



REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Rome, 3-14 December 1979

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 3 to 14 December 1979. The Session was attended by 276 participants, including the representatives and observers of 56 countries, and observers from 22 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).

2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland), and for certain items of the agenda by the following Vice-Chairmen: Mr. D A. Akoh (Nigeria) and Prof. Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany). Apologies for absence were received from the third Vice-Chairman, Dr. S. Al Shakir (Iraq). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O.

Kermode (FAO/WHO), Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO/WHO), Dr. D.G. Chapman (WHO) and Dr. L. Reinius (WHO).

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

3. The Thirteenth 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 the Directors-General, with a speech of welcome by Dr. Ralph W. Phillips, Deputy Director-General of FAO. During the course of his remarks, the Deputy Director-General expressed appreciation to Prof. Matthey for his excellent work as Chairman of the Commission. Noting that Prof. Matthey would shortly be retiring as Head of the Swiss Federal Food Control Service, he wished him and Madame Matthey many happy years of retirement. The text of the address by Dr. Phillips is contained in Appendix II to this Report. The reply of the Chairman, who thanked the Deputy Director-General for having opened the session, is contained in Appendix III to this Report.

TRIBUTE TO DR. V. ENNGAARD (DENMARK) AND DR. M KONDRUP (DENMARK)

4. The Chairman informed the Commission of the deaths of Dr. V. Enggaard (Denmark) and Dr. M. Kondrup (Denmark) since the last session of the Commission. He recalled their many years of association with the Codex Alimentarius Commission from the time of its first session in 1963, which they had both attended. Dr. Enggaard had been Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products since 1967 and Dr. Kondrup had been a very active member of the Danish delegation. The Chairman expressed sympathy to the Danish delegation on behalf of the Commission. The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of Dr. Enggaard and Dr. Kondrup.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

5. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda of the session, as set forth in document ALINORM 79/1-Rev.1.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6. During the session, the Commission elected Professor Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany) as Chairman of the Commission, to serve from the end of the Thirteenth to the end of the Fourteenth Session. The Commission also elected Mr. D.A. Akoh (Nigeria), Mr. E.F.

Kimbrell (USA) and Dr. E.R. Mendez (Mexico) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Thirteenth to the end of the Fourteenth Session.

7. The Commission elected from the Members of the Commission representatives for the following geographic locations in the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to hold office from the end of the Thirteenth to the end of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission in accordance with Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission: Africa - Kenya; Asia - Republic of Korea; Europe - USSR; Latin America - Argentina; North America - Canada; South-West Pacific - New Zealand.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS

8. The following persons were appointed by the Commission as Regional Coordinators for: Africa - Dr. T. N'Doye (Senegal); Asia - Dr. D.S. Chadha (India); Latin America - Dr. A.M. Dovat (Uruguay) - to serve to the end of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission. The Coordinator for Europe, Prof. Dr. H. Woidich (Austria) who was appointed at the Twelfth Session of the Commission continues to serve to the end of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission.

PART II

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9. The Commission received reports concerning the Twenty-Fifth and Twenty-Sixth Sessions of the Executive Committee, held in Geneva from 10 to 13 July 1979 and in Rome on 26 and 27 November 1979. The reports of these two Sessions were contained in ALINORM 79/3 and ALINORM 79/4. In introducing and reviewing the reports, the Chairman indicated that all of the substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items of the Commission relating to the matters concerned.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

10. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The membership is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last Session one more country - Botswana - had become a Member of the Commission, bringing the current membership to 117 countries. The delegation of India expressed the hope that the Secretariat would get in touch with those countries which had not yet become Members of the Commission and urge them to become Members. The Commission endorsed this suggestion.

AFRICA

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Botswana
4. Burundi
5. Cameroon
6. Central African Republic
7. Chad
8. Congo
9. Egypt
10. Ethiopia
11. Gabon
12. Gambia
13. Ghana
14. Guinea
15. Guinea-Bissau
16. Ivory Coast
17. Kenya
18. Liberia
19. Libya
20. Madagascar
21. Malawi
22. Mauritius
23. Morocco
24. Nigeria
25. Senegal
26. Sudan
27. Swaziland
28. Tanzania
29. Togo
30. Tunisia
31. Uganda
32. Upper Volta
33. Zaire
34. Zambia

ASIA

35. Bangladesh
36. Burma
37. Democratic Kampuchea
38. India
39. Indonesia
40. Iran

41. Iraq
42. Japan
43. Jordan
44. Korea, Rep. of
45. Kuwait
46. Lebanon
47. Malaysia
48. Nepal
49. Oman
50. Pakistan
51. Philippines
52. Qatar
53. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
54. Singapore
55. Sri Lanka
56. Syria
57. Thailand
58. United Arab Emirates
59. Viet-Nam
60. Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of

EUROPE

61. Austria
62. Belgium
63. Bulgaria
64. Cyprus
65. Czechoslovakia
66. Denmark
67. Finland
68. France
69. Germany, Federal Republic of
70. Greece
71. Hungary
72. Iceland
73. Ireland
74. Israel
75. Italy
76. Luxembourg
77. Malta
78. Netherlands
79. Norway
80. Poland
81. Portugal
82. Romania

- 83. Spain
- 84. Sweden
- 85. Switzerland
- 86. Turkey
- 87. United Kingdom
- 88. U.S.S.R.
- 89. Yugoslavia

LATIN AMERICA

- 90. Argentina
- 91. Barbados
- 92. Bolivia
- 93. Brazil
- 94. Chile
- 95. Colombia
- 96. Costa Rica
- 97. Cuba
- 98. Dominican Republic
- 99. Ecuador
- 100. El Salvador
- 101. Guatemala
- 102. Guyana
- 103. Jamaica
- 104. Mexico
- 105. Nicaragua
- 106. Panama
- 107. Paraguay
- 108. Peru
- 109. Trinidad and Tobago
- 110. Uruguay
- 111. Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA

- 112. Canada
- 113. U.S.A.

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

- 114. Australia
- 115. Fiji
- 116. New Zealand
- 117. Samoa

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF RECOMMENDED

CODEX STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED CODEX MAXIMUM

LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND ON ACTION TAKEN IN

MEMBER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

11. The Commission had before it a full list of Recommended Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues sent to Governments for acceptance (ALINORM 79/5, Appendix). The Commission also had before it a revised edition of the Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (CAC/ACCEPTANCES/Rev.1). The Summary contained full details concerning acceptances up to 30 October 1978. The data in the Summary were further updated by document ALINORM 79/5, which contained information on further acceptances from Argentina, Bahamas, Egypt, Jordan, United Kingdom and the USA. This information was further supplemented by the Secretariat, which informed the Commission verbally of additional notifications, which had come to hand, of acceptances or of action contemplated which would probably result in acceptances. These notifications had been received from Canada, Cyprus, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway and the USA.

12. Canada had notified acceptance of many of the Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. Cyprus had notified Target Acceptance of the Recommended Standards for Canned Mandarin in Oranges, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Peaches and Canned Pineapple. Cyprus had also notified Target Acceptance of many of the Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues contained in the publication CAC/RS 65-1974, with the intention, in time, of passing to Full Acceptance. Hungary had notified acceptance of certain milk product standards and associated reference methods. New Zealand had recently amended its Food and Drug Regulations. These Regulations now permit the importation of any food which contains proportions of pesticides not greater than those specified in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Series of Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues, CAC/RS 65, 71 and 100.

13. Norway indicated that a White Paper on the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and its significance for Norway had been put before the Norwegian Parliament. The Norwegian Parliament had endorsed the conclusions set out in the White Paper, namely that (a) achieving the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius would be of great benefit to all concerned, (b) the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission were of great significance for Norway and should be fully supported, and (c) the authorities concerned in Norway should take the appropriate steps to consider the Recommended Codex Standards for formal acceptance. In this latter connection, several working groups had been set up in Norway, and Norway hoped that formal acceptance of many of the Codex standards, in one form or another, would soon be forthcoming. The USA indicated that all of the Recommended Codex Standards, were being considered.

14. During the discussion which followed the presentation of the above documents and information, several delegations provided the Commission with additional information on the position with regard to acceptances in their countries. The delegation of Kenya indicated that Kenya had decided to accept most of the Recommended Codex Standards. Some of them had already been incorporated in Kenya legislation and other Codex Standards were being examined. The official position of Kenya with regard to the Codex Standards would be communicated to the Secretariat in due course. The delegation of the USA indicated that a further communication concerning acceptances was en route to the Secretariat. This communication covered the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and several Codex Commodity standards. The US delegation stated that the USA would not be able to accept a number of the Codex standards for fats and oils, but that products in conformity with the Codex standards for the products concerned would be permitted to enter the USA.

15. The delegation of Senegal informed the Commission about action being taken and studies under way in Senegal with a view to acceptance of some of the Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. The delegation of Argentina indicated that in Argentina the Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues were being studied with a view to giving acceptance as soon as possible. The study covered the residues of 38 pesticides and some 400 food products.

16. The delegation of Algeria stressed the importance of food control, including adequate training of inspection and laboratory staff. Algeria hoped to be able to give acceptance in due course to most of the Codex standards. The United Kingdom referred to its position, as set forth in ALINORM 79/5, in relation to its notification of Target Acceptance of many of the Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. From 1 July 1979, Target Acceptance had been converted to Limited Acceptance. The delegation of the UK indicated that, as a Member of the European Economic Community, it might be necessary for the UK to modify its position on acceptances.

17. The delegation of New Zealand indicated that New Zealand would shortly be notifying acceptances in respect of the Recommended Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. Also the food law in New Zealand was being reviewed in the light of Codex standards and recommendations. The delegation of Tanzania indicated that the Codex standards were being examined in Tanzania and that, in particular, they would try and use the Codex Standards for fats and oils. The delegation of Tanzania stressed the importance of having assistance from FAO and WHO in the field of food control.

18. The delegation of India stated that it would indeed facilitate international trade if importing countries which, for their own internal reasons, did not feel able to accept a given Codex standard, would notify the Secretariat that products complying with the Codex standard would be allowed entry. India had a particular difficulty in this respect, because Indian legislation made no distinction between products for home consumption and products for import. Thus products for import would have to comply with Indian regulations. The delegation of India thought that some of the provisions of Codex standards in the field of hygiene and

contaminants were not really practicable. India would soon communicate its views to the Secretariat.

19. The delegation of Uruguay indicated that it was awaiting the results of Codex regional work in Latin America before communicating its position on acceptances to the Secretariat. The delegation added that Uruguay exercised strict control over foods and that the Codex recommendations were being examined. The delegation of Finland indicated that Codex work was being closely followed there and that the Codex standards had a big significance on food standards work in Finland. Finland hoped soon to be able to supply a progress report on this matter to the Secretariat.

20. The observer from the European Economic Community indicated that Codex work was very closely followed by the EEC, and that the Codex standards had a significant influence on the content of the Community standards. The EEC had given acceptance with Specified Deviations to a number of the Codex standards for sugar and hoped soon to be able to communicate its position concerning the Codex standards for fruit juices and cocoa products and chocolate. The observer from the EEC expressed interest in the view expressed by the Executive Committee, at its 25th session, that it would be a step forward if countries which could not formally accept a Codex standard would be prepared to allow a product in conformity with the Codex standard to gain entry. He agreed with the Codex Committee on General Principles that this was a positive line of action and indicated that it was one which the EEC would probably follow. Information on the work of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and its interest in the Codex standards and recommendations was also conveyed to the Commission.

21. The Commission agreed that the influence of Codex standards and recommendations was steadily increasing throughout the world, and that considerable progress concerning acceptances had been achieved since the Commission's Twelfth Session. The increasing interest in both developing and developed countries in the work and recommendations of the Commission was evident from progress reports made to-date and from statements made at the current session. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee at its Twenty-Fifth Session on the subject of acceptances and particularly emphasized the importance, in the interest of facilitating international trade, of permitting entry of products in conformity with Codex standards, in cases where acceptance could not be given. The Commission agreed that there should be a regular item on the agendas of Codex Commodity Committees and, where appropriate, Codex General Subject Committees, covering review of acceptances of standards elaborated by each Committee, and that acceptances of standards should also be reviewed at the regional level by Codex Coordinating Committees.

22. The Commission stressed the need for the Codex Secretariat to continue to seek more acceptances of the Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues from governments, to intensify its "drive" on acceptances in this regard, and to assist Members of the Commission in matters concerning the use and application of the Commission's Procedure for the Acceptance of Standards.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD

STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR 1978/79 AND BUDGET FOR

1980/81

23. The Commission had before it ALINORM 79/6 and Addendum. The Commission noted that most of the information contained in ALINORM 79/6 had been put before and considered by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-Fifth Session in Geneva in July 1979. The additional information concerning estimated expenditure in 1979, as contained in ALINORM 79/6, Addendum, and in ALINORM 79/4 para. 3, had been considered by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-Sixth Session in Rome on 26 and 27 November 1979.

24. In introducing the above documents, the Chief of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme drew the Commission's attention to the discussions on this topic which had taken place at the Twenty-Fifth and Twenty-Sixth Sessions of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 79/3, paras 53–59 and ALINORM 79/4, paras 3–6). He indicated that there would be a deficit in the current biennium. The deficit, which would be principally on documents (translation and printing), was mainly attributable to the fact that two sessions of the Commission had been provided for in the 1978/79 biennium, as against one session in the 1976/77 biennium. However, it was expected that this situation would right itself in the 1980/81 biennium, when in accordance with the eighteen month cycle of sessions established by the Commission at its Eleventh Session, only one session of the Commission would be held.

25. The Commission noted that the proposed budget for the Programme for 1980/81, as set forth in para. 6 of ALINORM 79/6, had been approved by both the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly. WHO had provided for a contribution of \$340,000 to the joint budget of the Programme for 1980/81. Revised estimates of cost increases relating to the Rome location of the Joint Office had since indicated that this contribution would need to be raised to \$371,000. The Commission was informed that WHO would be endeavouring to provide the additional amount of \$31,000 during the biennium from savings. The Commission was further informed that the number of meetings of Codex Committees as proposed by the Commission at its Twelfth Session had also been approved by the FAO Conference. In this connection, however, the professional staff of the Joint Office had, after very careful review of its increasing workload, concluded that it could not satisfactorily service all these sessions. A reduced number of Codex meetings was therefore proposed for 1980/81, details of which were set out in document ALINORM 79/32, for consideration by the Commission.

26. The Commission was informed of the views of the FAO Programme Committee on the current cost sharing arrangements between FAO and WHO regarding the joint items of expenditure of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, namely personal services (salaries and common staff costs), meetings, consultants, duty travel and external printing and translation. The Executive Committee, at its Twenty-Fifth Session, had requested that

WHO should give very sympathetic consideration to this matter, with a view to increasing WHO's contribution towards the costs of the joint budget items for 1982/83.

27. The delegation of the USA drew the attention of the Commission to various discussions in the Executive Committee relating to programme of work and budgetary matters and also recalled the discussions which had taken place at the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions of the Commission on these matters. In particular, the delegation emphasized the great care which had been taken by the Commission at its last session to determine its priorities regarding which Committees should meet and the frequency of meetings. In this connection, the delegation felt strongly that the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues should continue to meet annually, because of their value to all Members of the Commission and the importance of their work to other Codex Committees. The delegation of the USA drew attention to the discussions in the Executive Committee on several occasions concerning the austere nature of the budget of the Programme and the increasing workload falling on the staff of the Programme. The Commission at its last session and the Executive Committee at several sessions had expressed concern about the diminution over the years of the professional staff of the Joint Office of the Programme, against a background of expanding Codex work, especially in the General Subject and Regional Coordinating Committees, to which all Members of the Commission attached high priority and importance.

28. The delegation of the USA considered that all the staff paid for by both FAO and WHO, which was a Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, should resume the earlier practice of reporting directly and administratively to the Commission and the Executive Committee on details of any problems relating to staffing, workload and operation of the Programme. The delegation further stated that the Commission and Executive Committee should monitor the workload of the Secretariat, to ensure that its efforts to service the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies were not being diverted in any way from its task. Specifically, the delegation considered that the Chief of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, who had been engaged on other duties, should report regularly on the above matters to the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The delegation further considered it was essential, in view of possible increased funding by WHO and the reorientation and workload of the Programme, that no member of the Codex Secretariat, including the Chief of the Programme, should be engaged in non-Codex work, especially as the FAO Programme Committee had requested FAO to seek an increased share of funds from WHO towards the joint costs of the Programme.

29. The matters referred to by the delegation of the USA gave rise to a general discussion on the role and duties of the staff and funding of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. All delegations agreed that the staff of the Programme should be engaged wholly on Codex work, more especially at a time when the workload was increasing. One delegation made the point that any non-Codex work which the staff of the Programme might be called upon to do should, even though it might be very important work, be done by other FAO staff and be paid out of funds other than Codex funds. Many delegations considered that a report on the activities of the staff of the Programme should be made to the Commission.

30. Several delegations expressed regret that the proposed timetable of Codex meetings in 1981 did not list meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and indicated that they would wish to examine this matter further under the appropriate agenda item. One delegation thought that some consideration should be given to phasing out certain Codex Committees which were approaching the end of their current assignments. Another delegation considered that there should be an overall increase in the allocation of funds from FAO and WHO to Codex work. The delegation further suggested that in the future the budget presentation of the Programme should contain an indication as to what percentage of the budgets of FAO and WHO was attributable to the Codex budget.

31. Several delegations drew attention to the very substantial contributions to the Programme made by those Governments which host Codex Committees. One delegation referred to paragraph 7 of ALINORM 79/6, in which it was indicated that there had been a small reduction in the budget of the Programme for 1980/81 as compared with 1978/79, in order to enable more funds to be made available for food control. This delegation stated that this matter should have been referred to the Commission for consideration. The need to provide more documentation in the Spanish language was mentioned by another delegation.

32. Concerning the question of the WHO contribution to the Programme, the Commission agreed that WHO should be requested to assume a higher share of the joint budget of the Programme for the 1982/83 biennium. In this connection, the WHO representative indicated that this request would be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities of WHO. The WHO representative added that in considering a request for increased funds WHO would want to be reassured that all of the members of the staff of the Programme paid for by FAO and WHO, including the Chief of the Programme, were working full time on the activities of the Programme.

33. In response to several inquiries concerning the duties of the Head of the Joint Secretariat and its professional staff, the Commission was informed that in 1971 the Joint FAO/WHO staff in Rome consisted of 7 professional officers, including the Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, who functioned full time as Head of the Codex Secretariat. For a period of two years (1977 and 1978) the Joint FAO/WHO staff had stood at 5 professional officers, when the Chief of the Programme was temporarily Officer-in-Charge of the Food Policy and Nutrition Division. The professional staff of the Programme now stood at 6 professional officers, including the Chief of the Programme, whose duties did not enable him to devote full time to Codex work.

34. In view of the reorientation and expanding nature of the Commission's activities as well as the need to secure increased support from WHO, the Commission concluded that the Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme should be engaged solely on Codex work and that he should report on the activities of the Joint FAO/WHO staff servicing the Programme at each session of the Commission and Executive Committee and also every six months to the Chairman of the Commission.

PART III

REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION BY THE FAO PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AT ITS 35TH AND 37TH SESSIONS, BY THE COUNCIL OF FAO AT ITS 74TH SESSION, BY THE 32ND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND BY THE FAO CONFERENCE AT ITS 20TH SESSION

35. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 79/7, ALINORM 79/7, Addendum and ALINORM 79/7, Second Addendum. These documents were introduced and reviewed by the Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, who informed the Commission of the practical steps which had been taken since its last session, in order to make the Commission's work more responsive to the needs and concerns of the developing countries. A report had been made on these matters to the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO. Both Governing Bodies had endorsed the actions which had been taken by the Commission in this area, and the FAO Council had indicated that, in view of the importance of the Commission's work, it wished to follow major policy trends within the Commission.

36. The FAO Conference had also recommended that the Codex Alimentarius Commission should review its procedures for the elaboration of standards, in order to expedite their development. The Executive Committee had considered this matter at its Twenty-Sixth Session and had charged the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, to prepare proposals on this matter for consideration at its Twenty-Seventh Session (ALINORM 79/4, paragraph 9).

37. The Commission took note, with satisfaction, of the contents of the reports on the reactions of the various bodies listed above. In particular, the Commission expressed its appreciation of the comments of the FAO Conference at its Twentieth Session. The FAO Conference had, amongst other things, emphasized the importance of the role of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees in Africa, Asia and Latin America in promoting the health, nutrition and trade interests of the countries of these regions. The Commission agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed on Codex regional work.

38. The delegation of Cuba made a statement concerning this item of the agenda which is contained in Appendix IV to this Report.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF REGIONAL CODEX STANDARDS AND TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

39. The Commission, at its Twelfth Session, had amended the procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards, to provide for comments on the possible economic impact of the international Codex standards. The Commission, at its Thirteenth Session, had before it proposals to introduce the same type of amendments into the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards and the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues.

40. The Codex Secretariat had submitted proposals in this regard to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-Fifth Session. The Executive Committee had amended the proposals of the Secretariat (ALINORM 79/3, para 62).

41. The Commission had before it at its current session the proposals contained in document ALINORM 79/2. The Commission adopted the proposals which were before it except that, on the advice of the FAO Legal Counsel, it agreed that the proposed addition to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards should be further amended to read as follows:-

“In taking any decision at this step, the Members of the region concerned will give due consideration to any comments that may be submitted by any of the Members of the Commission regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests”.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

42. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 79/8 which contained three Sections; Section A - Joint FAO/WHO Activities; Section B - Report of FAO Activities; Section C - Report of WHO Activities.

43. In his introductory remarks the FAO representative mentioned that ALINORM 79/8 contained information on activities of FAO and WHO designed to assist Member Countries particularly developing countries, in strengthening food control systems, to enable full utilization of Codex work in protecting consumers, and in developing the food industry and trade. The strong coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between FAO and WHO in joint activities, and in activities primarily resting with one or the other agency was mentioned, and the need was highlighted for development of similar cooperation between food, agriculture and health sectors at the national level in most countries, to enable quicker development of coordinated programmes, in order to meet food quality and safety problems in developed and developing countries.

44. The FAO and WHO representatives mentioned various joint FAO/WHO activities outlined in the paper, and gave the Commission progress reports on meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) in 1978 and 1979. The Report of the 1978 JMPR meeting and the specifications for identity and purity for the food additives covered in the 1978 and 1979 JECFA meetings had been published and distributed.

45. Progress was also reported on the UNEP-supported Joint FAO/WHO Food and Animal Feed Monitoring Programme. The FAO representative mentioned the work being done on animal feed monitoring assistance, and the WHO representative pointed out that the summary report of data received from participating countries up to 1977 had been published. This latter report was reassuring to WHO since the data submitted indicated that the mean and ninetieth percentile figures for all but one organochlorine pesticide assessed did not exceed the practical residue limits set by FAO/WHO for the various pesticide chemicals included in the survey, and in fact the data indicated a downward trend in these residues in food. FAO/WHO also had released a publication entitled "Guideline for Establishing or Strengthening National Food Contamination Monitoring Programmes", for use by participating countries in the programme, to assess and strengthen national food contamination monitoring and control programmes.

46. The WHO representative also made mention of the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Food, which will next be convened in October 1980 to further consider various aspects of the food irradiation process.

47. With regard to microbiological contaminants and meat hygiene, the WHO representative gave a summary of work done recently in these areas. The third FAO/WHO Working Group on Microbiological Criteria for Foods met in Geneva in February 1979, and the Commission was informed of the views expressed by the Working Group on the usefulness of microbiological criteria for raw meat, poultry, or other raw foods. The Working Group developed "General Principles for the Establishment of Microbiological Criteria in Foods", for consideration by the Codex Food Hygiene Committee and the Commission, which recommended minimizing microbiological problems in foods by the use of codes of practice, and recommended that microbiological criteria or standards should only be established where there was a definite need, and where they could be effective and practical. On meat hygiene,

the WHO representative mentioned that a draft text of an “International Code of Principles for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat” had been finalized by a group of experts in October 1979, and would be considered by the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene.

48. In a review of FAO field activities, the FAO representative drew attention to a list of national, regional, or global projects underway in a number of countries. These projects included assistance in strengthening food control infrastructure, food legislation, training food inspectors, chemists, microbiologists, and food control administrators, strengthening laboratory facilities, and assisting in improving control of food contaminants. Among major new initiatives of FAO was a plan to develop Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC) in the food control area and an FAO/UNDP Technical Consultation between Developing Countries of the Asia and Pacific Regions, held in September 1979 was mentioned as a first step. The Consultation drew up an action plan of how the countries of the Region could establish and carry out food control training, advisory and assistance services, and operate an information collection and dissemination service utilizing existing expertise and institutions in the Region. Also mentioned were plans of FAO to convene National Food Control Strategy Workshops in countries of different Regions to assist in the development of coherent, inter-ministerial plans for better food control infrastructure.

49. The FAO representative also mentioned FAO's programme currently carried out to develop a series of publications on food control, complementary to the already published Guidelines for Establishing an Effective National Food Control System, FAO Food Control Series No.1. In this series is an inspection manual, developed jointly with WHO and UNEP; a chemical manual with selected chemical methods for food control, developed by FAO with funding assistance from the Government of Sweden; a microbiological manual developed by FAO based on its experience in an FAO/UNEP project in East Africa, and an FAO developed publication on Guidelines for Quality Control of Foods for Export.

50. In the area of food contaminant control, the work of FAO in an FAO/UNDP/African Groundnut Council project was mentioned including various aflatoxin prevention, detoxification, and personnel training components of this six-country project (Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan). A training course for Francophone countries for analysis and control of mycotoxins in food, held in Tunisia, was also mentioned. In addition to these project activities, the FAO representative mentioned surveys of food contamination facilities in Latin America and West Africa that had been carried out, which would lead to further training programmes, a West African food control and food contamination centre. He also mentioned Norwegian financed FAO projects being carried out in the area of food contamination studies in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Commission was also informed of a six-month training course carried out with UNEP funding at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, India, where over 30 fellows, from about 25 countries had been trained over the past few years. Further courses of this type would be carried out if additional funding support could be located.

51. The FAO representative brought to the attention of the Commission a current project between FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to provide training and technological studies in food irradiation with various training activities already completed or underway.

52. The activities of FAO in the UN-wide effort to improve consumer protection activities of the UN and the FAO Programmes on Prevention of Food Losses and Food Security were called to the attention of the Commission.

53. The WHO representative gave the Commission details of the WHO Food Safety Programme and stated that a review of the food safety activities of each WHO Member State had been completed to assist in planning future activities. At WHO Headquarters, a post had been created and filled by a scientist whose functions were to assist in the planning and implementation of activities in sanitary food protection. In field projects, WHO mentioned a fungal contamination control and human health project underway in Swaziland, with UNEP collaboration, and drew attention to a list of projects appended to ALINORM 79/8.

54. In the area of food microbiology and related diseases, WHO called attention to an international surveillance programme on foodborne diseases being set up within the WHO European Region to its food virology data bank established to provide information on foodborne viral diseases and to the newly established large-scale programme on control of diarrheal diseases. WHO continued to coordinate post-graduate training in the area of food microbiology for students from developing countries. Two courses were held in Europe, and one four weeks course in India for India and neighbouring countries. In accordance with World Health Assembly decisions, WHO was extending its network of centres for zoonoses and related foodborne diseases. One such centre had recently been established in Athens, Greece, to serve the Mediterranean area and others were being planned.

55. In opening this item for discussion, the Chairman thanked the representatives of FAO and WHO for the information given on FAO/WHO activities complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and noted with satisfaction the wide range of activities on food control which would help in solving many food related problems of developing and developed countries.

56. In discussing this item, a large number of delegations expressed their general satisfaction with the work of FAO and WHO in assisting Member Countries in the food control area and felt that the FAO/WHO cooperation in this area was a good example of inter-agency cooperation leading to practical work at the country level. A number of delegations from developed and developing countries mentioned the great importance that they attached to the work of the JMPR and JECFA and expressed their strong hopes that these committees would continue to provide guidance to Member Countries in the area of pesticides, pesticide residues in foods and food additives. The delegation of Kenya pointed out, in particular, that developing countries appreciated the high costs involved in testing food additives and pesticides for safety and purity and that developing countries could not afford to carry out such tests, which would in any case be duplicative and wasteful.

57. In commenting on food control support from FAO and WHO, a number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with efforts underway at present and expressed the wish that these be stepped up, particularly by WHO at the country level. The delegations of Kenya and Nigeria called attention to current or recently completed FAO projects that had helped in the training of food control personnel, in producing coherent and concise food regulations, and in the general overall strengthening of food control infrastructure. The need for this infrastructure for consumer protection, control of food imports, locally produced and consumed foods and exports was mentioned, along with the need for developing countries to produce adequate food control systems, to enable better consumer protection and trade promotion as well as utilization of Codex work. The delegation of Kenya also mentioned its multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach to solve food control problems.

58. With regard to the WHO Food Safety and Chemical Safety programmes, the delegation of Nigeria stated that these programmes must be carefully administered to ensure that they covered the entire world, different ecological situations, etc. It was noted that activities in West Africa needed to be increased by WHO and that some pending requests for assistance in control of foodborne disease should be met. With regard to both programmes, it was pointed out that there was an increasing number of non-medical people involved in such activities at the developing country level and that WHO should develop some innovative approaches to reach the people and agencies dealing with food control in developing countries, outside of the current communication channels, through medical personnel. The delegations of Nigeria and Senegal also expressed the wish that the countries of West Africa should all be treated equally and without attention to existing language differences and called attention to current activities of ECOWAS as a good example of this.

59. Several delegations commented on the need for more training facilities for food control personnel and the idea of a unified approach in control of food microbiological, chemical and economic problems was supported. Questions were posed concerning the schedule for establishing a training centre for West Africa and on the distribution of documents, reports and publications of FAO and WHO related to various food control topics. A few delegations asked for good coordination of food control efforts between FAO and WHO at the developing country level to prevent duplication of effort and other problems.

60. In response to the various points and questions raised, the representative of FAO assured the Commission that FAO had made provision for annual meetings of JECFA and JMPR during its next fiscal biennium (1980/81). The Commission was assured that all JECFA and JMPR documents were forwarded to Codex Contact Points on a regular basis, as they became available, and that other publications discussed under this item from FAO and WHO would be sent to Codex Contact Points. The FAO and WHO representatives expressed their thanks to developed countries which graciously received FAO and WHO fellows and visiting scientists from developing countries, in cooperation with the fellowship programmes of FAO and WHO. With regard to avoiding duplication of efforts at the developing country level, it was pointed out that the United Nations system was represented by the United Nations Development Resident Representative in all developing countries and that in most developing countries there were FAO and WHO Country Representatives. Every effort was made by

these Representatives to assure coordinated assistance to member governments and to avoid any duplication. In response to the question raised about a training centre for West Africa, the FAO representative stated that UNEP had indicated its willingness to fund some of the activities proposed, but that additional funding support was still being sought. The WHO representative stated that additional funding for assisting participating developing countries in the FAO/WHO Food and Animal Feed Contamination Monitoring Programme to obtain equipment had not become available.

61. In summing up, the Commission took note of the strong wish of Member Countries of the Commission that the JMPR and JECFA continue their work. The Commission noted the wishes and constructive criticisms expressed by the developing country members and hoped that FAO and WHO would take action, insofar as possible, to meet these. The Commission listened with great interest to the expose on FAO and WHO activities in the food control area and expressed general satisfaction with these activities.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

62. The Commission was provided with the WHO document A 32/12 which had been presented to the Thirty-Second World Health Assembly dealing with the International Programme on Chemical Safety. At the invitation of the Executive Committee, Dr. V.B. Vouk, Manager, Environmental Health Criteria and Standards Unit (HCS) and Chief, Central Unit, International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), WHO, was present and introduced this item.

63. It was pointed out that the principal objectives of this new international programme which had been initiated in 1977 and endorsed again in May 1979 by the World Health Assembly were as follows:

- i. to carry out and disseminate evaluations of the effects of chemicals on human health and on the quality of the environment;
- ii. to develop guidelines on exposure limits such as acceptable daily intakes and maximum permissible or desirable levels in air, water and food, and in the working environment, for all types of chemicals;
- iii. to develop guidelines on appropriate methods for toxicity testing, epidemiological and clinical studies, and risk and hazard identification, quantification and evaluation;
- iv. to coordinate laboratory testing and epidemiological studies where international approach is appropriate; and promote research on dose-response relations and on mechanisms of biological actions of chemicals;
- v. to develop information for coping with chemical accidents and promote effective international cooperation in this field; promote technical cooperation with respect to specific issues concerning control of toxic substances in Member States; and promote training and development of manpower.

64. Dr. Vouk then proceeded to outline the various aspects of the programme, including the extent of the problem regarding chemicals in food and in other components of the environment; the background activities on chemical safety including the work of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) begun in 1956 and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) begun in 1961; the scope of the programme; the programme components; the proposed outputs such as toxicological evaluations, risk assessment, guidelines on methodology; handling of emergencies; provision of advisory services, etc.

65. With regard to the programme structure, it was pointed out that it would consist of a programme advisory committee; a WHO central unit; a network of national and other lead institutions; a number of sub-networks of participating institutions; and a technical committee consisting of heads of the lead institutions.

66. The Central Unit which had recently been set up within the Division of Environmental Health, co-existing with the Environmental Health Criteria and Standards Unit, which is also the focal point for WHO's food safety programme, had the following functions:

- a. to develop plans and programmes of work, set procedures for programme operation and ensure its implementation as planned;
- b. to coordinate the programme components located in national and other lead institutions, and the regional offices; and to ensure liaison with other international organizations; and
- c. to provide technical and scientific support to the international programme on chemical safety.

67. Dr. Vouk also pointed out that such UN Agencies as FAO, ILO and UNEP had been invited to jointly sponsor this new programme. The Central Unit may eventually become a joint unit of all co-sponsoring agencies. It was indicated that, to date, some 50 countries had expressed interest in this programme, that seven memoranda of understanding had been drafted containing details of the participation of national institutions and that a further five memoranda of understanding were being considered. With regard to funding of IPCS, it was stated that with WHO regular budget funds, together with other contributions, voluntary contributions of Member States and UNEP supported projects, approximately 2.5 million was available for 1980.

68. During the discussion of this agenda item, a number of delegations, while fully supporting the efforts of WHO to gain control of the complex problem of chemicals in the environment, expressed concern, particularly regarding the future of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) to which they attached great importance. These delegations stated that they would not wish to see the fundamental and essential role which these two Committees play as a corner stone to the work of the Commission and in assuring the safety of the world food supply, altered in any way. It was also pointed out that part of the concern resulted from the fact that in the documents presented to the Commission and in the statements by FAO and WHO officials, there appeared to be some confusion regarding the future of the JMPR and JECFA. In reply,

Dr. Vouk stated that the two Expert Committees would continue to function as in the past to carry out toxicological evaluations by international groups of experts appointed by the Directors-General of the sponsoring agencies and acting in their personal capacity. It was moreover planned to increase the support to these Expert Committees with a view to holding two or more meetings in one year. With regard to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, these committees would continue to play the same role with regard to the Expert Committees, as at present, with no duplication or overlap of work.

69. Another delegation expressed the view that it would be helpful if the Director-General of WHO would prepare a statement which would encompass the following points:

- i. that JECFA and JMPR would continue unchanged in scope, selection and procedure during the period of formation and transition to the new programme; and
- ii. that, under the new programme, JECFA and JMPR would continue to provide the primary forum for the evaluation of hazard and estimation of risk associated with chemicals in foods, and that this would be the case irrespective of the continuation of the programme.

70. With regard to the concern that food chemicals might not be a priority item under the new programme, Dr. Vouk pointed out that since foods were the main pathway of exposure to chemicals, the chemicals found in foods would receive a very high priority. It was further stated that the priority setting practices of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues would continue.

71. Several delegations from developing countries pointed out the great value of such a programme to developing countries, but indicated that assistance would need to be provided in order that such countries could fully participate in such a programme. It was pointed out that this type of support was envisaged under the programme.

72. The Chief, FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, pointed out that FAO had been consulted and informed from the outset of the proposed new programme. It was his understanding that practices utilized by the Codex programme and the roles played by JECFA and the JMPR had influenced the design of this new programme. He indicated that he was satisfied with the assurances he had received from WHO that these two Expert Committees would not only function as in the past, but would be strengthened in order to increase their output. He pointed out that this programme was not only a WHO programme but an international one which other UN Agencies, including FAO, had been invited to co-sponsor and this latter matter was under consideration by FAO which would be taking into account the view of the Commission in its response to WHO.

73. The Commission, in expressing its appreciation to Dr. Vouk for his presentation of the international programme on chemical safety, recognized the importance of this programme and the influence which it could have upon the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Commission restated the importance which it placed upon the work of JECFA and the

JMPR and noted the assurances given by WHO that these two Expert Committees would not only function as in the past but that their activities would be strengthened.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTANTS IN FOODS

74. The Commission had before it a paper ALINORM 79/9 prepared by Dr. E.E. Turtle (Consultant). It had been prepared in response to the request recorded in paragraph 230 of the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Commission (ALINORM 78/41).

75. Dr. Turtle reminded the Commission that, at its Ninth Session, the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (ALINORM 78/24) had not accepted the proposal made at the Eleventh Session of the Commission (ALINORM 76/44, paragraph 389) that in addition to pesticides “similar environmental contaminants such as PCBs, dioxins, etc.” should fall within its terms of reference.

76. Document ALINORM 79/9 had been prepared in the light of the views expressed by some delegations at the Twelfth Session of the Commission that standards should be developed for environmental pollutants in foods. The main objectives of the document were to provide guidance on the range of environmental contaminants that might be involved in any general decision to cover such substances, and to provide suggestions on the mechanisms by which specific substances might receive priority for consideration, together with suggestions regarding the data required and criteria to be followed in its evaluation by FAO/WHO experts. The procedures by which cases might be dealt within the Codex system had also been covered.

77. In discussion, various delegations emphasized the need for priority attention to be given to measures for the prevention of the distribution of environmental pollutants and their access to foods. Some delegates expressed doubts concerning the advisability of establishing levels of acceptability for such substances. On the other hand, other delegations thought that the limitation in food of such contaminants might contribute to their diminution.

78. As regards the proposal to revise the Codex definition of contaminants, some delegations expressed the view that there appeared to be no real need for such a revision.

79. The delegation of The Netherlands suggested that cases for considering specific pollutants might be submitted to the Commission for decision on whether work on them should be initiated.

80. As many delegations considered that more time was needed to study the document, the Commission decided to circulate the document to Member Governments for comments and to

the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues for consideration and reporting back to the Commission.

PART IV

CONSIDERATION OF INCREASED EMPHASIS ON NUTRITIONAL

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

81. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 79/29, Parts I and II, which had been prepared following the recommendation of the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-Fifth Session, that it would be appropriate for the Commission to include as a standing item on the agenda of its regular sessions a review of its nutrition related activities and those of FAO and WHO. The purpose of these documents was to outline possible approaches to the idea of introducing more nutritional considerations into the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to explore the potential of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for this purpose. The documents were introduced by the Director of the Food Policy and Nutrition Division, who welcomed the recommendation of the Executive Committee on this topic.

82. Part I of the document reported on current FAO/WHO activities in nutrition, of interest for the work of the Commission. These related to (i) Food Balance Sheets (ii) Food Consumption Surveys (iii) Food Composition Tables (iv) Nutrient Recommended Intakes (v) Food Aid Programmes.

83. Part II of the document offered for consideration by the Commission possible ways of placing increased emphasis on the nutrition aspects of the Commission's work, and put forward certain proposals towards this aim.

84. The Commission was informed of the availability of vast data files on food consumption, food composition and nutrient recommended intakes. The Director referred to the work of establishing nutrient recommended intakes at the international level which was a long standing activity of FAO/WHO. He thought that greater use should be made of the above kind of data which could be very valuable in setting realistic compositional food standards, Particular mention was made of foods for special dietary uses. This kind of data would also be valuable in developing concepts of nutrition labelling. These were two important aspects of the work of the Commission.

85. The Commission was also informed by the Director that its activities had an impact on the nutrition of the populations, because the activities were concerned with different aspects of food standardization for maximal nutritional quality, microbiological and toxicological safety of foods, and protection of consumers against fraud and adulteration.

86. The Director pointed out that increasing emphasis was being placed in FAO and WHO on the integration of nutrition into development and investment projects. There was an emerging global consensus that development should be gauged by the extent to which it satisfied basic human needs. He also expressed the opinion that the aims of the Commission, namely the protection of the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, would be strengthened by a continuation of and increase in the Commission's activities in nutrition.

87. The Director drew the Commission's attention to the proposals set out in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of ALINORM 79/29, Part II on which the Commission was asked to give an opinion:

- i. A review of the nutrition aspects of the Food Standards Programme should be included as a standing item on the Agenda of Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (paragraph 13, ALINORM 79/29, Part II).
- ii. The Secretariat should be invited to undertake a systematic analysis of the nutrition impact of the work of each of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (paragraph 14, ALINORM 79/29, Part II).
- iii. Each of the subsidiary bodies should be requested to introduce provisions of a nutritional nature, where appropriate, in establishing standards for foods having a significant role in the diets of developing countries (paragraph 15, ALINORM 79/29, Part II).

88. Several delegations were of the opinion that within the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission there was limited scope for the application of nutritional considerations to standards in general. Delegations agreed however that, where appropriate, nutritional considerations should be introduced into standards and codes of practice. The delegation of Nigeria stated that in selecting products for the development of worldwide standards, priority should be given to products which were nutritionally important.

89. Several delegations emphasized that in the Commission's work due consideration had always been given to nutritional aspects in food standardization. In this connection, mention was made of the work of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the work on nutrition labelling in the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. Reference was also made to the potential of the two new Codex Committees on Cereals and Cereal Products and Vegetable Proteins in relation to nutritional considerations.

90. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it would be appropriate to include a review of the nutritional aspects of the Food Standards Programme as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the Commission.

91. The Commission also decided to request its subsidiary bodies to consider, as the need arose, nutritional aspects in drawing up standards for foods, particularly foods having a significant role in the diets of developing countries.

92. The Commission pointed out that many products moving in international trade were not of great nutritional significance. However, many such products were of great economic importance both to developing and developed countries.

93. Regarding paragraph 14, ALINORM 79/29, the Commission expressed concern about inviting the Secretariat to carry out the work outlined. The Commission agreed that a consultant should be recruited to carry out a study of the nutritional impact of the work of its subsidiary bodies. In this connection, the Commission also agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-sixth Session (ALINORM 79/4, paragraph 18) that any consultant recruited for this purpose should be a Codex consultant.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING REORIENTATION OF THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

94. The Commission received oral progress reports on the continued reorientation of the work of the Commission aimed at attuning its activities more to the concerns and needs of developing countries. The reports were given by Mr. G.O. Kermode, Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and Dr. V.B. Vouk, Manager, Environmental Health Criteria and Standards, and Chief, Central Unit International Programme of Chemical Safety, Division of Environmental Health, WHO.

95. The Chief of the Programme recalled the decision of the Twelfth Session of the Commission and the fundamental changes made in connection with its programme of work, its procedures and the establishment of new Subsidiary Bodies (see paragraphs 108–133, ALINORM 78/41) in meeting the wishes expressed by the FAO Council. He informed the Commission that these changes had been fully endorsed by the World Health Assembly and by the FAO Conference. The work of the Commission had been strongly supported and it had been emphasized that it was of importance both to developing and developed countries. It had been stressed that the process of reorientation of the work of the Commission was a continuing one, necessitated by the growing membership of the Commission and the changing needs of Members of the Commission especially those with developing economies.

96. The new measures proposed for adoption by the Commission, by the Codex Committee on General Principles and the Codex Secretariat, would enable full examination and consideration of the impact which Codex recommendations might have on the economic interests of Member Countries at all major Steps of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards. It would further be possible after finalization of Standards when sent to Governments for acceptance, to consider their amendment in the light of specified deviations occasioned by economic considerations. The proposed review by a Codex consultant of nutritional questions in relation to food standards work would also facilitate the Commission's consideration of a further area of interest to some members of the Commission.

97. In order to better meet the needs of all governments - especially of those which did not have adequate facilities or capabilities for the assessment of health risk arising from the presence of toxic chemicals or foodborne microorganisms in food - WHO and FAO were endeavouring to strengthen their food safety activities. An important initiative had been taken by WHO concerning the setting up of an international programme on chemical safety. FAO had been requested by WHO to participate in the new Chemicals Safety Programme which would be of great importance to the work of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues.

98. Codex Commodity Committees were playing their part in increasingly meeting the needs of developing countries by giving greater attention - through direct requests by developing countries or by the Regional Coordinating Committees - to developing standards for foods which were of economic or potential economic interest to developing countries, especially regarding their export trade. Many examples of standards being developed for the products of tropical zones could be cited and this trend would continue.

99. Regional Coordinating Committees had examined their new and widened terms of reference as well as their programmes of work. As a result, the value of their work was likely to be greatly enhanced and the Coordinators for the Regions should be able to make a greater contribution to the deliberations of the Executive Committee and of the Commission. The Regional Coordinating Committees were also developing regional positions on a number of matters referred to them by Codex General Subject and Codex Commodity Committees. The Regional Coordinating Committees were developing standards for products of importance in intra-regional trade as well as for staple items of traditional diets. Other matters of a regional or group of countries interest were being given attention, for instance, the requirements of Islamic countries in relation to matters such as labelling, certain ingredients in compounded foods and ritual slaughter methods.

100. The Commission was also informed that the two new Codex Committees on Cereals and Cereal Products and Vegetable Proteins would commence work in 1980. The work of these Committees was of special interest to developing countries both from the point of view of trade and of nutrition.

101. Many staple foods had been or were being covered by the Codex Programme although perhaps the most important major exception was the absence of any work on grain legumes and pulses, which formed part of the diet of millions of persons in all parts of the world and were major items of international trade.

102. As regards Codex General Subject Committees, special mention should be made of the work of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, which had considered some 380 pesticide/ commodity combinations of importance to the trade of developing countries. An ad hoc Working Group had recently been formed within the framework of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues which would study pesticide residue questions in relation to developing countries.

103. The development of a Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food by the Codex Committee on General Principles was another example of an attempt to assist countries which lacked adequate food control facilities - to ensure that imported foods as well as foods in general moving in international commerce were of acceptable quality.

104. In order to increase the number of acceptances by Governments of the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Codex Secretariat was hoping to intensify the "drive on acceptances" as well as assist National Codex Committees and/or National FAO Committees in their examination of standards for acceptance. In this respect, meetings with representatives of National Codex Committees and interested international organizations such as EEC, ASMO, CMEA and ECA were envisaged. It was also hoped to complete the membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

105. The WHO representative presented a statement on the reorientation of WHO's food safety programme together with WHO's views on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He pointed out that the World Health Assembly (WHA) at its Session in May 1972, had requested the Director-General to take action with a view to assuring the wholesomeness of food and its protection from biological, physical and chemical contaminants. The Sixth General Programme of Work Covering a Specific Period (1978-1983), as well as subsequent resolutions of the Health Assembly, gave further guidance on the promotion and development of programmes to ensure food safety.

106. The Thirty-First World Health Assembly (1978) had discussed the principles and orientation of WHO's food safety programme and had requested the Director-General to emphasize the following:

- i. review and analysis of national needs, and the collection, evaluation and transfer of information on policies, strategies and technologies to ensure the safety of food, on risks ensuing from unsafe food, and on the approaches for their control.
- ii. Technical cooperation with a view to:
 - a. developing national food safety policies and programmes;
 - b. identifying and resolving specific health problems relating to basic food hygiene and foodborne diseases of biological origin, and the chemical contamination of food;
 - c. establishing or strengthening food contamination monitoring programmes, and the collection, review, evaluation and dissemination of information on contaminants in food;
 - d. developing appropriate food laws and introducing progressive changes in existing national food legislation that will reflect current principles of food safety;
 - e. developing an effective food control infrastructure, including food inspection and facilities for food analysis; and
 - f. education of the public and training of food control personnel at all levels.
- iii. Assessment of the risks to health of the growing number of chemicals that are either added to food or found in food as contaminants.

- iv. Coordination and collaboration with FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with a view to increasing the output of the Commission as regards standards on food safety, codes of practice that are relevant to developing countries and the acceptance of Codex Standards.
- v. Rationalization of the use of resources available within WHO to ensure their most effective application for the food safety programme.
- vi. Close cooperation will also be maintained with FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning the safety of irradiated food, and with FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly as regards food contamination monitoring and the control of mycotoxins in food products.

107. Dr. Vouk further stated that with regard to the future orientation of Codex activities, these WHO guidelines indicated the following needs:

- i. Strengthening the role of Regional Coordinating Committees, particularly with a view to:
 - a. the development of more standards for staple foods in the Regions;
 - b. greater emphasis on hygiene matters; and
 - c. more technical cooperation with and among developing countries.
- ii. A reduction in the work relating to commodities of interest to industrial countries only and, when appropriate, a gradual reduction in the number of commodity committees.
- iii. Changes in the content of the work of some General Subject Committees in order to make their work more responsive to the needs of developing countries.
- iv. Further simplification of Codex Procedures for the Elaboration of Standards with a view to reducing expenses and the need for all Members of the Codex Secretariat paid from the Joint Budget to be fully engaged in Codex work.

108. Dr. Vouk also indicated that WHO was aware that many steps in the reorientation of the work of the Commission and its Committees had already taken place. He stated that the Director-General of WHO had reported these facts to the Thirty-Second World Health Assembly in May 1979, where they had been fully endorsed. The WHO was continuing to involve its Regional Offices to a greater extent in the work of the Commission.

109. Dr. Vouk concluded his remarks by stating that while no consideration could be given by WHO to increasing its percentage share of the joint costs of the Codex Programme for 1980/81, WHO was prepared to consider carefully an increase in its percentage share of these costs in 1982/83, especially in view of the new orientation of the Codex Programme, which was now underway.

110. As regards the possible standardization of legumes and pulses, a number of delegations were of the opinion that these commodities merited further consideration in view of their importance in national diets and international trade. The delegation of Hungary informed the Commission of work already done by ISO TC/34 and ICC in the field of methods of analysis for cereals which should be taken into account by the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products.

111. A number of delegations spoke on the question of the need for increased participation by developing countries at Codex Sessions. They pointed to possible ways of ensuring such an increase in participation, e.g. (a) by ensuring that invitations were sent out well in advance of Codex Sessions; and (b) through the holding of more Codex Sessions in the developing regions of the world.

112. The delegation of the United States of America indicated that it would inquire whether the United States of America is willing to host meetings outside the USA and would welcome suggestions as to locations outside of the USA for the holding of the sessions, other than the first of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products, in an attempt to increase participation from developing countries. The delegation of India suggested that other host countries might offer similar countries. The delegation of Senegal indicated that its Government would welcome such a meeting in Senegal.

113. The delegation of Kenya undertook to explore the possibility of its Government offering to provide facilities for the holding of such Codex Sessions in Kenya, in the event of such offers or approaches being made by the relevant countries. The delegation of Nigeria considered that the suggestion by the USA had immense possibilities for the future participation of developing countries. The delegation believed that many other Member Governments which were Chairmen of Codex Committees might wish to make a similar offer and that many developing countries, in addition to Kenya and Senegal, might offer to host meetings of Committees if the requirements were clearly known to them. In order to fully exploit the possibilities, therefore, the delegation of Nigeria suggested that the Secretariat should send a questionnaire to all Member Governments which were Chairmen of Codex Committees to indicate whether they would be willing to hold the meetings of their Committees in other regions of the world and, if so, under what conditions. Information thus obtained should be circulated to all Member States of the Commission to assist them to decide whether they would be able to provide venues for the meetings of such Committees.

114. The delegation of Kenya, speaking on behalf of delegations from developing countries, expressed its appreciation of the reorientation of the work of the Commission aimed at attuning it more to the needs of developing countries.

115. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the Codex Secretariat would have to assist the Chairmen of Codex Committees in ensuring that the reorientation of the work of the Commission would be achieved in a concerted manner among the various Committees. The delegation of Kenya was of the opinion that Coordinators had an important role to play in giving effect to the new reorientation of the Commission's work in their regions and in reporting on this to the Executive Committee. In this connection, it was pointed out by the Secretariat that greater use would be made of consultants from the regions concerned, especially for the preparation of reports and studies on products of particular interest to the region or group of countries concerned.

116. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the reports received from the representatives of FAO and WHO regarding the status of the reorientation of the work of the

Codex Alimentarius Commission. It considered that the new trends in the work of the Commission were very positive and requested FAO and WHO to make every effort to carry out the reoriented programme as expeditiously as possible. The Commission requested the Secretariat to look further into the question of standards for legumes and pulses.

PART V

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Introduction

117. The Commission had before it the Report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 79/35). The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. G. Weill (France), who outlined its main features. In his introductory remarks the Chairman of the Committee drew the Commission's particular attention to paragraphs 41 to 53 of the Report concerning the Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food, which was being submitted to the Commission for consideration, with a view to its adoption as a Recommended Code of Ethics which would then be sent to Governments. The Draft Code was contained in Appendix IV of the Report.

118. The Chairman of the Committee also drew the Commission's particular attention to paragraph 46 of the Report and outlined some of the considerations behind the formulation of Articles 2, 3, 5.9 and 5.10 of the Draft Code. He also referred to Articles 6 and 7 of the Draft Code which, he indicated, had been the subject of lengthy discussions both at the two day meeting of the Working Party on the Draft Code and subsequently at the Plenary Session of the Committee.

119. The Chairman of the Committee drew the Commission's attention to paragraphs 5–14 of the Report concerning the question of establishing a mechanism for examining economic impact statements submitted under the amended Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The Chairman of the Committee outlined the proposals in this regard which had been adopted by the Committee and which were contained in Appendix II of the Report. The Chairman also briefly reviewed the other main features of the Report.

Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food

120. Concerning the Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food, a number of delegations and the representative of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) thought that some reference should be made in Article 5.9 of the Draft Code to the projected Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertising of Infant Foods. The delegation of the United States of America proposed the following footnote:

“A Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertising of Infant Foods will be elaborated for adoption in due course by the Commission”.

It was agreed that a suitable footnote should be added to cover this point, the exact wording of which would be discussed when the Commission came to consider the report and work of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses under a later item of the agenda. In this connection, the Commission agreed to accept, as a basis for discussion, the following footnote to Article 5.9 which had been suggested by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany “subject to the development of a Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertising of Infant Food”.

121. On the proposal of the delegation of Brazil which referred to the excellent working relationship and cooperation between the Codex Secretariat and the GATT Secretariat, the Commission agreed to include a reference in the Preamble of the Code to the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade along the following lines:

“RECOGNIZING THAT (f) the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade represents an appropriate instrument for the regulation of international trade”.

Status of the Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food

122. Subject to agreement on the precise wording of the proposed footnote to Article 5.9 of the Draft Code, as mentioned in paragraph 120 above, the Commission adopted the Draft Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food as a Recommended International Code, which should be sent to governments for consideration and comments. The delegation of India agreed, in principle, to the adoption of such code but had reservations on certain clauses. The delegation of India also suggested that due regard be given to the conditions in developing countries, as recognized in the GATT Code.

Economic Impact Statements

123. Concerning the question of establishing an appropriate mechanism for considering statements from governments relating to the possible economic impact of the standards, the Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Committee as recorded in paragraphs 5–14 of ALINORM 79/35. In particular, the Commission agreed that the most appropriate body for examining economic impact statements was the subsidiary body of the Commission which had been responsible for elaborating the standard in question, it being understood, however, that it might be necessary to refer the matter to other subsidiary bodies depending on the content of the economic impact statement.

124. The Commission also adopted the proposals of the Secretariat, which had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on General Principles, and which were designed to ensure that there would be specific provision for the consideration of economic impact statements at all major Steps of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. Additionally, the proposals were aimed at ensuring that particular attention would be given to economic impact

statements in Codex Committees. These proposals, which were contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 79/35, included amendments to the “Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards” and to the “Guidelines for Codex Committees”.

125. A proposal was put forward by the delegation of India that it might be desirable for the Codex Secretariat to develop a questionnaire on the subject of economic impact statements. It was agreed, however, that the countries concerned were in the best position to judge and report on any implications which the standards or any provisions of them might have for their economies. Also circular letters issued by the Codex Secretariat seeking comments from Governments on draft standards would include reference to economic impact statements. The Commission adopted the proposals contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 79/35.

Other Matters

126. The Commission's attention was drawn to paragraph 31 of ALINORM 79/35 in which the Committee had agreed to recommend to the Commission that it accept the proposals of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) concerning harmonization of acceptance procedures, as set forth in Part II of document CX/GP 79/7, which was a working document considered by the Committee at its last session. The Commission accepted the proposals of the IDF, the significance of which were explained in paragraph 32 of ALINORM 79/35. The Commission had not been requested by the Committee to take any action concerning Part III of the IDF document. In this connection the Commission noted the future planned action on this matter as set forth in paragraph 33 of ALINORM 79/35. The Commission also noted that the proposals of the IDF might lead to a modification of Article 6.4 of the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products.

127. The Commission's attention was drawn to paragraph 65 of ALINORM 79/35 relating to the discussion which took place in the Committee concerning the use in certain Codex Standards of the phrase “in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold”. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on this subject (see also paragraph 136).

128. The attention of the Commission was also directed to paragraphs 66 and 67 of ALINORM 79/35 concerning the consideration given by the Committee to a proposal of the Codex Committee on Food Additives to amend the endorsement procedure for food additives. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on General Principles had made an amendment to the text which had been before it. The Commission adopted the amended text of paragraph 13(b) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees (Procedural Manual of the Commission, 4th Edition), as set forth in page 31 of ALINORM 79/35 (English version).

129. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the section of the Report of the Committee entitled “Format of Codex Standards as a Factor influencing the extent of Acceptances received from Governments”. In response to an inquiry concerning paragraph 38 of the Committee's report, the Commission was informed by the Codex Secretariat that it

was its intention to put forward proposals for consideration by the Executive Committee and the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the provision of better terminology than the expression “non-acceptance”, to cover situations where a country might be willing to allow entry into its national territory of products in conformity with the Codex Standard, even though that country might not be able to accept the Codex Standard. It was noted that further suggestions concerning the format of standards could be seen in the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 79/15).

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

130. 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

131. The Commission had before it the reports of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 79/22 and ALINORM 79/22A).

132. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R.S. McGee (Canada) gave an account of the work undertaken since the last session of the Commission, placing emphasis on those matters which, in the opinion of the Committee, required attention by the Commission.

Matters Arising from the Reports of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

133. The Commission was informed of discussion at the Fourteenth Session of the Committee, on a progress report on action taken by Commodity Committees with a view to including date marking provisions into standards under their jurisdiction. Recognizing that there had been little consistency in the decisions taken by individual committees, the Committee had concluded that there was a need for more guidance and decided to elaborate further certain sections of the guidelines (paragraphs 8–12 and 91–97 of ALINORM 79/22A).

134. The Commission noted the decision of the Committee to endorse the view of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that food additives carried over in accordance with paragraph 3 of the carry-over principle and processing aids as defined by the Codex Committee on Food Additives need not be declared in the list of ingredients on the label (see also 154–158).

135. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the decision taken by the Committee not to require the indication of irradiation treatment on the label of products containing ingredients which had been subjected to such treatment (second generation). The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee that the above decision should be taken into account when revising the appropriate section of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CAC/RS 1-1969).

136. The Commission noted that the Committee had expressed its satisfaction with the decisions of the Twelfth Session of the Commission and the Sixth Session of the Committee on General Principles relating to the use of the phrase “in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold”. However, the Committee had also pointed out that it would be advisable to elicit from governments notification of their specific requirements in relation to phrases similar to the above mentioned one, e.g. “provided that it does not mislead the consumer in the country in which the product is distributed”.

General Guidelines on Claims (Appendix II of ALINORM 79/22)

137. The Commission recalled that at its Twelfth Session, it had generally agreed with the above guidelines. However, the Committee on Labelling had been requested to clarify section 1 (Purpose) and sections 2.3 and 4.2 dealing with claims related to food used in the dietary management of a disease, disorder or particular physiological condition and to discuss the responsibility for substantiating claims.

138. The Commission noted that the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Labelling had established a working group to examine the above matters in the light of government comments. The Chairman of the Committee stated that the Committee on Labelling had confirmed that the guidelines should cover all foods and drew attention to the conclusions of the Committee contained in paragraphs 85–94 of ALINORM 79/22.

139. He stressed that the very carefully revised wording of Section 2.3 accommodated also the views of governments concerning the need for specific provisions dealing with claims related to foods for use in the dietary management of a disease, disorder or particular condition (paragraph 4.2 of Appendix III of ALINORM 78/22).

140. Several delegations felt that the wording of Section 2.3(b) should be of greater clarity. It was recognized, however, that the revised text of Section 2.3 was a pragmatic approach to the problem and did in fact reflect Codex practice to permit the deviation from certain general rules and provisions in the case where specific Codex standards or guidelines were applicable to a product. It did also cover products for which Codex standards or guidelines had not yet been elaborated.

141. The view was expressed that the guidelines as such and in particular Section 2.3 were of importance to developing countries receiving enriched foods, as the provisions of the Guidelines would permit the indication of useful information on added nutrients. The delegation of Thailand stated that section 2.3(b) placed countries which had not yet promulgated legislation dealing with labelling and claims in a disadvantageous position, since no exemptions from the general prohibition of these claims could be permitted in such countries.

142. The Commission adopted the General Guidelines on Claims. The delegation of Thailand reserved its position on this decision of the Commission.

Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

143. The Commission was informed that the Committee, at its Thirteenth Session, had examined a working paper on guidelines for the labelling of bulk containers and that the majority of the Committee had agreed that there was a need for some international rules or guidelines for the labelling of bulk containers. The Committee had prepared revised Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers (Appendix IV to ALINORM 79/22) and government comments were being requested on the draft for consideration by the next Session of the Committee on Labelling. The Commission noted the view expressed by the Chairman of the Committee that the finalized guidelines would be submitted to the next Session of the Commission. The delegation of Denmark proposed that the above guidelines be also referred for comments to Codex Commodity Committees to obtain their opinion with regard to bulk labelling provisions for products under their jurisdiction. The delegation felt that, in order to elaborate comprehensive guidelines, information should be gathered on all foodstuffs in all types of containers. The Commission agreed with the above proposal and instructed the Codex Secretariat to arrange for informing the Commodity Committees accordingly.

Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling

144. The Chairman of the Committee on Labelling informed the Commission that the Twelfth Session of the Committee had commenced the elaboration of the above guidelines and that the work had been greatly facilitated by the excellent background paper and draft guidelines prepared by a group of expert consultants. In view of the utmost importance and extreme complexity of the subject, the Committee on Labelling had expressed the wish to develop the above guidelines within the Step Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, which could be applied, as indicated in the Procedural Manual, to other Codex texts such as guidelines (paragraph 2 of the "Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Codes of Practice, Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues, Codex Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives", as set forth in the Procedural Manual, 4th Edition).

145. The Commission agreed that it was appropriate to develop guidelines on nutrition labelling within the Step Procedure and that government comments on the draft guidelines as contained in Appendix VII should be requested for the next Session of the Committee on Labelling.

146. The delegation of Senegal, speaking as Coordinator for Africa, stated that the Coordinating Committee had followed the discussion on nutrition labelling with great interest. At its Fourth Session that Committee had received a progress report and had noted that several delegations at the Committee on Labelling had stressed the importance of the need for simplicity in the presentation of nutrition information on labels. The Coordinating Committee had been of the opinion that whenever possible visual symbols and colours should be used to give information on nutritional value of products. The Coordinating Committee had expressed its appreciation to the Working Group on Nutrition Labelling and to the Codex

Committee on Food Labelling for the valuable work undertaken and had agreed with the present principles expressed in the Draft Guidelines.

Revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods - Harmonization of Non-Technical Details on a Linguistic Basis

147. The Chairman reported on the discussion of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee concerning the revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (paragraphs 120–127 of ALINORM 79/22). He informed the Commission that the Committee, having decided that there was a need to revise the above standard, had requested the services of a consultant to prepare a comprehensive working paper on the subject matter. He outlined a number of issues which had been identified during the Thirteenth and the Fourteenth Sessions to be taken into account by the consultant in preparing the document.

148. The Secretariat informed the Commission that arrangements were being made to engage a consultant for the timely preparation of the paper for the next Session of the Committee.

149. The delegation of Norway drew the attention of the Commission to a paper which was discussed during the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Labelling (paragraphs 117–119 and Appendix X to ALINORM 79/22) concerning problems which arose in international trade through the fact that countries applied additional detailed labelling requirements.

150. Several delegation stressed the need for simplicity of basic regulations and the Coordinator for Europe expressed the view that there might be some scope for regional consideration of these problems. On the proposal of the Chairman of the commission, it was agreed that the most appropriate way to deal with the matters outlined in the above paper would be to include a review of the paper into the terms of reference of the consultant.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

151. The commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the committee on Food Labelling should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

152. The commission had before it the Reports of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions of the codex committee on Food Additives (ALINORMS 79/12 and 79/12A).

153. The Chairman of the committee, Dr. G.F. Wilmink (Netherlands) gave an account of the work accomplished by the committee since the last session of the commission. He also introduced the various standards and codes at step 8 of the Procedure, the specifications of food additives and the draft standard for salt at step 5 and matters arising from the two reports of the codex committee on Food Additives.

Matters Arising from the Reports of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

154. The Commission noted that the codex committee on Food Additives had, following the request by the Twelfth Session of the commission, considered the question of how to express in codex standards whether the carry-over principle applied or did not apply. The commission adopted the wording proposed by the committee as follows:

- a. "Section 3 of the "Principle relating to the carry-over of Additives into Foods" (ALINORM 76/12, Appendix III) shall apply"

or

- b. "No food additives shall be present as a result of carry-over from raw materials or other ingredients".

155. It was understood that where the carry-over principle was not relevant (since no carry-over was possible) no mention would be made of it in the standard. The commission requested codex commodity committees to ensure that all standards should include reference to the carry-over principle as and where appropriate.

156. The commission concurred with the view of the codex committees on Food Additives and Labelling that food additives carried over in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Carryover principle should not be declared on the label in the list of ingredients.

157. The commission adopted the definition of processing aids proposed by the codex committee on Food Additives as follows:

"A processing aid is a substance or material, not including apparatus or utensils, and not consumed as a food ingredient by itself, intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, foods or its ingredients, to fulfil a certain technological purpose during treatment or processing and which may result in the non-intentional but unavoidable presence of residues or derivatives in the final product".

158. It agreed with the view of the codex committees on Food Additives and Labelling that processing aids should not be declared on the label in the list of ingredients. It was pointed out by two delegations that residues of processing aids in food, although very small, could be of significance in relation to the consumer by virtue, for example, of their allergenic properties.

159. The delegation of India drew the Commission's attention to paragraph 32 of ALINORM 79/12 which dealt with the question, raised at the second session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, of the use of coal tar dyes to colour food. In the opinion of that delegation, the use of such substances for purely cosmetic purposes was not justified. The Chairman of the codex committee on Food Additives, in replying to the above statement, indicated that endorsement of food colours, whether natural or synthetic, was based on consideration of

safety and technological justification by Codex Commodity Committees. He was of the opinion, however, that this matter could be further considered by the codex committee on Food Additives.

Consideration of Draft Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when sold as such at Step 8

160. The commission had before it the above Draft Standard (Appendix IX, ALINORM 79/12). It noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives, at its Thirteenth Session, had proposed an amendment to section 5 of the Draft Standard so as to make the declaration of the name of the additive on bulk containers, as well as an indication of minimum durability, mandatory. It also noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, at its Fourteenth Session did not endorse the above amendment, as it did not consider the inclusion of information on the label concerning date marking necessary in the case of bulk containers.

161. After some discussion, the commission decided that the amendment proposed by the codex committee on Food Additives was appropriate and that it should be included in the Draft Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when sold as such. It also adopted the amendment proposed by the delegation of The Netherlands to sections 4.1(c) and 5.1(c) to allow for the qualifier “nature-identical” in relation to the use of the expression “flavour”. The text adopted by the commission is as follows:

“The expression “flavour” or “flavouring” may be qualified by the words “natural” “nature-identical”, “artificial” or a combination of these words as appropriate.”

Status of the Draft Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when sold as such

162. The commission adopted, as a recommended standard, the Draft Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives when sold as such at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Irradiated Foods at Step 8

163. The commission had before it the above Draft Standard (Appendix X, ALINORM 79/12) and amendments thereto, proposed by the Thirteenth session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (Appendix II, ALINORM 79/12A).

164. The commission noted that the above amendments were based on those proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had taken most of the recommendations of the Food Hygiene committee into account. It also noted, however, that an amendment to section 3 of the Draft General Standard proposed by the codex committee on Food Hygiene had not been taken over by the codex committee on Food Additives and that the endorsement of the Hygiene Section was conditional to that amendment being made.

165. The commission decided, therefore, that the amendment proposed by the codex committee on Food Hygiene, given below, should be included in section 3:

“Any relevant national public health requirement affecting microbiological and nutritional safety applicable in the country in which the food is sold should be observed.”

166. In discussing the Draft General standard, the delegation of the United Kingdom expressed the opinion that it was premature to advance the Standard to Step 9 of the procedure, in view of the fact that the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods would re-discuss the question of general clearance of the process of food radiation at its 1980 meeting. Such possible general clearance (up to a given number of kRads) would necessitate a significant revision of the Draft General Standard. That delegation also expressed its reservation concerning the use of ionizing radiation in the treatment of food designed to reduce the number of pathogenic microorganisms. The delegation of Italy supported this view and also pointed to the formation of free radicals, as a result of the use of ionizing radiation, the effects of which were not fully understood. In its opinion, the codex committees on Processed Meat and Poultry Products and Fish and Fishery Products should also be consulted in relation to the process of irradiation of those foods.

167. The delegation of Austria reserved its position concerning the decision of the codex committee on Food Additives, at its Thirteenth Session, to amend the Scope section of the standard by removing reference to doses of 50 rad, below which foods should not be considered as having been irradiated. It also pointed to the problem of mutation and selective kill of microorganisms and also the fact that it was impossible to control whether imported foods had been irradiated or whether they were partially made up of irradiated components. The delegation of France had reservations concerning the use of ionizing radiation in connection with some of the foods (e.g. chicken) listed in the Annex to the Standard and also was of the opinion that the treatment of foods by chemicals, either before or after irradiation, should not be permitted.

168. The representative of IAEA pointed out that the question of botulism had been given detailed consideration in drawing up the standard and that the views of the codex committee on Food Hygiene had been taken up in the standard. IAEA had received official request from 12 countries for the establishment of an internationally accepted standard for irradiated foods. The delegation of Hungary, supported by the delegations of Austria, United States of America, Thailand, Canada and Argentina, stated that it attached great importance to the development of a general standard for irradiated foods, since food irradiation represented an acceptable alternative to chemical treatment of food, which had enormous potential. Food irradiation was economically feasible and represented a physical, non-polluting process of interest both to developing and developed countries, since its application resulted in a considerable reduction of food losses. Furthermore, irradiated foods had been found to be wholesome on the basis of extensive scientific investigations.

Status of the Draft General Standard for Irradiated Foods

169. The commission adopted, as a recommended standard, the Draft General Standard for Irradiated Foods at step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide codex Standards.

Consideration of the Draft Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities used for the Treatment of Foods at step 8

170. The commission adopted the above draft code of practice at step 8 of the codex procedure for the Elaboration of standards and codes of practice.

Consideration of Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives at step 5 of the procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Specifications

171. In discussing the above specifications, the representative of the EEC raised a question concerning the status of codex specifications. As codex specifications, unlike EEC specifications, were not mandatory (i.e not subject to acceptance by governments), the question arose as to whether foods containing additives not complying with codex specifications should be regarded as not being in compliance with the food additive provisions of the standard. He further expressed the view that absence of mandatory and internationally accepted specifications for food additives led to a situation where food additives complying with various standards of purity were being used in foods traded internationally. In the opinion of the representative of the EEC this situation was not satisfactory.

172. The Commission was informed that, although codex specifications covered a wide range of chemical manufacturing processes, they defined products which were toxicologically acceptable. In fact, Codex specifications represented minimum safety requirements which should be observed in relation to the identity and purity of food additives used in food. In accepting a codex standard in which the use of food additives was provided for, governments undertook to ensure that additives used in the food covered by that standard corresponded at least to the purity requirements laid down in the relevant codex specifications.

173. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the problems raised by the representative of the EEC were not of practical importance, in that differences between food grade chemicals were usually small and within the limits of toxicological acceptability.

174. The delegation of Tanzania, in this connection, requested the codex committee on Food Additives also to make an effort to elaborate suitable methods of analysis for the food additives in the final food, in order to facilitate the control of the food additive use.

Status of the Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives at step 5

175. The commission adopted the specifications contained in Appendix VII of ALINORM 79/12 as recommended codex Specifications.

Consideration of the [draft standard] for Food Grade salt at step 5

176. The commission had before it the above draft standard and noted that the codex committee on Food Additives had recommended that a full standard rather than only purity specifications should be elaborated for food grade salt. It had also recommended that the standard adopted by the committee and referred to the commission at step 5 should be referred to Regional Coordinating committees for consideration. The committee had also requested the commission to give guidance concerning the way the standard should be further elaborated.

177. During the discussion, most delegations expressed their agreement with the recommendation of the codex committee on Food Additives that salt should be treated as a food and that a standard should be elaborated for it. The delegation of the United Kingdom expressed preference for the elaboration of specifications rather than a standard. The commission noted that the proposed standard was a minimum standard and that more specific requirements could be laid down for salt used in the processing of certain foods, such as fish.

178. The Commission was informed that the European Committee for the Study of Salt would be cooperating in the elaboration of a Codex Standard for this commodity.

179. The delegation of Austria, speaking as chairman of the coordinating committee for Europe, was of the opinion that it would be more appropriate for that coordinating committee to handle the elaboration of the standard for salt rather than the codex committee on Food Additives.

Status of the proposed Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt

180. The commission agreed that a standard should be elaborated for food grade salt and that such a standard should include provisions for labelling, methods of analysis and other appropriate requirements. It also agreed that an ad hoc Working Group, within the framework of the codex committee on Food Additives, should handle the elaboration of such a standard. It decided to advance the draft standard for food grade salt to step 6 of the codex procedure and also decided that the draft standard be referred to the coordinating committees for consideration and comments.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

181. 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 The Netherlands. It expressed its appreciation and thanks to the retiring Chairman of the Codex committee on Food Additives, Dr. G.F. Wilmink (Netherlands) for his long and active support of the committee's work.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

182. The commission had before it the Reports of the Fifteenth and sixteenth Sessions of the codex committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 79/13 and ALINORM 79/13A) and government comments (ALINORM 79/37 - part 10 (FH)).

183. The Rapporteur, Dr. R.W. Weik (USA) introduced the two Reports.

Consideration of the proposed Revised Draft Code of practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (ALINORM 79/13, Appendix II) at step 8

184. The commission was informed that the code had been extensively revised both by an ad hoc Working Group and at the two sessions of the committee.

185. It noted that the amendments proposed in ALINORM 79/37 - part 10 (FH) had been provided as a result of the discussion on the code during the Sixteenth Session of the committee, when it had been agreed to replace the term “clean potable water” by reference to section 7.3 (“Use of Water”) of the Revised Draft Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene. The delegation of Australia had undertaken to review and amend the code before submission to the commission at the present session.

186. The commission noted that consequential amendments would be necessary in the codes of Hygienic practice for peanuts (Groundnuts) and for Foods for Infants and Children.

187. It was recognized that revision of the code had been in progress for some time and that there was now an urgent need for a new edition so that existing codes of Hygienic practice could be revised and updated.

Status of the Revised Draft code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene

188. The commission agreed with the recommendation of the codex committee on Food Hygiene and adopted the Revised Draft Code of Practice - General principles of Food Hygiene as a Recommended code at step 8.

Consideration of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children at step 8 (ALINORM 79/13, Appendix V)

189. The commission was informed that a code had been examined and amended by an ad hoc Working Group which had met in Berlin in November 1976 and further amended during discussions at the Fifteenth Session of the committee (ALINORM 79/13, paragraphs 70–80).

190. The commission had also attached to the code microbiological specifications and methods for microbiological analysis which had been examined by the 2nd Joint FAO/WHO Expert consultation held in Geneva in March 1977 (see EC/Microbiol/77/Report 2, pages 7, 8 and Annex V).

191. The Commission noted that there was a consensus to adopt the main body of the code at step 8. With regard to the microbiological specifications, however, there was some division

of opinion as to whether they should be advanced with the main code or returned to step 6 for further consideration.

192. Some delegations thought that since the codes were advisory, the inclusion of microbiological specifications presented no difficulties. Others pointed out that there had been some discussion at the last session of the codex committee on Foods for special Dietary Uses as to whether or not the microbiological specifications should be mandatory and that no decision had been reached (see ALINORM 79/26).

193. The Commission noted that the type of methods to be used might well depend on whether the microbiological criteria were mandatory or to be used as guidelines. The present methods stipulated the use of 3-class plans which might not be necessary for product control or inplant inspection.

194. In the light of these opinions, the Commission agreed that the microbiological criteria should receive further consideration by governments.

195. The Commission noted the observations of the delegation of Poland, supported by the delegation of Senegal, who were of the opinion that the Code should provide for the manufacture of products in separate buildings and production lines and exclude the use of chemical disinfectants.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children

196. The Commission decided to adopt the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice, with the exception of the microbiological criteria, at Step 8 of the Procedure and to return the Microbiological Specifications and Methods for Microbiological Analysis for Foods for Infants and Children to Step 6 of the Procedure for further consideration.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Peanuts (Groundnuts)

197. The Rapporteur noted the amendments which had been made to the Code as a result of discussions at the Sixteenth Session of the Committee and the discussion which had taken place at the Fourth Session of the Coordinating committee for Africa.

198. It also noted that in the opinion of the delegation of Poland, zero tolerances for aflatoxin accompanied by a specific method of analysis should appear as end product specifications; it was recognized, however, that in the present circumstances it would not be possible to apply such limits generally.

199. The delegation of Norway pointed out that low water activity was a critical factor in preventing the development of microbial growth and that this was best controlled by good harvesting and storage practices. It informed the Commission that the Norwegian Food Research Institute had developed a simple method for the determination of water activity which it would supply on request to those interested.

200. Several delegations from producing countries reiterated their previously expressed opinion that the Code was too complex for immediate application in many countries, but recognized that it served as a useful guideline for future development.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Peanuts (Groundnuts)

201. The Committee decided to adopt the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Peanuts (Groundnuts) at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-acid and Acidified Low-acid Canned Foods

202. The Commission noted that the Draft Code had been prepared by an ad hoc Working Group under the Chairmanship of Canada which had met between Session of the Committee and that the Code and Annexes I and II dealing with Acidified Low-acid Canned Food and analytical methodology for pH measurement, respectively, had been further considered at its Sixteenth Session (ALINORM 79/13A, paragraphs 94–99). It had been decided to recommend to the Commission the advancement of the Code in its entirety to Step 8.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-acid and Acidified Low-acid Canned Foods

203. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and decided to adopt the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-acid and Acidified Low-acid Canned Foods and Annexes I and II at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Revised Draft Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene, Annex I, Cleaning and Disinfection at Step 5 (ALINORM 79/13A, Appendix II)

204. The Commission noted that Annex I had been examined both by an ad hoc Working Group and by the Committee (ALINORM 79/13A, paragraphs 41–49). In view of the fact that major agreement had been reached, the Committee had decided to advance Annex I to Step 5 and to recommend to the commission the omission of Steps 6 and 7 so that the Annex could join the main Code.

Status of the Revised Draft Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene, Annex I, Cleaning and Disinfection

205. The commission decided to adopt the Revised Draft Code of Practice - General principles of Food Hygiene, Annex I, Cleaning and Disinfection at step 8 of the procedure.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic practice for Dried Milk at Step 5 (ALINORM 79/13A, Appendix V)

206. The Rapporteur informed the commission that the above code had been examined and amended by the committee in the light of recommendations made by an ad hoc Working Group which had met immediately before its Sixteenth Session (see ALINORM 79/13A, paragraphs 86– 92).

207. The Commission noted the observations of the delegations of Austria, which pointed out that there was no provisions in the code for the control of the presence of Aflatoxin M1 in dried milk which might reach significant levels in some countries.

208. The delegation of Senegal emphasized the importance of controlling the quality of dried milk and of the water used for reconstitution of the product which was widely used in food aid and infant feeding programmes in his country.

209. The commission also noted that it had been agreed that the Milk Committee should review the Code at its next meeting and that the sampling plans and Microbiological Limits in Annex I should be reviewed by a future Working Group on Microbiological criteria for Foods.

Status of the proposed Draft Code of Hygienic practice for Dried Milk

210. The commission decided to advance the proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Matters arising from the Reports of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Sessions of the committee General principles for the establishment of Microbiological Criteria for Foods

211. The commission noted that, as reported in ALINORM 79/21, pages 3 and 4, the general problems of relating microbiological criteria to mandatory and advisory provisions in Codex documents had been discussed further by an FAO/WHO Working Group on Microbiological Criteria for Foods which met in Geneva (20–26 February 1979) and had recommended a text for inclusion in a future edition of the Procedural Manual of the Commission.

212. The Commission was informed that this text had been further amended at the Sixteenth Session of the committee but had not yet been circulated in toto for consideration by governments.

213. It was decided to suspend further action until the text had been re-examined by the Codex committee on Food Hygiene in the light of government comments.

Code of Practice for Ice Mixes and Edible Ices

214. The commission was informed that at its Thirteenth Session (ALINORM 79/13, paragraphs 118–123) the committee had discussed the above subject, but that a decision on whether a Code of practice should be elaborated had been deferred until such time as the

Geneva Working Group on Microbiological Specifications for Food had further discussed microbiological criteria in Codex standards and Codes of practice.

215. The Committee had noted that there was general agreement that international trade in Ice Mixes and Edible Ices was somewhat restricted and for this reason the application of microbiological criteria to, or the elaboration of a code of practice for, such products had a low priority. It had been decided not to proceed with the Code at this time.

Harmonization of Definitions in the Area of Food Hygiene

216. The Commission was informed that the necessity for the preparation of a glossary harmonizing definitions in Food Hygiene documents had been discussed during Sessions of the Codex committee on Food Hygiene and that at its Fourteenth Session the committee had decided to refer the matter to the Executive committee.

217. The commission noted that the subject had been discussed at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Executive committee (ALINORM 79/3, paragraphs 68–70) and it had been agreed that it might be useful to elaborate a short glossary of terms in the food hygiene field, the meaning of which should not vary. The Executive committee had accepted the offer of Dr. Lowe (WHO) to make the preliminary version of the WHO glossary on food hygiene available to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for use as a working document. On the other hand, any comment that the Food Hygiene committee might make would be most helpful in finalizing the WHO glossary. The Executive committee considered that the WHO glossary would be very useful to the Codex committee on Food Hygiene in the further development of this work. The Executive committee had expressed its appreciation to Australia for the preliminary work it had done in the compilation of definitions and noted with satisfaction the willingness of Australia to collaborate in the development of the glossary referred to above.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

218. The commission confirmed that under Rule IX.10 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 PESTICIDE RESIDUES

219. The commission had before it the reports of the Tenth and Eleventh Session of the above committee (ALINORMS 79/24, 79/24A and 79/24A-ADD.I) and Government comments on step 8 maximum residue limits in ALINORM 78/37, part 4.

220. The Chairman of the Codex committee on Pesticide Residues, Ir. A.J. Pieters (Netherlands), gave an account of the work accomplished by the committee since the last Session of the commission. He also introduced those items which had been referred to the commission for action.

221. Ir. Pieters drew the commission's attention to a significant increase in attendance by developing countries at sessions of the codex committee on Pesticide Residues, which indicated the interest of those countries in the work of the committee. Indeed, an ad hoc Working Group, under the Chairmanship of Prof. W. Almeida (Brazil) had been established at the last session of the committee in order to study the problems with regard to pesticide residues in developing countries. The committee had also reviewed its work since 1966 and had adopted the Resolution contained in Appendix II, ALINORM 79/24A. The Resolution stressed the need for an increased flow of information concerning pesticide residues in foods to the Joint Meeting, and also the need for strengthening the work of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues and the Codex committee on Pesticide Residues by sufficient funding and staffing by FAO and WHO. The committee had also given consideration to difficulties experienced by some countries in accepting Codex Recommended Maximum Residue Limits and had found that often this was due to legal problems rather than lack of willingness on the part of Governments to react favourably to the recommendations of the commission.

Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits at step 8

222. The commission agreed that it was not practical to discuss in detail the maximum residue limits recommended by the codex committee, except where governments had submitted the proposals for the amendment of Maximum Residue Limits at Step 8.

223. The delegation of Argentina indicated that it had insufficient time to study the large number of recommendations in any detail. Other delegations indicated that they had experienced the same difficulties.

224. The delegation of the United States of America expressed the opinion that the maximum residue for 2,4-D in raw cereals should not be advanced to step 9 as, in their opinion, the limit did not take into account sufficiently the conjugated 2,4-D. In this connection, the commission noted that the limit for 2,4-D was supported by appropriate methods of analysis recommended by the committee. The delegation of Australia pointed out that there was a need for an international recommendation for 2,4-D residues in cereals and that the limit proposed by the committee was appropriate, especially as the residue disappeared on storage and cooking.

225. The commission decided not to return the maximum residue limit for 2,4-D in cereals to the committee, but agreed that this matter be brought to the attention of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues.

226. A number of delegations indicated that their agreement to advance the maximum residue limits at step 9 in the procedure did not in any way indicate that their governments would accept all the recommended limits at step 9 of the procedure. However, it was thought to be neither practical nor necessary by these delegations to indicate those maximum residue limits which would not be accepted by their governments when considering recommendations at step 9.

Consideration of proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5

227. The commission noted that the Codex Committee on pesticide Residues had recommended the omission of steps 6 and 7 for a number of maximum residues limits at step 5 which had not been controversial within the committee.

228. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed the view that steps 6 and 7 should not be omitted.

Status of the proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5

229. The commission decided to advance all maximum residue limits indicated in ALINORM 79/24A-ADD. I as being at step 5 to step 6 of the codex procedure. It also decided to omit Steps 6 and 7 where such omission had been recommended by the codex committee on pesticide Residues.

Proposed Amendments to Recommended Maximum Residue Limits

230. The commission noted that the codex committee on Pesticide Residues had recommended .to amend a number of maximum residue limits at step 9 of the Procedure (see ALINORM 79/24A-ADD.I). Some of the amendments were considered to be nonsubstantive by the committee and were so indicated. The commission concurred with the recommendations of the codex committee on Pesticide Residues and decided that substantive amendments should be referred to Governments at step 3 of the Procedure for the amendment of codex Maximum Residue Limits. As regards nonsubstantative amendments, the codex secretariat was requested to make the necessary changes in future codex publications on maximum residue limits.

231. The Chairman of the codex committee on Pesticide Residues expressed the opinion that it might be desirable to delete codex recommendations for Maximum Residue Limits at Step 9, where the commission had decided to initiate the amendment of those limits. This was desirable in order to avoid the situation where two differing recommendations existed at the same time.

232. The commission noted that, according to the rules governing the revision of codex standards, maximum residue limits at Step 9 would remain in force until replaced by amendments adopted by the commission.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Codex committee on Pesticide Residues

233. The commission noted that the codex committee on pesticide Residues, at its Tenth Session, had decided not to proceed with the elaboration of maximum residue limits in tobacco and had agreed that this matter be brought to the Commission for guidance. The

Commission concurred with the view of the committee reaffirming that tobacco did not fall within its terms of reference, as it was not an item of food.

234. The commission noted with approval the Resolution adopted by the Eleventh Session of the Codex committee on pesticide Residues (see Appendix II, ALINORM 79/24A).

235. The commission was informed that the committee, at its Eleventh Session, had decided to review its work on residues in animal feeds. The commission confirmed that it was within the terms of reference of the committee to consider the question of pesticide residues in straight animal feeding stuffs, where such a consideration was justified on the basis of health considerations or the facilitation of trade in the animal feeding stuff concerned. The codex secretariat was requested to bring the terms of reference of the committee up-to-date in this respect.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

236. 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 METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

237. The Report of the Eleventh session of the codex committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 79/23) was introduced by Dr. T. Karacsony, on behalf of the Chairman, Prof. R. Lasztity.

238. Dr. Karacsony, who acted as Rapporteur, underlined the growing attention that the committee was now giving to methods of sampling and informed the commission that at the session an ad hoc Working Group had been formed to examine how appropriate methods of sampling could be incorporated into codex standards and to formulate general principles for the selection of Codex procedures. It was expected that this Working Group would meet annually to continue work on its recommendations for further action (see ALINORM 79/23, Appendix III).

Consideration of the Proposed General Reference Method for the Determination of Chlorines in Food at Step 8

239. The Commission noted that the general reference method had been collaboratively studied and having been published elsewhere (JAOAC 58; 399–400 (1975)) would normally only be referenced in Codex Standards.

240. However, because it had been decided by the Committee that a progressive conversion to S.I units be made in Codex Standards and because collaborative studies had been made, it had been decided to present it in standard layout as a model and to add to it references to the

collaborative studies and the data indicating the characteristics of the method for guidance to analysts (see ALINORM 79/23, Appendix IV).

Status of the Proposed General Reference Method for the Determination of Chlorines in Food

241. The Commission adopted the proposed General Reference Method for the Determination of Chlorines in Food as a Recommended Reference Method at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Proposed Editorial Changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference Proposed Revision of Paragraph 13 (c) (i) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees Relating to Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Procedural Manual of the Commission, 4th Edition)

Proposed Amendment of the General Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Procedural Manual of the Commission)

242. The Commission noted that the Committee had examined the revised terms of references agreed to by the Commission at its previous Session (ALINORM 78/41, paragraphs 282–285) and had made some minor editorial amendments.

243. The Commission agreed to the amended terms of reference, to the revised text for paragraph 13 (c) (i) of the Procedural Manual and to the General Principles for Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling (see ALINORM 79/23, Appendix II).

244. It recognized that the latter did not yet contain a section on methods of sampling which had yet to be studied by the Committee and agreed that until such time as a suitable text on sampling was submitted to the Commission, the present procedures should be tested in practice by the Committee.

245. Concerning the last paragraph, of the amended text of paragraph 13 (c) (i) (ALINORM 78/ 23, Appendix II, P.18) the delegation of the United States of America pointed out that this should not be interpreted as inhibiting the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling from undertaking work, where necessary, on collaborative studies on methods which were not being studied by other bodies.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

246. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Hungary.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

247. The Commission was informed by the delegation of New Zealand that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene had been reconvened to examine a Draft International Code of Principles for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat, which had been developed by FAO/WHO, in conjunction with a large number of experts, and which was now proposed for examination within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.

248. The Commission was informed that the document had recently been revised at a meeting of an FAO/WHO Working Group which met in Geneva in October 1979. The document was currently being translated and printed and would shortly be sent to Codex Member Countries for comment.

249. In addition, the Commission noted that the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Game (CX/PMPP 78/10), which had been reviewed and amended at the Tenth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products (ALINORM 79/16, paragraphs 44–63), would also be considered by the Committee.

250. The delegation of New Zealand informed the Commission that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in London in May 1981.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

251. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of New Zealand.

PART VI

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

252. The Commission had before it ALINORM 79/28 containing the Report of the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, which was held in Dakar in September 1979. The report was presented by the Coordinator for Africa, Dr. Thianar N'Doye (Senegal).

Consideration of the African Regional Standard for Maize at Step 5 (ALINORM 79/28, Appendix VI)

253. The Commission noted that the Standard had been examined and amended by the Committee in the light of comments received from Argentina, Malawi and Senegal and had been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards. The Committee had also decided that the Standard should be forwarded to the newly-formed Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products to be considered for elaboration as a worldwide standard.

254. The Coordinator expressed some concern that, as the Standard had not yet gone before the new Committee, the future of the standard was uncertain.

255. The Commission agreed that consideration of the Standard should be an item on the agenda of the first meeting of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products. Should that Committee decide not to develop a worldwide standard for maize, then it was open to the Coordinating Committee for Africa to continue to elaborate a Regional Standard.

256. The delegation of the United States of America reiterated its offer (see paragraph 112) to inquire whether its Government was willing to host the Committee outside the United States.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa

Regional Standards

257. The Coordinator informed the Commission that on the basis of recommendations made by the consultant who had examined food products of importance in the region, it had been decided to advise the Commission of its intention to undertake the elaboration of regional standards for the following products:

Dry Sorghum and Millet Grains for Direct Human Consumption;
Dried Grains of Legumes for Direct Human Consumption;
“Gari” (a West African fermented cassava meal).

258. The delegation of Australia informed the Commission that the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Africa had not been received in time to ascertain whether some of these products were of international as well as regional importance and suggested that there might be a case for sending them for consideration, as appropriate, by the Codex Committees on Cereals and Cereal Products and Vegetable Proteins.

259. The Commission noted that as far as cereals were concerned, a paper on all cereals would be prepared as background material for the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products and that the document as well as the views of that Committee would be available to the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

260. The Commission noted that a proposed Draft Standard on “Gari” had been presented to the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for consideration at Step 2 and that Senegal had prepared a document on Millet, Sorghum and derived products which would form the basis of a proposed draft standard.

Model Food Law

261. The Commission noted that there had been further progress on the adoption/adaptation of the Model Food Law by the countries of the Region of Africa. An important point which had

been emphasized in the ensuing discussion was that the Model Food Law was not mandatory to Member States but was intended as a guideline to those countries which wished to up-date and harmonize their legislation.

Resolution of Senegal

262. The Commission noted that at the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Executive Committee a Resolution proposed by Senegal and supported by the Coordinating Committee had been discussed setting out the principles for collaboration between regional and sub-regional community organizations and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, so as to obtain more assistance from these Organizations and closer links between them and the Commission (see ALINORM 79/4, paragraphs 20–26).

263. The Executive Committee had noted that the mandate suggested by this Resolution would form the basis of a document to be prepared by a consultant recruited from the Region.

Appointment of Coordinator for Africa

264. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, the Commission appointed Dr. Thianar N'Doye (Senegal) as Coordinator for Africa, to serve from the end of the Thirteenth Session to the end of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

265. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Senegal for having hosted the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa and for its generous hospitality. It also thanked the Government of Senegal for offering to host the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee in Dakar.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

266. The Commission had before it the Report of the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 79/15). The Session had been held in Manila, Philippines, in March 1979. In the absence of the Coordinator for Asia, Dr. A.M. Regala (Philippines), the Report was introduced by Dr. D.S. Chadha (India), who acted as Rapporteur.

267. He emphasized the interest of the countries of the Region of Asia in the work of the Coordinating Committee. He reviewed the topics which had been dealt with by the Committee. Amongst the points to which he drew the Commission's attention were the following. The view had been expressed in the Coordinating Committee that vegetable protein derived from coconuts should be mentioned in the Terms of Reference of the new Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins. It had been agreed that this matter should be brought specifically to the attention of the Commission.

268. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that many of the delegations which had attended the Session of the Coordinating Committee had expressed the view that the use of colours and flavours in vegetable oils should be restricted, because, in certain cases, as had been stated in the Coordinating Committee's Report, this could result in consumer deception.

269. He indicated that some countries in the region had expressed interest in the idea of developing standards for vegetable ghee and that India had offered to prepare a first draft of a standard for this product, which should more probably be called "hydrogenated vegetable oils". He also referred to the particular interest of the countries of the region in the work of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

270. Concerning food control, the countries of the region attached the highest importance to this topic. The discussions in the Coordinating Committee had been wide-ranging, based on a document entitled "FAO/WHO Consultation on Food Control Strategy". This document outlined a strategy aimed at strengthening food control at the national level and at indicating how FAO and WHO could assist countries to build up a food control system.

271. The Rapporteur, in continuing his review of the Coordinating Committee's Report, mentioned in particular the importance of the recommendation, in the abovementioned document, concerning the desirability of establishing Advisory Boards in each country to assist in the implementation of food control. Emphasis had also been placed on the need for establishing training facilities, particularly in the field of hygiene. In the rural areas, the idea of mobile units had been welcomed. The Coordinating Committee for Asia had stressed that more emphasis needed to be placed on the importance of food control work in the region.

272. The Rapporteur referred to the report of the consultant (Mr. O.P. Kapur, India), who had been engaged to visit certain countries in the region of Asia in order to ascertain whether, in the case of countries of the region which export food products covered by the international Codex standards, these standards presented any difficulties for them. The consultant had also been requested to report on:

- a. Steps being taken or which should be taken at the national level in order to be able to comply with the international standards; and
- b. whether, from the point of view of the countries of the region, any of the provisions of the international standards were unrealistically difficult for them to meet. The Report of the consultant was attached as Appendix III to ALINORM 79/15.

273. The Rapporteur indicated that during the course of the consideration of the consultant's report by the Coordinating Committee, the delegation of Thailand drew attention to a serious problem which it had encountered following its acceptance of the Recommended Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple, and following the consequent adjustment in its national legislation and also in its canned pineapple industry. The problem was explained in full in paragraph 79 of ALINORM 79/15, but the main point was that certain importers in a number of developed countries, which had not accepted the Recommended Standard for Canned Pineapple, imported canned pineapple which was not in conformity with the Codex Standard.

These importers had indicated that they did not require the product to meet certain quality requirements provided for in the Codex Standard concerning details of style and types of pack, definitions of certain defects, etc. The Rapporteur referred to difficulties which had been mentioned by the delegation of Malaysia to the Coordinating Committee's Session concerning exports of cooked, peeled, frozen prawns. That delegation had indicated that it would not be advantageous to accept Codex Standards as long as the importing countries were not accepting them.

274. The most important matter arising from the report was the question of acceptances. The Coordinating Committee had endorsed the recommendations of the consultant as set forth in paragraphs 54 to 66 of his report. The Coordinating Committee had strongly urged the importing countries to accept the Codex Standards which the exporting developing countries of the region were keen to use for trading purposes. At the same time, the Coordinating Committee thought that there might be merit in dividing the standards into two main parts (i) a mandatory part of the Standard concerning all provisions relating to food safety; and (ii) an optional part covering other matters, including quality, which could be left for settlement between importer and exporter. The Rapporteur indicated that the Coordinating Committee had thought that in this way, acceptances would be facilitated. He also thought that, in any event, the whole subject of the format of Codex Standards and the amount of detail the Standards contain, as well as the related question of acceptances, needed to be reviewed. The most important thing was to implement the Codex Standards at the national level.

275. The Rapporteur further informed the Commission about the need for assistance to the developing countries in strengthening their food control infrastructure, including strengthening of laboratories and training, which should receive the highest priority from FAO and WHO, so that they could, while accepting a Codex Standard, be in a position to implement it. Such strengthening of the national infrastructure would better equip them in participating in the Commission's work and safeguard their interests.

276. The Rapporteur concluded his remarks by referring to a number of other matters dealt with by the Coordinating Committee, including problems connected with the availability of tin plate and also with packaging. Other matters considered by the Coordinating Committee included the question of developing harmonized labelling provisions for processed meat products in conformity with Islamic religious requirements, as well as date-marking of foods. The Coordinating Committee had examined the proposed new Terms of Reference and had found them to be generally acceptable. The Rapporteur ended his remarks by drawing the Commission's attention to a proposal which had been made by the delegation of Pakistan to the Coordinating Committee's Session that international standards be elaborated for carbonated soft drinks, particularly cola-based drinks. The delegation of Pakistan had been requested by the Coordinating Committee to prepare a justification paper on this subject for the Commission's Thirteenth Session. The Codex Secretariat had informed the Coordinating Committee that there was in existence a Codex Advisory List of Additives approved for use in soft drinks.

277. The Codex Secretariat informed the Commission that the discussions which had taken place at the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia concerning the question of the amount of detail in some Codex Standards and, in the view of the Coordinating Committee, the related problem of acceptances, had been brought to the attention of the Codex Committee on General Principles at its Sixth Session in October 1979. The problem which the delegation of Thailand had described concerning the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple had also been brought to attention.

278. The views of the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the above matters are set forth in paragraphs 34 to 40 of ALINORM 79/35. It had been stated in the Codex Committee on General Principles that simplified international standards might lead to more acceptances, but if detailed national provisions were not the subject of negotiations and agreement in the international standards, exporting countries would then have to comply with a variety of possibly very detailed national requirements, over and above the requirements of the international standards. The Codex Secretariat expressed the opinion that it had to be taken that detailed international standards were a reflection of the fact that products corresponding to the detailed provisions of the standards did move in international trade. If this was the case, there was a strong argument in favour of international negotiation regarding the details. This would seem to be particularly so if many countries had detailed national standards or were considering developing detailed standards. On the other hand, some countries might not have detailed national standards for some of the products covered by the Codex Standards not even any standards, detailed or otherwise, and it might be easier for them to accept less detailed international standards. It seemed to the Codex Secretariat that this was a matter which could benefit from further examination.

279. The Codex Secretariat also referred to the importance which the Codex Committee on General Principles had attached to governments giving consideration to the possibility of permitting products in conformity with the Codex Standards to be allowed into their countries, even though, for domestic reasons, they might not be able to formally accept the standards. The Codex Committee on General Principles had considered that this would be a very positive action in favour of facilitating international trade. In this connection, the Committee had requested the Secretariat to find better terminology than “non-acceptance” for classifying responses of this kind from governments.

280. Several delegations expressed themselves as being in favour of the recommendation of the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the granting of free entry, in certain cases, to products in conformity with Codex Standards. It was also suggested that it was important that governments should respond and indicate their positions concerning the standards. Deviations notified could be examined by the Secretariat, as provided for in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and a thorough analysis of these deviations could lead to desirable amendments of the standards.

281. The Rapporteur gave examples of what he would consider essential factors and optional factors. All safety matters should be covered in essential factors including hygiene, food additives, contaminants and basic and essential quality, Optional factors would include styles,

cuts, etc. In the view of the Rapporteur, optional factors should be a matter between buyer and seller. For this reason, he thought that the format of Codex Standards should be re-examined. Some delegations supported the views of the Rapporteur. Several delegations stated that the issues raised by the Coordinating Committee for Asia concerning format and acceptance of the Codex Standards were important matters which raised some complex issues. These delegations thought that the whole subject should be referred to the Codex Committee on General Principles for consideration.

282. The Commission agreed to refer the subject of the format of Codex Standards, i.e. the amount of detail in them and the related question of acceptances to the next Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles for consideration. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a suitable background paper to facilitate the discussions.

283. Concerning the problems of availability of suitable quality of tins, as referred to in paragraph 107 of ALINORM 79/15, the Commission endorsed the view of the Coordinating Committee that UNIDO should be requested to convene a working group from countries of the region of Asia with a view to developing cooperation amongst these countries for the manufacture of the right quality of tins from indigenous sources and other appropriate and cheaper packaging materials. On the question of standards for tins and lacquer, the Commission agreed with the Coordinating Committee that the International Organization for Standards (ISO) seemed the most appropriate body to deal with this matter. The Commission instructed the Secretariat to approach UNIDO and ISO on these matters.

284. The Commission agreed that the proposal of the Coordinating Committee that the Recommended Standard for Tropical Fruit Salad be amended so as to allow this product to be designated "Tropical Fruit Cocktail" as a permissible alternative to "Tropical Fruit Salad", should be referred to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for consideration (ALINORM 79/15, paragraph 110).

285. Concerning the amendments proposed by the Coordinating Committee to certain Step 9 Standards, as listed in Appendix III, paragraph 65 of ALINORM 79/15, the Commission agreed that these proposed amendments would need to be formulated precisely, and in detail, before they could profitably be considered by the Commodity Committees concerned. The Commission agreed that these matters might be considered by the Coordinating Committee at its next Session.

286. As regards the subject of developing harmonized labelling requirements for processed meat products which would be in conformity with Islamic religious requirements, the Codex Secretariat indicated that the Saudi Arabian authorities had been in communication with it and that the question of and need for holding a meeting of Working Group of qualified technical and religious experts on this topic in Saudi Arabia would be reviewed in the light of studies on the subject presently under way.

287. Concerning the proposal of the delegation of Pakistan that international standards be elaborated for carbonated soft drinks, including cola based drinks, the delegation of Canada

indicated that the Commission, at an earlier session, had concluded that international standards for these products were not necessary. The Commission noted that Pakistan was still studying this matter, which it expected would be brought up by Pakistan at the next Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia. The Commission took no action on the matter at this time.

Appointment of Coordinator for Aisa

288. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and on the unanimous proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Commission appointed Dr. D. Chadha (India) as Coordinator for Asia, to serve from the end of the Thirteenth Session to the end of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

289. The Commission had before it the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 79/19). The Coordinator for Europe, Prof. H. Woidich (Austria) gave an account of the work accomplished by the Coordinating Committee since the last Session of the Commission. He also introduced those items on which action was required by the Commission.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe Size Grading of Peas

290. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had adopted a system of size grading of canned peas (Appendix IV, ALINORM 79/19) and had recommended that it should be further considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables with a view to its inclusion in the Recommended Standard for Canned Peas. Should this prove to be unacceptable, the Coordinating Committee had expressed the wish that the size grading system be appended to the Standard as an optional European Recommended System of Size Grading. The Commission agreed that this matter be referred to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for consideration and the Committee should also look at the size grading system which had been developed by the Joint Codex/ECE Group on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods and Quick Frozen Peas.

Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

291. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee had considered the terms of reference proposed by the Twelfth Session of the Commission and had proposed amendments to paragraphs (b) and (d) thereof (see paragraphs 89-90, ALINORM 79/19). The Commission agreed that it was appropriate to amend paragraph (b) of the terms of reference as proposed by the Coordinating Committee, since it was considered to be more the task of the Coordinating Committees in developing regions to stimulate and strengthen food control

infrastructures. As regards the proposed amendment to paragraph (d) of the terms of reference, several delegations considered that the wording proposed by the Coordinating Committee went well beyond just standards for products of a regional interest. These delegations were of the opinion that regional standards should be established only where the foods concerned moved exclusively in intra-regional trade and not also for foods which, although of interest to a given region, moved in international trade. Other delegations were of the opinion that there existed appropriate procedures which governed the establishment of regional Codex Standards and that it was not the purpose of the proposed amendment to encourage the establishment of regional standards where the establishment of such standards was not appropriate.

292. The Commission, noting that other Coordinating Committees still wished to reconsider their terms of reference in the light of experience gained in their application, decided that the terms of reference together with the proposed amendments to paragraph (d) be referred back to the Coordinating Committee for Europe for reconsideration.

Future Work of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

293. The Commission had before it suggestions by the Coordinating Committee for Europe for possible future work (paragraphs 91-96, ALINORM 79/19). The Coordinator for Europe indicated that the Coordinating Committee was not seeking the approval of the Commission to start work on all the items listed in its Report. However, it had expressed the opinion that it would be desirable to elaborate general standards and guidelines in particular as indicated in paragraph 95, for mayonnaise and mayonnaise-type products.

294. The delegation of India was of the opinion that work on problems such as mycotoxins, nitrosamines, PNAHs and PCBs, residues from packaging materials and guidelines concerning hygiene in catering establishments were problems of general interest and would not be appropriate for the Coordinating Committee for Europe. Furthermore, it was of the opinion that raw materials should not be standardized unless absolutely necessary. The delegation of India also pointed out that the standardization of condiments was not a matter for a regional but rather for a worldwide committee.

295. The delegation of the United States of America was of the opinion that some of the items such as flour confectionery, in paragraph 95 of the Report, were not sufficiently specific to enable the Commission to reach conclusions concerning the desirability, or otherwise, to embark on the establishment of regional Codex Standards.

296. The Codex Secretariat drew the Commission's attention to paragraph 92 which described possible future activities for the Coordinating Committee for Europe. These activities included a review of European food legislation, with particular emphasis on recent developments, an examination of the activities of international organizations concerned with food standardization in that region and consideration of food law enforcement and control systems in European countries. The observer from the EEC was in full support of the proposed items of work of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, including standards for

mayonnaise and mayonnaise-type products. The Commission agreed that such activities would be appropriate for the Coordinating Committee for Europe. It also noted the on-going work of the Coordinating Committee concerning the elaboration of standards for vinegar and the Committee's intention to cover the complementary work on mayonnaise and mayonnaise-type products.

Boneless Meat

297. The Coordinator for Europe indicated that there still existed interest by some countries in the Region of Europe in the elaboration of a standard for boneless meat and suggested that the possibility of undertaking such work might be explored in consultation with the interested producing countries.

298. The delegation of Australia, supported by a number of countries, were strongly of the opinion that any standard established for boneless meat should be worldwide, but were also of the opinion that as most of the boneless meat traded internationally was destined for further processing, it was not appropriate to undertake work on this commodity. They recalled that the Codex Committee on Meat had closely considered and rejected a previous proposal to standardize boneless meat. In the opinion of these delegations, no new circumstances had emerged which suggested that this decision should be reviewed.

299. The Commission decided that no work on boneless meat should be undertaken, either by the Coordinating Committee for Europe or the Codex Committee on Meat, which had adjourned sine die.

Natural Mineral Waters

300. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had endorsed the labelling section of the European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Water. It also noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had not endorsed sub-section 5.2 of the section on Hygiene which dealt with microbiological criteria of the water (paragraphs 135-139, ALINORM 79/13). It noted in this respect, the intention of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to develop a Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (paragraphs 118-119, ALINORM 79/13A).

301. As regards the section on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed two methods which were essential to define certain parameters in the Standard for Natural Mineral Water. The Commission endorsed the view of the Codex Committee on General Principles that Codex methods of analysis should only be developed for provisions included in the Standard (paragraph 68, ALINORM 79/35).

Regional European Standard for Honey

302. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had considered, in the light of comments from governments in response to a circular distributed by the Secretariat (CL 1979/6), the desirability, or otherwise, of amending the European Regional Standard for Honey. The Coordinating Committee had agreed to postpone further consideration of the Standard for Honey pending the availability of certain necessary data.

303. A number of delegations expressed the opinion that if revised, the standard for honey should be developed on a worldwide basis in view of the fact that honey represented an important commodity in international trade. The delegation of New Zealand expressed concern at some of the conclusions reached by the Coordinating Committee and pointed out that while the standard was a European regional standard, it was drawn up to cover honeys of good quality arriving in Europe from other countries and should not be seen as a European domestic standard. The delegation of New Zealand, therefore, proposed that if revised, the standard for honey should be developed on a worldwide basis in view of the fact that honey represented an important commodity in international trade. This view was supported by several delegations.

304. The Codex Secretariat indicated that most of the acceptances received on the standard for honey were from non-European countries, a number of which could only accept the regional standard with specified deviations. In the opinion of the Secretariat, the most appropriate procedure to follow appeared to be that laid down in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards (footnote 1, Step 10) according to which, the Secretariat was required to examine deviations notified by governments and to report to the Commission concerning possible amendments.

305. The Commission agreed to follow the procedure suggested by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to examine the specified deviations communicated by governments and the reactions of governments on the basis of a further circular, if necessary, and to report to the Executive Committee on this matter.

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

306. The Commission had before it the Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America (CX/Latin America 78/12). Dr. H. Barrera-Benitez (Mexico), in giving an account of the work of the Conference on behalf of the Coordinator for Latin America, highlighted the conclusions reached in relation to the need in that Region for integrated food control based on appropriate regulations at the national level. In this respect, it was necessary to strengthen inspection services and to take measures to control food contamination, as well as the microbiological quality of food. It was of paramount importance to secure cooperation between the existing bodies concerned with food standards and food control matters in the Region of Latin America. He also referred to the work of the Conference aimed at greater cooperation between the economic groupings of the Region and at avoiding

any duplication of effort. He then drew the Commission's attention to the Resolution adopted by the Conference (Appendix IV, CX/Latin America 78/12) aimed at improving food regulations and control through regional cooperation and the strengthening of international activities, such as those of the Commission, FAO, WHO and PAHO.

307. The Commission noted, with approval, the Resolution of the Food Standards Regional Conference.

308. The delegation of France informed the Commission that France was interested in the work of the Region of Latin America and hoped to participate therein.

Appointment of the Coordinator for Latin America

309. In accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Commission on the unanimous proposal of the delegations of the Region of Latin America present at the Commission's Session, appointed Mr. A.M. Dovat (Uruguay) as Coordinator for Latin America, to serve from the end of the Thirteenth Session to the end of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

310. Mr. Dovat, in accepting the position of Coordinator for Latin America, informed the Commission that his authorities would be willing to host in Uruguay the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the valuable work done by the outgoing Coordinator, Dr. E. Mendez (Mexico).

PART VII

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

311. The Commission had before it the Report of the Tenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils as contained in ALINORM 79/17. The Report was introduced by Mr. A.W. Hubbard (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Committee.

Consideration of Draft Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure

312. The following standards were before the Commission:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| - Revised Text of the General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards | (Appendix II, of ALINORM 79/17) |
| - Edible Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed Oil | (Appendix III, of ALINORM 79/17) |
| - Edible Coconut Oil | (Appendix IV, of |

ALINORM 79/17)

- Edible Palm Oil

(Appendix V, of
ALINORM 79/17)

- Edible Palm Kernel Oil

(Appendix VI, of
ALINORM 79/17)

- Edible Grapeseed Oil

(Appendix VII, of
ALINORM 79/17)

- Edible Babassu Oil

(Appendix VIII of
ALINORM 79/17)

313. The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of the Commission to written comments on the above standards received from Egypt, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland (ALINORM 79/37 - Part VII and Conference Room Document No. 4).

314. Egypt had indicated that there was a need to elaborate methods of analysis for food additives and any components of the food which were limited by maximum and minimum levels. Egypt and Poland had felt that the list of ingredients should provide more detailed information with regard to the nature of the fats and oils covered by the General Standard.

315. Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany had reiterated their view, expressed at the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Committee on Food Additives, that certain food additives should not be used in fats and oils and that, generally, the list of permitted additives for these products was too extensive. Italy had expressed similar concern with regard to chemical additives and colours; and had, furthermore, cautioned against the use of GLC values for edible fats and oils (Appendix XI to ALINORM 79/17), since they would not guarantee the purity of these oils.

316. Many delegations gave an account of their national requirements with regard to additives used in edible fats and oils; in particular the use of colours and flavours was not acceptable for the delegations of Austria, Brazil, Portugal, India and Spain. The delegation of Brazil also had reservations about anti-forming agents.

317. The delegations of Austria and Sudan also supported the views expressed by Italy concerning the difficulties envisaged by introducing GLC ranges into the standards.

318. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee on Fats and Oils had considered the proposed GLC ranges to be of an optional and advisory nature and that there was no intention, at the present time, to substitute them for the traditional identity criteria included in Codex Standards for Fats and Oils.

319. The Commission further noted the statement of the delegation of Argentina, indicating that Argentinian Law required a mandatory declaration of the country of origin.

320. The delegation of Japan reiterated its objections, voiced at the Tenth Session of the Committee on Fats and Oils, with regard to the declaration of minimum durability for all products covered by the above standards, especially for products packed in hermetically sealed containers, irrespective of their shelf-life.

321. The delegation of India held the view that the date of minimum durability was only appropriate for products with a short shelf-life and agreed with the delegation of Japan that the date of manufacture should be declared on the label. The delegation of India thought that the scope of the general standard should not cover admixtures of different fats and oils, since there were no analytical techniques available to determine the components of mixtures containing different proportions of the oils. Cheaper oils could be mixed with more expensive oils and these mixtures could be sold for a high price. Therefore, such products were not permitted to be sold in India.

322. The delegation of Japan also drew the attention of the Commission to the deletion of emulsifiers from the list of additives in the General Standard, in the course of amending the scope section of the original recommended standard to cover the fats and oils included for use as ingredients in the manufacture of foods, and to the decision of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils that the use of emulsifiers could be regulated by appropriate labelling provisions. The delegation felt that, for the better understanding of the standard, it might be more appropriate to include a footnote in the standard indicating that the use of additives, other than those provided for in the standard, was not prohibited, as recorded in the relevant paragraphs of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee. The delegation of Japan also expressed its concern about the question of applying the above decision to other Codex Standards which also cover products for use in food manufacture.

323. The delegation of the Ivory Coast pointed out that edible coconut oil was known in his country under the denomination “copra oil” and suggested to permit the use of that synonym in the section on the Name of the Food.

324. It was recognized that even if it was obvious that some countries could not accept all provisions of the abovementioned standards, it would be advisable to advance these important standards to Step 9. When examining the standards with a view to accepting them, countries would be in a position to indicate deviations from the standards. Based on these deviations, amendments to the above standards could be elaborated and proposed for further consideration by the Committee on Fats and Oils.

325. The Commission noted that it was intended to publish all Codex Standards for Fats and Oils in one compendium which would also include decisions of a general nature, relative to the actual standards (paragraph 53 of ALINORM 79/17).

Status of the above Standards

326. The Commission adopted the Revised Text of the General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards and the Standards for Edible Low Erucic and Rapeseed Oil, Edible Coconut Oil, Edible Palm Oil, Edible Palm Kernel Oil, Edible Grapeseed Oil and Edible Babassu Oil at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Amendments to Step 9 Standards

327. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Committee had proposed a number of amendments to the labelling section of Step 9 Standards which were consequential to the decisions taken in revising the General Standard (page 8 of ALINORM 79/21).

328. The Chairman further informed the Commission that the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on Labelling had endorsed the proposed amendments which concerned the following sections:

- a. Introduction of provisions for lot identification, date marking and storage instructions; and
- b. clarification of the provision on the Name of the Food by amending the term “products” to read “food products”.

The Commission adopted the above amendments as consequential amendments in accordance with the Codex Procedure.

Proposed Amendment to the Recommended International Standard for Olive Oils (CAC/RS 33-1970)

329. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the International Olive Oil Council had elaborated and submitted to the Tenth Session of the Committee a minimum level of B-Sitosterol content in olive oil and the appropriate methodology. The Committee had agreed to include an appropriate provision in the above standard (paragraph 51 of ALINORM 79/17). The delegation of Italy, reiterating its written comments, had stressed the importance to determine sterols especially in imported oils and emphasized the need for careful consideration of the proposed amendment.

330. The Commission authorized the Committee on Fats and Oils to proceed with the consideration of the above amendment in accordance with the established Codex Procedure.

Other Matters of Interest

331. The Chairman of the Committee referred to the written comments in ALINORM 79/37-Part VII, and informed the Commission that the Technical Secretariat had prepared a Working Paper on the revision and up-dating of methods of analysis in Codex Standards for

Fats and Oils which had been discussed by the Tenth Session of the Committee. The matter would be further discussed at the next Session of that Committee.

332. The Commission was further informed that the Committee had agreed to commence work on standards for vegetable ghee and mixed animal/vegetable ghee. The working papers were being distributed to governments. The delegation of India was of the opinion that there should not be a standard for mixed animal/vegetable fats as products of that nature were confusing the consumers.

333. Referring to the Standard for Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed Oil, the delegation of India pointed out that in that country rapeseed oil had been consumed for centuries without adverse effects. The representative of WHO drew attention to the recommendation, related to Erucic Acid in the human diet, made by a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the establishment of standards for both types of Rapeseed Oil recognized the existence of the two different oils.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

334. 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 FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

335. The Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 79/18) was presented by the Chairman, Dr. O.R. Braekkan of Norway.

336. Dr. Braekkan informed the Commission of the decision of the Norwegian Government to add language facilities in Spanish at future Sessions of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Norway.

Amendment Procedure for the Introduction of Additional Species in Step 9 Standards

337. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the Committee had discussed means of modifying the Step 9 amendment procedure, so as to accelerate the introduction of new species giving final products of types conforming to various standards.

338. A working group met during the session and outlined a proposed procedure for the incorporation of additional species into Step 9 Standards which the Committee agreed to recommend for adoption by the Commission, with regard to Step 9 Standards for fish products.

339. The Commission noted that research into the use of under-exploited fish resources might well lead to an increasing number of requests for the inclusion of related species into standards and agreed that the procedure proposed should be adopted.

Recommended International Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-type Products (CAC/RS 94-1978)

340. After examination of samples of finished products, the Committee recommended the inclusion of the following species: *Sardinella fimbriata*, *Sardinella sirm*, *Sardinella longiceps*, *Sardinella gibbosa* and *Engraulis mordax*.

341. The Commission agreed with the Committee's recommendation.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Canned Mackerel and Jack Mackerel at Step 8 (ALINORM 79/18, Appendix II)

342. The Commission noted that the Committee, after examination of samples of finished products, had recommended that the genus *Rastrelliger* should be included under the heading *Scombridae*. The Commission agreed with this recommendation.

343. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that at their last Sessions the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Food Labelling had endorsed the respective sections of the Draft Standard for Canned Mackerel and Jack Mackerel.

344. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the list of food additives was excessive; in particular, the list of modified starches should be studied carefully and the permitted quantity of pectin was too high.

345. Concern was also expressed that smoke flavours had not been sufficiently studied to permit their use.

346. With regard to the labelling section, the delegation of Austria was of the opinion that in this and other standards declaration of the country of origin should be mandatory and not optional, as at present.

347. The delegation of Japan expressed the view that the levels of exuded water, stated in sub-section 7.1.4 of the labelling section, should be transferred to sub-section 3.2.2 Packing Media, and that the product packed in oil with own juices containing more than 12% of exuded water should be declared sub-standard or allocated another form of presentation. In addition, in sub-section 3.5.1 the minimum drained or washed drained weight for edible oil and edible oil with own juices should be 70%.

348. The delegation of The Netherlands expressed its opposition to the absence of a mandatory declaration of drained weight and washed drained weight in the labelling section of the Standard.

349. The Commission recognized that the Standard as it stood represented a compromise arrived at after lengthy discussions in the Committee and that the Food Additives Lists had been cleared both by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

350. The Commission noted that in the labelling section, the Committee had concluded that because of the long shelf-life of these types of products a provision for date-marking was not thought necessary. It also noted that a paper on the subject of uniform implementation of date-marking guidelines would be prepared by the delegation of Canada for discussion at the next meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Mackerel and Jack Mackerel

351. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Canned Mackerel and Jack Mackerel at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Consideration of the Revised Recommended International Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon at Step 5

352. The Commission noted that the Recommended International Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon had been discussed and amended at the last Session of the Committee (ALINORM 79/18, paragraphs 48–66). It had been agreed that a table of defects similar to those provided in the Standards for other Canned Fish should be developed. The delegation of Japan had offered to provide the defects table used in Japan for circulation with the Standard to Member Governments.

Status of the Revised Recommended International Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon

353. The Commission advanced the revised Recommended International Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Consideration of Draft Codes of Practice at Step 8

Draft Code of Practice for Lobster

354. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that at its Sixteenth Session, the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 79/13A, paragraph 69) had examined the hygiene provisions of the Code and had recommended that to this and other Codes, Annex I to the Revised Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (Cleaning and Disinfection) (see paragraph 204, of this Report), should be attached as a new Appendix.

355. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Draft Code of Practice for Smoked Fish

356. The Commission noted that, in the opinion of the delegations of the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, the definition under sub-section 2.23 of “smoke” was not such that the use of sawdust containing extraneous material such as plastic was excluded.

357. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives should consider the matter, so that an amendment to the Code at Step 9 could be proposed in which the raw material was specified so as to exclude foreign materials.

Draft Code of Practice for Salted Fish

358. The Commission noted that at some future date a specific description for salt might need elaboration for the purposes of the Code if the description of salt presently under elaboration by the Codex Committee on Food Additives did not meet the need of the salt fish industry.

Status of the Draft Codes of Practice for Lobster, Smoked Fish and Salted Fish

359. The Commission adopted the Draft Codes of Practice for Lobster, Smoked Fish and Salted Fish at Step 8 of the Procedure.

360. It noted with satisfaction that the Codes, which were a result of close collaboration between the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and the FAO Fisheries Department, were already proving of great service to both developed and developing countries both as teaching aids and as guidelines to industry.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish at Step 5

361. The Commission was informed that the Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish had been extensively revised by an ad hoc Working Group which had met during the Thirteenth Session of the Committee (ALINORM 79/18, paragraphs 112–118), but that because of pressure of work it had not been possible to issue the revised document in time for examination by the Commission.

362. The Commission noted the concern expressed by the delegations of Australia and The Netherlands over the development within Codex of a Code of Practice for products which were destined for further manufacturing rather than direct consumer use.

Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish

363. The Commission decided to return the proposed Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish for further consideration by the Committee and to re-examine the Code at its Fourteenth Session at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee

364. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the Committee had decided that an ad hoc Working Group should be formed to consider the question of establishing microbiological criteria for cooked ready-to-eat shrimps and prawns in the light of data based on the sampling plans and methodologies referenced in the Report of the Second Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (EC/Microbiol/77/Report 2, pp. 3-5 and Annex III).

365. It had been hoped that such a Working Group could meet prior to the Fourteenth Session of the Committee, but because sufficient data was not yet available from governments, the meeting would have to be deferred to a later date.

366. The Commission noted that future work of the Committee included consideration of Codes of Practice for Minced Fish, Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products, for Crabs and for Cephalopods and a Standard for Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae family.

367. The delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that there was considerable consumption in South East Asia of food grade fish concentrates corresponding to type B products of PAG Guideline No. 19 and that there were some problems with regard to the microbiological quality of such products. He enquired whether the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products might consider the elaboration of a Code of Practice for Food Grade Fish Concentrates.

368. The Commission agreed that the Committee should examine the question and noted that the delegation of Thailand would prepare a background document on the production and consumption of Food Grade Fish Concentrates as a basis for discussion by the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

369. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Norway.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

370. The Commission had before it the Report of the above Committee (ALINORM 79/20) and Government comments on Step 8 Standards contained in ALINORM 79/37, Part IV and ADD. I there-to.

371. Dr. R. Weik of the delegation of the United States of America, gave an account of the work accomplished by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables since the last Session of the Commission.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Pickled Cucumbers at Step 8

372. On the suggestion of the delegation of the United Kingdom, the Commission agreed to add a new sub-section 9.2.7 indicating that a method for the determination of drained weight was to be developed. On the suggestion of the delegation of Hungary, the Commission decided to transfer paprika to the section on ingredients.

373. The delegations of Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, India, Poland and France made reservations concerning the use of food additives in the preparation of pickled cucumbers since, in their opinion, many of the additives, especially the colours were not required from a technological point of view. Other delegations pointed out that the inclusion of food additive provisions in Codex Standards did not necessarily mean that all those additives would be used in any particular product. Furthermore, in accepting Codex standards, governments were free to indicate (by means of specified deviations) whether they accepted, or otherwise, the use of food additives provided for in Codex Standards. The delegation of the United States of America indicated that this was the approach followed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in drawing up sections on food additives.

374. The delegations of India, Australia and Finland indicated their agreement with the proposed maximum level of 250 mg/kg for tin and were opposed to any reduction of this figure. The delegation of the United States of America informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, through an ad hoc Working Group, was considering in detail the question of contaminants in processed fruits and vegetables.

Status of the Draft Standard for Pickled Cucumbers at Step 8

375. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Pickled Cucumbers as amended, at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. It was understood that those food additive provisions which had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives would not be included in the Step 9 Standard.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Canned Carrots at Step 8

376. The Commission considered an editorial amendment proposed by the United Kingdom to section 1.3(a) and (b) of the Standard. The text adopted by the Commission is as follows:

a. “Whole

1. Conical or cylindrical cultivars (e.g. Chantenay and Amsterdam varieties) - consist of carrots which, after processing, retain their approximate original conformation. The largest diameter of carrots, measured at right angles to longitudinal axis shall not exceed 50 mm. The variation in diameter between the largest carrot and smallest carrot shall not exceed 3:1
2. spherical cultivars (“Paris” carrots) - consist of fully mature carrots of a roundish shape of which the largest diameter in any direction shall not exceed 45 mm.

b. Baby Whole

1. Conical or cylindrical cultivars - consist of whole carrots which have a diameter of not more than 23 mm and are not longer than 100 mm
2. spherical cultivars - consist of whole carrots which have a diameter of not more than 18 mm in any direction.”

377. The delegation of India drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the provision for monosodium glutamate had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission noted that this amounted to a proposal by that Committee to delete the provision for that flavour enhancer, in view of strong opposition to its use by a number of countries. The Commission agreed to delete the provision for monosodium glutamate from the Standard.

378. The Commission had detailed discussions on the section on Food Additives, during which a number of delegations expressed their reservations to a number of additives provided for. The Commission noted the opinions expressed by these delegations in connection with the use of food additives and also noted that there had been changes of attitude by governments to the use and regulation of food additives. The Commission decided that it would, therefore, be appropriate for the Codex Committee on Food Additives to reconsider its approach to the endorsement of food additives in Codex Standards as an important general issue. In this respect, the Commission noted paragraph 73 of the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORM 79/12A) and requested the Secretariat to examine the acceptances received from governments with respect to food additives and to prepare a paper for the next Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. In this connection, the Commission also thought that it would be useful to obtain the opinion of the Chairmen of Codex Commodity Committees.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Carrots at Step 8

379. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Canned Carrots as amended, at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The delegation of India reserved its position concerning this decision, in view of the strong objection by a number of delegations to the section on Food Additives.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots

380. The Commission discussed a proposal by the delegation of the United Kingdom, supported by other delegations, that the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots be returned for further consideration to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. The representative of the UN/ECE drew the Commission's attention to the views of the UN/ECE Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Produce concerning the need to reconcile differences between the Codex and the UN/ECE standards and that it would be necessary for the Commission to return the Draft Standard to step 6 of the Procedure for further discussion, in order to achieve this aim.

381. Other delegations were of the opinion that as dried apricots represented a commodity moving in worldwide trade, it was for the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, which was a worldwide body, to draft standards for this product. These delegations were also of the opinion that differences between the UN/ECE and Codex Standards had been considerably narrowed and that the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots was ready for adoption at Step 8 of the Procedure. They also thought that the advancement of the Draft Standard all the more desirable, as no arrangements had been made for the two Committees concerned to meet jointly or indeed for the views of the UN/ECE body (which would meet at the end of 1980) to be made known to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, prior to the Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

Status of the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots

382. The Commission decided to return the Draft Standard for Dried Apricots to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, at Step 7 of the Procedure. The two Bodies and Secretariats concerned were requested to make all efforts, in order to bring the two standards in line with each other, so that the Codex Standard can be adopted by the Commission at its next Session. The Commission emphasized that it would be helpful, in order to harmonize the provisions of the two standards, if the experts on this subject who attend the UN/ECE meeting could also attend the next Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. If this was not possible, there should be liaison at the national level between the experts concerned.

Consideration of the Draft Amendments to the Recommended International Standard for Canned Peaches at Step 8

383. The Commission adopted the above draft amendments at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Amendment of Recommended Codex Standards.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standards for Dates, Unshelled Pistachio Nuts and Canned Apricots at Step 5

384. The Commission noted that Draft UN/ECE Standards existed for dates and unshelled pistachio nuts and that this would result in similar difficulties as in the case of dried apricots. The Secretariats of the two Bodies and the respective Committees were requested to ensure that any differences between the Codex and UN/ECE Standards should be removed before these Standards were advanced to Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for Dates, Unshelled Pistachio Nuts and Canned Apricots at Step 5

385. The Commission decided to advance the above three Standards to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

General Provision for Styles

386. The Commission recalled that at its Eleventh Session, it had requested Codex Commodity Committees to consider the need, or otherwise, for a general provision for styles in Codex Standards. It noted that, like other Codex Committees, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had considered this question. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, however, had reached the conclusion that the inclusion of such a general provision for styles not specifically covered by the Standard would cause difficulties and had referred the matter to the Commission for guidance (see paragraphs 12–14, ALINORM 79/20). Difficulties arose from the fact that styles not specifically covered in the Standard would not have to comply with certain essential quality criteria and weights and measures provisions, as these provisions were linked to specific styles enumerated in the Standard.

387. The delegation of Australia pointed out that the Commission had already agreed, at its Eleventh Session, that the question of other styles was not for general and automatic application to all Codex Standards but should be considered by Codex Committees on a commodity by commodity basis. The Commission, however, decided to refer this matter to the Executive Committee and, should it be necessary, to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Maximum Levels for Contaminants

388. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had taken concrete steps with a view to reviewing the provisions for contaminants in Codex Standards elaborated by it. It also noted that an ad hoc Working Group had been established for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Australia and that a circular requesting information from governments had been distributed. The Commission urged governments to make available appropriate information on contaminants to the Committee.

Definition of “peaches” in the Standard for Canned Peaches

389. The delegation of Chile informed the Commission that some countries were applying the definition of “peaches” given in the Recommended Standard for Canned Peaches to the fresh fruit moving in commerce. This caused some problems in trade in that country since nectarine varieties were not included in the Standard for Canned Peaches.

390. The Commission took note of the view expressed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (paragraph 192, ALINORM 79/20) that limitations on, or definitions of varieties included in Codex Standards for processed foods, did not necessarily apply to the fresh fruit.

391. The delegation of Brazil, with the support of the delegation of Argentina, recalled that the subject raised by Chile had already been discussed by the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables during the consideration and approval of the Recommended Standard for Canned Peaches. The consideration of this Standard resulted then, in the exclusion of nectarines from the Standard for Canned Peaches, it being understood that, in trade, nectarines are neither peaches nor a variety of peaches.

392. On the proposal of the delegation of Argentina, the Commission decided to refer the matter to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for reconsideration and requested governments to express their views on the proposal of the delegation of Chile to amend the Standard for Canned Peaches, as indicated in the written comments received from that country.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

393. 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.

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

394. The Commission had before it the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 79/14) and document ALINORM 79/37-Part II containing comments and observations on the several draft standards under discussion.

395. The Chairman of the Group of Experts, Prof. Dr. W. Pilnik (Netherlands), in introducing the Report of the Group of Experts, noted with satisfaction the increasing interest shown by developing countries in the work of the Group particularly in regard to the development of standards for juices and nectars of certain tropical fruits.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Blackcurrant Juice Preserved exclusively by Physical Means at Step 8

396. In introducing this item, the Chairman of the Group of Experts drew attention to the decision taken by the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to amend the section 7.1.1 of the draft standard so as to disallow the use of the term “sweetened blackcurrant juice” for products which contained added sugar or sugars (ALINORM 79/22A, paragraphs 58–60). Because of the special nature of blackcurrant juice, and its natural very acid taste, any addition of sugars, he said, would be intended to sweeten the product and, therefore, would be rather large. The term “sweetened” in reference to the name of the food would, therefore, not be misleading to the consumer. He mentioned that the product was currently sold under the name “sweetened blackcurrant juice” and was widely used as a syrup

or topping. After some discussion, the Commission decided that it would be necessary to distinguish between those products which had been sweetened in the manner proposed and those products to which small amounts of sugar may have been added in order to correct the sugar/acid ratio. The representative of the EEC suggested that an appropriate limit for distinguishing between the two would be 1.5%. The relevant section was amended as follows:

“7.1.1 The name of the food shall be “blackcurrant juice” and the term “contains x% of added sugar” shall appear in close proximity to the name where x times 10 represents the amount of sugar or sugars added in grammes per kilogramme of the final product. If more than 15 g/kg of sugar or sugars is added the name of the food shall be “sweetened blackcurrant juice” and the content of added sugar or sugars shall similarly be declared.”

397. The delegation of Switzerland reserved its position on the name of the food which, it said, was not a fruit juice in the meaning of the definitions adopted by the Group of Experts as guidelines for the terminology of these products (see ALINORM 78/14, paragraphs 45-47).

398. In addition, the delegation of Switzerland reserved its position on the maximum permitted addition of sugars (200 g/kg) which, it said, was too high. Several other delegations supported this statement.

399. The delegation of India asked for clarification of the Group of Experts' decision to permit the presence of 10 mg/kg of sulphur dioxide as a contaminant in the product, and expressed concern over the effect this would have on canned juices. In reply, the Chairman of the Group of Experts explained that unavoidable yeast activity can reduce naturally present sulphates to sulphites and that the level listed under “Contaminants” took due regard of this activity.

Status of the Draft Standard for Blackcurrant Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

400. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended International Standard, the Draft Standard for Blackcurrant Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards taking into account the amendment detailed above.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Concentrated Blackcurrant Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

401. The Commission adopted at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards the Draft Standard for Concentrated Blackcurrant Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Pulpy Nectars of Certain Small Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

402. In introducing this draft standard, the Chairman of the Group of Experts noted that this was a group standard, encompassing a number of individual products. For this reason it was

not possible to specify a maximum ascorbic acid concentration as had been requested by the Governments of Poland and Sweden, as a number of the fruits had a considerable content of ascorbic acid naturally present whereas others required its addition. He noted that the Committee on Food Additives had endorsed this view.

403. In referring to the comment of Sweden, requesting only the optional addition of sugars, the Chairman of the Group of Experts, supported by the representative of the EEC, stated that this could lead to the manufacture and sale of diluted fruit juices under the name “nectars” and that this would not be in the best interests of the consumer.

Status of the Draft Standard for Pulpy Nectars of Certain Small Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

404. The Commission made no changes to the Draft Standard for Pulpy Nectars of Certain Small Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means and adopted it at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Nectars of Certain Citrus Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means

405. The Commission advanced to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure the Proposed Draft Standard for Nectars of Certain Citrus Fruits Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means.

Amendment to the Step 9 Codex Standards for Fruit Nectars

406. The Group of Experts, in considering the Draft Standard for Pulpy Nectars of Certain Small Fruits, agreed that as water was an essential ingredient in fruit nectars, whether prepared from concentrated or single strength juices, it should be declared in the list of ingredients (see paragraph 66 of ALINORM 79/14). In adopting this draft standard the Commission agreed to make the following consequential amendment in the sections dealing with the listing of ingredients in the Step 9 Standards for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars and Non-Pulpy Blackcurrant Nectar:

“A complete list of ingredients, including added water, shall be declared in descending order of proportion”.

Future Work of the Group of Experts

407. In noting the interest of developing countries in the work of the Group of Experts, its Chairman drew attention to the work being undertaken on juices and nectars of tropical fruits. He invited developing countries to forward information on tropical fruit juices and nectars to the Group of Experts in cases where it might be profitable to develop standards for them. The delegations of the People's Republic of Benin and Senegal offered to do so and made special reference to the juice of the cashew-apple or anacarde.

408. The delegation of Tanzania drew the Commission's attention to the difficulties of obtaining the methods of analysis for fruit juices referred to in the Codex Standards and suggested that the detailed methods might be published in one volume.

409. The Commission noted that the delegation of Mexico undertook to submit first drafts of standards for guava nectar to the Fourteenth Session of the Group of Experts for its consideration. The delegation of India referred to its previous offer made at the Second Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, to assist in the development of these standards.

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

410. The commission had before it the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Group of Experts, as contained in ALINORM 79/25 (with corrigenda to the English version). In the absence of the Chairman of the Group of Experts, the Report was introduced by the representative of the UN/ECE Secretariat.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Broccoli at Step 8

411. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Broccoli at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. In doing so, it noted that in this, as in the other draft standards for quick frozen foods, the provisions concerning sampling required further consideration in the light of government comments in reply to Circular Letter 79/18 and guidance from the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Cauliflower at Step 8

412. The Commission adopted at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Cauliflower, taking into account the editorial amendment proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany in ALINORM 79/37-Part 3, ADD.1.

413. The Commission also noted the decision of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to bring the labelling provisions of this standard into line with its general decision not to include processing aids in the list of ingredients (ALINORM 79/22A, paragraph 71).

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Brussels Sprouts at Step 8

414. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Brussels Sprouts together with the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom in ALINORM 79/37-Part 3, ADD.1 at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. A small correction to the French text of the Standard was noted.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Green Beans and Quick Frozen Wax Beans at Step 8

415. The Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Green Beans and Quick Frozen Wax Beans, together with the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom in ALINORM 79/37-Part 3, ADD.1 which corrected an oversight in the report, was adopted by the Commission at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The delegation of France suggested that the attention of the Group of Experts be drawn to the use of the “mangetout” variety of beans, and that the Standard should eventually be amended.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen French Fried Potatoes

416. In considering the adoption of this Standard, the Commission heard the objections of a number of delegations supporting the written comments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland concerning the provisions on food additives and processing aids. They noted that certain of these substances were not used by their respective potato-processing industries and, in their opinion, may not therefore be considered as technologically justified. Other delegations referred to the decisions of the Group of Experts to include these substances having heard similar objections, and of the Committee on Food Additives to endorse them. The Commission referred to its earlier decision (paragraph 378, of this Report) to request the Committee on Food Additives to reconsider its approach on the justification for the use of food additives and processing aids.

417. The Commission amended 6.1.1 of the draft standard to read as follows:

“The name of the food as declared on the label shall include the designation “French Fried Potatoes” or the equivalent designation used in the country in which the product is intended to be sold.”

418. In taking this decision, the Commission referred to paragraph 63 of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 79/35) and made the point that the wide variety of traditional names used for this product constituted an exceptional case; the restriction of the name of the food to only one recognized term could adversely affect the acceptance of the standard.

Status of the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen French Fried Potatoes

419. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Fried Potatoes at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

420. The delegation of Mexico reserved its position with regard to the food additives section of the Standard.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standards for Quick Frozen Whole Kernel Corn and Quick Frozen Carrots at Step 5

421. The Commission advanced both of these proposed draft standards to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure. The Commission drew the attention of the Group of Experts to the decision of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling with respect to linguistic difficulties in the use of the term “baby carrots” (see ALINORM 79/22A, paragraph 49).

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

422. The Commission had before it the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 79/26). Dr. E. Hufnagel acted as Rapporteur on behalf of Dr. H. Drews, Chairman of the Committee. Dr. Hufnagel gave a brief account of the work currently undertaken by the Committee.

Consideration of Draft Standard for “Gluten-free” Foods at Step 8

423. In introducing the Standard (Appendix II of ALINORM 79/26) the Rapporteur explained that the definition “gluten-free” was closely linked to the establishment of a maximum level for residual nitrogen related to the gluten-containing cereal grains used in the product. The level of 0.05% had been found not to affect persons intolerant to gluten.

424. The delegation of the United Kingdom, referring to its written proposed amendments to sections 2.2.2 and 4.2.2 of the Standard (ALINORM 79/37-Part I), pointed out that their experts had expressed doubts as to the actual figure of residual nitrogen and, generally, to the feasibility to base the standard on residual nitrogen at all. In the United Kingdom, products with a higher residual nitrogen content had been successfully marketed. Furthermore, the standard should eventually be based on biochemical and immuno-chemical methods on which research was being carried out in the United Kingdom. Several delegations supported the view that the Standard should take into account alternative methods.

425. The Commission agreed that the Standard be adopted in its present form but to recommend to the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses to consider amendments to the Standard if and when the scientific evidence become available.

Status of the Draft Standard for “Gluten-free” Foods

426. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended Standard, the Draft Standard for “glutenfree” Foods at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards.

Consideration of Proposed Draft General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses at Step 5

427. The Rapporteur introduced the Standard (ALINORM 79/26-ADD.I) and pointed out that governments would be requested to comment on a definition on medical foods as a new category, in connection with this Standard.

428. The Commission was informed that the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Labelling had examined the Standard with the view to endorsement and had made amendments to certain sections concerning definitions and additional requirements. These amendments were contained in paragraphs 114–115 and Appendix III to ALINORM 79/22.

429. With regard to technical comments made by the delegation of India and the observer of the EEC, it was suggested that these comments should be submitted to the next Session of the Committee.

Status of the Proposed Draft General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims on Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses

430. The Commission decided to advance the Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

431. The Secretariat was requested to ensure that the amendments made by the Committee on Labelling be submitted to governments, in conjunction with the request for comments on the Standard at Step 6 of the Procedure.

Advisory Lists of Mineral Salts and Vitamin Compounds for Use in Foods for Infants and Children

432. The Commission noted that at the Eleventh Session of the Committee, an ad hoc Working Group had finalized advisory lists of mineral salts and vitamin compounds for use in foods for infants and children (Appendix III to ALINORM 79/26). The Committee had agreed that these lists were of an advisory nature.

433. The Chairman of the Working Group, Dr. R. Weik (United States) informed the Commission of the Committee's decision to recommend to the Commission that the lists, as contained in Annexes I and II to Appendix III, be attached to Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children.

434. The Chairman of the Working Group indicated that in case the Commission could agree to appending the lists to the Standards, consequential editorial amendments would have to be made to the Step 9 Standards for infant formula, canned baby foods and processed cereal-based foods. The proposed wording for such amendments was also contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 79/26.

435. Attention was drawn to the set of criteria for amendment of the advisory lists in paragraph 3(i) of Appendix III. The view was expressed that the existing criteria did not cover properly purity requirements and were, therefore, not sufficient to safeguard the quality of the food and to protect the health of the consumer. The Chairman of the Working Group proposed the introduction of a new paragraph 3(i)d, to read as follows:

“The purity requirements for the mineral salt (vitamin compound) are established in an internationally recognized specification”.

He pointed out that as a consequence, a single column entitled “purity requirements” could substitute the three columns presently contained in the list on mineral salts to align its format to that of the list of vitamin compounds.

436. The Chairman of the Working Group stated that in accordance with the above amendment, it was possible to include ferric ammonium citrate in the list of mineral salts as requested by the United Kingdom (paragraph 3, page 11–12 of ALINORM 79/21). The technological information given by the United Kingdom provided adequate justification for such a decision.

437. The Chairman of the Working Group further referred to a proposal by Switzerland (paragraph 4, page 12–13 of ALINORM 79/21) to provide for the use of special vitamin forms in all Standards of foods for infants and children. It was proposed that this might be done by means of a Step 9 amendment in connection with the provision relating to the carryover principle in the Standard for Infant Formula. The Chairman recommended that the matter be considered by the Committee at its next Session.

438. The Commission decided (a) to append the advisory lists of mineral salts and vitamin-compounds as amended to the Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children; (b) to authorize amendments to Step 9 Standards proposed in paragraph 9 of Appendix III which were of consequential and editorial nature.

439. The Commission agreed to refer to the Committee consideration of the amendment of the Standard for Infant Formula proposed by Switzerland, to allow for the use of special vitamin forms in products covered by the Standard.

Code of Ethics on the Marketing and Advertizing of Infant Foods

440. The Chairman drew the attention of the Commission to the discussions of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Executive Committee and the Sixth Session of the Committee on General Principles concerning this matter.

441. In introducing this agenda item, the representative of WHO made reference to the request by the Executive Committee (ALINORM 79/3, paragraph 78) that there should be a report to the Commission on the Joint WHO/UNICEF meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding, held in Geneva 9–12 October 1979. It was pointed out that the meeting was held as part of the two Organizations' on-going programme of promotion of breastfeeding and improvement of infant and young child nutrition.

442. The WHO representative drew the attention of the Commission to two paragraphs in the document “WHO Features”, October 1979, No.49, which the Commission had before it, dealing with the October meeting. The Commission was informed that the Joint WHO/UNICEF meeting had recommended that governments should adopt the recommended international standards covering foods for infants and young children developed by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Commission also noted that the Joint

WHO/UNICEF meeting had requested WHO and UNICEF to organize the process for the preparation, with the involvement of all concerned parties, of an international code of marketing of infant formula and other products used as breastmilk substitutes.

443. The WHO representative further stated that WHO/UNICEF were proceeding by means of consultants of a small working group to develop the first draft of such a code and that the Director-General of WHO would report to the World Health Assembly in May, on this matter.

444. The Secretary of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition informed the Commission that the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition had considered, at its Fifth Session in February 1979, a request by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses to prepare a first draft of a Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertising of Infant Foods. The Sub-Committee concurred with the need for such a code, but decided that this should be pursued once the recommendations of the WHO/UNICEF Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding were available. The WHO/UNICEF Meeting which included representatives of industry, governments, NGOs and UN agencies took place in October 1979. Amongst its recommendations were the following statements:

“There should be no sales promotion, including promotional advertising to the public of products to be used as breastmilk substitutes or bottle-fed supplements and feeding bottles. Promotion to health personnel should be restricted to factual and ethical information.”

“There should be an international code of marketing of infant formula and other products used as breastmilk substitutes. This should be supported by both exporting and importing countries and observed by all manufacturers. WHO/UNICEF are requested to organize the process for its preparation, with the involvement of all concerned parties, in order to reach a conclusion as soon as possible.”

445. At a subsequent meeting among representatives of the nutrition units, WHO, UNICEF and FAO, it had been decided that the former two agencies would utilize a working group/ consultants to prepare a first draft of the code to be ready for the World Health Assembly in May 1980. It was anticipated that this might take the form of principles which might then be adapted to Codex requirements.

446. During the discussion of this matter a number of delegations, as well as the observer of the International Secretariat for the Industries of Dietetic Food Products, expressed satisfaction that a Code was being drafted by WHO and UNICEF on this matter which they felt to be of great importance. However, they expressed the view strongly that the draft Code, as soon as available, should be submitted to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and, subsequently, to the Commission for their review and elaboration as a Codex Code.¹

447. The Coordinator for Africa stated that at the last Session of the Coordinating Committee, a discussion was held on the Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food, which

included a section on infant foods. He stated that such Codes were a necessary part of ensuring consumer protection.

448. The delegation of Thailand, while fully supporting the development of a Code on Infant Foods wished to make it very clear that the availability of such a Code would not solve the complex malnutrition problems prevalent in many developing countries. The delegation of Kenya stressed the need for urgency in developing the Code as some of the infant foods were being offered and advertized in their countries in an unsatisfactory manner, resulting in the misleading of the consumer. It was stated that governments should take the necessary steps to bring their national legislation into conformity with such Codes.

449. In response to a question on how to proceed, the Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme stated that the views of the Commission could be drawn to the attention of UNICEF, WHO and the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition concerning the proposed Code. He further indicated that the Code being developed by WHO and UNICEF would probably be submitted to the World Health Assembly in May 1980 and, therefore, copies of the Code could be available for the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses at its next Session, September 1980, for examination, if appropriate, as to its suitability for Codex purposes.

450. The Commission reiterated its wish that a Code of Ethics on the Marketing and Advertizing of Infant Foods be developed as soon as possible. The Commission noted the intention of WHO and UNICEF to prepare a first draft of such a Code. The Commission requested that the Code be made available to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and to the Commission, at the earliest possible time. The Commission further stated that it considered its procedures as being ideally suited for the elaboration of international Codes of this nature, in particular the possibility for Members of the Commission to report on the utilization of such Codes in their countries.

451. The Commission requested the Codex Secretariat to draw the discussion of this item to the attention of the appropriate authorities of WHO, UNICEF and the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. The Commission confirmed the content of the footnote to section 5.9 of the Code of Ethics which had been agreed to earlier in the Session (see paragraph 120 of this Report).

Confirmation of Chairmanship

452. 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.

¹ Subsequent to the adoption of this Report, the observer from the International Secretariat for the Industries of Dietetic Food Products indicated that he would have preferred to see his Organization's views on this topic expressed in the following way:-

"The observer from the International Secretariat for the Industries of Dietetic Food Products expressed satisfaction with the idea that a Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertizing of infant formula and other products used as breastmilk substitutes should be elaborated. He expressed the view strongly that the draft Code should, as soon as available, be submitted to the Codex

Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and subsequently to the Commission for review and possible elaboration as a Codex Code”.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY

PRODUCTS

453. The Danish delegation announced the appointment of Mrs. Anne Brincker as the new Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products, who acted as Rapporteur.

454. The Commission had before it the Report of the Tenth (1978) Session of the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products as contained in ALINORM 79/16 and document ALINORM 79/37-Part 9(PMPP) containing proposed amendments by Australia to Annex B, entitled “Preservation of Meat Products Heat Treated Prior to Packaging” to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products at Step 8.

Consideration of Annex B entitled “Preservation of Meat Products, Heat Treated Prior to Packaging” to Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice of Processed Meat and Poultry Products at Step 8

455. The Rapporteur reviewed briefly the history of the document before the Commission (ALINORM 79/16, Appendix II) and proposed that the amendment proposed by Australia, which was considered not to be of a substantive nature, be accepted. This would bring the provisions of Annex B into line with the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat (CAC/RCP 11-1976).

456. Delegations of Italy and India raised objections which were of a procedural nature.

457. The Commission recognized that the proposed amendment was not of substantive nature and accepted it for inclusion in Annex B.

Status of the Draft Annex B

458. The Commission adopted the amended Annex B, entitled “Preservation of Meat Products Heat Treated Prior to Packaging” as an Annex to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Sampling and Inspection Procedures for Microbiological Examination of Processed Meat Products at Step 5 (ALINORM 79/16, Appendix III)

459. The Commission was informed that the above procedure would be harmonized with the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Acid and Acidified Low Acid Canned Foods.

460. The delegation of France suggested that under A(f), it would be preferable to provide alternative time-temperature combinations, that would be required for incubation.

Status of the Draft Code

461. The Commission advanced the Code to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee

462. The Committee had proposed to initiate the amendment of Step 9 Standards for Cooked Cured Ham, Cooked Cured Pork Shoulder, Luncheon Meat and Cooked Cured Chopped Meat in relation to date-marking and storage instructions (ALINORM 79/16, paragraphs 77–80). Since the guidelines on date-marking were being further elaborated, it was considered premature for the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products to amend the Step 9 Standards at this stage (ALINORM 79/22A, paragraph 90).

463. The Commission agreed that the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products could undertake the elaboration of a Code of Hygienic Practice for Dry and Semi-Dry Sausages (ALINORM 79/16, paragraph 30) and noted that data on International Trade were being collected. The delegation of Senegal pointed out that such a Code should also cover products prepared from other types of meat, than pork meat.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

464. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Denmark.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

465. The Commission had before it the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 79/10). Dr. E. Matthey, Chairman of the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of Amendments at Step 5 to the Recommended International Standard for Chocolate

466. The Commission had before it Appendix II of ALINORM 79/10 containing the Recommended International Standard as amended to include Flavoured Chocolate which had been examined and amended by the Committee at its Thirteenth Session. The Committee had decided to advance the Standard to Step 5 of the Procedure with a recommendation to the Commission that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted.

467. The Commission noted the comments of the observer of the EEC who proposed that subsection 4.3 Flavouring Agents, should be amended so that in 4.3.1 “Natural Flavours”, (b) referred to products described under 2.2; and in 4.3.2 and 4.3.3, “Vanillin and Ethyl Vanillin”, (a) referred to the product described under 2.1 and 2.2.

468. The Commission noted that in the opinion of the Rapporteur, Vanillin and Ethyl Vanillin could be used not only in small quantities to balance flavour but also as a flavouring agent per se. It was agreed to amend this sub-section so that 4.3.1 (a) referred to both products described under 2.1 and 2.2.

469. The Commission also agreed to amend the French text of 7.1.15 to bring it into line with a decision taken at the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 79/22A, paragraph 79).

470. The Commission noted the views of the observer from the EEC, who was of the opinion that the country of origin should not be declared, except where its omission would mislead the consumer.

Status of the amended Recommended International Standard for Chocolate

471. The Commission agreed to adopt the Recommended International Standard for Chocolate as amended, at Step 8 of the Procedure with omission of Steps 6 and 7.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate at Step 5 of the Procedure

472. The Rapporteur referred to the Report of the Thirteenth Session where the proposed Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate had undergone extensive revision (paragraphs 14–32 and Appendix III).

473. The Commission was again informed by the delegation of Japan, as stated at the Eleventh Session of the Commission, that the Standard for Chocolate excluded a product containing 30% cocoa solids and 10/12% milk solids which had been produced and consumed on a rather large scale for the past several decades. The delegation of Japan expressed the hope that the amended Standard for Chocolate could be so further amended in future, by introducing a labelling provision similar to that of the Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate, which provided in sub-section 7.1.1.5, that the Japanese type of milk chocolate would be designated as a chocolate, with adequate words, instead of a blend of chocolate.

474. The Rapporteur reminded the Commission that the subject had been discussed at the Twelfth Session of the Committee (ALINORM 78/10, paragraphs 46 and 47) and that sub-section 3.1.2 of the Composite Chocolate Standard had been amended to take account of the product.

475. The delegation of Canada stated that in its opinion, the quantity of ingredients in composite chocolate and the quantity of coating in filled chocolate were proprietary matters and that because part of the cocoa fat in composite chocolate was replaced by vegetable oil the use of the term chocolate in the sense of composite chocolate was not allowed in Canada.

476. The delegation of the Ivory Coast, supported by the delegation of Togo, Brazil and Senegal, was of the opinion that the provision for the addition of up to 5% of other edible fat in composite chocolate was detrimental to the interests of producing countries and was not in line with the definition of chocolate in sub-sections 2.1.1–2.1.10 of the Chocolate Standard. The delegations of Togo, Brazil and the Ivory Coast were further of the opinion that the declaration of the expiry date should be mandatory.

477. The observer of the EEC suggested amendments concerning sections 2.1, 2.2, 3.1.2, 3.2.1 and 7.1 which should be examined when the Standard was further considered by the Committee.

478. After some further discussion, the Commission agreed to maintain the present provisions of the Standard for further comments by governments and examination at the next Session of the Committee.

Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate

479. The Commission decided to advance the proposed Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for [White Chocolate]

480. The Commission noted that at the previous Session of the Commission, there had been considerable discussion of the name of this product.

481. The delegation of the Ivory Coast, supported by the delegation of Togo, Brazil, Egypt, India and Kenya were of the opinion that the term “white chocolate” was in contradiction to the definitions of chocolate given in the Chocolate Standard and that such a term should not be used for a product which had neither the required colour nor the cocoa solids content of traditional chocolate products.

482. The Commission was informed that in certain countries the name was one which had come about by popular use rather than by legal enactment and that the product covered by the proposed Standard in fact contained more chocolate component than some types of milk chocolate. The proposed Standard also protected producing countries against the danger of substitute products coming into the market. The delegation of Togo, anxious to encourage the production of cocoa, expressed the wish that the Committee take account, in future, of the effect of the elaboration of Standards on the economies of countries and, thus, orientate its work towards the elimination of substitute products.

483. The Commission was informed that the product was widely consumed under a variety of designations and was important to the economies of some countries. It was recognized that there might be difficulties in the international use of such a term as “White Chocolate”. It was agreed, therefore, that this subject should be fully set out in a circular letter to be sent by the Codex Secretariat to all Member Governments and that the subject should be fully discussed in the light of government comments at the next Session of the Committee.

Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for [White Chocolate]

484. The Commission decided to advance the Proposed Draft Standard for [White Chocolate] to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Matters Arising from the Thirteenth Report of the Committee International Cocoa Standards and Model Ordinance and Code of Practice

485. The Commission noted that because the Working Party on Grading of the Study Group on Cocoa had not met since its Third Session in 1969 and had no plans to meet in the foreseeable future, it had not been possible for the Committee to continue its work on the Draft Standard for Cocoa Beans, Cocoa Nibs, Cocoa Mass, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust for use in the Manufacture of Chocolate Products. The Draft Standard was at Step 7 and could not be completed until the Model Ordinance had been reviewed and brought up to date.

486. The Committee had considered whether a review of the Model Ordinance could be undertaken at its next Session by inviting specialists from the Commodities Division of FAO, other UN Organizations and from governments to assist in a re-examination of the Model Ordinance and Codes of Practice.

487. At that time, the representative of COPAL stated that he could not make any commitment on the part of the producing countries until he had the opportunity to consult with the Member Governments of his Organization.

488. The Commission was informed that in a communication to the Secretariat, dated July 1979, COPAL had not approved the proposal that the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice could be revised by the Committee and that:

“As a result COPAL requests as a matter of urgency that FAO continues this work and that it organizes, as soon as possible, another Session of the Working Party on Grading so that it can undertake the re-examination and revision of the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice as agreed at the Meeting which the Working Party held in Paris in May 1969”.

489. The Commission noted the observation of the delegation of Senegal that one of the problems that should come under review when the Model Ordinance and Code of Practice came under review was the effect of fermentation on the digestibility of cocoa. It recognized that until the Study Group reconvened, it was not possible to embark on any further work on

the Draft Standard. It agreed to make a recommendation to FAO that the Working Party on Grading of the Study Group on Cocoa should reconvene as soon as possible.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

490. 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.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

491. The Commission had before it the Revised Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes (Appendix I of ALINORM 79/11) which the Commission, at its Twelfth Session, had decided to hold at Step 8 of the Procedure, pending the revision of the Sections on Food Additives, Hygiene and Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

492. In introducing the item, Dr. G. Björkman (Sweden), Chairman of the Committee, informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Food Additives, at its Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions, had endorsed the use of food additives proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the commodity committee (paragraphs 61–76, ALINORM 79/12A). The revised section on food additives, now incorporated in the draft standard, only contained those food additives which had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Chairman of the Committee further informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had, at its Fourteenth Session, recommended that the guidelines for sampling and microbiological limits recommended by the Joint FAO/WHO Consultation on Microbiological Specifications for Foods should be included in the Standard provisionally until the guidelines had been reconsidered by the Consultation. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had decided that in view of the somewhat restricted international trade in edible ices, the elaboration of a code of hygienic practice should be postponed (paragraphs 66–67, ALINORM 79/13A).

493. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, at its Twelfth Session, had endorsed the section on labelling but had agreed that the question of date-marking should be re-examined in the light of more experience gained in relation to date-marking (paragraphs 39–41, ALINORM 78/22).

494. The Commission noted that the section on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the elaboration of which had been entrusted to an IDF/ISO/AOAC Working Group, had not yet been completed. It was expected that the section on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would be completed by the above Group and endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling during early 1981. The Chairman of the Committee, therefore, concluded that the standard, in his opinion, could now be adopted at Step 8 by the Commission.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes

495. The delegation of Ireland reiterated the view of that country that there was a need to include a product containing a minimum milk fat requirement of 5% in product grouping 3 of the above Standard (see paragraph 32, ALINORM 78/22 and paragraph 4.1.4, ALINORM 78/41). That delegation indicated that Ireland was one of the highest per caput consuming countries of edible ices and that the proposed amendment was necessary to take into account consumer preference in that country. Should the inclusion of such a category prove to be unacceptable, Ireland would not be able to accept the Standard. The delegation of Ireland did not, however, wish to hold up the advancement of the Standard.

496. The delegations of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland indicated similar misgivings to those expressed by the delegation of Ireland, but agreed with the delegation of Ireland that there was no need to hold up the advancement of the Standard in the Codex Procedure. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany pointed out that the use of fat of plant (vegetable) origin was not permitted for the production of edible ices in their country.

497. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that the list of food additives provided for in the Standard was too extensive and, furthermore, objected to the use of synthetic colours in the preparation of edible ices. In addition, that delegation expressed the opinion that the maximum levels indicated for food additives in the Standard were unnecessarily high.

498. The delegation of Sweden pointed out that considerable care had been taken in drawing up the list of food additives, both by the Commodity Committee itself and the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The list of food additives included in the Standard represented a compromise which took into account the need for a comprehensive list of additives in an international standard covering such a wide range of products and the desire to restrict the use of food additives to the greatest extent possible.

499. On the suggestion of the Secretariat, the Commission decided that the amendment proposed by the delegation of Ireland should be submitted to governments for comments. On the basis of comments received, it would then be possible to determine what further action would be needed in connection with the possible amendment of section 3.3 of the Standard. As regards the section on Food Additives, the Codex Committee on Food Additives should be requested to make another attempt at reconciling the diverging views as outlined above.

Status of the Draft Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes

500. The Commission decided to hold the Standard for Edible Ices and Ice Mixes at Step 8 of the Procedure. It agreed to reconsider the Standard, including the amendment proposed by Ireland, at its next Session in the light of government comments and the conclusions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

501. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Edible Ices and Ice Mixes should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Sweden. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS

502. The Commission noted that the Committee had adjourned sine die. The Codex Secretariat had continued with work resulting from the Twelfth Session of the Commission concerning hydrolyzed proteins and the Standard for Soups and Broths. Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland) acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés at Step 8

503. In introducing the item, the Rapporteur recalled that the Twelfth Session of the Commission had held the Standard in abeyance at Step 8 to afford governments an opportunity to comment on the food additive provisions in particular and to allow for consideration and endorsement of the relevant provisions by General Subject Committees.

504. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the Standard had been revised in the light of the endorsements and that the revised text was contained in Appendix I to ALINORM 79/33. The Committee on Methods of Analysis had not yet been able to endorse the methods of analysis contained in the Standard and it was, therefore, proposed to append them to the Standard at a later time.

Status of the Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés

505. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended Standard, the Draft Standard for Bouillons and Consommés at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Codex Standards. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reserved its position with regard to the large number of food additives listed in the Standard.

Consideration of Need for a Standard for Hydrolyzed Proteins

506. The Rapporteur drew the attention of the Commission to discussions at the Twelfth Session of the Commission concerning hydrolyzed proteins in connection with both the work of the Committee on Soups and Broths (ALINORM 79/39) and the Committee on Vegetable Proteins (ALINORM 78/32). The Executive Committee had discussed the matter at its Twentyfifth Session (paragraph 49 of ALINORM 79/3). Governments had been invited to express their views on the need for standards for hydrolyzed proteins and on the subsidiary body to undertake the work. Government replies, which had been summarized in ALINORM 79/36 were, in the majority, in favour of establishing a standard for hydrolyzed proteins and for the Committee on Soups and Broths to undertake this work.

507. Several delegations stated that, while they were not opposing the elaboration of a standard for hydrolyzed proteins, low priority should be given to this work which did not justify another meeting of the Committee on Soups and Broths. It was proposed to either defer commencement, or to initiate the elaboration of a standard for hydrolyzed protein, by correspondence following the example of the standard for fructose which had been developed in such a way.

508. The Commission agreed with the conclusion of the Chairman that a standard for hydrolyzed proteins was not of high priority. However, it was agreed that the Swiss Secretariat should prepare, perhaps in cooperation with the International Hydrolyzed Protein Council (IHPC), a working paper and a first draft of a standard for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next Session. Governments should be invited to comment on the first draft of a standard for hydrolyzed proteins and the next Session of the Commission should consider the matter in the light of these government comments. The delegation of Canada reserved its position with respect to the elaboration of a standard for hydrolyzed proteins because of the low priority associated with this subject.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

509. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue 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

510. The Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee of the “Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products” was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. T.L. Hall (New Zealand). (Document CX 5/70-19th). He informed the Commission that the Committee had no specific questions to refer to the Commission and gave an outline of the main work achievements of the Nineteenth Session, which had been conducted in the spirit of the Commission's conclusions at its last Session, that the Committee of Government Experts should endeavour to complete its work programme and adjourn sine die.

511. Mr. Hall reported that work had been completed on re-drafts of the General Standard for Cheese A.6. and for the three standards that related to processed cheese, namely General Standard A.8.(A) for “Named Variety Process Cheese and Spreadable Process Cheese”, General Standard A.8.(B) for “Process Cheese and Spreadable Process Cheese” and General Standard A.8.(C) for “Process Cheese Preparations, Processed Cheese Food and Process Cheese Spread”. With final work completed on these standards, the Committee had agreed that they should be submitted to governments for acceptance.

512. The Committee had completed its work on the establishment of the standard for “Extra-hard Grating Cheese” (Standard C.35) and had submitted it to governments for acceptance.

513. In the case of “Individual International Cheese Standards” on which work had not been started, the Committee had studied a list of applications. Having finished, however, its work on the re-draft of the General Standard for Cheese, the Committee had decided to take no further action on the remaining applications for the present time.

514. “Co-precipitated Edible Casein” was another Standard considered by the Committee. On being informed that this product was not of great significance in world trade, it had decided that setting up of a standard should be postponed.

515. With regard to the “Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk” the Committee had considered that the Code should be referred for further development to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene but had expressed a wish to have the opportunity to review the Code before it was finalized.

516. The question of standards for “Imitation Milks” had been briefly studied. The Committee, in agreement with the Commission's recommendation, did not embark on standards for these products.

517. On the subject of “Methods of Sampling and Methods of Analysis” the Committee had received a report from representatives of IDF/ISO/AOAC of their work done in this field. The Committee had noted that thirty joint expert group meetings of the three Organizations had been engaged in this work and that results were being followed up. Mr. Hall indicated that the Committee was impressed with the excellent work carried out by IDF/ISO/AOAC in the field of analysis and sampling.

518. The Committee of Government of Experts had noted that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils had under preparation a standard for low fat spreads, based on fats not mainly derived from milk. The Committee had agreed that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils should continue to carry out this work except for standards where the fat content was solely derived from milk.

519. Mr. Hall, in referring to the future work of the Committee noted that in the programme for Codex work for 1981, the Commission had made provision for a further meeting of the Committee after which it would be adjourned sine die. This was in line with the Committee's wish and would allow it to complete, before adjourning sine die, the balance of urgent unfinished work on its Programme. It would also meet the Committee's wish to study a clearly defined method for reactivating the Committee when this is considered necessary.

520. The Commission expressed its appreciation to Mr. Hall for the above detailed presentation of the salient features of the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Milk Committee.

521. The Commission took note of the Report of the Committee of Government Experts and its decision to complete its work programme following its Twentieth Session. It expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Mr. T.L. Hall and to the Committee of Government Experts as well as to IDF, ISO and AOAC, for their work in the field of standardization of milk and milk products.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

522. The Commission was informed by Mr. F.S. Anderson (United Kingdom), who acted as Rapporteur, that the Committee had adjourned sine die. However, work had continued on methods of analysis and on the revision of lead levels in sugars.

523. The Rapporteur recalled that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had not been able to endorse the maximum level for lead in the standard for fructose and had referred the question of lead levels in sugars back to the Codex Committee on Sugars for further consideration. The United Kingdom Secretariat had requested governments to comment on a proposed level of 1 mg/kg. In the light of comments received, the Secretariat had prepared a working paper, ALINORM 79/27, Part A, recommending to the Commission to reach agreement on a level of 1 mg/kg for inclusion in all sugar standards with the exception of fructose where 0.5 mg/kg might be acceptable. The revised maximum levels for lead would have to be endorsed by the Committee on Food Additives.

524. Several delegations stated that they could agree with a reduction of lead maximum levels in sugars, but some of these delegations found that the recommended maximum level was too high. The delegation of the United States informed the Commission that the present method for the determination of lead in sugars was not sufficiently sensitive to detect lead at levels below 2 mg/kg and suggested awaiting the development of a better method before embarking on a revision of the actual figures for lead maximum levels.

525. The view was expressed that the Commission should not consider these technical matters and that they should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

526. The Commission concluded by submitting the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of ALINORM 79/27 to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement and agreed to draw that Committee's attention to the view expressed by the United States, with regard to appropriate methods of analysis. After the Codex Committee on Food Additives had finalized its work, appropriate amendments to Step 9 Standards could be proposed.

527. The delegation of Austria drew attention to a typing error in paragraph 4 of ALINORM 79/27, indicating that Austria had proposed a maximum level of 0.5 mg/mg for fructose.

528. The Rapporteur referred to Part B of ALINORM 79/27 which contained a Progress Report on Methods of Analysis for Sugars. Since the work on the revision of these methods had not yet been completed, the United Kingdom Secretariat had not been able to finalize a

working paper for consideration by governments. It was hoped, however, that the paper could be distributed in the course of the next year.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

529. 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. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS AND CEREAL PRODUCTS

530. The delegation of the United States informed the Commission that the First Session of the Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products was scheduled to be held in March 1980 in Washington.

531. It was pointed out that in view of the worldwide importance of cereals and cereal products, invitations, agenda and working papers for the meeting should be distributed as soon as possible.

532. The delegation of Australia, drew attention to the terms of reference of the Committee and expressed the view that the work of the Committee should proceed in due cognizance of the view of the Programme Committee and Council of FAO that the Commission should continue to concentrate on standards for finished products rather than for raw materials.

533. The Chief of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme referred to the discussions of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Executive Committee where consideration had been given to the programme of work of the Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products (paragraph 43–46 of ALINORM 79/3). He also recalled the views of the Programme Committee and Council of FAO that priority should be given in the programme of work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to standards for products going direct to the consumer and that the work of other international organizations should be taken into account. The Committee would, at its First Session, examine its terms of reference as instructed by the Twelfth Session of the Commission and determine its programme of work. In reporting back to the next Session of the Commission, the Committee could ask the Commission for further guidance, if that was necessary.

534. The Chairman concluded that the Committee should take fully into account the reports of the Executive Committee, the FAO Programme Committee and Council and work already undertaken by other Organizations.

535. The Commission confirmed its decision, taken while discussing the work of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, to submit the Draft African Regional Standard for Maize at Step 5 to the Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products. The Commission agreed that the Committee should consider the text of the standard with a view to its worldwide applicability

and would request government comments at the appropriate Step of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards (see also paragraph 253 of this Report).

Chairmanship

536. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS

537. The Commission was informed that the First Meeting of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins would take place in Ottawa, 3–7 November 1980.

538. It noted the comments of Norway (LIM.1) which considered that the terms of reference of the Committee had not been finalized. The Commission recalled its views on this matter, as contained in paragraphs 491 and 492 of the Commission's Twelfth Session, and considered that the Committee could discuss its terms of reference at its first session. The Commission agreed that the comments of Norway should be provided to the Committee for discussion.

539. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Canada for its offer to host the Committee and, in accordance with Rule IX.10, confirmed the Chairmanship of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

540. 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. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

Confirmation of Chairmanship

541. 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. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

PART VIII

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF

FOODS AND RELATED MATTERS

542. The attention of the Commission was drawn to ALINORM 79/31, Parts I to VI, which contained the reports of certain other international organizations whose work on the standardization of food and other related subjects was of interest to the Commission. The organizations which informed the Commission of their activities in this regard were:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ALINORM 79/31, Part I);
International Organization for Standardization - Technical
Committee 34 (ISO TC/34) Agricultural
Food Products (ALINORM 79/31, Part II);

The Council of Europe (ALINORM 79/31, Part III);
Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ALINORM 79/31, Part IV);
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (ALINORM 79/31, Part V); and
European Economic Community (ALINORM 79/31, Part VI).

543. The representative of the EEC informed the Commission that in addition to the information provided in its report, the Community had recently adopted methods for the analysis of partially and totally dehydrated milks intended for human consumption and for extracts of coffee and chicory; whenever possible Codex methods had been used.

544. The delegation of Hungary, which was the host Government for ISO/TC 34 referred to the good cooperation between that Body and the Commission. The delegation drew attention to the fruitful interagency meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Codex, held in Budapest in July 1979 (see ALINORM 79/23, paragraphs 74–77). The representative of the ISO Secretariat referred to the statement of policy formulated between ISO and the Commission, by which ISO undertook not to elaborate standards for foodstuffs intended for direct human consumption. While noting that a problem might exist in regard to certain cereals which were used both as raw materials and for direct consumption, he assured the Commission that ISO would not duplicate Codex work.

545. The delegation of Norway requested further information on the activities of the UN/ECE, in relation to the standardization of poultry meat and fresh and chilled saltwater fish and noted, that in addition to the problem of coordination of views at the national level, there still remained a problem in regard to the harmonization of the work of the UN/ ECE and the Codex Commission.

546. In reply, the representative of the UN/ECE Secretariat drew the attention of the Commission to the decision of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce to establish a small group of rapporteurs which, together with the UN/ECE and Codex Secretariats, would prepare the first draft of a protocol which would specify the relationships between the two bodies when dealing with products of this type. He indicated that the Working Party had already decided to refer all matters on food additives and methods of analysis and sampling to the Commission and that it was understood that the Working Party would not be undertaking work which would in any way overlap in the areas of food hygiene, labelling or pesticide residues, these being recognized as being areas in which the Commission had competence. He emphasized that all Member Nations of the United Nations had the opportunity to participate in the work of the UN/ECE, either directly as UN/ECE Member Nations, or as observers under Article II of the UN/ECE's Terms of Reference. Similarly, all UN/ECE documentation was available to Member Nations through their permanent representatives or missions in Geneva. Finally, he spoke of the close working relationships between the UN/ECE and the Codex Secretariats by which the respective bodies were always kept informed of each others' activities.

547. In welcoming the closer coordination between the UN/ECE, ISO and itself, the Commission agreed with a statement made by the delegation of Australia pointing out that the Commission was the sole body within the United Nations system charged with the task of promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and that greater efforts were required if other organizations were to achieve harmonization with the work of the Commission.

Future Work

548. The Commission decided not to add to its work programme at this time.

Timetable of Codex Meetings for 1980/81

549. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 79/32 containing a provisional timetable of Codex meetings for the 1980/81 biennium. As had been indicated to the Commission during the discussions on the budget of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1980/81, the Codex Secretariat had proposed, for consideration by the Commission, a reduced number of Codex meetings in 1980/81 (see paragraph 25 of this Report).

550. The delegation of Uruguay proposed that the date suggested for the next Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America be advanced to, say, September 1980. The delegation of Mexico agreed with this proposal and suggested, in addition, that if it were not possible to hold the Session of the Coordinating Committee in 1980 consideration should be given to timing the meeting in conjunction with a meeting of COPANT to be held in Paraguay in May 1981.

551. The delegation of The Netherlands reiterated the importance which the Commission attached to annual meetings of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The delegation of The Netherlands noted that no provision had been made for meetings of these two Committees in 1981. The delegation considered that provision should be made for a meeting of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in 1981 before the Fourteenth Session of the Commission. In the case of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the delegation of The Netherlands stated that the meeting could be held in November/December 1981 or possibly at the beginning of 1982. The delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States of America supported the statement of the delegation of The Netherlands.

552. The delegation of India stated that, subject to confirmation by the authorities in India, it expected that it would be possible to hold the next Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia in India during 1981, probably not later than March of that year. The delegation of Senegal indicated that it expected that the next Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa would be held in Dakar, probably in April 1981. The delegation added that if the Codex Secretariat thought it necessary to advance the date of the meeting, it might be possible to arrange to hold it in January 1981, as proposed in document ALINORM 79/32. The delegation of Kenya stressed the importance of good and timely preparation for sessions of the Coordinating Committees, including good technical inputs.

553. The delegation of Austria proposed that the next Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be held in Innsbruck, Austria, instead of Geneva, especially taking into account the favourable financial conditions. The delegation of Norway noted that whilst there was provision for a meeting of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products in 1980, no provision had been made for a meeting of this Committee in 1981. The delegation recalled that the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products had indicated previously, during the present Session of the Commission, that a meeting of the Committee should be held in 1981 and stated that the matter should be discussed between the Codex Secretariat and the Norwegian authorities.

554. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that if work was to be undertaken on the development of a Code of Ethics for the Marketing and Advertizing of Infant Foods in the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, then a meeting of that Committee should be provided for in 1981. The delegation of the United States of America indicated that it thought it important to hold the Second Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products in 1981, in order to be able to report good progress in this area of work to the Fourteenth Session of the Commission.

555. The delegation of Canada stated that it saw no real need for a meeting of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths for the purpose of discussing the question of standards for hydrolyzed protein (see also paragraphs 506–508 of this Report). The delegation United States of America proposed that the date of the Thirteenth Session of the Joint ECE/ Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods, listed to be held in Rome from 20 to 24 October 1980, be advanced to 15–19 September 1980, as otherwise it

would clash with another meeting in this field and this might detract from attendance at the ECE/Codex meeting.

556. The Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme indicated that the proposals amounted to adding another five meetings to the 1981 list of meetings. He recalled the discussions concerning staffing difficulties in the Codex Secretariat and its ability to service satisfactorily Codex Sessions, as well as cope with a steadily growing workload. He pointed out that while the Commission had previously agreed that certain General Subject Committees, such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Food Additives should meet annually, it had also agreed that Codex Commodity Committees should meet once between Sessions of the Commission.

557. The Chief of the Programme referred also to the general policy of the governing bodies of FAO that the number of meetings should be reduced. Also, in order to ensure the despatch of documentation in good time before Sessions of the Commission in the languages of the Commission, it was necessary to leave a period of around five months between the last Session of a Codex Committee and the subsequent Session of the Commission. This was necessary to allow time for translation, printing and despatch of the documents.

558. The Chief of the Programme indicated that the request for additional meetings in 1981 would be placed on a supplementary list and discussed within FAO and WHO and with the Host Governments concerned. A report on the matter would be placed before the next Session of the Executive Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Communication from the Standards and Industrial

Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) Concerning a Resolution

Adopted at the Pacific Area Standards Conference (PASC) VI, Manila,

July 1979

559. The Commission had before it the text of a Resolution on the subject of alternative methods for the preparation of international standards which had been adopted at the abovementioned Conference. The Resolution had recommended, amongst other things, that international organizations, as for example, the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, consider the adoption of "Accelerated Procedures for Preparing International Standards". The text of the "Proposed Experimental Accelerated Procedures for the Adoption of Standards as International Standards" was also before the Commission. The text was a reproduction of an ISO document entitled "Annex to ISO/Council 1979 - 19.3/1"

560. The Commission requested the Codex Secretariat to look into the text of the document mentioned above for any thoughts or suggestions which might be useful in connection with the Commission's decision to consider how best to accelerate its own procedures for the development of Codex Standards.

VALEDICTION

561. The Codex Alimentarius Commission expressed its appreciation to the retiring Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland), for his leadership and guidance as Chairman and his long and active support of the Commission as a delegate over the years. The Commission gave Prof. Dr. Matthey a standing ovation.

562. The Commission also wished to place on record its appreciation of the excellent work and contribution to the implementation of the aims of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of Dr. D.G. Chapman (WHO) and Dr. L. Reinius (WHO), who would shortly be retiring. The Commission wished them many happy years of retirement.

APPENDIX I

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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* 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.

* Chairman
Président
Presidente

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF

FAO

Dr. RALPH W. PHILLIPS

FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Thirteenth Session

3–14 December, Plenary Hall, FAO
09.30 a.m. Monday, 3 December 1979

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to Rome, and to this Thirteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO.

Since your last session - Botswana - has become a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, bringing the current membership to 117 countries. This large membership indicates the sustained and, indeed, growing interest of the Member Nations of FAO and WHO in the work of the Commission. May I take this opportunity to welcome particularly those

representatives of members of the Commission who are participating in a session of the Commission for the first time.

Since the last session of the Commission Member Governments have continued to accept a steadily increasing number of the recommended Codex International Food Standards and the recommended Codex International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. From the documents before the Commission concerning acceptance and action taken or being taken by Governments in regard to these, you will see that some 60 countries have now communicated their acceptance of a number of the international standards, including international pesticide residue limits, with a view to giving effect to these through their food legislation and regulations.

Although acceptances continue to be received and are on the increase, more progress needs to be made in this area. I hope, therefore, that delegates will be able to provide, during this session, further information on developments in their countries regarding acceptances of the standards and the international maximum limits for pesticide residues.

Since your last session more international standards and additional maximum limits for pesticide residues have been elaborated and these are before your present session for adoption by the Commission. Most of these will, we hope, be approved for issue to Governments for acceptance and implementation in their national legislation and regulations.

The aims of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, namely the protection of consumers against possible health hazards in food and against commercial fraud, the ensuring of fair practices in the food trade, the promotion of the food industry and international trade by removing certain obstacles to trade in foods and stimulating opportunities to increase earnings from exports, are all matters of great interest to our Member Countries and are matters calling for the continuing support of FAO and WHO. Some aspects of these subjects were extensively discussed in the FAO Conference last week, resulting in an important Resolution being adopted on international trade. That Resolution contains recommendations requesting countries to refrain from introducing any new non-tariff barriers to the imports of agricultural products and stresses the importance of eliminating existing non-tariff barriers on tropical products and other commodities of export interest particularly to developing countries. Your Commission has, since its outset, endeavoured to solve some of these difficulties through the harmonization on an international level of requirements for foods in the health, compositional and safety areas.

The meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies provide worldwide and regional fora for discussions of these matters and for arriving at solutions that have a wide measure of general acceptability. The Commission's international standards and codes of practice, together with other recommendations in the health field, represent the endproduct of a considerable investment of scientific, technical and legal knowledge, intergovernmental negotiation, and consultation among the representatives of governments, consumers and industry. Due emphasis has been placed, in the GATT "Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade", on the contribution which international standardization can make

to the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries. In particular the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have been commended to signatories of the "Agreement" as important means of international harmonization to reduce technical barriers to trade in foods. Similarly, economic groupings such as the European Economic Community, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Latin American Free Trade Association, the Arab Standards and Metrology Organization, the African Regional Standards Organization, and various other bodies, are making use of Codex standards and recommendations at the regional or group-of-countries level for health and trade purposes.

The work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is, of course, for the benefit of all the Member Nations of FAO and WHO. Some Member Nations are, however, less well equipped than others to derive full benefit from the work of the Commission. These less well equipped countries need technical advice and assistance to enable them to strengthen their capabilities to ensure better food handling, control, quality and safety, and to implement, as far as feasible in their own circumstances, the Commission's recommendations. WHO, through its food safety activities, and FAO through its projects on food control and consumer protection, play a very important role in providing such assistance, which is complementary to and furthers the work of the Commission.

I do not propose, Mr. Chairman, to go into any detail regarding the important complementary activities of FAO and WHO, as during the course of the session you will be hearing about these and other activities of the two Organizations which have relevance for the work of the Commission. I would, however, like to refer to work accomplished since your last session in two main fields of activity which, I believe, are of particular interest to you, namely food safety and food quality control. The FAO/WHO International Food and Animal Feed Contaminants Monitoring Programme was expanded to cover more developing countries. First series of data were collected and reviewed at the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Programme. An FAO/WHO/UNEP International Conference on Mycotoxins was held. A number of manuals and guidelines were prepared on food inspection, on control of quality of foods for export, and on chemical and microbiological analysis of foods. Work on the safety evaluation of food additives and contaminants was continued by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. In consultation with WHO, a Consultation on Food Control Strategy was held by FAO which made recommendations on strengthening national food control systems, and on strategies for areas at different levels of development. Technical assistance in food quality control continued to receive emphasis, projects were instituted or continued in 19 countries, and needs were surveyed and assessed in a number of other countries. The projects included assistance in strengthening food legislation, establishing or strengthening laboratories, and introducing monitoring programmes to assess and control contamination in food supplies. National institutions from developing countries were utilized in carrying out several global or regional training activities.

Turning now to matters of general policy, it is particularly gratifying to note that the Commission is turning its attention more and more to the needs of developing countries. This is in accord with a recommendation of the FAO Conference in 1977 and is, in fact, a continuation of a trend that has been in evidence for several years. Also, it is a trend that has

been welcomed by the FAO Council and the Programme Committee, and by the World Health Assembly. These bodies have approved the policy and work orientation, and have agreed upon the need for assessment of the economic impact of international food standards. The FAO Council in particular stressed the value of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to all countries and, in view of the importance of this work within the overall context of nutritional improvement, food production and food trade, decided to follow general policy trends within the Commission. The 20th Session of the FAO Conference, which ended last week, also devoted time to consideration of food standards matters and the work of the Commission. You will be provided with extracts of the Report of the Conference and I anticipate that your Chairman, who attended the Session, will be reporting to you fully on the outcome of the Conference's deliberations.

Very encouraging developments have taken place regarding some of the Commission's regional activities since the last session of the Commission. The Coordinating Committee for Asia held its second session in March 1979 in Manila. That session was kindly hosted by the Government of the Philippines. The work of the Committee continued to make very good progress. As will be seen from its Report, the Committee had extensive discussions on how to promote the exports of the region and gave very careful attention to how best to serve the interests of the region in the development of food control, training and technical assistance and cooperation among the countries of the region. It drew up a comprehensive programme of future work and outlined its priorities.

The Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa was held in Dakar in September 1979 and was kindly hosted by the Government of Senegal. This Committee continues to make good progress in its work, particularly in advancing the use of the model food law in the region, in its review of food control facilities, and in elaborating standards for products of interest to the region, such as maize and other staple items.

A Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Latin America was held in September 1978, hosted by the Government of Mexico. This was the Third Regional Conference of its type. The previous two were Regional Conferences for Africa and Asia. This Conference was a great success. It was the first major intergovernmental conference in the region on matters relating to food legislation, control systems, the identification of food standards needs to facilitate intra-regional trade which at present encounters widely differing national legislative requirements. Emphasis was placed on products of traditional interest to the Latin American countries and on items of special interest to countries of the region for the future work of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America, which will hold its Second Session in the next biennium.

All these activities are intended to provide intergovernmental fora for greater and more active participation by developing countries in the work of the Commission, and are directed principally to food legislation, food quality control and food safety needs of Africa, Asia and Latin America. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I ought to mention, while on the topic of the Commission turning its attention increasingly to the needs of developing countries, that, in fact, several of the long established Codex Committees have, for some years, been developing

standards and codes of practice of particular interest to a considerable number of developing countries. The Codex Committees on Food Hygiene, Fats and Oils, Fish and Fishery Products, and Processed Fruits and Vegetables are examples of this. The two new Codex Committees on Cereals and Cereal Products, and on Vegetable Proteins should also make valuable contributions in the regard. During the recent FAO Conference a number of developing countries interested in furthering their food export interests asked for more assistance to be provided to them on questions of food processing, handling, packaging, etc., to meet the requirements of international standards and markets. It is hoped to introduce more of this type of advice and assistance to countries in our food quality control projects and programmes for increased technical cooperation among developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, the Commission has a heavy agenda before it and I do not wish to take an undue amount of your time. However, I would like to refer very briefly to some of the items on your agenda.

First, it is a very healthy sign indeed that the Commission should continue to review the direction of its work to see whether all of it responds adequately to the present needs of Member Governments and to consider whether further shifts in emphasis or changes in priorities are desirable. In this context, perhaps some of the Commission's procedures might be re-examined to see whether more expeditious means might not be developed for the elaboration of standards. Both FAO and WHO would be interested in seeing such a re-examination.

Secondly, FAO and WHO are also interested in having the Commission's views on how increased emphasis could be placed on nutritional considerations in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Dr. Sabry, the new Director of the FAO Food Policy and Nutrition Division will be introducing this item of your agenda.

Thirdly, WHO is in the process of setting up, at the request of the World Health Assembly, an international programme on chemical safety. As you know, FAO and WHO have worked together on food additives, pesticides, contaminants and standards for many years. WHO has approached FAO, and two other organizations in the United Nations system, to participate in this new programme. It is a programme which will be of major importance to the work of the Commission. Therefore, Dr. Vouk, of the Environmental Health Division of WHO, has been invited to make a presentation to you of the main features of the programme. We shall be interested in the views of the Commission, so that they may be taken into account in FAO's response to WHO.

Two other matters of great interest arise from the work of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The first is the proposed mechanism for the examination of statements as to possible economic impact of standards. The FAO Conference, Council and Programme Committee are very concerned that the Commission should adopt satisfactory procedures. Secondly, the "Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Foods", which is before you, is of immense importance to all countries, especially those countries importing foods without the

proper means to check their quality or safety. It is hoped that the Commission will be able to adopt the Code at this session.

Finally, with regard to your agenda, I can give you positive news concerning the budget for the Commission's work during 1980/81. This was approved by both the World Health Assembly and the FAO Conference.

Before closing I should like to make three additional points.

First, let me take this opportunity to express the appreciation of FAO and WHO to those Governments which have so generously hosted sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session of the Commission.

Secondly, I should like to inject a brief personal note. I am particularly pleased to be able to meet with you once again at the opening of this session of the Commission, because I have been associated in various capacities with the Commission's work from its early beginnings in 1961, when the FAO Conference took the formal action, on the FAO side to establish the Commission. So, I can claim a rather long-standing association with Codex Alimentarius activities, and I am pleased to see that they are growing and prospering.

Thirdly, I should like to express to you, Mr. Chairman, the appreciation of FAO and WHO for all the devoted efforts you have given to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. All the members of the Commission realize you will be retiring from the chair at the end of this session, but perhaps few know that at the end of the year you retire from your post as Head of the Swiss Federal Food Control Service. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you and I am sure I express, on behalf of all the members of the Commission and its Secretariat, sincere and best wishes to you and Madame Matthey for a long and happy retirement.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a pleasant stay in Rome, and a most successful session of the Commission.

APPENDIX III

REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX

ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Mr. Deputy Director-General,

You have just given, in a few minutes, a precise and gripping survey of the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as seen from the excellent observation post-provided by your high position in FAO. Moreover, you have spoken in the name of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and the views you have expressed thence acquire even more weight.

It is not part of my functions to give my personal comments on the points that you have so pertinently raised.

Moreover, most of them will be dealt with under the agenda for our Session, and during the discussions, we shall bear in mind the hopes you have formulated with regard to their adoption by the Commission.

Much has been said about the new orientation of the Codex Commission's work during and since its Twelfth Session. This new orientation is real and justified. It fits quite naturally into the choice of priorities that the Commission is called on to make in conformity with its Statutes. The Commission thus decided on these priorities at our last meeting.

This new orientation is not due to any new factor in the preparation of the Codex standards.

Without wishing to go back to the creation of the Commission, for which you worked, as you have just reminded us, in 1962 the Commission had some thirty member countries. Today it has 117.

This is a vivid spectacular demonstration of the interest taken in the work of the Codex Commission by the Member Nations of FAO and WHO and, in particular, during recent years, by the developing countries. This interest did not appear suddenly; it has developed imperceptibly but steadily, becoming increasingly more evident and convincing through these countries ever more active participation in the work of the Commission.

At the beginning the Commission concentrated quite naturally on the commodities most common in international trade, its work resulting in the publication of a hundred or so recommended standards or codes of practice. There was no intention on anyone's part to establish a monopoly

The ever-growing interest shown by the developing countries in the work of the Codex Commission has resulted in them insisting, rightly, that the Commission now devote attention to commodities which might be of immediate or potential economic interest for these countries.

This is perfectly in accord with the guidelines of the Commission which, according to its Statutes, decides on priorities.

In this context, you mentioned the creation of two new Committees: one on Cereals and Cereal Products and the other on Vegetable Proteins.

I will complete this by referring also to the activity of existing Committees, such as those on Fats and Oils and on Fruit Juices, whose field of action is enlarging to include products from the developing countries. These are only examples.

In this same connection, the Regional Coordinating Committees now have greater latitude to deal with products directly related to the economy of their regions.

The Commission has therefore taken full account of the wishes expressed by the FAO Programme Committee and Council. The Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference, held just recently, explicitly recognized this fact.

I confidently expect that the Commission will not fail to endorse the new procedure worked out by the Committee on General Principles to ensure that in elaborating Codex Standards more obvious account be taken of their economic impact on the developing countries.

You have expressed the wish that nutritional aspects receive more attention from the Commission. Allow me to point out here that the standards are drawn up in accordance with a format which, I think I can affirm, constitutes a model of its kind. It covers essential composition and quality factors, additives, contaminants and hygiene provisions. These are all factors directly related to the promotion of products which should guarantee better quality of food. But the Codex cannot resolve nutritional problems through its standards and codes of practice. It must not be forgotten that the promotion of better nutrition is, above all, a question of preventive medicine. The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission can, however, make a very positive contribution to promoting better nutrition through the elaboration of quality factors in its standards.

I am thinking in particular of the maximum levels of pesticide residues or other contaminants, or the composition requirements for products intended for infant feeding, or any other determinant factors relating to the content of indispensable nutritional elements.

You very appropriately insisted on the need for the developing countries to promote food commodity control. The need for this is obvious, but it is a matter which lies outside the scope of the activities of the Commission itself.

Control is the corollary of the publication and application of the standards, and is an objective to be attained with international aid. But here again the Commission will have made an appreciable contribution.

While awaiting attainment of this objective, which it is to be hoped will take place as soon as possible, the Codex proposes a Code of Ethics which will be submitted to the Commission at this session and which, I hope, will be adopted as it stands.

There is no concealing the obsessive problem that the acceptance of the standards by the so-called industrialized or developed countries still leaves something to be desired.

Perusal of the large publication of October 1978 on the state of acceptances is revealing in this connection. Few developed countries accept standards, while the reverse is true for the developing countries. Yet it is the former who have worked hard at elaborating the standards.

Realization of this fact should not make us resigned to it.

In the developed countries there are numerous legal constraints on integrating the standards (with or without specified deviations) into the set of national laws, often structured decades ago.

However, nothing is impossible in this field, for anyone who is convinced of the worth of the Codex aims at international level.

One should not be afraid of launching an appeal to all Codex members to make known their positions, whatever they may be, with regard to the standards.

Acceptance can take several forms. It may range from full acceptance, with or without deviations, to a simple declaration that products, conforming to a standard and not in opposition to national laws, can circulate freely in the notifying country. This is a first step. It would be perceived that the divergencies between one country and another are not fundamentally incompatible, and that the way could be opened up for eventual harmonization.

Other steps will come later, as control structures are gradually set up in the developing countries. The harmonization so extolled in international circles will then take on another dimension, so true it is that, as regards protecting the health of the consumer, the requirements of one population cannot be dissociated from those of others.

Mr. Deputy Director-General, I appreciate and sincerely thank you for the kind remarks you made about me. I have arrived, in fact, at the end of my career, during the last years of which the Codex has held a place of its own. It is true that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies represent the fora, from which all the participants always draw a certain benefit. The fact of meeting already presupposes a resolve to understand each other. The exchanges of view, the different approaches to problems which appear similar, even identical, the position adopted which at first appear unshakeable, but from which acceptable compromises often emerge, without thereby abandoning the essential, have often put me in mind of this thought of La Rochefoucault:

“It is a folly to want to be the only one in the right”.

I think that we are sensible enough to search together, if not for the truth, at least for a reasonable position.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before continuing, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of two persons well known to the Commission who have died since our last meeting: Dr. Viggo Enggaard and Dr. Mog Kondrup, both members of the Danish delegation.

Dr. Enggaard died six weeks ago, just after the session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, at the beginning of which he participated in the meeting of the working party responsible for giving the last touch to the draft Code of Ethics. He took an active part in all

the sessions of the Codex Commission. His name appears on the list of participants at the first session in 1962. Since 1967 he had chaired with distinction the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products.

This brief summary of his activities within the Codex bodies underlines how committed he was to our great work. His tact, his amiability, his competence had made Dr. Enggaard a figurehead of the Codex, and we shall always have warm memories of this man, as affable as he was modest.

Dr. Kondrup, who died at the beginning of the year, was also a well-known figure in the Commission and its Committees. He was a member of the FAO staff dealing with Food Additives. Like Dr. Enggaard, he participated in the activities of the Commission from its first session in 1962. His loyalty was equalled only by his competence in the Danish delegation.

We shall always remember with gratitude these two distinguished delegates and we beg the Danish delegation to accept our deep sympathy.

We would ask those present to rise and observe a few moments' silence in memory of these faithful servants of the Codex.

APPENDIX IV

DECLARATION OF THE DELEGATION

OF CUBA

Cuba wishes to give its full support to the issue raised in the 32nd World Health Assembly on the Food Safety Programme which is taken up in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the document ALINORM 79/3.

In this respect the Cuban Delegation proposes that in accordance with the policy of reorientation of the work of the Commission and as concrete measures for the benefit of the developing countries, regional seminars be organized on food inspection and control and a sufficient number of fellowships be granted to technicians from the countries of these regions; the languages used in the seminars should be those most widely used in the specific regions.

These seminars should include both inspection and laboratory aspects. The costs of these fellowships should be paid by the World Health Organization through its regional bodies.

WHO should formulate pilot projects for physico-chemical and microbiological laboratories for preventive food control at the different levels with possibility of financing the necessary equipment

These two measures would prove to be of real assistance to the developing countries and would afford an effective basis for the execution of the WHO Food Safety Programme. Only thus it would be possible to control the use of chemical additives, pesticide residues and the microbiological contamination of food.

Cuba wishes to declare once again its criteria concerning the international maximum limits for pesticide residues and special reference is made to the statement in paragraph 1.68 of the document ALINORM 79/7 regarding the 35th Session of the FAO Programme Committee.

This paragraph maintains the same position as that held by Cuba regarding pesticide residues and the particular problems of tropical and subtropical countries.

Our country, in order to accept the maximum limits set forth in the recommended Codex standards, needs to make a thorough study of the situation in this respect, in the same way as other countries which are basically dependent on agriculture and its relationship to pest control problems.

This is indispensable before fixing levels for world tolerance of pesticide residues.

This study would be a very beneficial aid to the developing countries. A panel of experts would need to be set up for this purpose and Cuba would be prepared to provide this panel with all necessary assistance and cooperation.