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REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Rome, 6-17 November 1972

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
Participants and Officers of the Commission presiding over the Ninth Session	1	1-2
Address by the Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division, FAO	1	3-9
Reply of Chairman of the Commission	2	10-11
Election of Officers of the Commission and Members of the Executive Committee	3	12-13
Appointment of Coordinator for Europe	3	14
Adoption of Agenda	3	15

PART II

Executive Committee - Report of the Eighteenth Session	3	16-27
- FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference	3	17
- 16th FAO Conference	4	18
- Proposed Synopsis of Work of International Organizations in the field of Food Standards	4	19
- Problems raised by the Appearance of non-conventional Food Products on the International Market	4	20-22
- Codex Mark or Symbol	5	23
- Appellation d'origine	5	24
- Working Group on Temperature Problems - Quick Frozen Foods	5	25
- Memorandum by Professor E.J. Bigwood, Director, Centre de Recherches sur le Droit de l'Alimentation, Brussels, on the Progress of Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	5	26
- Proposal of France concerning Group Standards for Fish and Fishery Products	5	27

PART III

Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	6	28
Progress Report on Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards	7	29-44

PART IV

Finance of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1972/73	9	45-48
- Free quota distribution of Recommended Codex Standards, now priced publications	10	47

PART V

Information on Activities within FAO and WHO of interest to the Commission	10	49-73
- Food Additives	10	49-52
- Pesticide Residues	11	53-54
- Irradiation of Food	11	55
- Marine Toxins in Fish	11	56
- Food Control	11	57-61
- UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972)	12	62
- Food Hygiene	12	63-73

PART VI

Information on the Activities of other International Organizations working on the Standardization of Foods and related Matters	13	74-95
- Council of Europe (Partial Agreement)	13	75-78
- Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology	14	79-82

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
- Commission of the European Economic Community	15	83-84
- Council for Mutual Economic Assistance	15	85-86
- Customs Cooperation Council	16	87
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)	16	88
- International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods	16	89
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	16	90-94
- Committee on International Cooperation (AOAC)	17	95

PART VII

Progress Report on the Use of the Spanish Language at Codex Committee Sessions	17	96-98
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PART VIII

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa	18	99-103
Establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Africa ..	18	104-106

PART IX

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables		
- Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards ...	19	107-156
- Introduction	19	107-110
- General Remarks	19	111-114
- Canned Mushrooms	20	115-118
- Canned Asparagus	21	119-120
- Processed Tomato Concentrate	21	121-124
- Canned Green Peas	22	125-127
- Raisins	22	128-130
- Canned Plums	23	131-134
- Canned Raspberries	23	135-137
- Canned Fruit Cocktail	24	138-141
- Canned Mandarin Oranges	25	142-143
- Canned Pears	25	144-147
- Reconsideration of Standard for Canned Strawberries which had been adopted and held at Step 8	25	148-150
- Consideration of Standards at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards		
- Jams (Fruit Preserves and Jellies)	26	151
- Citrus Marmalade	26	152-154
- Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Step 9 Standards for Canned Peaches, Canned Pineapple and Canned Tomatoes	26	152-154
- Proposed Amendments to Step 9 Standard for Canned Green and Wax Beans	26	155
- Confirmation of Chairmanship	26	156
Joint Codex/IOOC Meeting on the Standardization of Table Olives	26	157-162
- Consideration of Standard for Table Olives at Step 5	26	157-162
- Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses....	27	163-168
- Consideration of Draft Standard for Infant Formula at Step 8	27	163-165
- Consideration of Draft Standard for Canned Baby Foods at Step 5	28	166-167
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	28	168
Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products	28	169-181
- Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards		
- Canned Corned Beef	28	170-179
- Discussion of Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee.....	30	180
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	30	181

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
Codex Committee on Meat	30	182-189
- Consideration of texts at Step 8 of the Procedure		
- Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses, Halves and Quarters moving in International Trade	30	183
- Consideration of texts at Step 5 of the Procedure		
- Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses moving in International Trade (Pistol Cuts)	30	184
- System for the Description of Carcasses of Bovine and Porcine Species	30	185
- Boneless Meat	30	186-188
- Confirmation of Chairmanship	31	189
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	31	190-198
- Consideration of Codes of Hygienic Practice at Step 8		
- Tree Nuts	31	191-193
- Poultry Processing	31	194
- Consideration of Codes of Hygienic Practice at Step 5		
- Egg Products	31	195
- Publication of Codes of Hygienic Practice	32	196
- Wording of Hygiene Provisions in Standards	32	197
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	32	198
Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene	32	199-201
- Consideration of Codes of Hygienic Practice at Step 5		
- Fresh Meat	32	200
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	32	201
Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices	32	202-216
- General Remarks	32	202
- Consideration of Standards at Step 8		
- Vinifera-Type Grape Juice	32	203-208
- Vinifera-Type Concentrated Grape Juice	33	209-210
- Concentrated Apple Juice	33	211-212
- Concentrated Orange Juice	34	213-215
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Standards for Concentrated Fruit Juices	34	216
Coordinating Committee for Europe and Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	34	217-237
- Consideration of European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8 of the Procedure ...	34	217-221
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters	35	222
- Establishment of a Codex Committee on Edible Ices ...	36	223-230
- Consideration of the Elaboration of Standards for Salt, Vinegar and Eggs	37	231-236
- Salt	37	232-234
- Vinegar	37	235
- Eggs	38	236
- Amendments to the Method of Determination of Diastase Activity in the European Regional Standard for Honey	38	237
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	38	238-248
- Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Committee .	38	238
- Extract from the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee	38	239
- Definitions of "pesticide", "pesticide residue", "good agricultural practice in the use of pesticides" and "Codex tolerance (Codex maximum residue limit)"	39	240
- Amendment of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Tolerances for Pesticide Residues	39	241

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
- Consideration of the Codex Acceptance Procedure in Relation to Tolerances for Pesticide Residues	40	242-243
- Difficulties in Relation to the Establishment of Tolerances for Pesticide Residues	40	244
- Changes to Tolerances at Step 9 of the Procedure	40	245
- Tolerances and Practical Residue Limits at Step 8 of the Procedure	41	246
- Tolerances and Practical Residue Limits at Step 5 of the Procedure	41	247
- Confirmation of Chairmanship	41	248
Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods	41	249-251
- Consideration of Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods at Step 5	41	249-250
- Matters arising from the Report of the Seventh Session	41	251
Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	42	252-267
- Consideration of Standard for Canned Crab Meat at Step 5	42	253-257
- Discussion of Reports of the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the Committee	42	258-266
- "Quick Frozen" versus "Frozen"	42	259
- Canned Sardines and Sardines Type Products	43	260
- Codes of Practice	43	261
- Proposal regarding the Elaboration of Group Standards	43	262
- Can Seams	43	263
- Canned Shrimps, Dried or Packed in Brine; Frog Legs; and Snails	43	264
- Attendance at the Seventh Session of the Committee	43	265
- Amendments to the Recommended International Standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns (CAC/RS 37-1970) and Canned Pacific Salmon (CAC/RS 3-1969)	43	266
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	44	267
Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate	44	268-281
- Consideration of Standards at Step 5 of the Procedure		
- Cocoa (cacao) beans, Cocoa (cacao) nib, Cocoa (cacao) mass, Cocoa press cake and Cocoa dust (cocoa fines), for use in the manufacture of Cocoa and Chocolate Products	44	269-273
- Cocoa Butters	44	274
- Cocoa Powder (Cocoa) and Sweetened Cocoa Powder (Sweetened Cocoa)	44	275-278
- Chocolate	45	279
- Other matters	45	280
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	45	281
Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	45	282-283
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	45	283
Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products ...	46	284-287
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	46	288-289
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	46	289
Codex Committee on Sugars	46	290-291
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	46	291
Codex Committee on Food Additives	47	292-299
- Introduction	47	292-293
- Definition of "Food Additive" and "Contaminant"	47	294
- General Principles for the Use of Food Additives	47	295
- Specifications of Identity and Purity for Food Grade Salt	48	296

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
- Section on Contaminants in Codex Commodity Standards ..	48	297
- Other matters raised in connection with the Report of the Committee	48	298
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	48	299
Codex Committee on Food Labelling	48	300-316
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	50	316
Codex Committee on General Principles	50	317-334
- Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee	53	334
<u>PART X</u>		
- Proposed Draft General Standard	53	335
- Consideration of Secretariat paper "Coffee and the Consumer"	53	336-340
- Tea	54	341-342
- Proposal of Brazil that a Coordinating Committee for Latin America be established	55	343-345
- Proposed Provisional Timetable of Codex Sessions 1973-76	55	346-353
<u>PART XI</u>		
- Other Business	57	
- Proposal that a Seminar be held in Asia and that a Coordinating Committee for Asia be established	57	354-355
<u>PART XII</u>		
- Valediction	57	356

APPENDICES

Appendix I	- List of Participants	58
Appendix II	- Draft Agenda for the Proposed FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives and Contaminants (1973)	76
Appendix III	- Country Positions as at 17 November 1972 regarding Acceptance of Recommended Standards	77
Appendix IV	- Recommendations of the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972) of interest to the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission	86
Appendix V	- Provisional Agenda for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa	87
Appendix VI	- Summarized Conclusions of the Second WHO Consultation regarding the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters .	88
Appendix VII	- Definitions of "Pesticide", "Pesticide Residue", "Good Agricultural Practice in the Use of Pesticides", and "Codex Tolerance (Codex Maximum Residue Limit)" adopted by the Ninth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission .	88

REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE
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Rome, 6-17 November 1972

PART I

Introduction

1. The Ninth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 6 to 17 November 1972. The session was attended by 301 participants, including the representatives and observers of 61 countries and observers from 26 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Mr. G. Weill (France), and its three Vice-Chairmen, Dr. N.A. de Heer (Ghana), Mr. A. Miklovicz (Hungary) and Mr. G.R. Grange (U.S.A.). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O. Kermode and Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO) and Dr. J. Munn (WHO).

Address by the Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division, FAO

3. The Ninth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was convened by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, and was opened, on behalf of both Directors-General, with a speech of welcome by Dr. M. Ganzin, Director, Food Policy and Nutrition Division.
4. Dr. Ganzin referred to the expanding interest in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as shown by the fact that ten more countries had become Members of the Commission since the Commission's eighth session, bringing the current membership of the Commission up to 98 countries. He especially welcomed the representatives of the new Members of the Commission and also the representatives of observer countries participating for the first time at a session of the Commission. He expressed the hope that the observer countries would become Members of the Commission. He also referred to the encouraging response received to-date from a considerable number of Member Governments concerning acceptance of or action under way or contemplated regarding the Recommended Standards which had, so far, been sent to governments for acceptance.
5. Dr. Ganzin also informed the Commission that an increasing number of requests for information, advice, guidance and assistance were being received by FAO from developing countries contemplating the strengthening of their food control services. Bearing in mind the needs of these countries and the wish of the Commission that its standards be accepted as widely as possible, the Director-General of FAO had carried out an internal reorganization of the units of FAO concerned with food standards and food control. The FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme had been transferred to the Food Policy and Nutrition Division. A Food Control Group and a Food Composition and Analysis Group had been joined with the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme to constitute a Food Standards and Control Service. Dr. Ganzin stated that it was hoped that this Service, while continuing to meet the wishes of the Commission, would, at the same time, be in a better position to meet the needs of developing countries by assisting them on a national level to strengthen their food control services and legislation, to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. The budgetary and working procedures of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme would continue as a separately identifiable activity within the Service and Division.
6. Reference was also made by Dr. Ganzin to the UN Conference on Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972, and, in particular, to two resolutions of the Conference, of special interest to the Commission. These resolutions were as follows:

"It is recommended that increased support be given to the Codex Alimentarius Commission to develop international standards for pollutants in food and a Code of Ethics for international food trade and that the capabilities of FAO and WHO to assist materially and to guide developing countries in the field of food control be increased."

"It is recommended that internationally coordinated programmes of research and monitoring of food contamination by chemical and biological agents be established and developed jointly by FAO and WHO taking into account national programmes, and that the results of monitoring be expeditiously assembled, evaluated and made available so as to provide early information on rising trends of contamination and of levels which may be considered undesirable or may lead to unsafe human intakes."

7. Dr. Ganzin noted that the above two resolutions, together with other relevant information on the outcome of the Stockholm Conference, which were included in a Secretariat paper for the Commission, would be discussed at the appropriate point in the Commission's agenda. He particularly stressed that it would be very useful if the Commission could express its views on the question of a Code of Ethics, so that the Commission's views could be communicated to the UN Secretariat as soon as possible.

8. He mentioned that budgetary approval had been given for the holding of an FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference in Africa in 1973 and that a proposal to hold a similar conference in Asia in the 1974/75 biennium had been included in the budgetary proposals to go before the governing bodies of both Organizations. He also indicated that since the last session of the Commission, a Food Control Seminar had been held in Teheran with the assistance of UNICEF and that another was scheduled to be held early in 1973 in Beirut. He added that it was hoped that it would be possible to hold, early in 1973, a Food Control Seminar in West Africa for members of the food control services in a number of the French-speaking countries of the region. It was also hoped to hold similar seminars in other parts of the world.

9. Dr. Ganzin concluded by paying tribute to the retiring Chairman, Mr. G. Weill (France), who had been intimately and actively associated with the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since its establishment, and also to the other retiring members of the Executive Committee.

Reply by Chairman of the Commission

10. The Chairman thanked Dr. Ganzin for having opened the session and for his interesting remarks both in relation to the work of the Commission itself and in relation to action contemplated within the new Food Standards and Control Service in assisting developing countries in the strengthening of their food control services, to enable them to be in a better position to accept and implement the standards recommended by the Commission. In this connection, he reminded the Commission that this was the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, and that when the Commission held its first session in 1963, some 30 countries, almost all of which were developed countries, were Members of the Commission. Membership had trebled since that time, and of the 98 countries now Members of the Commission, some two-thirds of them were developing countries. It was appropriate therefore, in the light of this development, that increasing attention should be given to the needs of the developing countries in relation to the work of the Commission. The Executive Committee had also stressed the need for this.

11. The Chairman agreed that the replies received to-date from governments in regard to acceptance of the Recommended Standards of the Commission or on action being taken or contemplated by governments were very encouraging, and showed the importance attached by governments to the work of the Commission. Some of the replies indicated in great detail the action being taken in connection with the Recommended Standards. The work of other international organizations in the field of food standards and in the harmonization of food legislation also attested to the basic importance being attached to the standards being developed by the Commission, and more recently, some of the recommendations made by the UN Conference on Human Environment, held in Stockholm was further evidence of the importance attached to the Commission's work. The Chairman stressed the important role of WHO in the work of the Food Standards Programme and expressed confidence that the re-organization in FAO, to which Dr. Ganzin had referred, would promote the aims of the Programme in the fullest possible way.

Election of Officers of the Commission and Members of the Executive Committee

12. During the session, the Commission elected Mr. A. Miklovicz (Hungary) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Ninth Session until the end of the Tenth Session. The Commission also elected Dr. D.G. Chapman (Canada), Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland) and Dr. E. Méndez (Mexico) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Ninth Session until the end of the Tenth Session.

13. The Commission elected from the Members of the Commission representatives for the following geographic locations in the Executive Committee, to hold office from the end of the Ninth Session to the end of the Eleventh Session of the Commission, in accordance with Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission: Africa - Tunisia; Asia - Thailand; Europe - Federal Republic of Germany; Latin America - Brazil; North America - U.S.A.; South-West Pacific - Australia.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe

14. The Commission appointed Dr. H. Woidich (Austria) as Coordinator for Europe in accordance with Rules II.4(a) and II.4(b) to serve in that capacity from the end of the Ninth Session until the end of the Twelfth Session of the Commission. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the excellent work which had been accomplished by the retiring Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria), who was ineligible for re-election in this capacity, having served two consecutive terms.

Adoption of the Agenda

15. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda with a slight re-arrangement in the order of items to be discussed.

PART II

Report by the Chairman on the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Committee

16. The Commission received a report on the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Committee held at FAO Headquarters, Rome from 15 to 18 May 1972. In introducing the report, the Chairman indicated that most of the substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under the agenda items relating to the matters concerned. The following were the matters dealt with under this item of the agenda.

FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference

17. The Commission was informed by the representatives of FAO and WHO that every effort would be made to arrange for the holding of the FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference towards the end of 1973. The Commission noted that the scope of activity of the Conference, which had been originally intended to deal with food additives, would be widened to include contaminants. The venue would be either Rome or Geneva. The Commission was also informed that a draft agenda for the Conference had been drawn up. Several delegates stated that it was important to know the venue and date of the Conference as quickly as possible, and the point was also made by one delegate that, because of the need to make budgetary arrangements in 1972 in his country for attendance at meetings scheduled to take place in 1973, it was important that the government of his country should be in possession of this information before the end of 1972. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives stressed the need for arranging that the Conference would be held before the 1973 session of the Codex Committee, so that the Committee would be in possession of the views and recommendations of the Conference. It was agreed that, in order to expedite matters, the draft agenda for the Conference should be circulated as a Conference Room Document during the current session of the Commission, so that interested countries represented at the session could comment on it. The Commission decided, however, not to discuss the draft agenda (Appendix II to this Report) in detail and agreed that it should be sent to governments with a circular letter, for comment. The Commission noted that the Joint FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference was scheduled to be held towards the end of 1973, preferably before the sessions of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues.

Sixteenth FAO Conference

18. The Commission noted that the FAO Conference, at its Sixteenth Session, had agreed with the recommendation of the Commission that it be left to the Commission to judge when it would be appropriate to consider further any amendment to Rule VI.3 concerning the elaboration of regional standards. The Commission further noted that the FAO Conference had expressed its satisfaction at the fact that the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products had fully brought its procedures into line with those of the Commission.

Proposed Synopsis of Work of International Organizations in the Field of Food Standards

19. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had examined a report prepared by the Secretariat on the question of preparing a synopsis of work being done by other international organizations in the food standards and related fields. The Commission agreed with the conclusion of the Executive Committee that, in view of the present work programme of the Commission and its work priorities, the Secretariat should not proceed at this time with the preparation of such a synopsis. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had requested that the Secretariat should, from time to time, make available to Members of the Commission such information on the activities of other international organizations as seemed appropriate to any subject which the Commission might have under consideration and propose to include in its programme of work, or which might be of general interest to the Members of the Commission.

Problems raised by the Appearance of Non-Conventional Food Products on the International Market

20. The Commission was informed that the Executive Committee had considered, in the light of a summary working paper by Dr. M.L. Debatisse (France), the problems raised by the appearance of non-conventional foods on the international market and of their likely interest to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Executive Committee had noted the rapid development in the trade in non-conventional foods such as meat and dairy products substitutes, sugar substitutes and synthetic drinks, and considered the possible implications these products had for the work of the Commission. The Executive Committee had discussed, in particular, the problems which the "novel" foods might have with regard to informing the consumer and protecting his health. The Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses had already undertaken some work on special products falling within its terms of reference, and the Joint FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group (PAG) was studying the nutritional and toxicological aspects and the health implications - mainly on children - of non-conventional foods. The representative of North America on the Executive Committee had stated that, in his opinion, the interest of the consumer was, at present, largely protected by various provisions of the Recommended International General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The Executive Committee had agreed to await the outcome of the studies of the PAG and had further agreed that subsequently the issue would have to be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The Executive Committee had also agreed that at the appropriate time, the matter would have to be re-examined by the Executive Committee.

21. While the Commission agreed with the conclusion of the Executive Committee that this matter would, in time, have to be examined by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, the point was made that it would be necessary to indicate to the Labelling Committee exactly what the products concerned were. In this connection, it was also suggested that each Commodity Committee should watch developments regarding substitute or "novel" products similar to products falling within its own terms of reference. While the work of the Protein Advisory Group in this area was taken note of, and while the Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses would be prepared to look further into this subject and that the matter would be considered further when dealing with the activities of that Committee, the point was made that these substitute or "novel" products were by no means confined to foods for special dietary uses.

22. In general, the Commission agreed with the Executive Committee that, at the appropriate time, the Executive Committee should re-examine this subject and that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling would have an important role to play in this field. In the meantime, however, Commodity Committees should keep a watch on developments in this field so far as products falling within their own terms of reference were concerned. It was not the intention that Commodity Committees should embark on the elaboration of standards for such products. It was agreed that the paper of Dr. Debatisse should be made available to delegates during the Commission's session.

Codex Mark or Symbol

23. The Commission noted that information was being collected by the Legal Office of FAO on the use of marks or symbols by other international organizations or trade associations. A number of such bodies had been approached and replies had been received from the International Wool Secretariat, the International Institute for Cotton, the International Seed Testing Association and the International Olive Oil Council. Replies were awaited from other bodies and it was expected that a full report on this subject could be presented for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next session.

Appellation d'origine

24. The Commission noted that the Legal Office of FAO had prepared a document on the above subject which had been put before the Executive Committee and subsequently, at the request of the Executive Committee, before the Milk and Milk Products Committee. The Commission noted that this subject would be considered further by the Executive Committee at its next session.

Working Group on Temperature Problems - Quick Frozen Foods

25. The Commission noted that, in accordance with the wish which had been expressed by the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods at its last session, held in Geneva in December 1971, facilities had been provided at FAO Headquarters for a meeting of a working group on temperature problems held from 25 to 27 October 1972. The Working Group would be reporting to the next session of the Joint Group of Experts.

Memorandum of Professor E.J. Bigwood, Director of the 'Centre de Recherches sur le Droit de l'Alimentation - Bruxelles', on the Progress of Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

26. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had considered a memorandum from Professor E.J. Bigwood, Director of the 'Centre de Recherches sur le Droit de l'Alimentation' in Brussels, concerning the concept of a food standard. The memorandum had suggested that less detailed standards for foods should be elaborated, which would deal mainly with compositional aspects. Other provisions of standards, such as those dealing with hygiene, weights and measures, labelling, analysis and sampling, should be dealt with elsewhere in appropriate texts of general application to foods. In the author's opinion, very detailed and elaborate standards would be likely to lead to acceptances with many deviations. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the format and content of standards being elaborated by the Codex Committees reflected, in the main, the current practices of a number of governments concerning national standards and regulations. The Executive Committee, while recognizing the interest which Professor Bigwood had shown in the work of the Commission, had agreed not to advise, for the time being, any modification in the format and content of Codex Standards. The Commission accepted this recommendation.

Proposal of France concerning Group Standards for Fish and Fishery Products

27. The Commission was informed that France had put before the last session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products a proposal regarding the elaboration of a text which would contain provisions common to certain processed fish products. This might lead to a need to elaborate less detailed individual standards which would contain only those provisions specific to the product concerned. The Executive Committee had agreed that this approach might prove to be a practical one and could, if necessary, be a topic for consideration at a future session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Fish and Fishery Products Committee had agreed that the idea of "group" standards for certain fish products merited full consideration, but noted that this was a general question which would also concern the work of several other Commodity Committees, and that the Executive Committee had regarded it as a possible subject for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Fish and Fishery Products Committee had decided that governments should be requested to study this and to submit written comments on the French proposal to the Secretariat in time for consideration by the Committee at its next session.

PART III

Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

28. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The membership as at 17 November 1972 is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last session membership had increased by 10 countries, and that 98 countries were now Members of the Commission. The Commission also noted that one of the new Members, Fiji, had not yet indicated in which region it wished to be placed, i.e. Asia or South-West Pacific Region, and that pending receipt of the wishes of the Government of Fiji on this matter, Fiji had been provisionally placed in the South-West Pacific Region. It was noted that, although the number of Members represented at the session was large, there were many Members - especially developing countries - not represented. The Commission appreciated, however, that representation did present problems for some far distant countries.

<u>European Region</u>	<u>Latin America</u>	<u>South-West Pacific</u>
1. Austria	31. Argentina	75. Australia
2. Belgium	32. Barbados	76. New Zealand
3. Bulgaria	33. Bolivia	77. Fiji*
4. Cyprus	34. Brazil	<u>Asia</u>
5. Czechoslovakia	35. Chile	78. India
6. Denmark	36. Colombia	79. Indonesia
7. Finland	37. Costa Rica	80. Iran
8. France	38. Cuba	81. Iraq
9. Germany, Fed. Rep.	39. Dominican Republic	82. Japan
10. Greece	40. Ecuador	83. Jordan
11. Hungary	41. Guatemala	84. Korea, Rep. of
12. Iceland	42. Guyana	85. Kuwait
13. Ireland	43. Jamaica	86. Lebanon
14. Israel	44. Mexico	87. Malaysia*
15. Italy	45. Nicaragua*	88. Oman*
16. Luxembourg	46. Paraguay	89. Pakistan
17. Malta	47. Peru	90. Philippines
18. Netherlands	48. Trinidad & Tobago	91. Qatar
19. Norway	49. Uruguay	92. Saudi Arabia
20. Poland	50. Venezuela	93. Singapore
21. Portugal	<u>Africa</u>	94. Sri Lanka
22. Romania	51. Algeria	95. Syrian Arab Rep.
23. Spain	52. Burundi	96. Thailand
24. Sweden	53. Cameroon	97. Viet-nam, Rep. of*
25. Switzerland	54. Central African Rep.*	98. Yemen, People's
26. Turkey	55. Congo, People's Rep.	Dem. Rep. of
27. United Kingdom	56. Egypt, Arab Rep. of	
28. Yugoslavia	57. Ethiopia	
<u>North America</u>	58. Gambia	
29. Canada	59. Ghana	
30. U.S.A.	60. Ivory Coast	
	61. Kenya	
	62. Liberia*	
	63. Madagascar	
	64. Malawi*	
	65. Mauritius*	
	66. Morocco	
	67. Nigeria	
	68. Senegal	
	69. Sudan	
	70. Togo	
	71. Tunisia	
	72. Uganda	
	73. Zaire, Rep. of	
	74. Zambia*	

* New Members since Eighth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Progress Report on Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards

29. The Commission took note of the contents of documents ALINORM 72/5, Parts I, II, III, IV and V. These documents gave details of the replies received to-date from governments concerning acceptance of the 42 Recommended Standards which had already been sent to them for acceptance. The documents also gave, separately from replies on acceptances, details of action already taken, or in the course of being taken or contemplated in connection with the Recommended Standards. Over thirty countries had indicated their positions in regard to the acceptance of the Recommended Standards. Many of these countries, a significant number of which were developing countries, had given Full Acceptance to the standards. Others had given Target Acceptance to several of the standards and a number had given Acceptance with Minor Deviations. In addition, a considerable number of countries had given details of action taken or being taken or contemplated regarding the standards. Particular attention was drawn to the considerable detail made available in this connection by the United States of America and Canada. Delegates from countries which had made information on this subject available to the Commission were invited to provide a verbal commentary on their countries' replies and delegates from other countries were also invited to speak.

30. The delegate of the U.S.A. stated that, of all the information which had been made available concerning the U.S.A., the information contained in Section B of document ALINORM 72/5-Part II best summarized the position of the U.S.A. He also drew particular attention to the detailed information made available concerning the U.S.A. in document ALINORM 72/5-Part IV. This document gave details of Proposed Rule Making on the basis of a review and recommendations regarding the Recommended Codex Standards for certain sugars, frozen peas and canned sweet corn; it also gave details of Recommended Codex Standards for certain edible oils on which comment was being invited. Referring to Section B of document ALINORM 72/5-Part II, the delegate of the U.S.A. drew attention to how the various Recommended Standards had been categorized. He stated that in cases where the U.S. did not have regulatory standards for products covered by Recommended Codex Standards and where, in addition, it was not the intention of the U.S.A. to issue standards for such products, the U.S. expected that, as a minimum, it would permit such products which are in conformity with Recommended Codex Standards to move freely in the U.S.A. The delegate of the U.S.A. stated that it was gratifying to note the early favourable responses from many governments on the subject of acceptances.

31. The delegate of Canada drew attention to some of the main features of Canada's reply, which was set out in great detail and was contained in document ALINORM 72/5-Part III. Canada had carried out a detailed study of the Recommended Standards for Labelling, Pesticide Residues (1st and 2nd series), certain sugars and certain edible oils. In the case of the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, Canada's reply had indicated that, with a small number of exceptions, the provisions of this standard would be acceptable to Canada. In the case of the other Recommended Standards mentioned above, Canada had indicated which provisions in these standards would be acceptable, and which changes it would be prepared to make in Canadian legislation to give effect to these acceptable changes. Canada had given written summaries of its position in regard to acceptance by reference to the four questions posed by the Executive Committee in paragraph 79 of the Report of its 18th session. The Canadian reply also pointed out that where changes were required in the Canadian regulations, Canadian acceptances would take effect when the necessary amendments to Canadian regulations had been made using regular procedures. Such procedures would be initiated when the Codex Alimentarius Commission determined, in the light of the acceptances received, that it would be appropriate to publish these standards in the Codex Alimentarius. Canada had indicated that it had no objection to the publication in the Codex Alimentarius of the following standards: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the First and Second Series of Pesticide Residue Tolerances, the Standards for White Sugar, Powdered (Icing) Sugar, Soft Sugars, Soya Bean Oil, Arachis Oil, Cottonseed Oil, Sunflowerseed Oil, Maize Oil, Sesameseed Oil, Safflowerseed Oil and Mustard Seed Oil, but Canada would have reservations on certain of the provisions in these standards, as set out in Canada's reply.

32. The delegate of Hungary indicated that Hungary had now decided to give acceptance to some twenty Recommended Codex Standards covering sugars, processed fruits and vegetables, mushrooms and fats and oils. This would be Full, or, in a few cases, Target Acceptance. In the case of the Recommended Standards for some edible fats and oils, Hungary would be giving Acceptance with Minor Deviations.

33. The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago indicated that, further to the information given in document ALINORM 72/5-Part I, in the section setting out country positions on acceptance of Recommended Codex Standards as at 30 April 1972, Trinidad and Tobago had, since that time, incorporated the standards to which it had given Target Acceptance into the Food and Drug Regulations of the country. Trinidad and Tobago was also considering the Recommended Standards for processed fruits and vegetables, for sugars, and the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, with a view to incorporating them also in the country's food and drug regulations. The Commission was also informed that the Recommended Standards for edible fats and oils would be considered as the basis for an agreement on standards in this field in the Caribbean Free Trade Area.

34. Several delegates, including the delegates of India, Malaysia, Senegal and the observer from the Gabonese Republic, which were not yet in a position to give acceptance to the Recommended Standards, described the steps or action taken or being taken in their countries to consider the Recommended Standards, such as the establishment of appropriate technical committees, or the consideration of the standards by National Food Standards Institutions or Food Standards Committees. They stressed the lack of infrastructure, particularly appropriate laboratories and qualified personnel, to enable proper study of the recommendations of Codex Committees and of the Commission to be carried out, for the acceptance of food standards. The delegate of Ghana, besides referring to the acceptance of the Recommended Standards by Ghana (the position of Ghana on acceptance was set out in Conference Room Document ALINORM 72/5-Part V) drew attention to the remarks of the Executive Committee in paragraphs 76 and 81 of ALINORM 72/3.

35. Other delegates indicated that they did not feel it necessary to speak at this stage of the discussions, as they had already communicated their positions in writing to the Secretariat and their positions had been reflected in the working papers for the session. A communication concerning the position of Belgium on acceptances, which was the same, in substance, as those of the other Members of the European Economic Community which had replied, had not been received sufficiently in advance of the session to be included in the working papers before the Commission.

36. The Commission noted with satisfaction the encouraging replies which had been received from governments on the subject of acceptance, from which it had become evident that the Recommended Codex Standards were having a significant influence on the development and content of national standards. The Recommended Codex Standards were also forming the basis for discussion, or points of departure, in many cases, as for example in the European Economic Community and in the Caribbean Free Trade Area, for harmonized legislation. The latest position on acceptances is set out in tabular form, on a standard by standard basis in Appendix III to this Report.

37. Having reviewed the position on acceptances, the Commission then proceeded to consider the various points and suggestions which had been recommended to it for attention by the Executive Committee at its Eighteenth Session on the subject of acceptance generally and related matters. The Executive Committee had been entrusted with two basic tasks by the Commission (i) to advise the Commission whether, in its view, a given Recommended Codex Standard should be published in the Codex Alimentarius, (ii) to examine the problem of what criteria should be applied for determining whether a deviation stated to be minor was, in fact, minor.

38. As regards the first point, the Executive Committee had come to the conclusion that, on the basis of acceptances received to-date, there was no case at present, even in the absence of any criteria on which to base a recommendation, for recommending that any of the Recommended Standards should be published in the Codex Alimentarius at this time (see paragraph 78 of ALINORM 72/3). The Commission was in agreement with this conclusion.

39. The second point examined by the Executive Committee concerned the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations. The reasons which led the Executive Committee to recommend to the Commission that the time had come to re-examine the Acceptance Procedure, with particular reference to the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations, are set down in detail in paragraphs 79-80 of ALINORM 72/3. The Executive Committee had decided, for these reasons, to recommend to the Commission that a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles be convened to re-examine this matter. This

recommendation was accompanied by advice on the points which might be borne in mind by the Codex Committee on General Principles in re-examining, in particular, the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations (see paragraph 83 of ALINORM 72/3). The Executive Committee had also recommended that certain other matters be examined by the Codex Committee on General Principles, including Step 10 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards, with a view to developing criteria which might be suitable for determining when it would be appropriate to recommend to the Commission that a Recommended Standard be published in the Codex Alimentarius. The Executive Committee had also recommended that the Codex Committee on General Principles should study the way in which minority opinion should be considered in the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. The Executive Committee had concluded by stressing that it would be important that a comprehensive basic document be prepared by the Secretariat which would cover the various points and suggestions of the Executive Committee, and which should be sent to governments for their observations, so that the Codex Committee on General Principles would have both the working document and the comments of governments on it at its next session.

40. There was a general exchange of views in the Commission on the recommendations of the Executive Committee. One delegate considered that the determination of whether or not a deviation was "minor" was a matter calling for technical competence in relation to the product, and could be judged only by the experts in the Commodity Committee concerned. Another delegate stated that conditions and preferences varied so much from region to region and country to country, that it was difficult to see how regional differences could be avoided. Thus there would always be deviations in this sense. Attention was also drawn to the fact that in the case of tolerances for pesticide residues the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations could hardly be said to be applicable: a product was either in conformity with the tolerance or it was not.

41. The Commission agreed that it would be desirable for a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles to be convened to consider all these matters. A comprehensive working paper should be prepared by the Secretariat, as suggested by the Executive Committee and the paper should be sent to governments for their comments. The working paper and the comments should be put before the Codex Committee on General Principles. In re-examining the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations, the Codex Committee on General Principles should also take into account the points made above concerning pesticide residue tolerances and varying national legislations reflecting different conditions and preferences.

42. The Commission stressed the importance of the Recommended Codex Standards as providing a sound basis both for harmonization of national legislations and for countries which had not yet standards for the products concerned.

43. Several delegates stressed and the Commission agreed that the proposed review of the acceptance procedure should in no way discourage or delay the consideration by governments, with a view to acceptance, of Recommended Standards adopted by the Commission in accordance with the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius.

44. The Commission decided that the Secretariat should draw up a list of items for inclusion in the draft agenda of the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The list, which should incorporate the decisions contained in the foregoing paragraphs, should be circulated to the Commission for consideration in connection with the item on the agenda dealing with the Codex Committee on General Principles. The list could also include for consideration of the Commission under that agenda item a proposal which had been made that governments should be requested to indicate what actions they would have to take, under their own procedures, to give effect to acceptances of Recommended Standards.

PART IV

Finance of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1972/73

45. The Commission had before it ALINORM 72/6 containing details of the budget for 1972/73 as approved by the governing bodies of FAO and WHO. The joint budget for 1972/73 amounted to \$ 623,400 exclusive of internal printing and translation provided by FAO to the amount of \$ 492,500. The joint budget contained a programme increase of \$ 16,400 for publications and documents to enable the printing of Step 9 standards adopted by the Commission at its Eighth Session, but postponed in 1971 due to budgetary difficulties. Other increases in the joint budget were attributable to cost increases common to FAO and WHO.

46. About the middle of 1972, FAO found itself faced with serious financial difficulties arising from a combination of outside factors, including changes in the US dollar/lira exchange rates. In order to meet the situation brought about by these difficulties, the Director-General of FAO directed that all sectors of the FAO budget paid for out of Regular Programme funds be cut back by 10%. This cut was applied to the FAO funds made available to the Food Standards Programme and amounted to \$ 96,000. The 10% cut has had to be apportioned in the ratio of 35% to staff and 65% to the programme. As regards programme elements, a small reduction had been made in duty travel and meetings and the balance of the reduction applied to documents. This cut might result in the postponement of certain publications or of some documents such as those containing feasibility studies regarding the question of whether to embark on the standardization of various products or product groups not yet the subject of standardization by the Commission.

47. The Commission took note of the details contained in the document mentioned above concerning free quota distribution of all Step 9 standards which were now priced publications. The Commission noted that the proceeds from sales would go into a miscellaneous fund which would finance reprinting of the standards as required.

48. The Commission also took note of the list of Codex Sessions which had been approved by the governing bodies of FAO for 1972/73. The list, which had been established in 1971, might undergo limited changes so far as Codex sessions in 1973 were concerned, in the light of the wishes of the Commission at its present session. This matter would be dealt with under the item of the agenda dealing with the timetable of Codex Sessions for 1973/76 (see paragraph 347 of this Report).

PART V

Information on Activities within FAO and WHO of Interest to the Commission (ALINORM 72/7-Add.1)

Food Additives

49. Concerning the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, the FAO and WHO representatives informed the Commission regarding the 15th and 16th meetings held, respectively, in Rome from 16 to 24 June 1971 and in Geneva from 4 to 12 April 1972.

50. The 1971 meeting reviewed the available toxicity data for certain enzyme preparations, for selected modified starch compounds and a few substances of special interest. In the case of enzyme preparations of animal and plant origin and for the starch compounds, it recommended that their use be limited to good manufacturing practice. For other substances, acceptable daily intake levels were assigned to some caramel colours and fatty acid soya bean esters, propylene glycol alginate and certain salts of stearoyl lactylate. Of interest was the re-examination of the toxicity data for tin and stannous chloride. No acceptable daily intake was assigned, but it was decided that current levels found in food did not pose an acute public health hazard.

51. At the meeting in 1972, besides some miscellaneous food additives, such as amaranth, caramel colours from ammonia process, diethylpyrocarbonate and octyl gallates, the Committee gave major consideration to the following items on the agenda:

- (a) the examination of data on the total load of mercury, lead and cadmium from food and other sources;
- (b) review of levels of these metals in various foods and their methods of analysis.

52. It was for the first time that the Committee had taken into consideration the total body burden of these metallic contaminants from food and other sources, i.e. air and water. In contrast to the customary procedure for assigning acceptable daily intake (ADI) values for food additives, provisional tolerable weekly intakes were recommended for these contaminants. This was done (i) because these metals and their derivatives accumulated in the body, (ii) because of the narrow margin of safety between the levels of these metals, to which some segments of the general population are exposed, and the levels that are toxic, and (iii) because of some uncertainty as to the health hazards at exposure levels slightly below those known to cause toxicity. The Committee recommended the development of an integrated programme at an international level for the systematic collection of national data on levels of contaminants in food. It also gave some general guidelines on the establishment of control services with regard to food contamination based on toxicological evaluation.

Pesticide residues

53. The Joint Meeting of the FAO Working Party and the WHO Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues which met in 1971 considered a number of pesticides and clarified the meaning of the term "good agricultural practice". Special attention was directed to the problem of residues of the bromide ion. It recommended that the tolerance for the ion be retained for raw cereals but be held in abeyance for other foods. No change in the acceptable daily intake or the tolerance levels was recommended for DDT. The Meeting considered that the calculation of the potential daily intake levels of pesticide residues be continued.

54. In response to the request of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and on Pesticide Residues and in addition to the Expert Committee above, a consultation on the potential daily intake of additives, pesticide residues and contaminants in foods was recently held in Geneva. Recommendations to WHO and to Governments were made which should clarify the approaches that should be used in further dietary surveys and calculations.

Irradiation of Food

55. In response to a request from the International Project in the field of Food Irradiation and the FAO/IAEA, an inter-secretariat meeting was held in Geneva in October 1972 to assess the roles of the international organizations in respect to the Project and the role of WHO in particular as the health agency. Recommendations were made which should lead to improved coordination and which should strengthen the WHO advisory role in respect to studies undertaken by the Project.

Marine toxins in fish

56. Data was being collected by interested groups in the Pacific and in other regions of the world to be used for an assessment of the risk of human intoxication from poisonous fish. One of such centres was the FAO/WHO International Reference Centre, Colton, in California, USA. A project as proposed by FAO/WHO had been submitted to UNDP to support research in this area in order to ensure the safety of this source of food.

Food Control

57. FAO was assisting developing countries in creating or strengthening the necessary infra-structure for food control at a national level. This assistance was given in the form of providing expertise to draft the basic food legislation, national food standards, establishment of laboratories, training of laboratory and inspectorate staff and general advice on organizational matters. The development of such national food control systems should enable the developing countries to be in a better position to accept and implement the Codex standards.

58. Besides the national projects, regional and sub-regional seminars on food control had been held or were planned to be held. A Joint FAO/WHO/UNICEF sub-regional seminar was held in Teheran in April 1972 where 6 countries participated. A second sub-regional seminar in this area was scheduled to be held in May 1973 when 10 countries were likely to participate. A joint FAO/WHO seminar was proposed for the francophone countries of West Africa which was likely to be financed under FAO/Government and Co-operative Programme. Efforts were being made to hold another seminar for the Asia and Far East region subject to the availability of funds from extra budgetary sources. The recent FAO Regional Conference held in New Delhi during October 1972 (from 17 to 27) had also recommended the holding of such a seminar which should give greater emphasis to matters of food hygiene and sanitation.

59. The Legislation Branch of FAO had been giving information on legislation in the form of various publications, research studies and preparation of draft enactments to assist member governments in drawing up specific regulations.

60. As a result of the re-organization within FAO and especially within the Food Policy and Nutrition Division forming a Food Standards and Control Service, it was the aim to further strengthen and accelerate activities in this field.

61. In connection with paragraph 59 above, the Commission noted with satisfaction the statement which had been made at the opening of the session by the Director of the Food Policy and Nutrition Division, and requested the competent authorities in FAO and WHO to continue to judge the most efficacious levels and means of assistance to the developing countries in the field of food legislation.

UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972)

62. The Commission noted that the recommendations of the UN Conference on the Human Environment given in Appendix IV to this Report were of special significance to its work. In accordance with one of the recommendations FAO and WHO were in the process of developing a detailed proposal for a Joint FAO/WHO International Monitoring and Data Retrieval Programme in the field of food contamination. This would provide a suitable plan of action to enable the generation, accumulation and evaluation of sufficient comparable data in selected areas of food and water contamination to determine necessary follow-up action programmes in combating such contamination. The Programme will cover both microbiological and chemical contamination of food and will necessarily be based on the national monitoring programmes in this field. After evaluation, the dissemination of information will be done through the existing machinery of the two Organizations and through the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Food Hygiene

63. The 25th World Health Assembly decided, conscious of the health hazards caused by the dangerous increase in the pollution of the environment, to give specific recommendations in this matter to its Member States and to request WHO to intensify its activities within its food hygiene programme, including intensification of its participation in the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

64. An informal consultation on the principles of organization and management of food hygiene programmes was held in Geneva in December 1971. The consultation made recommendations concerning analysis of factors bearing on food hygiene, legislation, training and education including specialization, modern systems of planning, laboratory activities, surveillance, and preparation of a publication on the organization and management of food hygiene programmes.

65. The training of specialists in food hygiene had continued in Kenya where courses in meat inspection have been given annually since 1966. The delegations of Ghana and Kenya stressed the importance of expanding these training activities and reference was made to the need to initiate similar activities in West Africa. WHO had also paid attention to further developing post-graduate training in food microbiology, especially with a view to responding to the needs of developing countries. Courses in this field would be initiated in 1973.

66. Work on the unification of microbiological procedures and on the examination of foods, including sampling methods as well as microbiological specifications for a number of food products, had proceeded in collaboration with, amongst other, International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF). As a result of this cooperation, the publication "Microorganisms in Foods - II. Sampling for Microbiological Analysis; Principles and Specific Applications" was now being finalized and it was planned to publish it in 1973.

67. The inter-laboratory studies supported by WHO on methods for detection of the most important food-borne pathogens had made good progress. A paper reporting the work on Salmonellae had been received for publication in the WHO Bulletin.

68. The Fourth Informal Consultation on Food Virology held in Geneva and Brno had reviewed the current status of the WHO Food Virology Programme which has been carried out in cooperation with research workers in Brno, Czechoslovakia and Madison, Wisconsin, USA. A retrieval system was presently in preparation which would enable a world-wide use of the collected data and findings.

69. Within the field of food microbiology, WHO supported research had been extended to cover problems associated with mycotoxins. The collaborating research laboratories are situated in Copenhagen and Moscow.

70. WHO had also supported research activities in various countries of the world with respect to control of some of the most important zoonoses for which food may serve as an important vehicle for transmission to man, such as brucellosis, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, echinococcosis (hydatidosis), cysticercosis-taeniasis, trichinosis and other zoonotic diseases. The Commission underlined the advantage of an intensification of the collaboration between the various international bodies participating in the elaboration of microbiological methods of analysis in the field of food products.

71. For the year 1973, four meetings were being planned, partly in cooperation with FAO and the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, dealing with various aspects of food hygiene:

- (1) The Fifth Informal Consultation on Food Virology;
- (2) Study Group on Methods for Sampling and Examination of Food and Food Products for Surveillance for Food-Borne Outbreaks;
- (3) FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Hygiene (Fish and Shellfish);
- (4) Joint FAO/WHO Interregional Conference on the Control of Food-Borne Diseases. Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Standardization.

72. The Commission requested the Secretariat to make available to Members of the Commission a list of WHO publications of interest to the Commission, up-dated from time to time, as appropriate.

73. The delegate of Czechoslovakia drew attention to the need for close and effective cooperation of WHO with all Codex Alimentarius bodies, and to the necessity for expanding the responsibility of WHO for Codex Standards, with a view to protecting the health of consumers.

PART VI

Information on the Activities of other International Organizations Working on the Standardization of Foods and Related Matters

74. The Commission received reports on the activities of the undermentioned international organizations in the field of food standards in line with the fact that one of the purposes of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme was to promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) (ALINORM 72/7-Part I)

75. The Commission had before it a progress report on the activities of the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement). It noted with interest the work carried out since the last session of the Commission by the subsidiary bodies of that Organization. The Commission noted that the Sub-Committee on Poisonous Substances in Agriculture had adopted general principles for the classification of formulated pesticide products (Resolution AP(71)4). The Sub-Committee had also adopted a study on the fate of pesticides in imported cereals and was preparing a third Edition of the booklet on "Agricultural Pesticides" which dealt with information to be supplied by manufacturers intending to market new pesticides. The Sub-Committee had also considered problems connected with the safe use of pesticides in livestock premises and warehouses and other aspects, such as residues in foods and human tissues, the public health aspects of seed dressings, and the problem of disposal of surplus pesticides.

76. The Sub-Committee on the Health Control of Foodstuffs had studied two groups of food additives, i.e. emulsifiers and stabilizers, the question of the use of antibiotics in stimulating animal growth and nitrates in food and water supplies. New subjects, among others, being considered were the use of disinfectants in the food processing industry.

77. The Working Party on Flavouring Substances had drawn up lists of "artificial" and "natural" flavouring substances grouped as "admissible", "temporarily admissible" or "not admissible" and a guide to manufacturers on the toxicological evaluation of flavouring substances, taking into consideration the reports of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Work on smoke flavours and smoke solutions was also being considered.

78. The Working Party on Packaging Materials had adopted general guidelines for toxicological evaluation of components and additives in plastic food packaging materials and had completed the evaluation of such additives. Lists of additives and components of plastic packaging materials would include an indication of acceptable residue levels in food. It was also noted that the Working Party was starting the study of heavy metal release from various types of containers.

Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) (ALINORM 72/7-Part II)

79. The ASMO representative gave an account of the aims, objectives and activities of the above organization. The work of ASMO, whose membership was now thirteen countries, was aimed at:

- (a) Assisting Arab countries in establishing and developing their national bodies and laboratories for Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control.
- (b) Adoption and issuing Unified Arab Standards and Recommendations for the various raw materials, products, instruments and equipment, as well as the technical terminology, symbols, codes of practice, classifications, methods of analysis and systems of calibration and quality control.
- (c) Coordination of Arab standards and specifications with the corresponding international standards, and promotion of Arab cooperation with other national, regional and international organizations.
- (d) Organizing services and programmes for:
 - Documentation and Information; to propagate and exchange technical information, data and studies related to Standardization, Metrology, Testing and Quality Control.
 - Training and qualifying Arab personnel engaged in Standardization, Metrology, Quality Control, and Testing Activities.

80. To achieve such objectives, ASMO's activities comprised field studies in member countries, assisted by UNIDO and UNESCO, to assess the potentialities and requirements of these countries, so as to promote and develop their food standardization activities. Twelve ASMO Technical Committees had been set up to draft unified Arab standards and recommendations for foodstuffs, food packaging and labelling. In addition, workshops and symposia had been organized on subjects such as the application of standardization, metrology and quality control. Regular annual courses on the above subjects were being conducted to train specialists and technicians from Arab countries. The representative of ASMO also stated that cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission was also a way of furthering the aims of his Organization and pointed out that several of the standards and methods of analysis recommended by the Commission had been considered and adopted as ASMO standards. ASMO was now translating these standards into Arabic. The representative of ASMO drew attention to one correction to be made in the ASMO paper: a workshop to deal with quality control in food industries would be held in Cairo in March 1973 instead of in Baghdad in December 1972.

81. The particular attention of the Commission was drawn to the conclusions in the ASMO paper which were as follows:

"To consolidate the efforts of ASMO in the promotion and development of food standards and control activities in Arab countries, it is proposed that a joint FAO/ASMO programme would be initiated to realize the following:

1. Survey of the capabilities and requirements related to food control in Arab countries in order to identify the technical assistance required nationally or regionally.
2. Elaborating model legislative regulations to help Arab countries in formulating their food control laws and acts.
3. Organizing specialized training programmes and workshops for Arab personnel engaged in activities related to food standardization and control.
4. Translation into Arabic of more Recommended Codex Standards and documents which meet the requirements of the Arab countries."

82. In regard to the first conclusion, the Secretariat pointed out that work was being done by FAO and that it was hoped that the Secretary-General of ASMO would be able to provide some assistance in connection with this work. As regards the second conclusion, the Secretariat indicated that a project was underway in the Sudan. In connection with the third conclusion, attention was drawn to the Seminar which had been held some time ago in Teheran and a further seminar is scheduled to be held in Beirut. Finally, in connection with the last conclusion, the Secretariat drew attention to the fact that it had had correspondence with the Secretary-General of ASMO following which a certain number of the Recommended Codex Standards were now being translated into Arabic.

European Economic Community (EEC) - (ALINORM 72/7-Add.3)

83. The representative of the EEC gave an account of the state of work of the Community in the harmonization of food legislation. He pointed out that the aim of the EEC was to prepare uniform food legislation within the Community, to ensure a free exchange of food commodities and that, for this reason, there was a need to elaborate common standards for food. He also pointed out that once a standard had been adopted by the Council of Ministers, it was binding on Member countries of the Community. The Commission noted that the EEC had considered general regulations on dietetic foods, low sodium dietary foods, packaging materials, food irradiation, foods for infants, foods with low carbohydrate content and labelling. In the field of food additives, EEC had regulations in force on colours, preservatives and antioxidants, and other permitted lists for classes of food additives were in the course of preparation, including purity criteria for additives and methods of analysis to determine them in food. As regards standards for commodities or groups of commodities, the Community had under consideration a large number of items such as meat products, cocoa products and chocolate, confitures, food extracts, broths, soups, fruit juices, bakery products and many others. The representative of EEC also drew the attention of the Commission to the work undertaken by the Community on animal feedstuffs, pesticide residue limits in fresh fruits and vegetables (except potatoes) and grain, and also on questions of metrology (i.e. capacity of containers for liquids, tolerances for weights for solid foods, etc.), in addition to the activities of the Community indicated in the working paper ALINORM 72/7-Add.3.

84. The question was raised as to the extent to which the work of the EEC in the field of food standardization was in harmony with the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The representative of the EEC pointed out that, while Member countries of the EEC were obliged by treaty to apply standards and regulations for foods adopted by the Council of Ministers, the EEC attached the greatest importance to and considered very carefully the Recommended Codex Standards in developing Community standards, some of which were already forming the basis of draft harmonization directives.

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)

85. The Commission received a report by the representative of CMEA on the activities of the Standing Commission of the Food Industry of CMEA. He pointed out that the work of this Commission was aimed at promoting the expansion and perfection of economic, scientific and technical cooperation and development of socialist economic integration of the Member countries of the Council. Such cooperation included, among other activities, action in the standardization of food products and unification of methods of quality testing, as well as standardization of packing and packaging, on the basis of an exchange of scientific and technical information and information of advance production experience and scientific, technological achievements, etc. The Commission of CMEA had made recommendations concerning analytical methods of testing of a variety of food commodities and quality standards for meat and meat products, milk products and canned foods. It envisaged future work on further food products, such as vegetable products, cheese, butter and canned poultry meat. Further activities were being organized in the field of food standardization and unification of methods for the control of food quality, the standardization of raw materials used in the food industry and the standardization of all types of packaging. The representative of CMEA pointed out that the recommendations of the CMEA Standing Commission were binding on its Member Countries.

86. The Commission, recognizing that a number of organizations, encompassing groups of countries, which were active in the field of food standardization, considered that it was necessary to ensure that such organizations were kept fully informed of the recommendations of the Commission on international food standards, so that these recommendations could be taken into account by these organizations. The delegate of India stressed the importance of countries adopting Codex Recommended Standards so as to facilitate export of food from developing countries. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the information given by the representative of CMEA, especially as this was the first occasion on which the CMEA had been represented at a session of the Commission.

Customs Cooperation Council

87. The delegate of Australia drew the attention of the Commission to this Organization which considered the nomenclature of foods and was also engaged in work on methods of analysis. The Secretariat informed the Commission that it had been in contact with the above Organization.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Proposed GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Barriers to Trade

88. The delegate of Canada drew the attention of the Commission to the proposed Code of Conduct which, as at present drafted, did not exclude food or foods subject to food standards. In his view, which was supported by the delegate of the USA, the provisions of the proposed Code were not appropriate to food laws of a mandatory nature. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring the work of the Codex to the attention of the GATT Secretariat in order that the necessary steps could be taken to ensure that the Code did not in any way prejudice the work of the Commission or of its members in the elaboration of food laws. It asked the Executive Committee to keep the matter under review.

International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF)

89. The Commission received a verbal report from the representative of ICMSF on the activities of the above Commission which was established in 1962 by the International Association of Microbiological Societies. He pointed out that ICMSF had 22 members from 14 countries selected for their expertise. Two sub-commissions had been established, one in the Latin American area and another in the Balkan-Danubian area. The establishment of other sub-commissions was under consideration. The purpose of the Commission (ICMSF) was to appraise public health aspects of foods, particularly those of international interest, and to make appropriate recommendations to aid in establishing internationally methods and guides to integration of the significance of microbiological data. He also pointed out that ICMSF had published a textbook "Microorganisms in Foods - I - Their Significance and Methods of Enumeration" and that another text would be published in 1973 entitled "Microorganisms in Foods - II - Sampling Plans for Microbiological Analysis - Principles and Specific Applications". The representative of ICMSF also drew attention to a summary of the activities of ICMSF, its purpose, functions, mode of operations, basis for the establishment of microbiological criteria for foods and accomplishments contained in Appendix III of the report of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, ALINORM 72/13(A). He concluded by stating that co-operation with other international organizations was ensured through the wide interest of members of ICMSF. The Commission noted this report with great interest.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) - (ALINORM 72/7-Add.1, Part IV and ALINORM 72/7-Add.2)

90. The representative of ISO gave an account of ISO policy in the field of agricultural food products (see ALINORM 72/7-Add.1). He pointed out that ISO was fully aware of the work done by the international organizations and especially the work done by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and that ISO in the light of this considered that it was particularly well qualified in the fields of terminology, sampling, testing and analysis and could also offer concrete assistance in product specification (including grading), packaging, storage and transportation. ISO recognized that these recommendations, which had to be implemented at the national level within the framework of regulations, could be dealt with more readily by an inter-governmental organization such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

91. As regard the policy statement, the Commission expressed its appreciation at the close cooperation which had existed for many years between ISO and the Commission, and for the valuable contribution which ISO had made in those spheres of activity in which ISO was particularly well qualified to provide technical knowledge and expertise. In particular, the Commission welcomed the contribution of ISO in the area of methods of analysis and sampling, and technical terminology in the food field. The Commission was also conscious of the important work ISO was doing in the field of packaging, storage and transportation. The Commission noted that the main purpose of the ISO policy statement, which had been adopted by the Council of ISO, was to avoid duplication of work being done in the standardization field and, more especially, to avoid duplication of work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

92. In view of the fact that (a) in most countries food standards were a matter for government regulatory agencies, and that (b) the Commission was an inter-governmental body with a current membership of 98 countries and with a specific mandate under its Statutes in the overall field of international food standards, the Commission agreed to recommend to ISO that, in the interest of avoiding duplication of responsibility and work, it would be in the best interests of the members of both organizations if ISO did not undertake the development of international food standards, but rather, so far as ISO's collaboration with the Commission was concerned, concentrated its efforts in those areas of activity, such as those mentioned above, which were complementary to the Commission's work, and which the Commission valued so greatly.

93. The Commission noted that ISO had done a considerable amount of work on specifications for spices and condiments. The Commission invited ISO to consider sending these specifications to the Commission at the appropriate time, for action through the Codex machinery.

94. The Commission noted with great interest the progress which had been made by ISO/TC 34 as set out in the paper which it had prepared for the Commission and expressed its appreciation for the valuable assistance which was being given to the Commission especially in the field of methods of analysis and sampling and welcomed the supporting and complementary activities which the ISO representative outlined in his statement.

Committee on International Cooperation (AOAC)

95. The Chairman of the AOAC Committee on International Cooperation (Dr. D.G. Chapman) informed the Commission that the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) had set up a Committee on International Cooperation with the specific purpose of cooperating at an international level with other organizations engaged in the establishment of standard methods of analysis. He pointed out that, as a number of AOAC methods had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, it would be desirable that close cooperation be established with the AOAC Committee. The Commission accepted Dr. Chapman's offer to prepare a working paper for the next session of the Commission on the work of the AOAC Committee on International Cooperation.

PART VII

Progress Report on the Use of the Spanish Language at Codex Committee Sessions

96. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress which had been made in making facilities available in the Spanish language at Codex Committee sessions. Details of these facilities were set out in ALINORM 72/8. In addition to the information set out in this document, the Commission was pleased to learn that the Government of Hungary had provided interpretation facilities in Spanish at the session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, held in Budapest from 12 to 18 September 1972. This was the first time the Government of Hungary had hosted this Committee.

97. The representative of Latin America on the Executive Committee (Argentina) stated that he was pleased at the progress being achieved, and stressed the need for Spanish-speaking countries to participate to a greater extent at sessions of the various Codex Committees, as this would, on the basis of present indications, be conducive to the provision of Spanish language facilities on a wider basis than at present. He stressed, however, as did the delegations of Cuba, Spain and Mexico, the need for providing the fullest possible facilities in Spanish at all Codex Committee sessions. The delegate of Mexico also referred to the need for providing the draft report in Spanish at Codex Committee sessions, in addition to interpretation facilities as this would enable any inaccuracies in the Spanish version of draft standards to be corrected by the technical experts at the session.

98. The Commission expressed the hope, as the Executive Committee had done, that all governments responsible for hosting Codex Committees would provide interpretation facilities in Spanish, in order to ensure the fullest and most effective participation in the work of the Commission by the Spanish-speaking countries. The Commission also noted that the Secretariat would continue to assist, as far as resources permitted, in the provision of documentation in Spanish. The Commission noted the statement of the delegate of New Zealand to the effect that the Government of New Zealand, which hosted the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, would provide interpretation facilities and would bear the cost of providing documentation in Spanish for the next session of that Committee. The Secretariat had provided the documentation in Spanish for the last session of the Committee, which was the first session, in view of the very wide interest in the work of the Committee, including, in particular, the interest of the South-American meat-exporting countries.

PART VIII

Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa

99. The Commission considered Part A of document ALINORM 72/11, which had been prepared by the Secretariat, and which contained information concerning the preparation and arrangements for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa to be held in 1973. The Commission was informed, through a Conference Room Document (LIM 3), that a majority of the African countries attending the Commission had held a short, informal meeting and had proposed a revised provisional agenda. In addition, they had also suggested some ways and means in which the necessary advance information required for the Conference could be obtained, including a detailed questionnaire which would be drafted and distributed by the Secretariat, asking for, inter alia, information on the following points:

- (i) existing food legislation and accompanying regulations;
- (ii) existing facilities for food control:
 - (a) laboratories - their equipment and staff
 - (b) inspectorate staff - number and distribution
 - (c) qualifications of staff employed under (a) and (b);
- (iii) commodities which are of significance to the export and import trade of African countries and also intra-African trade.

100. The delegate of Ghana stated that every effort should be made to ensure the success of the Conference and, in this connection, considered that the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 99 above should be sent to the African countries, accompanied by a letter explaining the background to the problems of food control and by the revised provisional agenda. At the same time, the African countries should be invited to set up national ad hoc Committees, with a view to coordinating their participation in the work of the forthcoming Conference. This proposal would then follow in a similar way the methods adopted for the preparation of the Second World Food Congress in 1970.

101. The delegate of Senegal considered that item 1 of the revised provisional agenda did not differentiate between the development of basic provisions regarding standardization, specifications, regulations and food control, and that this item should be appropriately amended.

102. The representative of Africa on the Executive Committee (Tunisia) stated that he was in agreement with the revised provisional agenda, together with the amendment suggested by the delegate of Senegal, and concurred with the recommendations made by the delegate of Ghana.

103. The delegations of the other African member countries present, along with the observers from the Gabonese Republic and the Libyan Arab Republic, expressed themselves in favour of the revised provisional agenda, as amended by the delegate of Senegal, and agreed to promote the aims of the Conference, within their respective countries, in order to help ensure its success. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should proceed as indicated in paragraphs 100 and 101 above. The revised provisional agenda agreed to is contained in Appendix V to this Report.

Establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Africa

104. The Commission considered the report which it had requested at its Eighth Session on the administrative and financial implications of establishing a Coordinating Committee for Africa and which was set out in Part B of ALINORM 72/11. The Commission noted that provision had been made in the 1974-75 budgetary proposals for a meeting of a Coordinating Committee for Africa, to be held in the 1974-75 biennium in conjunction with the Commission's Tenth Session. In view of the difficult financial situation, this would be the most economical way of holding such a meeting.

105. The delegate of Ghana, supported by the representative of Africa on the Executive Committee (Tunisia), stated that meetings of the Coordinating Committee for Africa should be held in conjunction with the Commission's sessions in Rome or Geneva, until such time as an African country offered to be the host country. Other African delegations endorsed this view.

106. The Commission agreed to establish, under Rule IX.1(b)(2), a Coordinating Committee for Africa, and also agreed that the first session should be held in Geneva, in conjunction with the Commission's Tenth Session. The African delegates agreed that it would be useful if the Food Standards Conference in Africa were to consider the nomination of a Coordinator for Africa and decided to include an item on this subject in the revised provisional agenda. The Commission agreed that the Membership and Functions of the Coordinating Committee for Africa would be as follows:

"Membership: Membership of the Committee is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and/or WHO, which are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, within the geographic location of Africa.

Functions: The Committee exercises general coordination in the preparation of standards relating to the region of Africa and exercises such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission."

PART IX

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Consideration of Draft Standards for Canned Mushrooms, Canned Asparagus, Processed Tomato Concentrate, Canned Green Peas, Raisins, Canned Plums, Canned Raspberries, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Canned Mandarin Oranges and Canned Pears at Step 8

107. The Commission had before it for consideration at Step 8 the above-mentioned draft standards which were contained in Appendices V and VI of ALINORM 72/20A, Appendices IV and V of ALINORM 72/20 and Appendices VII, II, III and IV of ALINORM 72/20A and Appendices II and III of ALINORM 72/20, respectively.

108. The Rapporteur (Mr. L. Beacham, USA) informed the Commission that the draft standards for Canned Mushrooms, Canned Asparagus, Canned Plums, Canned Raspberries and Canned Fruit Cocktail had, in accordance with the decisions taken by the Commission at its Eighth Session (paragraph 235, ALINORM 71/31), been reconsidered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its Ninth Session held from 12 to 16 June 1972. These draft standards had been re-examined by the Committee in the light of the government comments which had been made on them when they were before the Eighth Session of the Commission for consideration at Step 8 (ALINORM 71/30 and Addenda) and also in the light of government comments received on them subsequent to the Commission's Eighth Session. The Rapporteur also recalled that the Draft Standards for Processed Tomato Concentrates, Canned Green Peas, Canned Mandarin Oranges and Canned Pears had been advanced to Step 8 by the Committee at its Eighth Session held from 7 to 11 June 1971, for consideration by the Commission at its Ninth Session. The Draft Standard for Raisins had been advanced to Step 8 by the Committee at its Ninth Session. The Step 8 comments which had been received on the above standards were set out in document ALINORM 72/30, and addenda I, II and III.

109. The Rapporteur referred to the amendments which the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, at its Ninth Session, had recommended should be made to the draft standards for Canned Mandarin Oranges and Canned Pears. These amendments, which concerned the sections on packing media and labelling, were consequential upon the decisions which the Committee had taken concerning these matters in re-examining the standards for Canned Plums, Canned Raspberries and Canned Fruit Cocktail. The proposed amendments had been circulated to governments in advance of the Commission's session.

110. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that he had reviewed all the Step 8 comments on these standards and that all the matters of substance had been considered by the Committee either at its last session or at one of its previous sessions. In his introductory comments, he outlined the main points which the Committee had to resolve and which were explained in the Reports of the Committee.

General Remarks

111. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany drew the Commission's attention to the comments of the Federal Republic of Germany as set out in document ALINORM 72/30 on the Step 8 standards for processed fruits and vegetables. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that, while these comments reflected the present situation in his country in regard to these products, he would refrain from pressing for a discussion of his comments, in order not to hold up the advancement of the standards.

The delegate of Japan reiterated that the previous position of Japan remained unchanged as regards food additives and labelling, in particular, labelling of date of manufacture as well as name and address of the manufacturer.

112. Several delegates pointed out that some of the additives listed in the Food Additives section of the standards considered were not permitted to be used in the products concerned under their national regulations. It was pointed out, however, that it was recognized that not all of the additives listed in the standards would be acceptable to all the Member Countries, and that it would be open to those countries which did not permit the use of some of the additives or classes of additives listed, to indicate this in their replies when the standards were submitted to them for acceptance.

113. The Commission re-affirmed its earlier decision that food additives which had not been endorsed or were still subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives would be deleted from Recommended Standards issued to governments for acceptance, but would be reinstated as soon as an endorsement had been obtained. The delegates of Poland and Portugal pointed out that this procedure could create difficulties as regards the acceptance of Recommended Standards, since the re-insertion of such additives would mean that some governments would have to reconsider their previous acceptance of food additives sections.

114. The delegate of Spain stated that there was a lacuna in the standards in that they did not contain a section on contaminants, including pesticide residues. It was pointed out, however, that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables was examining the matter of contaminants in these products and hoped to be in a position to submit suitable proposals for adoption by the Commission, when it was in possession of the necessary data which it was at present collecting. Such proposals would be put before the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement before being submitted to the Commission. The Commission recalled that at its Seventh session, it had recommended that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should consider, in addition to tin, the subject of other contaminants in all their standards, including those which had been adopted at Step 8. It was pointed out, however, that in the meantime the section on hygiene in the standards provided adequate safeguards. As regards pesticide residues, it was noted that tolerances adopted by the Commission were issued separately for acceptance by governments. Any tolerances for pesticide residues applying to the products under consideration in the standards would, after having been approved by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and adopted by the Commission, be referenced in the standards, in accordance with the Format for Codex Commodity Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS

115. The Commission considered the recommendation of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables that the use of pectin should be provided for in this standard, within the overall tolerance of 1%, applicable to modified starches, vegetable gums, alginates and propylene glycol alginate. The Commission noted that the use of pectin had been provided for in certain other standards and that it was only because the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables took place after the last session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, that the proposal to include pectin in the standard had not come before the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement. However, having heard a statement by the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that there would be no difficulties about the endorsement of this particular food additive, the Commission decided to provide for its use in the standard, in accordance with the proposal which had been made by the Commodity Committee. The Commission wished to stress, however, that although it had authorized the inclusion of this additive in the standard without the formal endorsement of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, this action should not be regarded as a precedent.

116. The delegate of India asked to be placed on record as having a reservation with regard to the drained weight figure of 53% for this product, which in his view should be 50%.

117. The Commission also adopted the amendment which had been proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to sub-section 6.3 of the standard dealing with net contents. The amended version of sub-section 6.3 would read as follows:

"The net contents shall be declared by weight in either the metric ("Système International" units) or avoirdupois or both systems of measurement as required by the country in which the product is sold, except that mushrooms packed in regular or natural packs as described in paragraph 1.5(a) shall carry a declaration of drained weight of the food."

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Mushrooms at Step 8

118. The Commission adopted as a Recommended Standard the Draft Standard for Canned Mushrooms, as amended above, at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of world-wide Codex Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED ASPARAGUS

119. For the reasons given in the case of the standard for Canned Mushrooms, the Commission also agreed to provide for the use of pectin in the Draft Standard for Canned Asparagus. The Commission also agreed to an editorial amendment under sub-section 7.1.1 of the standard proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and dealing with the name of the product. The amended version of the sub-section 7.1.1 would read as follows:

"The name of the product shall be 'asparagus' and the word 'peeled' or 'unpeeled' shall be declared, as appropriate, if national legislation so requires."

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Asparagus at Step 8

120. The Commission adopted as a Recommended Standard the Draft Standard for Canned Asparagus, as amended above, at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR PROCESSED TOMATO CONCENTRATE

121. The delegate of Japan, referring to the section of the standard dealing with permitted ingredients, stated that, in his view, no seasonings or flavourings other than salt should be permitted to be used in tomato concentrates intended for use in the manufacture of tomato juice or other tomato products, as such additions would alter the flavour and taste of the tomato concentrates, and this would present difficulties for manufacturers of tomato juice and other tomato products in meeting standards laid down for such products. In this connection, he referred to the Recommended Codex Standard for Tomato Juice, which does not permit the addition of any seasonings except salt. It was pointed out, however, that tomato concentrate had many other uses than those mentioned by the delegate of Japan and that the standard did not require that seasonings and flavourings be used: their use was optional.

122. Attention was drawn to a typing error in sub-section 2.2.1 of the standard, where one of the headings under "Examples" should have read "average must be not less than" instead of "average must be less than". Several delegates stated that the product designation and provisions concerning the name of the product did not conform to practices in their countries. It was pointed out, however, that this subject had been discussed very thoroughly by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, and that the conclusions of the Committee as reflected in the standard and as explained in detail in the Report of the Committee was a compromise designed not to present difficulties for any particular country.

123. A number of delegates had reservations concerning the mould count provision in the standard (not more than 50% positive fields). It was explained that at Committee sessions some delegates had sought a higher figure and others a lower figure for positive fields and that the figure of 50% was a compromise figure. The delegate of Portugal reserved his position regarding the use of pH regulating agents in tomato concentrates. The observer of the Libyan Arab Republic reserved his position concerning the section on contaminants, stating that the following maximum levels should be provided for in the standard: copper - 50 ppm; lead - 6 ppm; zinc - 300 ppm; other metals 6 ppm; total 362 ppm.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrate at Step 8

124. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended Standard, the draft standard for Processed Tomato Concentrate at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards. The delegates of Spain and Italy reserved their positions regarding this decision.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED GREEN PEAS

125. Several delegations stated that it was essential to provide for obligatory size grading for this product and that the absence of obligatory size grading seriously lessened the value of the standard as an instrument in facilitating international trade in this product. It was pointed out that size grading of peas had been fully and thoroughly discussed at several sessions of the Committee, as the Reports of the Committee showed. A number of systems of size grading had been considered by the Committee, including the system indicated in the Recommended Standard for Quick-Frozen Peas. It had not been found possible to reach agreement on a sizing system to which all interested countries could subscribe. For this reason the Committee, although recognizing the great desirability of laying down a sizing system in the standard, had come to the conclusion that the best that could be done at this time would be to include a provision in the standard allowing optional size labelling according to national legislation. Several delegates at the Commission's session thought that despite the difficulties, another attempt should be made to reach an agreement on sizing, and that, in the meantime, the standard should not be adopted at Step 8. Others, however, saw no reasonable prospect of achieving this - at least not in the immediate future. The suggestion was made that the Coordinating Committee for Europe might be able to play a useful role in connection with the problem of sizing, in that it would provide a forum for discussions with a view to reaching agreement on the sizing of peas at the European level. The point was also made that it should be mandatory to label unsized peas "unsized".

126. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the fact that, through a typographical error, pectin had not been provided for in the standard, and it noted that this error would be corrected. A number of delegates thought that the use of colours should not be permitted in the standard.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Green Peas at Step 8

127. The Commission adopted, as a Recommended Standard, the draft Standard for Canned Green Peas at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had stressed the need for governments to give special attention to sizing when considering acceptance of the standard. The Commission recognized the desirability of providing for an internationally acceptable system of size grading in the Recommended Standard and expressed the hope that, at a future time, this would be achieved. As a step in this direction, the Commission suggested that the Coordinating Committee for Europe might consider the subject of size grading of canned peas with a view to reaching agreement on a European level on this subject. It was agreed that, when it had achieved this objective, it should report to the Commission, which would then decide what would be the most appropriate course to follow, according to the procedure for the amendment of Recommended Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR RAISINS

128. In the food additives section of the standard, several delegates considered that the level of 1,500 mg/kg of sulphur dioxide permitted in the standard was too high. It was noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives, at its last session, had decided to postpone the endorsement of sulphur dioxide at the level of 1,500 mg/kg, and had requested the Commodity Committee to re-examine the level. The Commodity Committee had done so, and had, for the reasons given in the Commodity Committee's report, decided that it was necessary to retain the level of 1,500 mg/kg for bleached raisins only. Because the Commodity Committee met after the last session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Codex Committee on Food Additives did not have an opportunity of considering the Commodity Committee's response, and consequently, this provision had not been endorsed by the Food Additives Committee. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by several other delegates, stated that he was opposed to the use of Mineral Oil, which, in his opinion, can be replaced by mono or di-glycerides.

129. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the labelling section of this standard had not yet been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling thought that it would be desirable to give consideration to the use of the word "natural" in connection with this product.

Status of the Standard for Raisins

130. The delegate of the USA pointed out that the international trade in bleached raisins was nominal, but in view of the foregoing, the Commission decided to return the standard to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for reconsideration at Step 7, with particular reference to the section on food additives. This would also enable the section on food additives and the section on labelling to be put before the relevant Codex Subject Committees for endorsement.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED PLUMS

131. Attention was drawn to the fact that the main problem which the Committee had had to resolve in this and in the other draft standards for canned fruits was the question of the number of categories of syrup strengths to be provided for. This difficulty had been resolved in the Committee. In addition, the Committee had expanded the section on packing media in this standard and in the other standards for canned fruits, with consequential labelling changes. Details of the Committee's decisions and the reasons for them were contained in the Report of the Committee's Ninth Session. The Commission noted that the Committee had considered a proposal to group plums in different categories for syrup strength purposes, but had decided not to do this because of the difficulty of determining and reaching agreement on the question of which plums fell into which category.

132. The Commission agreed to change the wording of sub-section 2.2.1 of the standard concerning the colour of the product, to correspond with the equivalent sub-section in the standard for Canned Green Peas, and to take similar action in the case of other standards before the Commission at Step 8, where this course would be applicable. The Commission accepted the proposal of the Commodity Committee that there was no need to provide for the use of acidifying agents in this product. The Commission agreed, therefore, that this provision, which the Committee had placed in square brackets, should be deleted.

133. The Commission noted that sub-sections 6.2 (List of Ingredients), 6.3 (Net Contents), 6.4 (Name and Address) and 6.5 (Country of Origin) had been inadvertently omitted from the standard and should be reinstated. The Commission also noted that the sub-section on Name of the Food included a number of changes which had been made by the Commodity Committee as a consequence of the changes which had been decided upon by the Committee concerning the section of the standard on packing media. There had been no time to put these amendments before the Codex Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement, but, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Food Labelling Committee, the Commission agreed to adopt these changes in the labelling section of the standard. While noting the request of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling that the number of labelling matters which were by-passing the Food Labelling Committee be kept to a minimum, the Commission took the same decision in regard to the other standards for canned fruits which were before it for consideration at Step 8.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8

134. The Commission adopted as a Recommended Standard, the Draft Standard for Canned Plums at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED RASPBERRIES

135. The delegate of Hungary considered that the figure for total defects in sub-section 2.2.4 (a) and (b) should be raised from 25% to 30%. It was pointed out that the figure of 25% had been carefully considered by the Committee and represented the general consensus in the Committee. The delegate of India inquired why the maximum limits for colours in this standard were higher than in other standards which permitted the use of colours. It was pointed out that the Committee considered the technological need for the use of food additives in each product most carefully, and that it was only where a need for their use had been shown to the satisfaction of the Committee that it was prepared to agree to their use. The delegate of India stated that the use of food additives should be kept to a minimum. The delegate of Peru stated that she reserved her position on the use of colours in this product.

136. The delegate of Japan drew attention to sub-section 6.2 of the standard, List of Ingredients, and inquired whether there was not a conflict between this provision, which stated that water need not be declared and sub-section 6.2.1 of the draft standard for Canned Fruit Cocktail, which stated that water and fruit juice need not be declared. It was pointed out that in the case of canned fruit cocktail, the fruit juices used as packing media were solely the juices derived from the specified fruits defined in the standard, whereas in the standard for canned raspberries the fruit juices used as packing media might be raspberry or other compatible fruit juices. The delegate of Japan was, however, not fully satisfied with this position as indicated by the Rapporteur, because it was not in conformity with the List of Ingredients section of the draft standard for Vinifera Type Grape Juice or of other Recommended Standards for fruit juices, which required that the fact of reconstitution, if such was the case, be declared in the list of ingredients, so as not to mislead the consumer.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Raspberries at Step 8

137. The Commission adopted as a Recommended Standard, the draft standard for Canned Raspberries, at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED FRUIT COCKTAIL

138. The main problem in connection with this draft standard was the question of the name 'Fruit Cocktail' to be used only for the product described in the standard. It was explained that this problem had been fully discussed at previous sessions of the Commodity Committee, which had come to the conclusion that the name 'Fruit Cocktail' should be reserved for the product which was traditionally known by this designation and which had long been established in international trade. The decision of the Committee was also based on the consideration that most of the canned fruit cocktail moving in international trade was the product described in the standard.

139. A substantial number of delegates, many of whom were from countries which had not been represented at sessions of the Commodity Committee stated that to reserve the designation 'Fruit Cocktail' for the product described in the standard would present great difficulties for them. Many countries were using the designation 'fruit cocktail' to cover a mixture of fruits which would not be the same as those listed in the standard, not to speak of the question of proportion of fruits in the product. Several delegates stated that the list of fruits in a standard for such a product should not be restrictive. A number of delegates stated that it should be possible to use the designation 'fruit cocktail' in connection with tropical fruits. It was pointed out that the Commodity Committee would be elaborating standards for tropical fruit salad and other mixtures of fruits, under its programme of future work, but some delegates stated, in this connection, that there was a considerable difference between the designations 'fruit cocktail' and 'fruit salad'. It was also noted that the English word 'cocktail' was used in descriptions of fruits in other languages, for example, Spanish and French. Other terms were also commonly used, such as the Italian word 'Macedonia'.

140. The suggestion was made that it might be possible for the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables to elaborate a general standard for mixed fruits with appropriate individual standards to cover different mixtures of fruits. The Commission concluded by noting that there was a problem as to mixtures of fruits and as to nomenclature. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should request information from Member Governments as to their practices in relation to the production of canned mixed fruits. The information should show what mixtures of fruits are canned and what designations the various mixtures are given. The information should also include figures on home consumption, imports and exports of the various mixtures. This information should be made available for consideration by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, and the Commodity Committee should also examine the feasibility of elaborating a General Standard for mixtures of Canned Fruits. It was agreed that the Commodity Committee should consult the Codex Committee on Food Labelling as it thought fit. The Commission noted and agreed with the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling that the manner of declaring l-ascorbic acid should be "l-ascorbic acid as an antioxidant" instead of "l-ascorbic acid added to preserve colour".

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Fruit Cocktail

141. The Commission agreed not to adopt the Draft Standard for Canned Fruit Cocktail at Step 8 of the Procedure, but to return it to the Committee for reconsideration at Step 7.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES

142. In introducing the Draft Standard for Canned Mandarin Oranges, the Rapporteur drew the attention of the Commission to a number of amendments proposed to the standard by the delegate of Japan. The proposed amendments related mainly to sizing but also affected other sections of the draft standard. Since these amendments were of a substantive nature, and since Japan attached considerable importance to them, the Rapporteur, with the concurrence of the delegate of Japan, proposed that the Draft Standard for Canned Mandarin Oranges be returned to the Committee for reconsideration at Step 7. The Rapporteur stated that Japan would need to submit promptly its specific proposal, with supporting data, to the Chairman of the Committee, in order for this standard to be reconsidered at the 1973 meeting of the Committee.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Mandarin Oranges

143. The Commission agreed to return the Draft Standard for Canned Mandarin Oranges to Step 7 of the Procedure for reconsideration by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, more especially as regards the proposed amendments suggested by the delegate of Japan.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED PEARS

144. In introducing the Draft Standard for Canned Pears, the Rapporteur drew attention to the amendments recommended by the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables concerning the Section on Packing Media and the sub-section on the Name of the Product in the Labelling Section of the Standard. These recommendations were in line with the decisions which had been taken by the Commodity Committee in relation to the other standards for canned fruits which it had considered at its last session.

145. Several delegates, including the delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, reserved their positions on the use of artificial colours in connection with canned pears. The delegate of India thought that there should be the same maximum limit for colours in all the standards for canned fruits and vegetables. It was pointed out, however, that the use of colours in canned pears was to give the pears quite a different colouring to the natural product and that the use of colours was confined to specialty packs. It was agreed that this should be made clear in the standard. The delegate of Ghana was one of the delegates who had reservations about the use of colours in this commodity and thought that the Commodity Committee should examine the extent of the trade in these specialty packs.

146. The Commission agreed that, in future, the restricted use of a food additive, such as in the present case, should be made quite clear in the standard. The Commission stressed the need for the fullest consideration to be given to the technological need for the use of food additives.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Canned Pears at Step 8

147. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Canned Pears at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

Reconsideration of the Standard for Canned Strawberries which had been adopted and held at Step 8

148. The Commission noted the recommendations of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in regard to this Standard and agreed to adopt the amendments proposed to the Section on Packing Media and the consequential amendments to the labelling section of the standard.

149. As in the case of other standards for canned fruit considered by the Committee at its Ninth Session, the Commission noted that the time schedule of meetings did not enable the proposed amendments to the labelling provisions to be submitted to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement. On the recommendation of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, the Commission agreed to adopt the proposed changes in the labelling section of the standard.

Adoption of the amended version of the Standard for Canned Strawberries at Step 8

150. The Commission adopted the amended version of the Standard for Canned Strawberries at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

Consideration of Draft Standards for (a) Jams (Fruit Preserves) and Jellies and (b) Citrus Marmalade at Step 5

151. Whilst the Commission agreed that these two draft standards should be advanced to Step 6 of the Procedure, the delegates of Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany stated that careful consideration should be given by the Committee to the section on food additives, and that only those which were technologically indispensable should be permitted in the standards. The delegate of Norway reiterated his view that it was unnecessary to set minimum levels for soluble solids in these standards.

Consideration at Step 5 of Amendments Proposed to the Step 9 Standards for Canned Peaches, Canned Pineapple and Canned Tomatoes

152. The Commission considered the proposed amendments to the above three Step 9 standards, which had been proposed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its Ninth Session and which were set out in Appendices X, XI and XII to document ALINORM 72/20A. The Commission noted the recommendation of the Commodity Committee that, in the case of the proposed amendments to the standards for canned peaches and canned pineapple, Steps 6, 7 and 8 be omitted. The Commission noted that the proposed maximum limit of 700 mg/kg for l-ascorbic acid in the Step 9 Standard for Canned Peaches had not as yet been before the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement. A number of delegates thought that the level of l-ascorbic acid proposed to be permitted in this product was somewhat high. The Commission, failing to agree without dissent that Steps 6, 7 and 8 be omitted, decided that the proposed amendment to the Step 9 Standard for Canned Peaches be advanced to Step 6 of the Procedure.

153. The Commission considered the proposed amendment of the Commodity Committee to the Step 9 Standard for Canned Pineapple and agreed, there being no dissent, that the amendment should be adopted at Step 8.

154. The Commission considered the proposed amendment of the Commodity Committee to the Step 9 Standard for Canned Tomatoes and, noting that the Committee had not expressed a wish that Steps 6, 7 and 8 be omitted, agreed to advance the proposed amendment to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Proposed Amendments to the Step 9 Standard for Canned Green and Wax Beans

155. The Commission noted the contents of paragraph 119 of ALINORM 72/20A concerning proposed amendments to the above-mentioned Step 9 Standard. The Commission also noted that these amendments had not yet been considered by the Commodity Committee and that it was not the intention that the Commission should take any decision on them at this session within the framework of the Procedure for the Amendment of Recommended Codex Standards. The position was, therefore, that it was the intention of the Commodity Committee to seek comments on these proposed amendments to enable the Committee to consider them more meaningfully at its next session. The proposed amendments to the above standard were therefore not at any step of the amendment procedure at this time.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

156. 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 USA.

JOINT CODEX/IOOC MEETING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF TABLE OLIVES

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Table Olives at Step 5

157. The Commission noted that a Joint Codex/IOOC Meeting on the Standardization of Table Olives had taken place in Madrid from 13-16 December 1971, and that the Joint Meeting had submitted to the Commission a Proposed Draft Standard for Table Olives for consideration at Step 5. The attention of the Commission was drawn to paragraphs 45, 46 and 47 of the Report of the Meeting, document ALINORM 72/21, as well as to the views of the Executive Committee as contained in paragraphs 36-40 of ALINORM 72/3.

158. At the Joint Meeting it had not been found possible to reach agreement on a minimum quality level for table olives which would be acceptable to all countries. For this reason, the Joint Meeting had agreed that it was necessary to incorporate in the standard quality classes superior to the minimum laid down in the standard. The intention was that those countries which did not regard the Codex quality level as being acceptable could still accept the standard in respect of the higher quality levels. The Executive Committee had agreed, taking into account the meaning of acceptance as laid down in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, that it was essential to uphold the principle that Codex standards contained only one level of quality. At the same time, the Executive Committee was anxious to find a solution to the problem which had been posed by the Joint Meeting. The Executive Committee agreed on the following formula. The Codex standard should include a notation which would, in substance, state (i) that the quality requirements of the Codex standard corresponded to the Market Class in the IOOC Standard and (ii) that the two higher quality classes in the IOOC standard, which would be set out in an annex to the Codex standard, were there for information purposes but did not form part of the standard.

159. The delegates of Italy and Spain agreed with the conclusions of the Executive Committee, as set out in the Report of its Eighteenth Session. The delegate of France stated that the international trade in table olives was, in fact, based on three quality classes and added that he would have preferred to have had the three classes fully incorporated into the standard as distinct from providing for the two superior grades in the form of annexes in the way suggested by the Executive Committee.

160. In response to a question from the floor, the FAO Legal Adviser explained that there was no specific provision in the General Principles which would preclude the Commission from adopting a standard specifying more than a single quality class and from leaving it to governments, when accepting the recommended standard, to declare the class for which they had opted. There was a provision in the Format according to which quality factors essential for the definition or composition of the product "do not at this stage include grades or quality classes". It would seem from the Introduction to the Format that its provisions were mainly intended as a guide to Codex Commodity Committees.

161. The FAO Legal Adviser added that in view of the formulation in the Format, which includes the terms "at this stage", it would appear that paragraph 3 of the General Principles providing that standards should be drawn up in accordance with the Format, was not intended to bind the Commission to the specification in a standard of a single quality class in all cases. Accordingly, the Commission could, if it considered this necessary or appropriate, introduce two or more quality classes in the actual text of the standard. However, as noted in the preceding paragraph, a country, in accepting a particular standard, would be required to accept one of the quality classes so specified.

Status of the Draft Standard for Table Olives

162. The Commission agreed that the Draft Standard for Table Olives should be advanced to Step 6 of the Procedure for consideration, in the light of government comments, at a further joint CODEX/IOOC meeting to be held in 1973. The representative of the IOOC expressed the satisfaction of the IOOC at the close cooperation existing between the IOOC and the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the elaboration of the international standard for table olives.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Consideration of Draft Standard for Infant Formula at Step 8

163. The Commission considered the above standard which was contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 72/26. The Chairman of the Committee acted as Rapporteur. The Commission noted that there were no food additives provisions as yet in the draft standard. However, the Commission was informed that a list of food additive provisions for this product had been discussed at the Seventh Session of the Committee (Cologne, October 1972), the Report of which was not yet available to the Commission. This list would have to be examined by the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives in 1973, with a view to endorsement. The Commission also took note of the fact that the provisions on contaminants, hygiene and labelling had to be re-examined by the appropriate Codex General Subject Committees.

164. The Commission noted that a number of amendments to the draft standard had been proposed at Step 8 and that the FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group (PAG) would examine this standard at its meeting on Feeding the Pre-school Child, to be held in Geneva in December 1972. The PAG, which is to advise FAO and WHO as regards nutritional aspects of foods, especially of food intended to be fed to infants and children, would review the standard, with particular reference to protein quality and trace elements in infant formulae not based on milk. Furthermore, a meeting on requirements of trace elements would be convened by WHO in 1973, the report of which might affect the compositional criteria of the standard.

Status of the Draft Standard for Infant Formula

165. In view of these circumstances, the Commission decided not to adopt the Draft Standard for Infant Formula at Step 8, but to refer it back to the Committee at Step 7 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for Canned Baby Foods at Step 5

166. The Commission considered the Proposed Draft Standard for Canned Baby Foods contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 72/26 at Step 5. The delegates of India and Ghana pointed out that careful attention should be given to the possible alteration of the product in hot climates and that, therefore, there should be provisions on maximum moisture content, date of processing and date beyond which the product should not be consumed. The observer of the Libyan Arab Republic stated that he considered that the draft standard for Canned Baby Foods should include maximum and minimum levels of nutrients, particularly protein, minerals and vitamins, since these foods were intended to be fed to pre-school children in the dangerous period of weaning. The observer of the Libyan Arab Republic thought, therefore, that the draft standard should be considered carefully from the nutritional point of view, and added that it might be worthwhile to have it examined by the FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group (PAG).

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Baby Foods

167. The Commission decided to advance this Proposed Draft Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

168. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Commission took note of the statement by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany that the next session of the Committee would be held early in 1974.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

169. The Commission had before it the Report of the Sixth Session of the above Committee (ALINORM 72/16). The delegate of Denmark, which hosts the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Canned Corned Beef at Step 8

170. The Commission noted that many of the comments and reservations made regarding the Draft Standard for Canned Corned Beef (ALINORM 72/16, Appendix IV) dealt with the question of the name of the product, that is to say, whether the scope section should be limited to the traditional South American product known as "canned corned beef" or whether it should also cover other products labelled as corned beef in conjunction with a geographical or other designation, but which differed in composition from the South American type product.

171. On the basis of the information received, the Commodity Committee had, at its Sixth Session, decided that the standard should be limited to the traditional product and had requested the FAO Legal Office to examine the consequences of possible acceptance of the standard in relation to the trade in similar products not covered by the standard, but having the term "corned beef" as part of their designation.

172. In the light of the reply to this question given by the FAO Legal Office, a number of delegates expressed the view that the draft standard should encompass all products commonly known as corned beef in one form or another. In this connection, the Commission discussed at some length one of the conclusions reached in the answer of the FAO Legal Office with regard to the use of the product descriptive names, namely that the addition of descriptive designations as "with cereals" or "with broth" to corned beef would seem both desirable and legally admissible, provided that the corned beef component of the product is in conformity with the mandatory compositional provisions of the standard.

173. A number of delegates pointed out that the European and other non traditional types of corned beef did not and could not comply with this requirement and they were therefore of the opinion that the standard might result in trade restrictions for these products.

174. Other delegates pointed out that the product of main importance in international trade was the South American type of corned beef and that consequently it was appropriate that the Codex Standard should confine itself to this product.

175. The Commission agreed that the designation "Corned Beef" without qualifying descriptions should apply exclusively to the traditional South American type of product.

176. The Commission briefly reviewed the provisions of the standard and the written government comments given to these and noted in particular the following:

- (a) Various delegates pointed out that they considered the limit for the total fat content to be too high and that for the traditional South American type product the upper limit should be 15% m/m.
- (b) It was proposed that the provision in the Description section of the Standard concerning a limitation on the weight of the precooked beef should be combined with an analytical method of control. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that, at its Sixth Session, considerable progress had been made with regard to finding an expression for the meat content of canned hams and pork shoulders and that at a later stage the work on the meat content would, if possible, be extended to other products in the light of the relevant data.
- (c) It was further proposed that the limits given in the Standard for the content of nitrate and nitrite should be lowered and that provisions concerning incubation of the product should be included. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the levels of nitrate and nitrite had been temporarily endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, pending re-examination by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. As regards incubation tests, these would be considered by the Processed Meat Products Committee when the Sampling Plans, elaborated by the ICMSF, were available (see paragraph 66 of this Report).

177. The Commission further noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had endorsed the hygiene section of the standard as it stood and that the labelling section had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling with two amendments. In connection with one of the amendments the delegate of New Zealand raised the question whether it was not more appropriate to retain the form of wording proposed by the Commodity Committee, which the Labelling Committee itself considered to be clear rather than the customary extract from the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. It was agreed that this was a matter of a general nature affecting all Commodity standards and that it should be discussed under another agenda item (see paragraph 313 of this Report).

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Corned Beef

178. The delegate of the Argentina stated that it would be desirable to hold the standard for Canned Corned Beef at Step 8 of the Procedure, solely in order that the studies on additives, time and temperature of incubation which are being carried out by ISO and the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications can be completed. However, in view of the discussions concerning the name of the product in connection with the scope of the standard and also concerning the amendments proposed to the provisions of the standard, the Commission decided to return the draft standard to Step 7 of the Procedure.

179. The Commission recognized that the Processed Meat Products Committee had already considered the question of the desirability of broadening the standard. The Commission decided, however, that the Commodity Committee should once more review the entire subject matter. In doing this the Committee should consider the reply given by the FAO Legal Office to the question which had been raised by the Committee, and should also

take into account the views of the countries which produced corned beef which was not the traditional South-American type.

Discussion of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee

180. In connection with the Report the delegate of Canada expressed concern that the work on Canned Hams and other important canned processed meat products of significance in world-wide trade had become merged with work on a far too general and broad a basis on cooked cured ham, etc. In the opinion of the delegate of Canada, the Committee should take the final steps in the elaboration of the standards for these already well-defined traditionally packaged and treated products (canned, fully preserved) as in the case of Canned Corned Beef, and later on go on to develop, if necessary, standards for other related products now entering trade (e.g. semi-preserved products in plastic bags). The Commission, however, noted the remarks of the Chairman of the Committee drawing attention to some questions which had been raised in the Committee concerning the consequence of the Acceptance Procedure in relation to the name of the product and the scope of the standards.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

182. The Commission had before it the Report of the Sixth Session of the above Committee (ALINORM 72/17). The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, which hosts the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of Draft Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses, Halves and Quarters moving in International Trade, at Step 8 (ALINORM 72/17, Appendix IV)

183. The Rapporteur pointed out that the document under discussion should be considered in conjunction with the proposed Draft Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses moving in International Trade (Pistol Cuts) (ALINORM 72/17, Appendix V), as in the opinion of the majority of the delegates attending the last session of the Committee, this document (Appendix V) should be merged with the above document (Appendix IV). The Commission decided that, with regard to the main document (Appendix IV), all the written comments received at Step 8 could be accepted. The Commission adopted Appendix IV at Step 8, which would be edited to include the Step 8 comments mentioned above. The Commission also decided that Appendix IV, in its edited form, should not be advanced to Step 9 until the text on Pistol Cuts (Appendix V) had also been adopted at Step 8.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses moving in International Trade (Pistol Cuts) at Step 5 (ALINORM 72/17, App. V)

184. The Commission considered the proposal by the Codex Committee on Meat to omit Steps 6, 7 and 8 of the Procedure so that the document (Appendix V) could be merged with the Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Carcasses, Halves and Quarters (Appendix IV). The Commission was of the opinion that, whereas the merging as such seemed not inappropriate, Appendix V needed further review by the Codex Committee on Meat. The Commission agreed to advance the document to Step 6 of the Procedure and to request the Codex Committee on Meat to elaborate the document in such a way that it could be merged with the main document (Appendix IV).

Consideration of Proposed Draft System for the Description of Carcasses of Bovine and Porcine Species at Step 5

185. The Commission considered at Step 5 of the Procedure the above document, contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 72/17 and decided to advance the document to Step 6.

Boneless Meat

186. At its previous session, the Commission had decided that "work to be done in connection with boneless meat should be confined to hygiene matters" (ALINORM 71/31, paragraph 165) and that "the question of composition - content of fat, muscle, fibre, etc. - of the product was a matter normally covered by the commercial specifications or contracts between buyers and sellers". At its Sixth Session, the Codex Committee on Meat had re-discussed the issue and had agreed, on the basis of a majority decision, to request the Commission to reconsider its decision, so that work on compositional criteria for boneless meat could be undertaken by the Codex Committee on Meat (ALINORM 72/17, paragraph 60).

187. Several delegates stated that the trade in boneless meat was, for the most part, confined to bulk packs intended for further processing and only to a very limited extent also included units intended for direct sale to the consumer. Other delegates, however, stated that significant quantities of boneless meat were for direct consumption. Some delegates considered that it would be necessary to consider the question of a standard for boneless meat in the light of the criteria for the establishment of work priorities, as contained in the Procedural Manual, which had not been fulfilled. It was further noted that the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products covered the elaboration of standards for consumer-packaged meat.

188. The Secretariat was requested, in collaboration with the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Meat, to prepare and send out a questionnaire pertaining to the trade in boneless meat. The purpose of the questionnaire would be to ascertain the extent of international trade in boneless meat (a) intended for direct consumption, and (b) intended for further processing. The information received would be collated by the Secretariat for consideration by the Commission at its Tenth Session.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

190. The Commission had before it the reports of the Eighth and Ninth Sessions of the above Committee (ALINORM 72/13 and ALINORM 72/13A). The delegate of the U.S.A., which hosts the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Tree Nuts at Step 8

191. The Commission considered the above Draft Code which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 72/13. It was agreed to make two minor amendments of a clarifying nature in sub-section III.B.5 "Protection of Tree Nuts from Contamination":

- 1) The first sentence to read: "... to prevent the nuts from being contaminated by domestic animals, insects, mites (and other arthropods), vermin, birds ...".
- 2) The fourth sentence to read: "Where nuts are likely to have become infested by insects or other arthropods, they should be treated by fumigants or other suitable means before storage or processing."

192. The delegate of Senegal stated that in his country and, more generally in the West African savannas, cashews (*Anacardium occidentale*) were not cultivated on plantations but mainly grew wild and that harvesting procedures were adapted to the situation. In this connection, the extent to which the Code would be of practical use in Senegal might be rather limited, especially as certain practices with regard to drying immature nuts were not covered. He stated that unripe cashew nuts contained toxic substances which disappear when the nuts are exposed to a lengthy sun-drying process. Often, however, these nuts were roasted to speed up the drying procedure and then the toxic substances could remain. He considered therefore that the Code should be held at Step 8. It was pointed out however that the Code dealt with hygiene and not technological practice.

Adoption of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Tree Nuts at Step 8

193. The Commission adopted the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Tree Nuts at Step 8 of the Procedure as a Recommended Code.

Consideration of Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Poultry Processing at Step 8

194. The Commission considered the above draft Code which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 72/13A. The Rapporteur proposed and the Commission agreed that, in view of the substantive nature of a number of the written comments received, the Code should be returned to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for reconsideration at Step 7 of the Procedure. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the substantial and excellent work done by the Committee in the elaboration of the document.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products at Step 5

195. The Commission considered the above Code contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 72/13 at Step 5 of the Procedure and decided to advance the Code to Step 6.

Publication of Codes of Hygienic Practice

196. With regard to the question of the mode of publication of codes of hygienic practice, the Commission concurred with the decision of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to the effect that it would specifically indicate whether a particular code warranted individual publication (see also ALINORM 72/13A, paragraph 6). This was in line with the views which had been expressed by the Executive Committee at its Eighteenth Session.

Wording of Hygiene Provisions in Standards

197. It was pointed out that, at the Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, that Committee had discussed a provision as endorsed in many standards by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, relating to toxins originating from microorganisms, and had proposed a different form of wording, stating that substances of microbiological origin "which may represent a hazard to health" should be absent. The Commission agreed not to make any change in this regard in the Hygiene section of the standards before it, as it considered that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should, in the first instance, consider this matter at its next session. The delegate of Norway proposed to add the words "of the consumer" to the proposed wording to bring it into line with the generally used terminology.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

198. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the USA.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

199. The Commission had before it the Report of the first session of the above Committee. The delegate of New Zealand, which hosts the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Consideration of Proposed Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Meat at Step 5

200. The Commission considered the above Code contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 72/15 at Step 5 of the Procedure and decided to advance the Code to Step 6.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

201. 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.

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

General Remarks

202. The delegate of Poland stated that Poland had already indicated, at Step 5, its general opposition to the permitted level of metal contamination in concentrated juices being expressed on the reconstituted juice, and considered that this subject needed further study. The delegate of Belgium supported the delegate of Poland on this point. The delegate of Poland added that a number of analytical examinations of fruit juices carried out in Poland showed that metal contamination (lead, arsenic, copper, zinc, iron) was on a similar level in fruit juices and concentrated fruit juices.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Vinifera-Type Grape Juice at Step 8

203. The Commission had before it the above draft standard which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 72/14. The Chairman of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices, Prof. W. Pilnik (Netherlands) informed the Commission of the reasons why the Joint Group of Experts had decided to elaborate two different standards for single strength grape juice; one for Vinifera-type and one for Concord or Concord-type.

204. One of the main reasons had been the possible need for sugar additions to Concord grapes or Concord-type grapes which were mainly from the *Vitis labrusca* variety and were not normally found in Europe, whereas the addition of sugar to the *Vitis vinifera* variety or its hybrids was generally not permitted in Europe. The technical and qualitative differences between these two varieties and their hybrids had been considered sufficient to warrant the splitting of the draft standard for grape juice into two different grape juice standards, and accordingly, a suitable scope section had been added to each standard, clearly defining which juices would be covered by the respective standards.

205. The Joint Group of Experts had decided to advance the standard for the Vinifera and Vinifera-type to Step 8 of the Procedure and had considered that the standard for the Vitis labrusca type, after re-editing, might be, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, considered at Step 6 of the Procedure.

206. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth Session (paragraphs 89 and 90 of ALINORM 72/3) had agreed that the draft standard for Concord and Concord-type grape juice should be considered as being at Step 6 of the Procedure.

207. The Commission was also informed that a slight editorial amendment should be made to the draft standard for Vinifera-type grape juice in the second sentence of the section on Description, namely, to include the phrase "corrected for acidity" and delete the latter half of the sentence, as both acidifying and de-acidifying agents were permitted in the standard. In addition, it was agreed that the editorial amendments, submitted by the United Kingdom in their written comments (ALINORM 72/31) should also be included in this standard as well as in the other fruit juice standards before the Commission at Step 8. The delegate of New Zealand stated that in New Zealand it was necessary to add sugar to Vinifera-type grape juice and inquired whether, since New Zealand had not been represented at the sessions of the Group of Experts, their comments in writing to this effect had been taken into account. The question was raised in the Commission as to whether it is the practice at meetings of subsidiary bodies to bring forward for consideration the written comments from countries which had been unable to send a delegation to the meeting. This procedure would be in conformity with the provisions of the Procedural Manual. It was emphasized that this practice is always adopted, and that such countries could be assured that consideration is given to their comments.

Status of the Draft Standard for Vinifera-Type Grape Juice

208. The delegate of the United States stated that, although he had no objection to the draft standard being adopted at Step 8, he would prefer that it should be held at Step 8 until such time as the draft standard for Concord and Concord-type grape juice was submitted at Step 8 of the Procedure, so that both standards could be considered at the same time by the Commission. The Commission agreed to hold the draft standard for Vinifera-type grape juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Vinifera-Type Concentrated Grape Juice at Step 8

209. The Commission had before it the above draft standard which was contained in Appendix IV, ALINORM 72/14. The Commission was informed of the main points which had been considered by the Joint Group of Experts in relation to the draft standard for Vinifera-type concentrated grape juice. These points were equally pertinent to the draft standards for concentrated apple juice and concentrated orange juice. The Joint Group of Experts had borne in mind that the concentrated juices for which they were elaborating standards were intended for direct consumption and taking this into account had based the provisions relating to "use of concentrate", "minimum degree of concentration" and "amount of contaminants" on the single strength juices and had made adjustments accordingly.

Status of the Draft Standard for Vinifera-Type Concentrated Grape Juice

210. The Commission noted that the Joint Group of Experts had decided to split the concentrated grape juice standard into two different standards in the same way as had been done for the single strength juices and agreed therefore to hold the draft standard for Vinifera-type concentrated grape juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Concentrated Apple Juice at Step 8

211. The Commission had before it the above draft standard which was contained in Appendix VI to ALINORM 72/14.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Concentrated Apple Juice at Step 8

212. The Commission noted that there were no substantive points on this standard and therefore decided to adopt the draft standard for concentrated apple juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Standard.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Concentrated Orange Juice at Step 8

213. The Commission had before it the above draft standard which was contained in Appendix VII to ALINORM 72/14. The Commission was informed that the Joint Group of Experts had, taking into account that the figure for minimum soluble solids content (exclusive of added sugars) for single strength orange juice was 10° Brix, allowed a minimum soluble solids content of 11° Brix for reconstituted orange juice, having agreed that the minimum °Brix for single strength juices should not necessarily be the basis for juices from concentrates (paragraph 84, ALINORM 72/14).

214. The delegate of Australia reminded the Commission of the decision it had taken at its last session regarding single strength orange juice in considering the difficulties encountered by Australian orange juice manufacturers in producing a product with a consistently high °Brix figure. However, taking into account the recommendation of the Joint Group of Experts for a higher °Brix for a reconstituted orange juice, it was agreed to accept the figure of 11° Brix.

Adoption of the Draft Standard for Concentrated Orange Juice at Step 8

215. The Commission adopted the draft standard for concentrated orange juice at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards as a Recommended Codex Standard.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Standards for Concentrated Fruit Juices

216. The delegate of Senegal pointed out that in the standards for concentrated fruit juices at Step 8, it was stated that methods of analysis and sampling had still to be elaborated. The Commission noted that a great number of methods of analysis for fruit juices had already been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, but that the difficult problem of selecting appropriate methods of analysis had been left to a working group in which the International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers had been associated with the AOAC and the International Wine Office. The Commission noted, however, that specific methods regarding the analysis of concentrates had not been proposed yet by the Joint ECE/Codex Group of Experts and recommended that proposals for appropriate methods should follow the procedure and be proposed for endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling at a future session.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE AND CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Consideration of Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8

217. The Commission had before it the above draft standard contained in Appendix II of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 72/19A) and a proposed Annex to that standard setting out specifications and criteria for the application of the definition of the standard (Appendix III to ALINORM 72/19A). In addition, the Commission had before it the Report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 72/19), the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (ALINORM 72/19B), the Report of the Second WHO Consultation regarding the draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CX/MIN 72/2), a note by the Joint Secretariat (ALINORM 72/34) and a document prepared by the delegation of Switzerland dealing with information required for the identification of a water as a natural mineral water, as well as methods of analysis for the constituents of such waters (Conference Room Document LIM 1).

218. The Coordinator for Europe, in introducing the Reports of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, pointed out that the Draft Standard for Natural Mineral Waters had been discussed at length and that the questions raised at the Seventh Session of the Commission (ALINORM 70/43) had been given careful consideration. The delegate of Switzerland, speaking on behalf of Prof. O. Högl, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, drew the Commission's attention to the changes proposed by that Committee in the draft standard, and to the fact that these changes had been taken into consideration by the Coordinating Committee for Europe. In his opinion, the changes affecting the definition and labelling sections of the standard were significant and went a long way towards meeting the objections of WHO as regards the reference, in the definition and the labelling section, to "properties favourable to health". This view was supported by several delegates while other delegates expressed doubts as to whether the Commission should endorse such references by adopting the standard in the form submitted to it. The representative of WHO drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the standard now referred to mineral waters when used only as table water or

as a beverage. In addition, he reported that his Organization, in compliance with the decision of the Commission, had obtained the opinion of medical experts concerning the claim that such waters have "properties favourable to health". These experts after considering a number of reports which they thought to be appropriate could find no scientific basis for such claims. The representative of WHO concluded by informing the Commission that, in the view of his Organization, the standard as drafted still posed some fundamental problems which should be resolved, as far as possible, before the standard was finalized. Furthermore, the WHO Legal Adviser informed the Commission that such medical claims would pose a policy issue for his Organization.

219. A number of delegates were of the opinion that several questions needed further consideration in the light of the findings and recommendations of the Second WHO Consultation regarding the draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters as summarized in ALINORM 72/34, in which the experts had unanimously agreed to the conclusions given in Appendix VI to this Report. As regards the optional labelling provisions, in particular those pertaining to "properties favourable to health", it was noted that the draft standard required that such claims be in conformity with the legislation of the country in which the product was sold. Some delegates considered that this provision would make it possible to overcome the difficulties arising from the divergent attitudes concerning claims pertaining to health. Other delegates, however, pointed out that the inclusion of this provision in the standard might induce manufacturers to state or imply on the label that the claim of properties favourable to health had been endorsed by WHO, particularly on account of the fact that such properties were also mentioned in the definition section of the standard. The representative of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) strongly recommended the prohibition of health claims on the label of food and drinks. In this connection, some delegates of the European Region were of the opinion that 'properties favourable to health' did not imply medicinal claims, since such properties had to be taken in the context of the Scope section which excluded waters offered for sale for medicinal purposes. The Commission's attention was drawn to the recommendations in the Report of the Second WHO Consultation (CX/MIN 72/2-Part V) concerning hygienic criteria, label declaration and medical claims.

220. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling pointed out that some aspects of the section on labelling still required endorsement. The Commission also noted that methods of analysis for natural mineral waters were also pending endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, and that the question of the Appendix III to the standard (ALINORM 72/19A) adopted by the Ninth Session of the Coordinating Committee was subject to comments by governments. The Commission further noted the written proposals from the delegate of France supported by some other delegates which had already been discussed by the Coordinating Committee for Europe at its last session, to amend the second paragraph of the Definition section as follows: "These characteristics, which may confer properties favourable to health, shall have been determined on the basis of examination according to approved scientific methods, with regard to:" and to amend the third paragraph of the section on Definition by adding the following sentence: "These examinations may, however, be required by the competent authority in the country of origin".

Status of the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

221. The Commission considered that a number of questions still remained to be resolved including the amendments proposed by France. The Commission decided, therefore, to hold the standard at Step 8. In addition, the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters or a group of experts appointed by the Committee should consider the proposed appendix to the standard in the light of government comments, and should consider the question of methods of analysis in the light of the Conference Room Document (LIM. 1) prepared by Switzerland. The sections on labelling and methods of analysis should then be submitted to the Codex Committees on Labelling and Methods of Analysis for consideration and endorsement. Finally, the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters would keep in touch with WHO, in order to arrive at an agreement on the subject of optional claims relating to properties favourable to health.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

222. 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.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

223. The Commission, at its Seventh Session, requested the Coordinating Committee for Europe to consider and advise whether or not it would be desirable to undertake the elaboration of a European Regional Standard for Edible Ices (paragraph 210 of ALINORM 70/43). The Coordinating Committee for Europe considered this matter at its Eighth Session and recommended that a standard or standards for edible ices should be elaborated on a European regional basis and that the responsibility for a regional Codex Committee should be entrusted to Sweden (see paragraph 9, ALINORM 72/19). On the recommendation of the Eighteenth Session of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat obtained up-to-date information on the international trade in edible ices to assist the Commission in its deliberations. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of Sweden had indicated its willingness to assume the responsibility for hosting either a European regional or world-wide Codex Committee on Edible Ices. The delegate of Sweden indicated, however, that his preference would be for a world-wide standard.

224. The Commission had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat on the international trade in edible ices (ALINORM 72/3 and Add. 1). It agreed that, on the basis of the information on international trade in this commodity, it was desirable to elaborate standards for various types of edible ices.

225. Opinion was divided on the question of whether such standards should be elaborated on a European regional or a world-wide basis. A number of delegates were of the opinion that, while the available statistical data concerning international trade in edible ices indicated that trade within the region of Europe appeared to be greater than trade on a world-wide basis, world-wide trade in this commodity was increasing and would in all probability, continue to increase. These delegations pointed out that about 10-20% of edible ices produced in Europe were exported to countries outside that region. Furthermore, consideration would have to be given to other aspects as laid down in the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, 2nd edition). These included consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices, volume of consumption in individual countries and volume of production, among others. It was further pointed out that should a regional Codex Committee be established, countries which were not members of the region could participate in the work of the Committee, as observers only. Although it was recognized that according to the procedures of the Commission, standards elaborated on a regional basis could subsequently be adopted as world-wide standards, it did not seem profitable to commence with the elaboration of regional standards, as the ultimate aim was the elaboration of world-wide standards. In this connection, the regional standard for honey was quoted as an example.

226. Other delegates were strongly in favour of the elaboration of regional standards for edible ices. In the view of these delegates, trade figures clearly indicated that edible ices were a commodity of particular interest to the region of Europe. Furthermore a number of traditional ices existed in Europe which called for the establishment of regional standards. It was also pointed out that the Commission, at its Seventh session, had agreed that there was no need to elaborate a standard on a world-wide basis and that the Coordinating Committee for Europe, at its Eighth Session, had also made a similar recommendation. In addition, the standardization of edible ices was a complex matter requiring the elaboration of several standards, some of which might cover products typical only of the region of Europe.

227. It was pointed out that it would be necessary to consider in addition to ices based on milk fat, and non-milk fat, also ice mixes and powders for domestic and industrial uses, it being understood that it would be necessary to draw on the expertise of the Committee of Government Experts on Milk and Milk Products in the elaboration of ices based on milk fat.

228. In reply to a question by the delegate of Spain, the delegate of Sweden stated that he could not indicate at present whether or not the government of Sweden would be in a position to provide interpretation and translation facilities in the Spanish language.

Establishment of World-wide Codex Committee on Edible Ices

229. The Commission decided to set up a world-wide Codex Committee on Edible Ices under Rule IX.1(b)(i) of the Commission under the chairmanship of the Government of Sweden. The following terms of reference were agreed upon for that Committee:

"To elaborate world-wide standards as appropriate for all types of edible ices, including mixes and powders used for their manufacture."

230. The Commission stressed the need for maintaining liaison with the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, in order to avoid any duplication of work of both bodies. In addition to its task of developing world-wide standards, the Codex Committee on Edible Ices was requested to consider at its first session the question of the need to establish one or more regional standards for edible ices and to report back to the Commission in due course. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Government of Sweden for its willingness to assume responsibility for hosting this Committee.

Consideration of the Elaboration of Standards for Salt, Vinegar and Eggs

231. The Commission was informed that the Ninth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe had considered the proposal of the Coordinator for Europe that regional standards be developed for salt, vinegar and eggs (paragraph 25, ALINORM 72/19A). The Coordinating Committee for Europe had requested the Commission to consider this matter.

Salt

232. The Commission considered whether a standard or standards should be elaborated for this commodity and whether it would be appropriate to elaborate them on a European Regional or World-wide basis. The Commission noted that the Committee on Food Additives, at its Eighth Session, had agreed that specifications of identity and purity should be elaborated for food grade salt and had adopted a draft specification contained in Appendix VI to ALINORM 72/12. It was agreed that before submitting these specifications to governments for comment, the views of the Commission should be sought on this matter.

233. It was pointed out to the Commission that there were several commodities in international trade such as table salt intended for direct consumption and food grade salt which was used mainly by the food industry which would require the establishment of a standard. There were other products such as curing salts which might have to be considered in this context. Several delegates made statements on the many and various food uses of salt according to country and region. Opinion differed on the issue of whether a standard or standards be elaborated on a European regional or world-wide basis. The opinion was expressed that it would be appropriate to develop a European regional standard for table salt, but that food grade salt appeared to be more suitable to be the subject of a world-wide standard.

234. It was pointed out to the Commission that, in certain regions of the world, there was a need to iodize salt and that this matter should also be considered by the Commission. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses indicated that this question could be considered by that Committee. In this connection, the Commission noted that a number of Codex standards referred to the addition of food factors such as vitamins, iodine and other nutritional substances as being the responsibility of national authorities. The Commission considered that before reaching a decision on the issue of whether (a) a standard or standards be elaborated for this commodity; and (b) such standards be elaborated on a regional or world-wide basis, there was a need to prepare a working paper justifying the elaboration of Codex standards as set out in the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual, 2nd Edition). The Secretariat was requested to prepare such a paper after having contacted the Comité européen de l'Etude du Sel (European Committee on Salt), for submission to the next session of the Commission. The Codex Committee on Food Additives was requested not to proceed with work on the specifications for food grade salt, pending further consideration of this matter by the Commission.

Vinegar

235. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee at its Eighth Session had agreed that it would be desirable to elaborate standards for various types of vinegar on a European basis, and that the standards contained in the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus would serve as a basis for this purpose (paragraph 26 of ALINORM 72/19A). The Commission

considered that it was not in a position at present to reach a decision, in the absence of a justification paper based on the criteria for the establishment of its work priorities (Codex Alimentarius Commission, Procedural Manual, 2nd Edition) and requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper on this subject covering the various types of vinegar on the same lines as had been agreed upon for salt, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

Eggs

236. The Commission noted that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was working on the standardization of this commodity and also noted the work of the International Egg Commission in this respect. The Commission agreed that before this matter could be considered any further, the Secretariat should obtain information on the progress of the work carried out by the above organizations.

Amendments to the Method of Determination of Diastase Activity in the European Regional Standard for Honey at Step 9

237. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe at its Eighth Session had agreed to certain changes to the above method and had considered that these changes, endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, were of a non-substantive nature serving only to further clarify the method which had been already adopted. The Commission agreed that the changes proposed by the Coordinating Committee for Europe should be brought to the attention of governments so that they could be incorporated in the Regional Standard for Honey.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

238. The Commission had before it the Report of an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (ALINORM 72/24). The Secretariat pointed out that the report had been considered in detail by the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The Working Group, which had been convened to discuss basic issues in relation to the establishment of Codex tolerances for pesticide residues and had been hosted by the government of Denmark, had examined the concept of "good agricultural practice" in relation to the establishment of the Codex tolerances and had proposed definitions for "good agricultural practice in the use of pesticides" as well as for "Codex tolerances (Codex maximum residue limits)". It had also examined the question of "high" versus "low" tolerance concepts in detail and had considered sampling procedures and interpretation of analytical data as a possible means of overcoming the difficulties posed by these two concepts. The Commission took note of the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group and expressed its appreciation to the government of Denmark for hosting a session of that Group.

Extract from the Report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

239. The Commission had before it an extract from the report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (ALINORM 72/24A Extract) and noted that, in view of the close proximity between the session of that Committee and the Commission it had not been possible to prepare and distribute the full report. The Rapporteur, Drs. P.H. Berben, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Drs. A. Kruijsse, gave an outline of particular difficulties the Committee was facing in recommending tolerances for pesticide residues. He pointed out that, although two Ad Hoc Working Groups had been convened to discuss fundamental questions, certain basic questions still had not been resolved. This was brought about by the fact that the elaboration of pesticide residue tolerances represented a problem quite distinct from the elaboration of other Codex standards, since pesticide residue tolerances had to take into account the differing pest control needs of various countries and regions in the world and the attitude of countries to the use of certain pesticides. As a result, Codex recommended tolerances, which were often higher than tolerances in certain countries, might not always be acceptable. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had reached a critical stage in its work and had seriously considered, at its last session, discontinuing the recommendation of tolerances, and that it was necessary to examine the acceptance procedure of the Commission in the light of the difficulties which were particular to the establishment of tolerances for pesticide residues, to ensure a successful continuation of the work of the Committee. The delegate of Japan stated that because of lack of time to examine the Extract from the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee, he had to reserve the position of Japan on the items contained in the document. The Commission considered the individual items contained in document ALINORM 72/24A Extract, and its decisions are given hereunder:

Definitions Proposed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

240. The Commission considered the definitions for "pesticide", "pesticide residue", "good agricultural practice in the use of pesticides" and "Codex tolerance (Codex maximum residue limit)" adopted by the Sixth Session of the above Committee. It noted that these definitions had been drawn up for the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius and that they had been discussed in great detail by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and its Ad Hoc Working Group, which had met in Copenhagen (see paragraphs 1 and 2 of ALINORM 72/24A Extract). The Commission adopted these definitions (see Appendix VII to this Report). In reply to a query from the observer of the Libyan Arab Republic, who indicated that his country had not received a copy of the questionnaire on good agricultural practice in the use of pesticides, which had been distributed by the Canadian delegation attending the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, it was stated that the questionnaire had been sent only to Members of the Commission.

Proposed Amendment to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Tolerances for Pesticide Residues

241. The Commission had before it a proposal by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to amend the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Standards in respect of Codex tolerances for pesticide residues. The Commission noted that the amendment involved the omission of Step 2 of the Codex procedure, so that the Secretariat could submit the proposals of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues directly to governments for comment, and the addition of a provision to paragraph 3 of the introduction of the Codex Procedure to the effect that the omission of one or more of Steps 6, 7 and 8 would be possible by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, wherever the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had indicated the tolerances for which the omission of steps would apply. Such tolerances would be dealt with by the Commission in accordance with the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure. The Commission agreed with the view of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues that the new procedure would expedite work on the elaboration of Codex tolerances for pesticide residues, and adopted the amendments proposed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, but decided to delete reference to "contaminants", the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The adopted text of the amendment is as follows:

"Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides

Steps 1, 2 and 3

The Secretariat distributes the recommendations for maximum limits for pesticide residues, when available from the Joint FAO Working Party of Experts and the WHO Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues and requests comments from governments and interested international organizations.

Step 4

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues examines the recommendations for maximum limits for residues in the light of comments. The Codex Committee, when formulating its recommendations for proposed draft Codex maximum limits, takes all appropriate matters into consideration including the need for urgency, the government comments at Step 3 and the likelihood of new evidence becoming available in the immediate future and, on the basis of such considerations, indicates to the Commission those proposed draft maximum limits which, in its view, need to be passed through the full Procedure and those for which there might be an omission of Steps 6, 7 and 8, it being understood that any maximum limit at Step 5, for which it has been recommended that Steps 6, 7 and 8 could be omitted or any maximum limit at Step 8 shall be dealt with by the Commission in accordance with the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

Steps 5-10

Unchanged".

Introduction to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Codes of Practice

Add the following at the end of paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned text:

"It shall further be open to the Commission to authorize, on the basis of a two thirds majority of the votes cast, the omission of one or more of Steps 6, 7 and 8 of the Procedure in Parts 1 and 2 of this document in respect of standards for pesticide residues elaborated by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, where such an omission is recommended by the Committee."

Consideration of the Codex Acceptance Procedure in relation to Tolerances for Pesticide Residues

242. The Commission considered a proposal by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to apply the provisions of paragraph 4 B of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission instead of paragraph 5 B of the same General Principles to the acceptance procedure of Codex tolerances for pesticide residues. The purpose of the amendment was to enable a country which could not accept a recommended tolerance for pesticide residues in accordance with one of the provisions of paragraph 5 A of the acceptance of Codex General Standards, to indicate, nevertheless, that it would be prepared to allow the free distribution of food complying with Codex maximum residue limits within its territorial jurisdiction. The Commission noted that two countries had indicated that they were prepared to consider the free distribution of food complying with Codex tolerances for pesticide residues, even though certain tolerances could not be accepted under the present acceptance procedure, because the pesticides in question were not allowed to be used in those countries. (See paragraph 163 of the Report of the Seventh Session of the Commission, ALINORM 70/43). It was pointed out that further information of this nature concerning the manner in which governments would be in a position to accept Codex recommended tolerances was needed and should be obtained. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had requested clarification of the Codex acceptance procedures in relation to Codex tolerances, and, particularly, whether or not in accepting Codex tolerances a country undertook to amend its legislation in such a way as to make it coincide with the Codex limit.

243. The Commission agreed that the Codex acceptance procedures should be discussed by the Codex Committee on General Principles in relation to tolerances for pesticide residues and requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for the next session of that Committee in collaboration with the Netherlands Secretariat.

Difficulties in Relation to the Establishment of Tolerances for Pesticide Residues

244. The Commission considered a summary included in the report of the Sixth session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues concerning various difficulties encountered in recommending tolerances for pesticide residues (see paragraph 5, ALINORM 72/24 A Extract). The Commission noted that the principle which had been followed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in basing recommended international tolerances for pesticide residues on a broad concept of "good agricultural practice" led to tolerances which were higher than would be acceptable by a number of countries. This was due to the fact that recommended international tolerances took into account the particular and varying pest control needs of individual countries or regions. For example, some countries allowed within their legal framework the use of particular pesticides at relatively higher levels to cope with seemingly exceptional circumstances characteristic of pest infestation patterns in their region. This resulted in the acceptance of higher tolerances in those countries. Some countries found it difficult to reconcile this concept of accepting higher tolerances required by the good agricultural practice of other countries with the principle of permitting no more than the minimum quantity required to control pests under the "normal" conditions prevailing in their countries. Furthermore, the Commission noted that those Codex tolerances which had been based on data derived from exceptional circumstances of pest infestation were not acceptable to some countries as, in their opinion, such data were not appropriate to the establishment of international tolerances for pesticide residues. The Commission was informed of further difficulties such as the choice of pesticide data in time relation with the point of enforcement of the tolerances, the meaning of Codex tolerances in the light of sampling and analysis and also considerations of the health of the consumer. The Commission agreed that the Joint FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference scheduled for 1973 should consider these questions. The Secretariat was requested to prepare with the Netherlands a working document for that Conference setting out the problems in detail. It was also agreed that the Executive Committee should, if necessary, examine such problems as it may deem appropriate in this respect.

Changes to Tolerances at Step 9 of the Procedure

245. The Commission noted that certain tolerances and practical residue limits for pesticide residues at Step 9 of the Codex procedure, which had been recommended on a temporary basis, were no longer regarded as being temporary by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The Commission agreed with the view of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues that the Codex amendment procedure need not be applied to these changes and decided to adopt them and to inform governments accordingly (see paragraph 8, ALINORM 72/24 A Extract).

Tolerances and Practical Residue Limits at Step 8 of the Procedure

246. The Commission had before it a number of tolerances and practical residue limits at Step 8 of the Procedure, contained in paragraph 9 of ALINORM 72/24 A Extract. Some delegates were strongly in favour of adopting these recommendations in view of the fact that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had selected the less controversial tolerances for submission at Step 8, and also in view of the need to expedite the work of the Commission on pesticide residue tolerances. Other delegates were not in favour of submitting these tolerances to governments at Step 9. Considering that the tolerances in question had not been brought to the attention of governments in sufficient time in advance of the Commission, it was decided to hold the proposed tolerances at Step 8 of the Procedure and to reconsider them at the next session in accordance with the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8. During the discussions on pesticide residue tolerances, the delegate of India inquired whether the tolerances recommended had taken into account the various nutritional levels and dietary patterns in different countries, and added that, if not, these matters might be considered for such purposes.

Tolerances and Practical Residue Limits at Step 5 of the Procedure

247. The Commission had before it tolerances for pesticide residues at Step 5 of the Procedure with a recommendation by the Committee that Steps 6, 7 and 8 be omitted (see paragraph 10 of ALINORM 72/24 A Extract). It also had before it tolerances and practical residue limits at Step 5 without such a recommendation (see paragraph 11 of ALINORM 72/24 A Extract). The Commission adopted the recommended tolerances and practical residue limits at Step 5 and decided that they should be submitted to governments for comment at Step 6 of the Procedure. As regards the proposal by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to omit Steps 6, 7 and 8 with regard to certain pesticide residue tolerances, the Commission decided not to omit such Steps.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

248. 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.

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

Consideration of Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods at Step 5

249. The Commission had before it the above draft Code which was contained in Appendix II to ALINORM 72/25. The Secretariat introduced this document and recalled the decision taken by the Joint Group of Experts to replace the draft General Standard for Quick Frozen Foods by a Code of Practice for Quick Frozen Foods (paragraph 42 and 43 of ALINORM 72/25). The Draft Code of Practice had been elaborated, examined and revised in the light of government comments by the Joint Group of Experts and was now submitted to the Commission for consideration at Step 5 of the Procedure. The Commission was also informed that an Appendix to the Draft Code of Practice containing methods of checking temperatures for quick-frozen foods was being elaborated by a small ad hoc Working Group composed of technical experts dealing with temperature problems, and that this Working Group had met recently and their report would be examined by the next session of the Joint Group of Experts. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed his concern that deviations from the temperature of -18°C were being allowed for extended periods during transport, distribution and retail sale in the Code of Practice. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of maintaining temperature limits as rigorously as possible, particularly as regards the preservation of the product.

Advancement of the Draft Code of Practice to Step 6 of the Procedure

250. The Commission agreed to advance the draft Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Matters arising from the Report of the Seventh Session

251. The delegate of Spain drew the Commission's attention to paragraph 5 of ALINORM 72/25 where it was stated that a footnote had been added to the text of the Recommended Standard for Quick Frozen Peas (CAC/RS 41-1970), as well as to other Quick Frozen Foods standards, which read as follows: "'Frozen': this term is used as an alternative to 'quick frozen' in some English-speaking countries". The delegate of Spain pointed out that in his country the term "congelado rápidamente" used for "quick-frozen" presented some difficulties as regarding labelling, and that the term "congelado" was more acceptable and therefore requested this footnote to be appropriately amended in all standards for quick frozen foods. The Commission agreed to this proposal.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

252. The Committee had before it the report of the Sixth Session of the above Committee (ALINORM 72/18). The delegate of Norway, which hosts the Committee, acted as Rapporteur.

Proposed Draft Standard for Canned Crab Meat at Step 5

253. The Commission had before it for consideration the above standard contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 72/18.

Food Additives

254. The delegate of France pointed out that the Codex Committee on Food Additives at its Eighth Session (1972) had discussed the food additives section of the standard for canned crab meat and that with the exception of calcium disodium EDTA and monosodium glutamate which had been endorsed, the consideration of the other additives had been postponed with a request for clarification or reconsideration by the Commodity Committee (ALINORM 72/12, paragraph 31 and Appendix II, paragraph 11).

255. Several delegates stated that they were against the use of calcium disodium EDTA. The delegate of France, supported by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, further indicated that he was against the use of polyphosphates for this product. The delegate of Norway stressed the need for suitable class names for phosphates. The Commission agreed to request the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to reconsider carefully the question of additives. It was pointed out that prior to consideration of the standard for Canned Crab Meat at Step 8, it was important that the additives section be endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Contaminants

256. The question of contaminants was raised in the discussion on canned crab meat and the Commission was informed that the general problem of contaminants in food had been considered at the Sixteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. A brief summary was given of the conclusions of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on the establishment of control measures for contaminants in foods. Attention was drawn to the care which had to be taken before introducing any control measures, taking into consideration the consumption of the product by the population, including excessive consumption, the levels actually found in a wide range of samples of a given product, and the effectiveness of various kinds of control measures which might be taken, such as legal or administrative limits for the contaminant in the food, or recommendations for the restriction of the intake of a particular food. In view of the foregoing, the Commission agreed that it could not take any decision on the issue of contaminants, but it wished to record its concern about the matter. The Commission expressed the hope that WHO would continue its work in the field of contaminants and requested Governments to comment specifically on the contaminants issue when considering the standard at Step 6.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Crab Meat

257. The Commission decided to advance the proposed draft standard for Canned Crab Meat to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Discussion of Reports of the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the Committee

258. In the introduction of various matters of interest from the Report of the Sixth Session, reference was made to subsequent developments during the Seventh Session (October 1972) of the Committee, the report of which had not yet been issued.

'Quick Frozen' Versus "Frozen"

259. At the Eighth Session of the Commission, the delegate of Australia had been requested to prepare a working paper for consideration by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, with technological details about "frozen" products and data on the extent of international trade in these products (ALINORM 71/31, paragraph 150). The Committee had at its Seventh Session discussed the detailed paper prepared by Australia and had considered the document to be of importance and had recommended to the Commission that it should be brought to the attention of the Joint ECE/Codex Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods. The Committee had further suggested that the document should be made available to the ECE Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foods. The Commission concurred with the proposal made by the Fish and Fishery Products Committee.

Canned Sardines and Sardine Type Products

260. The Commission noted that the sardine question was still under consideration and that it was hoped that a solution to the problem could be found.

Codes of Practice

261. The Commission was informed that the Committee at its Seventh Session had agreed fully with the decisions taken by the Executive Committee with regard to the merging of codes of hygienic and technological practice for fresh, frozen and canned fish and the procedure to be followed, and that the Committee had further expressed agreement with the proposals made by the Executive Committee with regard to the elaboration of more specific codes for fish and fishery products.

Proposal regarding the Elaboration of Group Standards

262. The Commission was informed that the Committee at its Seventh Session had briefly considered a French proposal to elaborate group standards for fish and fishery products. The Committee had considered that the idea merited thorough discussion and that at the next session of the Committee the question would be considered in detail on the basis of government comments received. The Committee had noted that this was a general question fundamental also to the work of several other Codex Committees, and that the Executive Committee had regarded it as a possible subject for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles. 1/

Can Seams

263. At the Sixth Session it had been pointed out that Codex Standards for canned fish products did not contain requirements relating to can seam quality (ALINORM 72/18, paragraph 102). The Committee considered that a provision of this kind was applicable to all canned foods and would require overall evaluation, not only with regard to fish. The Commission was informed that as far as fish was concerned the matter would, in the first instance, be dealt with in the Code of Practice for Canned Fish and Fishery Products (under elaboration).

Canned Shrimps, Dried or Packed in Brine; Frog Legs; and Snails

264. The delegate of India reiterated the statement of the Indian delegation made at the Eighth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission with regard to the need to elaborate standards for canned shrimps, dried or packed in brine, and for frog legs (ALINORM 71/31, paragraphs 156 and 157). Several delegates expressed the opinion that the main problem in connection with frog legs was of a hygienic nature and that, therefore, if work was to be undertaken on this product the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene would be the appropriate Committee to deal with the matter. The Commission agreed to request the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to elaborate a code of hygienic practice for frog legs. The delegate of India expressed the hope that at a later stage a standard would be elaborated in conjunction with the Code of Hygienic Practice. No decision was taken with regard to the elaboration of standards for canned shrimps, dried or packed in brine, and snails.

Attendance at the Seventh Session of the Committee

265. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that not only had the Seventh Session been attended by representative of 34 countries, but that, for the first time, there were delegates from countries which were not producers but solely consumers of fish and fishery products.

Amendments to the Recommended International Standards for Canned Shrimps or Prawns (CAC/RS 37-1970) and Canned Pacific Salmon (CAC/RS 3-1969)

266. The Commission agreed to amend in the above named recommended international standards the hygiene section so that the extended provisions relating to microbiological requirements as approved by the Food Hygiene Committee for the draft standard for canned tuna and bonito in water or oil would be included. The Commission further agreed to a correction in the recommended international standards for canned shrimps or prawns by deleting beta-carotene and substituting therefor Canthaxanthine C.I. 75135, which was a colour closely related to one of the natural colours present in canned crab.

1/ See paragraph 326 of this Report where the Commission decided to request the Codex Commodity Committees to express their opinion on this question.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

267. 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 COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

268. The Commission had before it the Report of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 72/10). The Commission was informed that this Committee had advanced most of the standards for cocoa products and chocolate to Step 5. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth Session, had exceptionally agreed to a request made by the Cocoa Products and Chocolate Committee to seek government comments at Step 6 on these standards in advance of their consideration by the Commission at Step 5. This action had been authorized without prejudice to any decision the Commission might take at Step 5, in order to facilitate consideration of the standards at the Committee's Tenth Session which was scheduled to be held early in 1973 (paragraphs 34, 35 of ALINORM 72/3).

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for Cocoa (cacao) beans, Cocoa (cacao) nib, Cocoa (cacao) mass, Cocoa press cake and Cocoa dust (cocoa fines), for use in the manufacture of Cocoa and Chocolate Products at Step 5 (Appendix II to ALINORM 72/10)

269. The delegate of Switzerland, acting as Rapporteur, pointed out that the Committee might have to reexamine the definitions given in the Standard, e.g. as regards the use of unfermented cocoa beans, so as to bring it into conformity with the FAO Model Ordinance and Code of Practice on Cocoa Beans.

270. The delegate of Ghana also referred to the FAO Model Ordinance and Code of Practice and pointed out that in Ghana and other producing countries steps had been taken at all levels to produce and market cocoa beans in conformity with this Code. However, this Code provided for two grade standards, while the Codex Alimentarius Standard had retained only one category which covered these two grades. The delegate of Ghana thought that a distinction between the two categories was unnecessary.

271. The Commission was of the opinion that there should be uniformity between the standard and the agreements reached in other international proceedings, and agreed that some definitions might have to be slightly revised at the Tenth Session of the Committee.

272. The delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany and Portugal were of the opinion that the use of phosphoric acid, mentioned in section 4 of the Standard, should not be permitted. The delegate of Switzerland pointed out that this issue had been carefully considered at the Ninth Session of the Committee which had agreed upon the very low level of 0.25% phosphoric acid expressed as P₂O₅, after noting that the quantity would be further reduced on reaching the consumer.

Status of the Draft Standard

273. The Commission decided to advance this proposed draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Cocoa Butters at Step 5 (Appendix III to ALINORM 72/10)

274. The Commission decided to advance this proposed draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for Cocoa Powder (Cocoa) and Sweetened Cocoa Powder (Sweetened Cocoa) at Step 5 (Appendix IV to ALINORM 72/10)

275. The delegate of Spain drew the Commission's attention to a proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands for the inclusion of Cocoa Powder for industrial purposes and cocoa powder mixture in the Standard, which in his opinion should not have been published in the Report of the Committee. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that this proposal had been discussed in detail at the Ninth Session of the Committee which had agreed that it should be sent to governments for comments. This proposal had been attached to the standard as an Annex for reference purposes only and should not be considered as a proposed amendment at Step 5.

276. The proposal covered three groups of products

- products intended for industrial uses
- products used in automatic vending machines
- the wide range of 'instant' products which are based on cocoa and sugar but may also include other ingredients or necessary additives (see paragraph 37 of ALINORM 72/10)

The delegate of Ireland considered that a standard for Sweetened Cocoa Powder should also make provision for 'Drinking Chocolate'. In addition, clarification was also needed on the question of milk solids, particularly as to whether skimmed milk powder and whey powder were included in the standard. The delegate of Belgium was of the opinion that cocoa powder for industrial purposes should be considered in the light of quality categories, and proposed that this question be discussed at the Codex Committee on General Principles. The delegate of the Netherlands mentioned that other products for industrial uses, such as glucose syrup had already been approved by the Commission and included in other Codex standards. The Commission's attention was drawn to paragraph 38 of the Report of the Ninth Session wherein it was stated that this proposal would be discussed at the Tenth Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, on the basis of a new paper to be prepared by the Netherlands' delegation in the light of government comments. The Commission agreed that the question of products intended for industrial purposes needed clarification by the Committee, and that the Netherlands' proposal, which should be considered as a suggestion for inclusion as in the standard or as a separate parallel standard, would be discussed at the Tenth Session of the Committee.

277. The delegate of Poland expressed a reservation as regards the maximum level of 50 ppm for copper. The delegate of Switzerland was of the opinion that there was not enough data on the actual level of copper in these products and invited the delegates to send any figures for copper as well as for other contaminants to the Chairman of the Committee. The Commission agreed that this matter should be examined further when new data on copper content were available.

Status of the Draft Standard

278. The Commission decided to advance the proposed draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for Chocolate at Step 5

279. The Commission decided to advance this proposed draft standard to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Other matters

280. The Commission noted that Article 52 of the Draft International Cocoa Agreement dealing with Cocoa Substitutes recommended that countries subscribing to the agreement should "take fully into account the recommendations and decisions of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate" when preparing or reviewing regulations on this matter.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

281. 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 METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

282. The Commission was informed by the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling that this Committee at its Seventh Session had agreed that high priority should be given to the question of sampling (ALINORM 72/23, paragraphs 5, 11 and 90). The Commission noted therefore, that the Eighth Session of the Committee, which was scheduled for September 1973, would be mainly devoted to problems of sampling together with the endorsements of methods of analysis.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

283. 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.

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

284. The Commission was informed about the results of the Fifteenth Session of the Milk Committee which had been held from 25 to 30 September 1972 in Rome under the chairmanship of Dr. H.W. Kay (Federal Republic of Germany). The Committee had adopted definitions for reconstituted and recombined milk products, and had elaborated a classification system for cheeses based on firmness, fat and curing characteristics, the aim of which was to reduce the number of international individual cheese standards. The delegates of the U.S.A and of Italy had come to an informal agreement on the provisions of a working draft standard for hard grating cheese, which would be submitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee had further dealt with draft standards for several cheese varieties, for yoghurt and for anhydrous milkfat. A draft standard for edible casein and caseinates was under preparation. The work on methods of analysis for milk and milk products carried out jointly by IDF, ISO and AOAC had progressed very satisfactorily.

285. The delegate of New Zealand suggested that the countries mainly interested in casein and caseinates be contacted by the Secretariat in order to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of a draft standard for these products. This was in line with the decision of the Milk Committee. With regard to the standard for anhydrous milkfat, the delegate of New Zealand further pointed out that satisfactory quality requirements as given in the proposal of the Government of New Zealand were of great importance for dairy industries which were based on recombination techniques. This view was supported by the delegate of India who indicated that his country imported large amounts of this commodity.

286. The delegate of Canada, speaking as Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, referred to the views expressed by the Milk Committee on labelling requirements for processed cheese products which would be submitted to the next session of the Commission, and pointed out that there was a difference of opinion between the Milk and Labelling Committees which the Commission would have to resolve. The Chairman of the Commission reminded Members of the Commission of the origin of the Milk Committee and explained the relationship which exists between that Committee and the Labelling Committee.

287. The delegate of Senegal drew attention to the question of intolerance of certain populations to lactose. The Commission was informed about the awareness of WHO of this problem and that data were being collected to enable an adequately based opinion to be formed. The Protein Advisory Group to the United Nations had published a statement on the subject in the July issue, 1972 of the WHO chronicle.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

288. The Commission noted that the Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils would be held in the Spring of 1974 and that the Committee would be considering, among other matters, possible standards for coconut oil, palm oil, palm-kernel oil, low-fat spreads, certain fish or marine oils and Gas Liquid Chromatography criteria for other fats and oils.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

290. The Commission noted that the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Sugars would be held in conjunction with the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils in the Spring of 1974. The Committee would be examining the matters referred to in ALINORM 72/33 concerning methods of analysis, sampling and a possible standard for fructose.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

292. The Commission had before it the Report of the Eighth Session of the above Committee (ALINORM 72/12). In introducing the report, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. G.F. Wilmink, gave an outline of the work of the Committee. He drew special attention to the general conclusions of the Committee contained in paragraph 54 of the report, concerning the importance of the estimation of food additive intake and the need for Codex Commodity Committees to give due consideration to the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives, when proposing the use of and limits for substances in food.

293. The Commission noted that under its present working agreement

- (a) Codex Commodity Committees were responsible for the proposal of food additives on the basis of full justification for their use, and on the basis of consideration of good manufacturing practices. The maximum levels for food additives thus proposed should, therefore, represent the smallest amount of the additives needed. It was also the responsibility of the Commodity Committees to propose maximum levels in food for various types of contaminants.
- (b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, the Codex Committee on Food Additives either endorsed, temporarily endorsed or did not endorse the food additive provisions proposed by the Commodity Committees. The Codex Committee on Food Additives also took into account the availability of specifications of identity and purity of food additives and other relevant questions not dealt with by other bodies (see paragraphs 54-56, ALINORM 72/12).

The Commission noted that, before its Tenth Session in 1974, there would be one session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, and one session of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference.

Definitions of "Food Additive" and "Contaminant"

294. The Commission considered the above definitions adopted by the Codex Committee on Food Additives (see Appendix III to ALINORM 72/12). It was pointed out that the definition of "food additive" had been drafted to exclude typical ingredients such as condiments, spices, salt and nutritional substances such as vitamins, amino acids and trace elements. As regards the definition of "contaminant", the Commission noted that it included residues of substances, such as antibiotics, hormones and pesticides, which were deliberately used during the production of food. It was pointed out that the definition of "food additive", as drafted, would include certain flavouring substances which were considered by many as ingredients, and that this matter should be given special attention by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. Noting that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had considered these definitions in great detail, and also noting that they were working definitions intended for the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius, i.e. were not intended for acceptance by governments, the Commission adopted the definitions without any amendment. It was understood that the Codex Committee on Food Additives would keep the matter of definitions under review.

General Principles for the Use of Food Additives

295. The Commission had before it the above General Principles contained in Appendix IV to ALINORM 72/12. It noted that the General Principles, which were before the Seventh Session of the Commission, had been reconsidered in the light of government comments by the Codex Committee on Food Additives but that no substantial amendments had been made to them. The representative of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) was of the opinion that the General Principles should make a specific reference to the appropriate reports of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives in connection with the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the General Principles that substances being proposed for use in food should be subject to "appropriate" toxicological examination. The Commission considered that this would be too restrictive and adopted the General Principles without amendment. It was agreed that they should be published in the 3rd Edition of the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual. The Chairman of the Commission was of the opinion that the French text of paragraph 1 of the General Principles should read as follows: "... soumis aux tests et évaluation ...".

Specifications of Identity and Purity for Food Grade Salt

296. The question raised by the Codex Committee on Food Additives concerning the elaboration of specifications for food grade salt (see paragraph 73 of ALINORM 72/12) was discussed in connection with the Report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (see paragraph 234 of this Report).

Section on Contaminants in Codex Commodity Standards

297. The Commission discussed in detail the question of contaminants in cocoa products, fish and fishery products, and fruit juices, and stressed the importance of protecting the health of the consumer by keeping the level of contamination of food products with copper, mercury, tin and other heavy metals and metalloids as low as practicable. On the proposal of the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Commission requested all Codex Commodity Committees to pay full attention to this problem. The need for more data on actual levels of contamination of food products was stressed so as to make it possible for these Committees to prepare a section on contaminants in the various draft Codex standards. It was noted that several Codex standards did not contain a section on contaminants. As regards contaminants in fruit juices, the Commission was informed that Italy, Poland, United Kingdom and the U.S.A. were carrying out investigations in order to obtain sufficient data on the basis of which recommendations could be made for maximum levels of these contaminants.

Other matters raised in connection with the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

298. The opinion was expressed that the Priority Lists agreed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives should deal more closely with specific problems which were of concern from a health point of view, as for example the question of phosphates, nitrites, nitrosamines and mycotoxins. The delegate from Italy drew the Commission's attention to the need for re-evaluation of L-tartaric acid as, on the basis of recent investigations in Italy, it appeared that the acceptable daily intake established by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives was too low. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had again requested the Expert Committee on Food Additives to consider the approach adopted by the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) to the evaluation of flavouring substances. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had agreed that there was a need to hold more frequent meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (see paragraph 85, ALINORM 72/12). The representative of WHO informed the Commission that all efforts would be made to convene a meeting of the Expert Committee in 1973 but pointed out that certain difficulties arose in this respect as a result of the scheduled session of the Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives and Contaminants. He also informed the Commission that the Expert Committee would consider aflatoxin, tin and several other important items on the Codex Priority Lists as soon as possible. The delegate of Canada considered that the FAO/WHO publications on technological efficacy of food additives were very useful and would be taken into account by his country when considering the acceptance of food additive provisions in Codex standards, and, thus, recommended continuation of this work. It was pointed out that good manufacturing practices, as regards the use of food additives, were affected by climatic conditions and that this matter should be given consideration when recommending the use of food additives in the preparation of food. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives should consider this matter.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

299. 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.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

300. The Commission had before it the Report of the Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 72/22), which was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee Dr. D.G. Chapman (Canada). The Commission was informed that there were three matters arising from the Report on which the Committee sought the guidance of the Commission. These were listed in document ALINORM 72/31 and were summarized as follows:

- (i) A request that the Commission should recommend to all the Commodity Committees that they should carefully consider the need for clear date-marking in relation to the particular products for which they were elaborating standards.

- (ii) The need for better cooperation among countries using the same language in order to arrive at uniform presentation of information on labels.
- (iii) Whether compliance with the provisions of the Recommended International General Standards for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods on declaration of net contents (section 3.3 of the General Standard) was intended to be on the basis of 'average contents', as determined from an adequate sample of containers, or on the basis that each container in the sample must comply with the net contents as declared on the label.

301. The Commission was also informed that as regards (iii) above, the Committee had endeavoured at its Second Session to explain the meaning of net contents (paragraph 53 of ALINORM 72/22) but that the term 'unreasonable shortage' had still not been defined.

302. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that if the Commission agreed, the Committee was prepared to re-examine these matters more fully.

303. The delegate of the Netherlands urged that the attention of the Commodity Committees be drawn to the question of date-marking in clear and requested that in the case of foods where date-marking appeared to be desirable this should be accompanied by storage instructions.

304. The delegate of Italy concurred with the general proposal of requesting the Commodity Committees to give consideration to the use of date-marking. However, he was of the opinion that it would be necessary, first of all, to give instructions. He considered that, in any event, the date should be specified for foodstuffs; however, the date should be indicated in clear only for perishable foodstuffs, that is to say, for foodstuffs which should be consumed within a period of thirty days, while for all other foodstuffs the date should be indicated in code.

305. The observer of IOCU supported the delegate of the Netherlands in the request that storage instructions should also accompany open date-marking and concerning net contents stated that the majority of their members were opposed to the concept of 'average weight'. She further declared that they were greatly encouraged by the work being carried out at present by the Codex Committees on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and Food Labelling.

306. The delegate of Belgium referred to paragraph 43 of the Committee's Report concerning the types of date-marking listed. In his opinion the 'sell-by' or 'pull-by' dates, date of minimum durability, expiry date or estimated last consumption date, when they are used, must, by their nature, be indicated in clear. They should be accompanied by storage instructions. However, as regards the date of production or manufacture or the date of packaging, he considered that these dates could, in certain cases, be in code, since sometimes a year of good production might result in a large stock of a product, which, under proper conditions of storage and processing might be kept for long periods and still remain in perfect condition. If the date of production was to be shown in clear the consumer might be misled into thinking that the product was not of as good a quality as one with a more recent date of production. As regards the term 'unreasonable shortage' in paragraph 53 of the Committee's Report, he agreed that this needed to be more clearly defined.

307. The delegate of Norway stated that he was willing to prepare a working paper on the problem of uniform labels in countries of similar languages, which would be presented to the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

308. The delegate of India stated that in his opinion date-marking in clear of the date of production or manufacture might mislead the consumer, as the maintenance of quality depended on packaging, storage and transportation and, except for a few products (e.g. Baby Foods), it was not considered advisable and, therefore, it would be preferable that these dates should be indicated in code.

309. The delegate of Switzerland agreed that it should be left to the Commodity Committees to decide whether open date-marking was suitable or not for the products for which they were elaborating standards. In this connection, the delegate of Sweden, although he fully supported the proposal that the Codex Commodity Committees should always consider open date-marking and storage instructions, expressed the view that it was somewhat unfortunate that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had listed in its report five different types of date-marking for the Commodity Committees to choose between.

In the opinion of the delegate of Sweden, only three of the dates, namely the 'sell-by' or 'pull-by' date, date of minimum durability and expiry date or estimated last consumption date would be of benefit to the consumer.

310. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany strongly supported the proposal concerning date-marking in clear, but expressed concern regarding paragraph 38 of the Committee's Report relating to claims, as there seemed to be a possible danger of overlapping with the work of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses on the same aspects of this subject. Working papers were currently being elaborated on many of the items listed in paragraph 38 for foods for special dietary uses, especially those in the nutritional field and he felt that this aspect of the work of the Labelling Committee might be postponed until after the next session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling concurred in this view and stated that the Committee on Food Labelling would await the results of the study being undertaken by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, it being understood that these matters would be referred to the Labelling Committee at an appropriate time.

311. The delegate of Japan stated that the legislation in Japan concerning weights and measures required that the declared net content shall be present at the time of retail sale and that this referred to either the net weight or the drained weight of the actual product. The legislation permitted deviations on an individual basis, depending on the product, and for these reasons Japan could not accept the declaration of net contents based on the average contents as proposed in one of the working documents for the last session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CX/FL 72/8), as this would require daily sampling by industry.

312. The delegate of Switzerland considered that as far as net contents was concerned, he concurred with the Labelling Committee's view point that it referred to average weight.

313. The delegate of New Zealand drew the Commission's attention to paragraph 3 of the Committee's Report where it had been agreed that in relation to the wording concerning the 'list of ingredients' in the Recommended International General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the Committee had agreed that the wording suggested by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products (i.e. "descending order of quantity by weight m/m") was clearer and more specific, but that the original wording in the General Standard should be retained for the time being in order not to affect the standards already sent out to governments for acceptance. The delegate of New Zealand urged that consideration be given to this new labelling terminology which he considered was better.

314. The delegate of Kuwait referred to paragraph 38 of the Committee's Report, where mention was made of claims concerning religious or ritual preparation of food. The delegate stated that in this connection Islamic Law required that a product containing pork or fat of pork should always be declared as such on the label of the product.

315. The Commission agreed with the recommendations of the Chairman of the Food Labelling Committee to consider further the three basic matters outlined above and to request the Commodity Committees to give consideration to the need for date-marking in clear in relation to the products for which they are elaborating standards. The Commission further agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should first take a decision on the question of 'average content' or individual 'net content' and then, in the light of the decision taken, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling would then consider the question of sampling procedures, if necessary. The Commission further noted that the delegate of Norway would prepare a working paper on uniform presentation of information on labels in countries using the same language.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

317. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth Session, had recommended that a session of the Codex Committee on General Principles should be convened to consider a number of questions arising out of the Executive Committee's review of the progress made in regard to acceptance of Recommended Standards (paragraphs 76 to 87 of ALINORM 72/3).

318. The Executive Committee had drawn attention, in particular, to practical difficulties in the application of the concept of Acceptance with Minor Deviations. These difficulties had been set forth in detail in the Executive Committee's report. While the Executive Committee had recognized the purpose of this concept at the time it was adopted by the Commission, it had come to the conclusion that subsequent experience showed that it would be desirable to re-examine the usefulness and practicability of this concept, as a means of furthering the acceptance of Recommended Standards. The Executive Committee had further recommended that the final Step of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Standards concerning the decision to publish a Recommended Standard as a Codex Standard in the Codex Alimentarius should also be examined by the Codex Committee on General Principles, with a view to establishing criteria on which to base such a decision by the Commission. The Executive Committee had also recommended that the Codex Committee on General Principles should study the question of how minority opinion should be considered in subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

319. The Executive Committee had stressed that it would be necessary for the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive working paper for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles. The working paper should cover the various ideas and suggestions which had been discussed in the Executive Committee, and this document should be sent to governments for their comments, which would also be placed before the Codex Committee on General Principles.

320. During the course of the Commission's session, other items were mentioned which might usefully be considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles. In particular, attention was drawn to problems involved in the application of the Acceptance Procedure to the Recommended International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues. The suitability of the Acceptance Procedure for Recommended Tolerances for Pesticide Residues would, as requested by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, need to be looked into by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

321. As instructed by the Commission, the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Commission drew up a list of items for possible inclusion in the Provisional Agenda for the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. The following were the items listed:

1. Examination of the Procedure for Acceptance of Recommended Codex Standards, in particular, Acceptance with Minor Deviations.
2. Consideration of the Acceptance Procedure for Recommended Pesticide Residue Tolerances or Maximum Levels.
 - (a) Difficulties in the application of the Acceptance Procedure
 - (b) Suitability of the Acceptance Procedure
3. Examination of possible criteria for determining when it is appropriate to publish a Recommended Standard in the Codex Alimentarius.
4. Consideration of method of acceptance and publication of Milk and Milk Products Standards.
5. Consideration of the possibility of developing general or group commodity standards for groups or classes of similar foods (e.g. proposal of the French government concerning fishery products derived from similar species of fish).
6. Consideration of feasibility of providing for quality grades in Codex Commodity Standards.
7. Consideration of questions connected with the elaboration of a General Food Standard.
8. Examination of implications of possible elaboration of a Code of Ethics, as envisaged by the United Nations Conference on Human Environment.
9. World-wide standards and regional standards: ways and means of converting regional standards into world-wide standards and vice-versa.

322. Independent of the question of whether it would be appropriate to include on the Provisional Agenda all of the items listed above, there was general agreement that it would not be possible to give adequate consideration at a one week session to such a large number of items, many of which would require a good deal of time to be dealt with satisfactorily. The Commission decided, therefore, that only items having the highest priority should be listed for discussion at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

323. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the time had come to re-examine the Acceptance Procedure for Recommended Standards with particular reference to Acceptance with Minor Deviations. The Commission also agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it was necessary to consider the question of the possibility of establishing criteria for determining when it would be appropriate to publish a Recommended Standard in the Codex Alimentarius. During the course of the discussions of the agenda item on pesticide residue tolerances, the attention of the Commission had been directed to the problems connected with the application of the Acceptance Procedure to the Recommended International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues. The Commission agreed that items 1, 2 and 3 in paragraph 321 above were substantive items of great importance to which it attached the highest priority. The Commission agreed, therefore, that these items should be considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session.

324. With respect to the other items listed in paragraph 321 above, several delegates had different views as to the relative importance of these items in terms of priority for work by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

325. As regards item 4 above, it was the general consensus in the Commission that as the Milk and Milk Products Committee had now aligned its procedures with those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as requested by the FAO Conference, it was not necessary to retain this item as one of the items for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles. However, the suggestion was made that the Codex Committee on General Principles, in considering item 1 above, might wish to bear in mind the specific acceptance and publication procedures which had been developed in regard to the standards for Milk and Milk Products.

326. Concerning item 5 above regarding the possibility of developing general or group standards for groups or classes of similar foods, it was the general consensus in the Commission that this question could more profitably be examined by the various Codex Commodity Committees. In the light of the consideration of this matter by the various Commodity Committees, the Commission would be in a better position to determine whether it would be necessary to refer this subject to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

327. Concerning item 6, the delegate of the U.S.A. stated that he was firmly opposed to the idea of providing for quality grades in Codex Commodity Standards as, in his opinion, under the existing acceptance procedures, this would mean that quality grading would be mandatory and that the present procedure for acceptance of standards would have to be completely re-written. In the U.S.A., quality grading was on a voluntary basis. The delegate of Canada stated that he attached very low priority to the idea of introducing quality grades into Codex standards, more especially as Canada already had mandatory quality grades. Some of the delegates thought that the question of providing for quality grades in Codex standards was a subject which merited discussion at some future time, but no particular priority was assigned to this subject. It was recognized that the subject of quality grades would be a difficult and complex one. The Commission agreed not to include this item for discussion at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

328. As regards item 7, the Commission decided that this was not a high priority item which would need to be discussed at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, although the subject might need to be discussed at some future time by that Committee (see also paragraph 335 of this Report).

329. As regards item 8, the Commission decided that it would be more appropriate to refer the examination of the implications of the possible elaboration of a Code of Ethics as envisaged by the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment, to the Executive Committee for consideration at its next session.

330. As regards item 9, it was pointed out that the Commission already had the means, under its Rules of Procedure, of converting regional standards into world-wide standards. On the matter of converting world-wide standards into regional standards, a number of delegates expressed doubts as to whether this would be ever likely to arise. It was pointed out, however, that the suggestion was that if it emerged from government replies on acceptances of world-wide Codex standards that there were similar deviations in a region, it might be worthwhile modifying a world-wide standard, on the basis of these deviations, to make it a standard for the region, which might result in Full Acceptance being given by the countries of the region. The Commission thought that this was a subject which it might wish to consider at a future time, but did not think it warranted high priority at this time for discussion at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

331. The delegate of the U.S.A. stated that it might be desirable to review the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 with the object of avoiding the difficulty of having to consider comments which arrive too late to be examined by delegates in advance of the session. The delegate of the U.S.A. also thought that it would be desirable to lay down a Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 5 in order to avoid involving the Commission in the detailed technical consideration of these standards. It was agreed that the Codex Committee on General Principles would look into these matters.

332. The Commission decided, therefore, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on General Principles, that items 1, 2 and 3 should be the substantive items for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session. The Commission also agreed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Executive Committee, that the Secretariat should prepare one or several papers, as might seem appropriate, on these items. The Commission agreed that the working paper or papers prepared by the Secretariat should be sent to governments for their comments in good time before the session. It was also noted that the delegate of the U.S.A. intended to prepare a position paper on one or more of the subjects to be discussed.

333. The Commission expressed the hope that it would be possible for the French government to provide interpretation facilities in Spanish, as well as in English and French in view of the importance of the subjects to be discussed. The Secretariat undertook to make available the working documents in English, French and Spanish for the next session.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

334. 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.

PART X

Proposed Draft General Standard

335. The Commission had before it the Working Paper prepared by the United Kingdom (ALINORM 72/27) which included a revised text of a proposed draft general standard and comments by the United States of America (Addendum 1). It was noted that there appeared to be no disagreement among the Members of the Commission that all food should not be injurious to health or unfit, not adulterated and not sold so as to mislead or deceive the consumer. Since it appeared, however, that there was no consensus about the way in which suitable references to these matters might be included in the Codex and in particular whether they would form part of a mandatory requirement or a statement of principles, the Commission agreed to leave the question 'on the table'. It was noted that any further action would need to involve the Committee on General Principles which was now fully committed with priority matters. In the meantime, the present and previous versions of the draft general standard would be available as a possible aid to those member countries which were in the process of developing basic food laws.

Consideration of paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Coffee and the Consumer"

336. The Commission had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Coffee and the Consumer; Standards, Regulations and Control" (ALINORM 72/9). This document was a revised version of a draft paper which had been distributed in 1970 and had received comments from governments and a number of international organizations. This paper dealt with coffee, coffee products and substitutes in general, as well as with standards, and regulations for different coffee products on offer to the consumer. There was also mention in the paper of national, regional and international regulations on coffee, as well as data on international trade in coffee products. The paper also contained some suggestions concerning possible future work on standardization of coffee products at the international level. The delegate of Portugal drew attention to a correction which should be made in the paper regarding Portuguese national legislation.

337. Several delegates expressed the view that the Codex Alimentarius Commission might need to consider the creation of a new Codex Committee. The observer of IOCU pointed out that, although they had no objection to the idea of elaborating standards eventually for coffee products, it might be more useful not to consider coffee separately at this stage, but rather to consider stimulant foods in general, and to give high priority to products which are nutritionally more important. The views of the IOCU were supported by the delegate of the U.S.A. who proposed that this item be placed on the agenda of

a future session of the Executive Committee for discussion on the question of whether or not there should be international standards for coffee products at a later stage. The delegate of the U.S.A. considered, however, that Codex standards for coffee were not a priority matter. The delegate of Canada referred to the criteria for the establishment of work priorities and considered that, although some of the criteria regarding the extent of production and international trade in this product would be met, there were other criteria listed which would need to be considered in relation to these products, e.g. consumer protection from the point of view of health, genuineness of the product, the diversification of national legislations, amenability of the commodity to standardization and work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field. Several delegates referred to the work which ISO was currently doing in the fields of terminology, methods of analysis, and sampling for coffee and coffee products. It was also pointed out that a number of other bodies were already involved in international work on coffee from the economic, scientific and technological point of view.

338. The delegate of Brazil was of the opinion that the Codex Alimentarius Commission was the competent body to deal with the standardization of coffee to complement the work of ISO in this field. The delegate of France stated that the Commission should continue to prepare papers on stimulant beverages. He also mentioned that stimulant beverages were appreciated by consumers mainly for their attractive properties and that, in certain cases, the sensory properties were considered by nutritionists as important as nutritional properties themselves.

339. The delegate of Senegal referred to the nutritional aspects of coffee as mentioned in the paper, and pointed out that there was an increasing consumption of coffee in the world and that consumers should be informed as to the true nature of this product by proper labelling. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion, that although there was no urgent need for coffee standards, this subject should be examined by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the future.

340. On the proposal of the delegation of Switzerland, the Commission agreed that the subject of coffee, coffee products and substitutes should be dealt with in a similar way as had already been decided upon by the Commission for soups and broths. The delegate of France agreed to prepare, for the next session of the Commission, a complementary study on these products, in which the work priorities criteria as they appear in the Procedural Manual of the Commission would be fully taken into consideration. This preliminary work would be carried out in conjunction with the Association Scientifique International du Café, the headquarters of which are located in Paris and other interested international organizations. The Commission was in agreement with this procedure and agreed that this question would be further examined at its Tenth Session on the basis of the paper to be prepared by the delegate of France, with a view to reaching a conclusion regarding future work on coffee.

Tea

341. The delegate of India, referring to the document on coffee, suggested that a similar paper should be prepared on tea by the Secretariat. The Commission was informed that, although the Secretariat would have no difficulty in abstracting information on the international trade in tea, this study would require considerable information from producing and consuming countries concerning technology, standards and legislation. Furthermore, the financial situation of the Organization had led to the curtailment of certain studies previously requested by the Commission. The delegate of Senegal pointed out that other studies might be needed, such as on peanuts and other nuts in shell, and cola nuts which were currently in trade in the African region.

342. The delegates of India and the United Kingdom agreed that they would be prepared to give information to the Secretariat on the technical aspects of tea. On a proposal made by the delegate of Kenya, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should send a questionnaire regarding tea to Codex Contact Points and that a background study on tea should be presented to the Commission at its Tenth Session.

Proposal of Brazil that a Coordinating Committee for Latin America be established

343. The delegate of Brazil proposed that a Coordinating Committee for Latin America be established by the Commission, as provided for under Rule IX.1(b)2 of its Rules of Procedure. The delegate of Brazil indicated that the Members of the Latin American Region envisaged a practical and more flexible Coordinating Committee on a country rotation basis and pointed out that this would greatly facilitate the harmonization of food standards in the Latin American countries as well as be consistent with Resolution 9/72 of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held in Cali, Colombia, in September 1972.

344. The delegate of Cuba, in supporting this proposal, noted that most countries of Latin America were now members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and that a Coordinating Committee would guarantee the effective participation of all the countries of the region, since, at the present time, with the existing organizations, this objective had not been achieved. Other delegates from the Member Countries of the Latin American Region present stated that they wholeheartedly supported this proposal and agreed that it would greatly facilitate the implementation of Codex standards. Other delegates of Member Countries outside the Region welcomed the proposal and expressed their support. The delegate of Canada suggested that the assistance of the regional agency of WHO, the Pan-American Health Agency might be enlisted.

345. The Commission agreed in principle to the establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Latin America, but recognized that this was a matter having administrative and budgetary implications for FAO and WHO, and considered it would be necessary, as a first step, for the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to consider these implications. The Commission requested one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Committee (Mr. E.M. Méndez of Mexico) and the Regional Representative for Latin America on the Executive Committee (Brazil), together with the Secretariat, to study this matter and submit detailed proposals to the next session of the Executive Committee. In accordance with Rule IX.9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Commission expressed the wish to have before it at its next session a report from the Directors-General of FAO and WHO on the administrative and financial implications of setting up a Coordinating Committee for Latin America, together with the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Provisional Time-table of Codex Sessions 1973-76

346. The Commission considered the proposed provisional time-table of Codex Sessions for 1973-76 which had been drawn up by the Secretariat and was set out in the Appendix of document ALINORM 72/28. This time-table was a modified version of the one presented to the Commission at its Eighth Session in which the progress of work of the various Codex Committees and the wishes of host governments concerning the timing of sessions had been taken into account.

347. The tentative timetable of sessions up to the next session of the Commission was outlined as follows:

1973

January	-
February	-
March	[Natural Mineral Waters (5th)] 1/
April	Codex/IOOC Table Olives (2nd)
May	Quick Frozen Foods (8th) Cocoa Products and Chocolate (10th) Food Hygiene (10th) Processed Fruits and Vegetables (10th) Food Labelling (8th)
June	Meat Hygiene (2nd) Meat (5th)
July	Executive Committee (19th) Fruit Juices (10th)
August	-
September	Milk and Milk Products (16th) Methods of Analysis and Sampling (8th)

1/ See paragraph 221 of this Report.

October	African Food Standards Conference Fish and Fishery Products (8th) Edible Ices (1st)
November	General Principles (4th) Processed Meat Products (7th) FAO/WHO Conference on Food Additives and Contaminants
December	Food Additives (9th) Pesticide Residues (7th)

1974

February	Dietetic Foods (8th)
March	Fats and Oils (7th)
April	Sugars (6th)
May	Food Hygiene (11th) Processed Fruits and Vegetables (11th) Food Labelling (9th)
June/July	Coordinating Committee for Africa (1st) Codex Alimentarius Commission (10th)

The Secretariat emphasized that this was a preliminary indication of the likely timing of sessions but that the precise dates and locations of meetings were subject to agreement in a number of cases with the host governments.

348. Several delegates were of the opinion that future time-tables should be drawn up in such a way that meetings of commodity committees would to the extent possible be grouped together and that subsequently the general subject committees should meet. This would have the advantage that the general subject committees could deal with the endorsement of particular sections of commodity standards prior to the meeting of the Commission. It was agreed that this line of thought should be borne in mind for the time-table to be presented to the Tenth Session of the Commission.

349. In this connection the proposal was made not to hold the meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and Food Labelling as planned in May 1973 but to move these to early 1974. The Commission, however, decided to leave the timetable for 1973 as it stood.

350. Reference was made to recommendations of the Ninth Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues that that Committee should meet at intervals not exceeding 12 months. The Commission expressed agreement in principle with this proposal, but further agreed that the date of the next session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues would depend on dates established for meetings of the Codex Committees on General Principles and Food Additives and the FAO/WHO Food Additives and Contaminants Conference.

351. The question was raised when and where the proposed Regional Food Standards Conference for Africa was to be held. The Secretariat informed the Commission that on the basis of information presently available the Conference might be held in Kenya in conjunction with an IBRD/IMF meeting and that as soon as possible the Members of the Commission would receive further information about this.

352. It was proposed that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene should meet in conjunction with the Codex Committee on Processed Meat Products to facilitate the travel of delegates from distant countries. Whereas it was agreed that in the future such meetings might be held in consecutive weeks, it was agreed that because of the dependance of the Processed Meat Products Committee on the Meat Hygiene Committee for some of its work, the 1973 meetings had to be separated from each other in order to enable the preparation of documents for the Processed Meat Products Committee. In these circumstances it had been agreed by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany and New Zealand to hold the Codex Committees on Meat and on Meat Hygiene in consecutive weeks in June to facilitate participation of delegates at both sessions.

353. The Commission agreed that in principle every effort should be made to increase attendance from overseas delegates by linking the meetings of Committees covering subject matters related to each other. It was further agreed that the Executive Committee should examine at its next session the frequency and phasing of meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and report on this matter to the Tenth Session of the Commission. The Commission was further of the opinion that the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products should after its 1973 session meet once in every eighteen months as was the case of the Commission.

PART XI

Other Business

354. The delegate of India, on behalf of the other members of the Asian Region attending the Commission's session, requested that consideration be given to the establishment of a Coordinating Committee for Asia as set out in the following proposal.

"Joint Proposal for the Holding of Seminar and Establishment of Coordinating Committee for Asia

The delegates from the Asian Region present at the Ninth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission met during the session and unanimously resolved that the Commission is advised to take necessary steps to find the possibility of establishing a Coordinating Committee for the region and also resolved to urge the Commission once again to hold a seminar in the region at the earliest possible opportunity."
(Signed by the delegates of India, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia and Thailand).

355. The Commission agreed that the Executive Committee should study this request concerning a Coordinating Committee for Asia and that the Secretariat should continue its efforts to find extra-budgetary funds for the holding of a Seminar.

PART XII

Valediction

356. Dr. N.A. de Heer (Ghana), a Vice-Chairman of the Commission, expressed, on behalf of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the appreciation of the Commission and of its Members to the retiring Chairman, Mr. G. Weill (France), for his leadership and guidance as Chairman and his long and active support of the Commission as a delegate since its establishment in 1962.

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APPENDIX II

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE PROPOSED FAO/WHO CONFERENCE
ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS (1973)

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and appointment of Rapporteurs.
2. Adoption of Agenda.
3. Review of work carried out by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (1955-1972):
 - (a) A report on food additives evaluated and specifications developed.
 - Part I : Toxicological evaluations
 - Part II : Specifications and methods of analysis
 - (b) General Report on the principles of toxicological evaluations.
4. General principles regarding the use of food additives - considerations of consumer protection, technological efficacy and good manufacturing practice.
5. Problems of food contamination through environmental pollution and the recommendations made by the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm 1972).
6. Measures and international action required to determine the levels of contaminants in food (including pesticide residues) and to assess their hazard, with a view to preventing and controlling these:
 - (a) need for surveillance and monitoring at a national level;
 - (b) need for background data on food consumption surveys, food habits and total diet studies
 - (c) evaluation of data at an international level in relation to load on man from all sources.
7. Related international programmes dealing with the monitoring of relevant sectors of the overall environment, i.e. oceans, air, etc. and need for co-ordination.
8. Food Additives intake data - report on the work done.
9. Establishment of appropriate procedures for rapid international consultation and co-ordinated action concerning food additives and contaminants.
10. Future work and operation of the Expert Committees and suggestions for priorities.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the Report.

ACCEPTANCES OF RECOMMENDED STANDARDS
AS AT 17 NOVEMBER 1972

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref.No. CAC/RS 1-1969) ^{1/}	Bahrain, Ghana, Iran, Liberia, Monaco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco	Argentina, U.S.A.	Bolivia, Philippines, Portugal
International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues ^{1/} (Ref.No. CAC/RS 2-1969)	Argentina, Bahrain, Ghana, Iran, Liberia, Monaco, Rep. of Sudan, Thailand, People's Dem. Republic of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Israel		Bolivia, Philippines, Portugal
Canned Pacific Salmon ^{2/} (Ref.No. CAC/RS 3-1969)	Bahrain, Iran, Liberia, Monaco, Morocco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus	Argentina, Japan ^{3/}	Bolivia, Philippines, Portugal
White Sugar ^{1/} (Ref.No. CAC/RS 4-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, Thailand, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years), Morocco	Argentina	Hungary

^{1/} The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

^{2/} The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part V.

^{3/} Japan has indicated that it accepts subject to certain conditions - appears to Secretariat to be Acceptance with Minor Deviations.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Powdered Sugar (Icing Sugar) 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 5-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years), Morocco	Argentina	Hungary
Soft Sugars 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 6-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary
Dextrose Anhydrous (Ref.No.CAC/RS 7-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary
Dextrose Monohydrate (Ref.No.CAC/RS 8-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary
Glucose Syrup (Ref. No. CAC/RS 9-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Morocco, Rep. of Sudan, Thailand, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary

1/ The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Dried Glucose Syrup (Ref. No. CAC/RS 10-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary
Lactose (Ref. No. CAC/RS 11-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary
European Regional Standard for Honey (Ref. No. CAC/RS 12-1969)	Bahrain, Ghana, Iran, Liberia, Monaco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco	Argentina	Bolivia, Philippines, Portugal ^{1/} The USA does not accept the standard, but honey fully conforming to the standard may be distributed in the USA.
Canned Tomatoes (Ref. No. CAC/RS 13-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years), Morocco		Hungary
Canned Peaches (Ref. No. CAC/RS 14-1969)	Bahrain, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco		Hungary, Israel

^{1/} Portugal states that the Recommended Standard merits their entire approval.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Canned Grapefruit (Ref. No. CAC/RS 15-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in one year), Morocco		Hungary, Israel
Canned Green Beans and Wax Beans (Ref. No. CAC/RS 16-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years), Morocco		Hungary
Canned Applesauce (Ref.No.CAC/RS 17-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco		Hungary
Canned Sweet Corn (Ref.No.CAC/RS 18-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in one year), Morocco		Hungary, Israel
General Standard for Fats and Oils not covered by individual standards (Ref.No. CAC/RS 19-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within two years)	Argentina	Hungary
Edible Soya Bean Oil 1/ (Ref.No. CAC/RS 20-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago, (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within two years)		Hungary

1/ The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Edible Arachis Oil 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 21-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of pass- ing to Full Accept- ance within two years)	Portugal	Hungary
Edible Cottonseed Oil 1/ (Ref.No. CAC/RS 22-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of passing to Full Acceptance within two years)	Argentina, Portugal	Hungary
Edible Sunflowerseed Oil 1/ (Ref.No. CAC/RS 23-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of pass- ing to Full Accept- ance within 2 years)	Portugal	Hungary
Edible Rapeseed Oil 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 24-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of pass- ing to Full Accept- ance within 2 years)		Hungary
Edible Maize Oil 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 25-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of pass- ing to Full Accept- ance within 2 years)	Portugal	Hungary
Edible Sesameseed Oil 1/ (Ref.No.CAC/RS 26-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of pass- ing to Full Accept- ance within 2 years)		Hungary

1/ The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Edible Safflowerseed Oil 1/ (Ref.No. CAC/RS 27-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years)	Portugal	Hungary
Lard (Ref.No.CAC/RS 28-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years)	Argentina, Portugal	Hungary
Rendered Pork Fat (Ref. No. CAC/RS 29-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years)	Argentina, Portugal	Hungary
Premier Jus (Ref.No. CAC/RS 30-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana*, Trinidad & Tobago* (*intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years)	Argentina, Portugal	Hungary
Edible Tallow (Ref. No. CAC/RS 31-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years)	Portugal	Hungary
Margarine (Ref. No. CAC/RS 32-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, Trinidad & Tobago, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within 2 years), Morocco	Argentina, Portugal	Hungary

1/ The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
Olive Oils (Ref. No. CAC/RS 33-1969)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Portugal, Rep. of South Africa, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within two years)	Cyprus, Morocco	Hungary, Dominican Republic ^{2/} , Jordan ^{3/}
Mustardseed Oil (Ref. No. CAC/RS 34-1969) ^{1/}	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's De, Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago (intention of passing to Full Acceptance within two years)		Hungary
International Tolerances for Pesticide Residues (2nd series) (Ref. No. CAC/RS 35-1970) ^{1/}	Argentina, Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Morocco		Hungary
Quick-Frozen Guttled Pacific Salmon (Ref. No. CAC/RS 36-1970)	Argentina, Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire			Hungary
Canned Shrimps or Prawns (Ref. No. CAC/RS 37-1970)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Morocco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in two years)	Argentina	Hungary

^{1/} The position of Canada is given in document ALINORM 72/5, Part III.

^{2/} The Dominican Republic states that since it is not a producer country of olive oil, it sees no obstacle in the way of accepting the Recommended Standard.

^{3/} Jordan states that it is in agreement with the Recommended Standard.

Recommended Standard	Form of Acceptance as Indicated by Accepting Country			Acceptance given or, where there is a footnote, presumed to be given, but not stated specifically to be Full Acceptance
	Full Acceptance	Target Acceptance	Acceptance with Minor Deviations	
General Standard for Fungi and Fungus Products (Ref. No. CAC/RS 38-1970)	Argentina, Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Morocco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in five years)		Hungary
Edible Dried Fungi (Ref. No. CAC/RS 39-1970)	Argentina, Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Morocco, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in five years)		Hungary
European Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" (Ref.No.CAC/RS 40-1970)	Argentina, Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire			Hungary
Quick Frozen Peas (Ref. No. CAC/RS 41-1970)	Bahrain, Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire			Hungary
Canned Pineapple (Ref. No. CAC/RS 42-1970)	Bahrain; Fed.Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Rep., Ivory Coast, Rep. of Sudan, People's Dem.Rep. of Yemen, Rep. of Zaire	Cyprus, Ghana (intention of passing to Full Acceptance in one year), Morocco		Hungary

NOTE: The following twenty-six countries are listed in the above Table: Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia, Fed. Rep. of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Monaco, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Rep. of South Africa, Republic of Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, U.S.A., People's Dem. Rep. of Yemen and Rep. of Zaire.

Some of the countries listed in the Table have also provided information additional to that given in the Table, but this information does not appear to constitute any form of acceptance at this stage. This appears to be the position also with regard to the information given in the replies received from the following sixteen countries not listed in the Table:

Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and Republic of Vietnam.

A reply was also received from Canada and details of the Canadian position are set out in documents ALINORM 72/5, Part III and Part V.

Details of the information referred to above, as well as details of the minor deviations, indicated by those countries listed in the Table which have given this form of acceptance, can be found in documents ALINORM 71/6 and ALINORM 72/5, Parts I to V.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
(Stockholm 5-16 June 1972) OF INTEREST TO THE
JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Contamination of Food

"Internationally co-ordinated programmes of research and monitoring of food contamination by chemical and biological agents be established and developed jointly by FAO/WHO, taking into account national programmes, and that the results of monitoring be expeditiously assembled, evaluated and made available so as to provide early information on rising trends of contamination and on levels that may be considered undesirable or may lead to unsafe human intakes."

2. International Standards for Pollutants

"It is recommended that increased support be given to the Codex Alimentarius Commission to develop international standards for pollutants in food and a Code of Ethics for international trade, and that the capabilities of the FAO and WHO to assist materially and to guide developing countries in the field of food control be increased."

3. Use of Pesticides

"It is recommended that Governments, FAO and WHO, in co-operation with UNESCO and IAEA, strengthen and co-ordinate international programmes for integrated pest control and reduction of the harmful effects of agro-chemicals

- Existing international activities for the exchange of information and co-operative research and technical assistance to developing countries should be strengthened to support national programmes described above, with particular reference to:
 - basic research on ecological effects of pesticides and fertilizers (MAB)
 - use of radio-isotope and radiation techniques in studying the fate of pesticides in the environment (Joint IAEA/FAO Division)
 - evaluating the possibilities of using pesticides of biological origin, in substitution for certain chemical insecticides which cause serious disturbances in the environment
 - dose and timing of fertilizers' application and their effects on soil productivity and the environment (FAO)
 - management practices and techniques for integrated pest control, including biological control (FAO/WHO)
 - establishment and/or strengthening of national and regional centres for integrated pest control, particularly in developing countries (FAO/WHO).
- Existing expert committees of FAO and WHO on various aspects of pest control should be periodically convened to:
 - assess recent advances in the relevant fields of research mentioned above
 - review and further develop international guidelines and standards with special reference to national and ecological conditions in relation to the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons, pesticides containing heavy metals and the use and experimentation of biological controls.
- In addition, ad hoc panels of experts should be convened, by FAO, WHO and, where appropriate, IAEA, in order to study specific problems, and facilitate the work of the above committees."

4. International Trade

"It is also recommended that the Secretary-General ensure:

- that appropriate steps be taken by the existing United Nations organizations to identify the major threats to exports that stem from environmental concerns, their character and severity, and the remedial action that may be envisaged;
- the United Nations system, in co-operation with other governmental and non-governmental agencies working in this field, should assist governments to develop mutually acceptable common international environmental standards on products which are considered by governments to be of significance in foreign trade. Testing and certification procedures designed to ensure that the products conform to these standards should be such as to avoid arbitrary and discriminatory actions that might affect the trade of developing countries."

"It is recommended that governments take the necessary steps to ensure that:

- all countries present at the Conference agree not to invoke environmental concerns as a pretext for discriminatory trade policies or for reduced access to markets and recognize further that the burdens of the environmental policies of the industrialized countries should not be transferred, either directly or indirectly, to the developing countries. As a general rule, no country should solve or disregard its environmental problems at the expense of other countries;

- where environmental concerns lead to restrictions on trade, or to stricter environmental standards with negative effects on exports, particularly from developing countries, appropriate measures for compensation should be worked out with the framework of existing contractual and institutional arrangements and any new such arrangements that can be worked out in the future;

- the GATT, among other international organizations, could be used for the examination of the problems, specifically through the recently established Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade and through its general procedures for bilateral and multilateral adjustment of differences;

- whenever possible (i.e. in cases which do not require immediate discontinuation of imports), countries should inform their trading partners in advance about the intended action in order that there might be an opportunity to consult within the GATT Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade, among other international organizations. Assistance in meeting consequences of stricter environmental standards ought to be given in the form of financial or technical assistance for research with the aim to remove the obstacles that the products of developing countries have encountered;

- all countries agree that uniform environmental standards should not be expected to be applied universally by all countries with respect to given industrial processes or products except in those cases where environmental disruption may constitute a concern to other countries. In addition, in order to avoid an impairment of the access of the developing countries to the markets of the industrialized countries due to differential product standards, governments should aim at world-wide harmonization of such standards. Environmental standards should be established at whatever levels are necessary, to safeguard the environment, and should not be aimed at gaining trade advantages."

APPENDIX V

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

1. Elaboration of basic provisions concerning the standardization and control of foodstuffs with a view to facilitating the harmonization of food legislation in Africa.
 - i) Rôle of regional/sub-regional bodies, e.g. ASMO, ECA, FAO/WHO/OAU Commission, etc.
2. Inventories of commodities which are of significance in both the export and import trade of African countries and also intra-African trade, with a view to determining the need for international Codex standards or possibly regional or "groups of countries" standards.
3. Assessment of needs in the way of infrastructures of national food control services: laboratory facilities, inspectorate staff, education and training of personnel, etc., and formulation of recommendations aimed at meeting these needs as far as possible, through the means of existing multilateral and bilateral aid-media.
4. Current and planned assistance through projects sponsored by FAO, WHO and other UN Agencies in the field of food legislation, food standards and supporting infrastructure.
5. Consideration of recommendations 78 and 82 of the UN Conference on Human Environment:
 - a) food control
 - b) monitoring and surveillance of food contaminants
6. Consideration of nominations for a Coordinator for Africa.

SUMMARIZED CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECOND WHO CONSULTATION REGARDING
THE DRAFT EUROPEAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

The experts at the Second WHO Consultation regarding the Draft European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters unanimously agreed to the following conclusions:

(a) They found no evidence to support the claim that mineral water has prophylactic properties; while a few pharmacological - but not therapeutic effects have been demonstrated in man, they found no evidence in support of the claim that the oral administration of mineral waters was "favourable to health";

(b) They also observed that most of the data obtained in the course of investigations have been inadequately controlled. On the other hand, they cautioned against possible detrimental effects that might derive from high concentration of certain substances or from radioactivity found in some mineral waters;

(c) More generally, the experts stressed that there was a contradiction in the recurrent statement that "mineral waters are not to be considered as drugs and yet are still considered to be of prophylactic or therapeutic value."

APPENDIX VII

DEFINITIONS OF "PESTICIDE", "PESTICIDE RESIDUE", "GOOD AGRICULTURAL
PRACTICE IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES" AND "CODEX TOLERANCE
(CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMIT)" ADOPTED BY THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Pesticide

"For the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius, the term 'pesticide' means any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing or controlling any pest and includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant-growth regulator, defoliant or dessicant. The term excludes fertilizers and antibiotics or other chemicals administered to animals for other purposes such as to stimulate their growth or to modify their reproductive behaviour."

2. Pesticide Residue

"For the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius, a 'pesticide residue' means any substance or substances in food for man or animals resulting from the use of a 'pesticide'. It also includes any specified derivatives, such as degradation and conversion products, metabolites and reaction products which are considered to be of toxicological significance."

3. Good Agricultural Practice in the Use of Pesticides

"For the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius, good agricultural practice in the use of pesticides is defined as the officially recommended or authorized usage of pesticides under practical conditions at any stage of production, storage, transport, distribution and processing of food and other agricultural commodities, bearing in mind the variations in requirements within and between regions, and which takes into account the minimum quantities necessary to achieve adequate control, applied in a manner so as to leave a residue which is the smallest amount practicable and which is toxicologically acceptable."

4. Codex Tolerance (Codex Maximum Residue Limit)

"For the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius, a Codex tolerance or Codex maximum residue limit is the maximum concentration of a pesticide residue that is recommended by the Codex Alimentarius to be legally permitted in or on a food or food commodity. The concentration is expressed in parts by weight of pesticide residue per million parts by weight of the food or food commodity."

Explanatory Note

In general, a Codex tolerance or Codex maximum residue limit refers to the residue resulting from the use of a pesticide under circumstances designed to protect the food or food commodity against pest attack, according to good agricultural practice (as defined). When a residue results from circumstances not designed to protect the food or food commodity in question against pest attack the maximum concentration recommended is designated as a "practical residue limit".

In some countries the national tolerances or maximum residue limits have been established to include not only the normal variations in residue levels found in appropriate supervised trials, but also the variations occurring in the sampling error. In other countries the national tolerances or maximum residue limits have been established on the average of the residue levels estimated from appropriate supervised trials. In both instances it is recognized that the higher levels occur only occasionally. This is illustrated by the low occurrence of higher residues in national surveillance programmes.

Where tolerances or maximum residue limits are established at the average, the level at which consignments are rejected is generally higher than this average. This difference recognizes the normal distribution of values in relation to the average level. In those cases where the tolerances or Codex maximum residue limits have been established to include the occasional higher values, consignments exceeding this figure are subject to rejection. The Codex Alimentarius recommendations have taken account of occasional higher values and fall into the latter category.

Unless specifically recommended otherwise, for the purpose of the Codex Alimentarius, the Codex tolerance or Codex maximum residue limit or the practical residue limit shall apply to the food or food commodity at the point of entry into a country or at the first point of entry into trade channels within a country.

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