus particulièrement la mise au point de modèles mathématiques qui permettront d'estimer avec plus de précision les rapports entre les doses journalières acceptables de pesticides établies par les experts de l'OMS et les concentrations de résidus de pesticides tolérées dans les denrées alimentaires, fixées par les experts de la FAO.

Je tiens à vous assurer que nous sommes pleinement conscients de l'importance que revêt le problème des résidus de pesticides dans les produits alimentaires et que nous faisons tout notre possible, compte tenu du personnel dont nous disposons, pour renforcer les activités dans ce domaine en étroite coopération avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

A.H. Boerma
Directeur général

Monsieur Gérard WEILL
Président de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius
78, rue de Varenne
Paris (7e)
France

Annex II

Réf.: C 14/83/11

Votre réf.: O.A.A./No 14754

Genève, le 24 juin 1971

Monsieur le Président,

Je vous remercie de votre lettre du 29 mars par laquelle vous avez bien voulu attirer mon attention sur le rapport de la Seizième session du Comité exécutif de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius et, en particulier, sur la partie du rapport concernant la procédure d'élaboration de tolérances pour les résidus de pesticides.

Je tiens à vous assurer que, de concert avec la FAO et compte tenu de nos ressources budgétaires et du personnel dont nous disposons, nous nous efforçons de développer au maximum nos activités dans ce domaine si important pour la protection de la santé.

L'établissement de normes internationales en matière de résidus de pesticides dans les denrées alimentaires est un élément essentiel de l'action internationale tendant à prévenir et à déceler les effets nuisibles provoqués par les polluants chimiques du milieu et les discussions qui ont eu lieu récemment à la Vingt-Quatrième Assemblée mondiale de la Santé ont souligné l'importance que notre Organisation attache aux travaux de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Dr. M.G. Candau
Directeur général

Monsieur Gérard Weill
Président de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius
Comité Interministériel de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Comité français de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture
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Annex III

DECISIONS OF ARGENTINA ON STEP 9 STANDARDS

Full Acceptance

- Methods of analysis for Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Methods of analysis for Fats and Oils
- Pesticide residues (2nd series)
- General standard for fungi and fungus products
- Dried fungi
- Fungus Chanterelle
- Quick-frozen gutted Pacific salmon

Acceptance with Minor Deviations

- Dried glucose syrup
- General standard for fats and oils
- Lard
- Edible tallow
- Shrimps or prawns
- Edible cottonseed oil
- Margarine
- Rendered pork fat

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR A PROPOSED THIRD FAO/WHO CONFERENCE ON FOOD
ADDITIVES**

(Dealing specifically with contaminants in foods)

(Prepared by FAO Nutrition Division and WHO Food Additives Unit)

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and appointment of Rapporteurs.
2. Adoption of Agenda.
3. Review of work carried out by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (1955–1971):
 - a. Factual summary of food additives evaluated and specifications developed;
 - b. Review of principles of toxicological evaluation.
4. Relation between environmental contamination and contaminants in food.
5. Review of work already done in the above field (Item 4) by international organizations.
6. Measures and international action required to assess the levels and hazards of food contamination by environmental pollutants and to assist in its prevention and control:
 - a. Need for surveillance and monitoring of relevant data;
 - b. Evaluation of data with particular reference to the concept of total load from all sources.
7. Strengthening of procedures for rapid international consultation and coordinated action concerning food additives and contaminants (including environmental pollutants).
8. Future work on food additives:
 - a. Review of technological efficacy of various classes of food additives.
 - b. Other areas to be covered:
 - i. Packaging materials
 - ii. Processing aids
 - iii. Animal feed adjuncts
 - iv. Flavouring materials

with assignment of priorities for evaluation and re-evaluation.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the Report.

APPENDIX III

**MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF
ARGENTINA**

Latin American countries have shown increasing interest in participating actively in the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius, to which they accord particular importance as an international instrument for perfecting food standards.

Nevertheless, their participation in the activities of the Codex up to the present time has been very restricted owing to the limited use of the Spanish language in several committees of the Codex.

For this reason, ever since 1966, Latin American countries have persistently tried to have the Spanish language occupy its proper position, that is, as a working language, as it is considered to be in both FAO and the WHO.

Even if it is recognized that in recent years marked progress has been shown in this respect, the actual situation is still far from satisfactory for Latin American countries.

This situation continues to present a serious limitation for the expansion of their participation in several committees of the Codex which handle problems of special interest for these countries, and compels them to restate the problem at this meeting.

Recognizing that the problem of the complete use of the Spanish language in all Codex activities should be resolved as a matter of principle, the delegation of Argentina has analysed in detail the answers sent by the governments which were consulted by the Directors-General on this matter.

Moreover, before submitting this Memorandum to the Commission, it has carefully considered the different problems mentioned in those answers and has arrived at the conclusion that during the course of this present meeting of the Commission, certain flexible and reasonable decisions could be adopted, that would permit a gradual solution to the problem, without adopting measures that would be unjustified, either because of their expense or because of the practical difficulties they could present.

In this respect, it is considered that the Commission should consider the adoption of the following measures:

1. Establish a tentative fixed date for the complete introduction of the Spanish language in all the committees of the Codex. This date - which could be fixed towards the end of the next two years - would be re-examined after one year, in the light of the results obtained together with the rest of the measures indicated below:
 - i. Establish simultaneous interpretation into and from Spanish at all meetings of the Codex that do not as yet use Spanish and to which at least two Spanish-speaking countries have announced the intention of assisting with a minimum anticipation of two months.
 - ii. Establish translation into Spanish of the Final Report of all meetings of the Committees of the Codex that do not provide it as yet and in which at least two Spanish-speaking countries have participated, provided that the foreseeable

length of the report is such that relevant paragraphs of same could not be directly translated at the interpreters cabin during the submission of the draft.

- iii. In those instances in which a Committee has not yet provided a Spanish translation of the Final Report and till it does so, the translation, printing and distribution of same to Spanish-speaking countries, will be effected after the meeting by the Secretariat.
- iv. In those instances in which Committees which do not as yet use Spanish fully, and till they do so, the Secretariat will take charge of the translation into Spanish, printing and distribution to Spanish-speaking countries of all new standards or new versions of standards considered at their meetings.

To that end, countries in charge of said Committees, will anticipate, as far as possible, the submittance of such documents to the Secretariat in order that these may be distributed with sufficient time in order that interested countries may be able to submit their observations within the stipulated terms.

- v. According as it is necessary for its consideration at meetings of the Committees or of other instruments of the Codex, the Secretariat will provide the translation, printing and distribution to Spanish-speaking countries of those standards under consideration that have not as yet been published in Spanish.
- 2. Every new committee that is established must, from the start, incorporate the use of the Spanish language in all its activities.
 - 3. During its present period of sessions the Commission will determine the regulations and financial measures that it will be necessary to adopt in order to comply with the aforementioned measures.

APPENDIX IV

RECOMMENDED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR POWDERED DEXTROSE (ICING DEXTROSE)

1. DESCRIPTION

Powdered Dextrose (Icing Dextrose) is finely pulverized Dextrose Anhydrous or Dextrose Monohydrate or mixtures thereof, with or without the addition of an anti-caking agent.

2. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

2.1 Optional Ingredients

Starch not more than 5% m/m of the product, provided that no other anti-caking agent is used.

2.2 Quality Criteria

That part of Powdered Dextrose, other than the anti-caking agent or agents, shall conform to the following specifications:

2.2.1 Reducing sugar content not less than 99.5% m/m on a dry basis (Dextrose equivalent)

2.2.2 Total Solids Content

2.2.2.1 Powdered Dextrose made from Dextrose Anhydrous: not less than 98.0% m/m

2.2.2.2 Powdered Dextrose made from Dextrose Monohydrate: " " " 90.0% m/m

2.2.2.3 Powdered Dextrose made from Dextrose Anhydrous or Dextrose Monohydrate or mixtures thereof: the total solids content shall be proportional to the characteristics of the mixture

2.2.3 Sulphated ash not more than 0.25% m/m on a dry basis

3. FOOD ADDITIVES

3.1 Sulphur Dioxide not more than 20 mg/kg (residue resulting from the Dextrose used)

3.2 Anti-caking agents

The following may be used, singly or in combination, provided that starch is not present:

calcium silicate

calcium phosphate, tribasic

magnesium carbonate

magnesium stearate

silicon dioxide, amorphous (dehydrated silica gel) not more than 1.5% m/m

Silicates:

magnesium trisilicate

sodium calcium alumino-silicate

4. CONTAMINANTS

4.1 Arsenic (As) not more than 1 mg/kg

4.2 Copper (Cu) not more than 2 mg/kg

4.3 Lead (Pb) not more than 2 mg/kg

5. HYGIENE

It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared in accordance with the appropriate sections of the General Principles of Food Hygiene recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 1-1969).

6. LABELLING

In addition to Sections 1, 2, 4 and 6.1 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RS 1-1969), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1 The Name of the Food

The name of the food shall be Powdered Dextrose or Icing Dextrose. The name shall be accompanied by a reference to Dextrose Anhydrous or Dextrose Monohydrate as appropriate or, in the case of mixtures, Dextrose Anhydrous and Dextrose Monohydrate.

6.2 List of Ingredients

6.2.1 The presence of starch and the maximum amount present shall be declared on the label or container of powdered Dextrose.

6.2.2 The presence of anti-caking agents (other than starch) shall be declared on the label or container of powdered Dextrose either by the generic term “anti-caking agent” or by the chemical name, or names, of the specific anti-caking agent or agents present.

6.3 Net Contents

The net contents shall be declared by weight in either the metric (“Système International” units) or avoirdupois or both systems of measurement, as required by the country in which the product is sold.

6.4 Name and Address

The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the product shall be declared.

6.5 Country of Origin

6.5.1 The country of origin of the product shall be declared if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer.

6.5.2 When the product undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

7. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

(To be finalized later).