

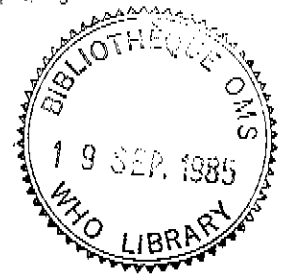


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BULGARIA/WHO COOPERATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMME  
Joint Coordinating Committee - ninth session  
Geneva, 14 May 1985

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)<sup>1</sup> held its ninth session in Geneva on 14 May 1985, in pursuance of the provisions of the General Memorandum of Understanding and of the Plan of Cooperation governing the Gabrovo District Health Services Model. Dr A. M. Wojtczak chaired the session.
2. Dr Wojtczak welcomed the Bulgarian members of the JCC to Geneva on behalf of the Director-General of WHO and of the Regional Director for Europe. He noted that this session of the JCC was of particular importance, taking place as it did after a decade of fruitful collaboration and closing a ten-year chapter of joint activities successfully realized by Bulgaria and WHO.
3. The provisional agenda was adopted (copy attached as annex 1).

REVIEW OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES - 1984 AND 1985

4. The JCC noted that two out of the three training activities scheduled in 1984 had to be postponed because too few participants had been nominated. The remaining course on the health aspects of environmental pollution took place with only eight participants because of last minute cancellations and hence did not fulfil the minimum of ten participants agreed on by the JCC. This could perhaps be interpreted as an indication of the positive development that had taken place as a result of the training done between 1976 and 1984, during which time 298 participants received training in a total of 26 courses and hence that today the demand for training had lessened, bearing in mind that during this period many developing countries have strengthened their own training capacity. It was evident that the training programme had been a mutual learning experience for Bulgaria and WHO as well as for the developing country participants.
5. It was noted that the trend in reduced numbers of participants had also affected one of the three training activities planned for 1985 which had therefore been cancelled and yet another was experiencing difficulties in obtaining

<sup>1</sup>Members: Bulgaria: Professor A. Maleev, President of the Medical Academy; Dr N. Vassilevsky, Director, International Relations, Ministry of Public Health (unable to attend); Dr K. Chamov, Institute of Social Medicine; WHO: Dr A. M. Wojtczak, Director, Research, Planning, and Human Resources/EURO; Dr H. Vuori, Regional Officer, Primary Health Care/EURO (unable to attend); Dr J.-J. Guilbert, Educational Planning, Methodology and Evaluation/HMD/HQ; Dr Y. Kawaguchi, Health Resources Mobilization/COR/HQ; Ms P. Brice, Programme for External Coordination/HQ.

sufficient nominations although contacts with regional offices had been started one year ago. In respect of the latter - Laboratory Tutor Training Course - it was agreed that should too few nominations be received to hold the course, those candidates nominated should be offered the possibility of undergoing individual training in Bulgaria. This procedure would be discussed with Dr Lothe, WHO Coordinator of the Course. Research protocols from possible candidates would be submitted to the Bulgarian Medical Academy to ascertain whether the areas chosen fitted with the training capacity in Bulgaria.

6. It was also noted that the third training activity - Seminar on planning and organization of maternal and child health services - would take place with only seven participants. This had been exceptionally agreed to by Bulgaria and WHO in view of the fact that the Seminar had already been postponed from 1984 to 1985 and because of the excellent quality of its planning.

7. The JCC noted the proposal from Bulgaria for 1986 onwards that two training activities per year be organized by the following WHO Collaborating Centres: Occupational Health; Research and Training in Mental Health; and Health Effects of Environmental Pollutants and other Hazards, and agreed that it should be considered under agenda item 6 where the JCC would review the General Memorandum of Understanding whose present term expires at the end of 1985.

8. The JCC noted with satisfaction that as recommended at its last session, EURO had provided additional funds for training in educational methodology for several Bulgarian Course Directors and this had taken place in France and the United Kingdom in 1984/85.

9. It was hoped that this could be repeated in the future for three other Directors who would benefit from this training.

#### GABROVO HEALTH SERVICES MODEL - 1984 AND 1985 ACTIVITIES

10. The JCC noted that an excellent report had been produced on the workshop held in January 1984 to review the results of the evaluation of the mass screening carried out in Gabrovo during the past nine years.

11. The Gabrovo description, first published in 1980, was being revised and a new chapter on mass screening added and the JCC noted that Bulgaria would submit an English text to EURO by July 1985 for final editing and printing. The French and Russian texts would be issued in 1986.

12. The JCC noted one of the new areas of cooperation that Gabrovo had begun with EURO - the community control of non-communicable diseases programme which covers, in addition to Gabrovo, three other okrugs (districts). In another okrug, the Ministry has started a pilot project for occupational health in which trade unions and management boards of factories are participating financially. A conference on this subject will be organized in 1985.

13. It was agreed that these and other subjects could be considered for inclusion in a new plan of cooperation.

#### EXPIRY OF GENERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

14. After extensive discussion the JCC arrived at the following conclusions:

15. Bearing in mind the European Strategy for Health for All and the fact that collaboration with all Member States was based on the Strategy document containing 38 targets for European countries, future collaboration with Bulgaria should be

expanded to include all relevant areas. A document containing a broad framework of cooperation should be developed between Bulgaria and the Regional Office for Europe to cover the national priorities of Bulgaria. This cooperative medium-term programme would also include the global aspects of collaboration, e.g. with the WHO Collaborating Centres in Bulgaria, and would be signed by the Minister of Public Health of Bulgaria and the WHO Regional Director for Europe.

16. It was agreed that Dr Chamov would be invited to visit EURO in June 1985 to familiarize himself with the concept of medium-term programmes and how this kind of document could be adapted for an agreement between Bulgaria and WHO. After Dr Chamov has reported back to the Medical Academy and the Ministry of Public Health, the actual agreement would be prepared during a EURO mission to Bulgaria in October/November 1985.

#### OTHER MATTERS

##### WHO Collaborating Centres

17. The JCC noted with satisfaction that during 1984 the following formal designations as WHO Collaborating Centres had taken place: the Institute for Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health; the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in the Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases; and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health at the Institute of Hygiene and Occupational Health had been redesignated in February 1985.

##### Equipment

18. The JCC noted that the country allocation for Bulgaria for 1984/85 had been used for fellowships in an amount of US\$ 47 500 and for equipment in an amount of US\$ 27 000 which left an available balance of US\$ 14 000.

19. The Bulgarian members wished to reiterate their appreciation for the use Bulgaria had been able to make of the WHO Revolving Fund for the Purchase of Teaching and Laboratory Equipment. Of the US\$ 40 000 made available there was a balance of US\$ 12 383 and a further list of teaching equipment would be submitted shortly.

20. The JCC noted that the Director-General had provided US\$ 1 800 from his Development Programme in 1984 for the purchase of audio visual equipment and an English typewriter for training activities at the Institute of Social Medicine and a further sum of US\$ 1 600 in 1985 for similar equipment for the seminar on Maternal and Child Health.

##### Continuation of Collaboration

21. The JCC agreed that while this ninth session would be the last of the meetings held jointly with representatives from Bulgaria, WHO headquarters and WHO/EURO to review cooperation, it would however, at the same time, mark the beginning of a new type of active collaboration between Bulgaria and WHO with a strong focus on national and regional priorities.

BULGARIA/WHO COOPERATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMME

Joint Coordinating Committee

Ninth session

Geneva, 14 May 1985

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Review and evaluation of 1984 activities
4. Status report on 1985 training activities
5. Review of Gabrovo Model activities in 1984 and 1985
6. Review of General Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Cooperation governing Gabrovo Health Services Model expiring 31 December 1985
7. Other matters

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