

ALINORM 68/35
March 1968

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

Rome, 20 February - 1 March 1968

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REPORT
OF THE
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Rome, 20 February - 1 March 1968

PART I

PARTICIPANTS AND OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Fifth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 20 February to 1 March 1968. The Session was attended by 178 participants including the representatives and observers of 41 countries, and observers from 24 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).
2. The Fifth 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 the Director-General of FAO, Dr. A.H. Boerma.
3. The Director-General recalled the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program and was pleased to see that the Codex Alimentarius Commission now had so many Member Countries. He specially welcomed the new Members of the Commission and emphasized the importance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in connection with the removal of non-economic obstacles to international trade. The Director-General paid tribute to Professor Dols, the retiring Chairman of the Commission.
4. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Professor Dr. M.J.L. Dols (Netherlands) and its three Vice-Chairmen, Mr. H.V. Dempsey (Canada), Mr. G. Weill (France) and Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O. Kermode (FAO) and Dr. C. Agthe (WHO).
5. During the session, the Commission elected Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Fifth Session until the end of the Sixth Session. The Commission also elected Mr. I.H. Smith (Australia), Mr. E. Mortensen (Denmark) and Professor Dr. O. Högl (Switzerland) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve in that capacity from the end of the Fifth to the end of the Sixth Session.

6. The Commission elected from the Members of the Commission representatives for the following geographic locations in the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to hold office from the end of the Fifth Session to the end of the Seventh Session of the Commission in accordance with Rule III.1 as amended by the Commission: Africa - Ghana, Asia - Japan, Europe - Poland, Latin America - Argentina, North America - U.S.A., South-West Pacific - New Zealand.

Adoption of Agenda

7. The Chairman, when introducing the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, pointed out that, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, matters requiring decisions by the Commission should be listed in future under separate agenda items, as for example, in the cases of fungi and fungus products, and soups and broths. The Commission unanimously adopted the provisional agenda, ALINORM 68/2, without rearrangement of the items.

PART II

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS ON THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH SESSIONS

8. The Commission received reports concerning the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the Executive Committee held in May 1967 (Rome) and February 1968 (Rome). At these sessions, the Executive Committee had dealt with the following main matters: report on budgetary arrangements for 1968/69; Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; relations with international governmental and non-governmental organizations; the acceptance, enforcement and revision of Codex standards; codes of practice; Format of Codex Standards; copyright in respect of methods of analysis; publication of the Codex Alimentarius; general and regional standards; operation of the Guidelines for Codex Committees; arrangements for the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Chairman pointed out that these subjects would be discussed under the relevant items of the Commission's agenda. The Reports of the two sessions of the Executive Committee are fully reproduced in Appendices II and III to this Report.

Copyright in Respect of Methods of Analysis

9. The Commission considered the subject of copyright in respect of the publication of methods of analysis in the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee that the question of copyright should only be dealt with on a case by case basis and that when questions of copyright might be involved the Secretariat should write to the holder of the copyright enquiring if it could be waived on behalf of FAO and WHO for use by the Commission.

Flexibility in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards

10. The Commission requested the Executive Committee to examine, at its next session, the desirability of introducing a greater degree of flexibility in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, in particular with a view to enabling a standard under consideration by the Commission at Step 8 as a regional standard to be considered as a world-wide standard at the same step.

Consideration of Standards at Step 8

11. In the light of the experience gained during the consideration for the first time of standards at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards, the Commission requested the Executive Committee to consider how best the Commission might conduct the business of its regular sessions on standards at Step 8.

Guidelines for Work Priorities

12. The Commission noted the recommendations of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference that guidelines should be established for use by the Commission in deciding on new work to be undertaken and in considering the establishment of subsidiary bodies. The Executive Committee was requested to examine this recommendation and make suitable proposals to the Sixth Session of the Commission.

PART III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

13. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The list, as at 1 March 1968, is set out below. The Commission noted that since its last session membership had increased from 39 to 52 countries.

Europe

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

North America

- | |
|------------|
| 24. Canada |
| 25. U.S.A. |

Latin America

- 26. Argentina
- 27. Brazil
- 28. Cuba
- 29. Guatemala
- 30. Perú
- 31. Trinidad and Tobago

Africa

- 32. Ethiopia
- 33. Ghana
- 34. Madagascar
- 35. Morocco
- 36. Senegal
- 37. Sudan
- 38. Togo
- 39. Tunisia
- 40. Uganda

South-West Pacific

- 41. Australia
- 42. New Zealand

Asia

- 43. China
- 44. India
- 45. Iran
- 46. Japan
- 47. Jordan
- 48. Kuwait
- 49. Philippines
- 50. Saudi Arabia
- 51. Syrian Arab Republic
- 52. Thailand

PART IV

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Acceptance of Codex Standards

14. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles, Mr. R. Souverain (France), explained briefly to the Commission the recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles concerning the revised provisions for the Acceptance of Codex Standards to be included in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius. The Committee on General Principles had agreed that the principal objective should be to secure that Codex standards should be accepted by as many governments as possible in accordance with the provisions of full acceptance. In considering the implications of full acceptance, the Committee had agreed that it was necessary that a country accepting a Codex standard in this way would have to undertake to apply this standard to domestic production intended for sale within its territorial jurisdiction, as well as to imports in order to avoid any discrimination against imported products. It had been recognized, however, that there might be various reasons which would make it difficult for a government to accept a standard in accordance with the requirements of the full acceptance method. The Committee therefore had considered that it would be necessary to provide for other methods of acceptance, which, while falling short of the ideal of full acceptance, would, nevertheless, afford governments the means of accepting standards in ways applicable to their particular circumstances and which would still go a considerable way to the achievement of the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius. The Committee also considered that, in this way, it would be possible to achieve a wider measure of agreement at the international level and acceptance of Codex standards among Members of the Commission. In

accordance with this approach, the Committee had further considered it desirable to provide for a fourth method of acceptance, namely, "partial acceptance". This method of acceptance had been agreed upon by the Committee to cover cases where the circumstances peculiar to a country might require it to permit less stringent provisions for some parts of a Codex standard.

Full Acceptance

15. The Commission examined recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles in respect of paragraph 4 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius. After discussing the meaning of full acceptance of a Codex standard, the Commission adopted the text as recommended without amendment. The delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and Switzerland, stated that at this time they would have to make reservations concerning the proposed meaning of full acceptance pending further consideration of the text by their appropriate national authorities.

16. The Commission understood that the Codex Committee on General Principles had considered it necessary to make provision under full acceptance for a country accepting a Codex standard to bar the entry of a product complying with the standard, in the event of certain circumstances arising which might involve considerations of human, plant or animal health, which were not specifically dealt with in the standard, for instance the need to guard against the introduction of disease affecting livestock or humans.

Acceptance with a Declaration of More Stringent or Supplementary Requirements

17. The Commission examined the text of acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements and adopted it without amendment. The delegations of Cuba, Malta and Spain expressed their reservations to the inclusion of this method of acceptance in the General Principles because, in their opinion, this method of acceptance could be used by countries to prevent the importation of products complying with Codex standards. The delegations of Cuba and Spain further stated that if Codex standards fulfilled the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius then there should be no necessity for more stringent requirements.

Target Acceptance

18. The Commission examined and adopted the provision for target acceptance. It was noted that this provision would be of value to both developed and developing countries.

Acceptance with Minor Deviations

19. The Commission considered that the terms of the fourth method of acceptance, "partial acceptance", as proposed by the Codex Committee on General Principles, required some redrafting in order to express more precisely the purpose of this method of acceptance.

While the object of this method of acceptance was to cover cases where the circumstances peculiar to a country might require it to permit less stringent or different provisions for some parts of a Codex standard, the Commission considered that it would be necessary to make it clear that such less stringent or different requirements should be confined to relatively minor matters in order to qualify as a form of "acceptance". Accordingly, the following revised text, drawn up by the three Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, was placed before the Commission for consideration:

"Acceptance with Minor Deviations"

Acceptance with minor deviations means that the country concerned gives full acceptance to the standard concerned with the exception of minor deviations which are accepted as such by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and which are not more stringent or supplementary requirements. The country concerned will include in its acceptance a statement of such deviations, the reasons for them, and also indicate:

- (a) whether products fully conforming to the standard may be distributed freely within its territorial jurisdiction in accordance with sub-paragraph A(i) of paragraph 4 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius;
- (b) whether it expects to be able to give full acceptance to the standard and, if so, when."

The Commission noted that the above text introduced a new principle which was not contained in the text of "partial acceptance", in that it provided that the minor deviations would have to be accepted as such by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Commission decided not to adopt the fourth method of acceptance at this stage and agreed on the following action to be taken:

- (i) Governments should be asked to comment on the text of "acceptance with minor deviations" and in particular whether the new principles which it introduced involved any consequential amendments in the other forms of acceptance, especially in the "acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements".
- (ii) The text of "acceptance with minor deviations", together with comments thereon, should be put before the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles for consideration.

20. The delegations of India, Norway and Spain reserved their positions on the subject of acceptance of Codex standards. The delegation of India maintained that the various forms of acceptance were interrelated and must therefore be considered and approved as a whole, and not piecemeal, particularly as the existing text of paragraph 4 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius is intended to be replaced by a new text. In line with this stand,

it specifically reserved its position on acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements since the new principle proposed might on further examination involve consequential amendment to this form of acceptance. The delegation of Norway indicated that as the proposed new text raised important questions which affected the whole of the text on acceptance of Codex standards, it reserved its position pending consideration of the matter by the Norwegian Government. The delegation of Spain reserved its position on "acceptance with minor deviations" and also on "acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements".

21. The Commission also decided that in addition to considering "acceptance with minor deviations" together with government comments thereon, the Codex Committee on General Principles should also consider among other matters the following at its next session:

- (a) the French proposals for the amendment of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius contained in documents ALINORM 68/9(1) and ALINORM 68/9(2);
- (b) problems associated with possible withdrawal by a country of acceptance of a Codex standard;
- (c) means for ensuring the uniformity of interpretation of eventual acceptances by governments of Codex standards.

22. The Commission examined section B of paragraph 4 and retained its present wording, pointing out that the information which would be obtained from Member Countries would be of value to all countries engaging in international trade in the product concerned.

23. The Commission examined section C of paragraph 4 and adopted sub-section (i) without amendment, and amended sub-section (ii) to read as follows:

"(ii) Where, in an importing country, a product claimed to be in compliance with a Codex standard is found not to be in compliance with that standard, whether in respect of the label accompanying the product or otherwise, the importing country should inform the competent authorities in the exporting country of all the relevant facts and in particular the details of the origin of the product in question (name and address of the exporter), if it is thought that a person in the exporting country is responsible for such non-compliance."

24. The Commission drew attention to the need to translate the word "sound" in French and Spanish by "en bon état" and "en buen estado" wherever this occurred in paragraph 4. The revised text of the whole of paragraph 4 concerning the acceptance of Codex standards, as adopted by the Commission, is contained in Appendix IV to this Report entitled "General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius".

25. The delegation of Cuba reserved judgment on the subject of "acceptance of Codex standards, including responsibility for their enforcement" and expressed the following views:

"If we examine the ways in which a standard may be accepted, in the light of the purpose of the Codex Alimentarius, it becomes apparent that acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements goes against the spirit of the Codex. Acceptance by countries of a standard under such a formula could result in product discrimination and restriction of markets. In addition, the introduction of more stringent or supplementary requirements could mean tolerating the transformation of Codex standards into strictly commercial types of standards and, although the importance of such standards to the carrying on of international trade is undeniable, they should be confined to the contract between the parties in a given transaction, but should not be established as additional to, or as presumably more stringent requirements than Codex standards. Recognition of this formula for acceptance constitutes a de facto recognition of different standards, since each country would be able to establish more strict criteria than those appearing in the standards, and this would lead to widespread confusion on the international market. Cuba is opposed to the introduction of this formula because it is discriminatory against the developing countries, which are at a disadvantage compared to the developed countries in the production of foods in compliance with higher requirements than those defined in an internationally accepted standard."

Quality Criteria in Codex Standards

26. The Commission received a report from Mr. R. Souverain (France), the Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles, on the meaning of "quality criteria" in Codex standards. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on General Principles had agreed that, for the purposes of the Codex standards, "quality criteria" should be taken to mean only those factors which are essential for the designation, definition or composition of the product concerned. The Codex Committee on General Principles had agreed that quality criteria should be judged on the same basis as all other factors considered for inclusion in a Codex commodity standard. For example, certain quality factors might be as essential and significant as composition factors for individual commodities. The Committee had observed that inclusion of a quality factor in a Codex standard would define a characteristic below which free movement of the commodity involved should be restricted.

Such factors could include the quality of the raw material, with the object of protecting the health of the consumer, provisions on taste, odour, colour and texture which could be apprehended by the senses, and basic quality criteria for the finished products, with the object of preventing fraud. The Committee had also agreed that, at this stage in the development of the Codex Alimentarius, grades or quality classes should not be included in Codex standards.

27. The Commission approved this interpretation of the meaning of quality criteria in relation to Codex standards.

Products Not Complying with Codex Standards

28. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles, Mr. R. Souverain (France), brought to the attention of the Commission that the Codex Committee on General Principles had agreed that in certain circumstances the incidence of non-complying products might be affected by the level of Codex standards and that when the product was still fit for human consumption it should be disposed of in accordance with national procedures. The Committee had taken the view that most national authorities had arrangements to deal with this problem. Most of the difficulties involved in food failing to comply with a Codex standard could probably be dealt with by the distributors as follows:

- "(i) an incorrect label can be replaced by a correct one and the product will then conform;
- (ii) a defective composition can be corrected so that it conforms to the requirements of the Codex standard;
- (iii) an inexact measure or weight can be rectified by reprocessing a particular lot of merchandise to make it conform to the Codex requirements;
- (iv) an imported food below the standard can be returned to its country of origin, which can dispose of it in a way which suits it.

Only products which were unfit for human consumption would have to be destroyed."

29. The Codex Committee on General Principles had concluded that in general the problem of food products fit for human consumption but failing to comply with Codex standards should not fall within the field of activities of the Commission and therefore did not call for any general arrangements to be provided for in the Codex Alimentarius. During the discussion of the above conclusions of the Codex Committee on General Principles, it was pointed out to the Commission that food unfit for human consumption for say aesthetic reasons might not need to be destroyed and that the word "destroy" may therefore be too strong. The Commission was of the opinion that the word "unfit" implied that the food had been

rendered unfit for human consumption - as for example, from the hygiene point of view.

30. The Commission agreed with the ideas expressed in paragraph 9, ALINORM 68/9, by the Codex Committee on General Principles in connection with products failing to meet Codex standards.

Format of Codex Commodity Standards

31. The Commission had before it paragraphs 11 and 12, and Appendix III, of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 68/9). The Commission agreed that the Format served as a guide for the purpose of drawing up Codex standards and that it was not mandatory. It was also understood that not all headings applied to all food standards and that in some cases headings might be omitted or might have to be further subdivided. The Commission, however, agreed that a uniform presentation of food standards was very desirable. The Secretariat was requested to redraft the Introduction to the Format, as proposed by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

32. The Swiss delegation was opposed to the mention in the title of Appendix III of ALINORM 68/9 "... and standards elaborated under the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products." as long as the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles had not had an opportunity to give their advice on the proposal.

33. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reserved its position regarding the draft for the Format of standards in respect of the references made to the other standards. The reservation is based on the following principle: "The General Standards should be contained in a fundamental chapter of the Codex together with other generally applicable provisions and accepted by the Member States as such. They are then valid for all other individual standards, where applicable, without the need for reference to them in individual commodity standards."

34. The Commission discussed the Format in detail and adopted the various headings without rearrangement of order. In connection with the heading "Composition and essential quality factors", the Commission decided to amend this to read: "Essential composition and quality factors".

35. The question was raised whether the relevant provisions of the General Standard on Food Labelling should be reproduced fully in each Codex standard or whether it was sufficient to include only those specific labelling provisions which applied to a particular standard and to make only reference to the appropriate part of the General Standard.

36. The Commission agreed to the following redrafted version of the text under the heading "Labelling":

"This section should include all the labelling provisions contained in the standard and should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. Provisions should be included either specifically or by reference to the appropriate paragraph of the General Standard on Food Labelling (e.g. 'paragraphs 2 and 3 of the General Standard shall apply') and may contain provisions which are exemptions from, additions to, or which are necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned. The following statement should also appear: "The following provisions in respect of the labelling of this product are subject to endorsement have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling: 'The name(s) of the food shall include...'etc."."

37. With respect to the heading "Methods of Analysis and Sampling" the Commission was informed that the ISO recommendation R.78 concerning the format for methods of chemical analysis had been adopted by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. It was pointed out to the Commission that it might be more appropriate to have separate headings for methods of analysis and methods of sampling. The Commission, however, agreed that both methods of analysis and methods of sampling could be listed under one heading. The Format for Codex Standards as adopted by the Commission is contained in Appendix V to this Report.

Amendment to Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards

38. It was drawn to the Commission's attention that in Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide and Regional Standards a consequential amendment had been overlooked which stemmed from the decision of the Commission to elaborate in place of minimum platform and trading standards only Codex standards. The Commission agreed to delete the words "of the type determined by the Commission" in Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of both World-Wide and Regional Standards.

Metrological Aspects of Codex Standards

39. The Commission had before it paragraph 4 of the Report of the Tenth Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 68/4) dealing with the above subject. The Commission noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it would not be necessary to establish a Codex Committee on Metrology. As regards the proposal concerning the use of the S.I. Units, the Executive Committee had agreed that Codex standards should be drafted using these units and had recommended that the Secretariat of the Commission be charged with the task of ensuring that the Codex standards be presented in S.I. Units. In the case of standards which include provisions for the sale of products in standardized amounts, S.I. Units should be used, but this would not preclude additional statements in the standards of these standardized amounts in approximately similar amounts in other systems of weights and measures. This would have the advantage of avoiding inconvenience to countries

whose production was geared to any one particular system of units. The Executive Committee had considered that the declaration of net contents was adequately covered by paragraph 26 of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling which reads as follows:

"The net contents may be declared in the metric or Avoirdupois system of measurement according to the requirements of the country in which the food product is sold. No objection should be taken to the use of both systems on the same label."

40. During the discussion it was proposed by the delegation of Cuba that the S.I. system should always be used to declare the net contents on a label and that the declaration of net contents in an additional system of units be regarded as optional. The Commission considered that there were two quite separate issues involved, namely, the use of S.I. Units of measurement in drawing up Codex standards and the Cuban proposal for a mandatory requirement concerning the use of the S.I. system on labels. As regards the labelling aspect, the Commission concluded that this was adequately dealt with in section 2.3 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The delegation of Cuba informed the Commission that it would be submitting to the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling a paper on the labelling aspects of the use of S.I. Units.

Definition of Food Hygiene

41. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, at its fourth session, had requested the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to propose a definition for "food hygiene" for the purposes of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius. The Commission had requested the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to define food hygiene in its widest sense and irrespective of whether the Committee would be concerned with all aspects of the definition in its work.

42. The Codex Committee on General Principles, at its second session, had before it the definition presented by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and endorsed the English text of the definition as given below but considered that the French text should use the words "en bon état".

"Food hygiene comprises conditions and measures necessary for the production, processing and distribution of food designed to ensure a safe, sound, wholesome final product fit for human consumption."

43. The Commission agreed generally to the meaning of food hygiene, but decided to delete the word "final" to ensure that the definition implied that considerations of food hygiene applied at any given stage in the food production chain. The Commission further agreed to add the word "storage" after the word "processing" because the notion of storage was not covered by the word "distribution" in other languages. The Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed to

the following amended definition of food hygiene:

"Food hygiene comprises conditions and measures necessary for the production, processing, storage and distribution of food designed to ensure a safe, sound, wholesome product fit for human consumption."

44. The delegation of Spain reserved its position on the deletion of the word "final" in the expression "final product" because in its opinion there were semi-finished products which might be unhygienic within the terms of the definition while being at the same time covered by Codex standards. The delegation of Spain reserved its position on this deletion as long as it had not had occasion to inquire whether this might not raise problems under Spanish legislation.

45. It was noted that in the Spanish version of the definition the word "sound" should be translated as "en buen estado".

Codes of Practice in Relation to the Codex Alimentarius

46. The Commission had before it a Secretariat paper on the above subject. The Commission noted that a number of its subsidiary bodies had considered that codes of practice would be useful in facilitating compliance with the provisions of Codex standards. The Commission endorsed this view and discussed whether it had authority under its Statutes to elaborate international codes of practice which would constitute recommendations to governments. The Commission concluded that Article 1(a) of the Statutes of the Commission concerning the protection of the health of the consumers gave it sufficient authority to continue its work on codes of hygienic practice. The Commission considered that it might be desirable to be able to elaborate codes of practice for subjects other than purely hygiene, such as codes of technological practice. In order to clarify the position of codes of practice, the Commission requested that the Legal Counsels of both Organizations give an opinion as to whether any amendment would be necessary to the Statutes of the Commission.

47. The Commission agreed that codes of hygienic practice were advisory. Parts of these codes, especially those dealing with end product specifications could, however, be included in Codex standards and could then become mandatory.

48. It was also agreed that the existing Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards should be followed for the preparation of codes of hygienic practice and noted that this Procedure allowed certain steps to be omitted.

49. The Commission thought that codes of practice should not be published in the standards section of the Codex Alimentarius. The Codex Alimentarius should contain appropriate cross-references to these codes.

PART V

INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING ON STANDARDIZATION

50. The Commission received reports on the activities of the under-mentioned international organizations in the field of food standards.

International Egg Commission (ALINORM 68/27 (Part I))

51. The Commission had before it a report which had been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the International Egg Commission. The Commission was informed that the International Egg Commission had elaborated a Draft Standard for Egg Products. The draft standard partly covered the same ground as the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products being developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. The Commission noted that close cooperation was being afforded by the International Egg Commission in the development of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products. As regards eggs in shell, the Commission was informed that the Commission of the European Economic Community had elaborated a Draft Standard for Eggs in Shell. The International Egg Commission, which covers through its membership a large number of the most important egg producers and trading countries in the world, had discussed the Draft EEC Standard and had forwarded its comments on it to the Commission of the EEC. In submitting its comments, the International Egg Commission had pointed out the desirability of arriving at a standard which would be acceptable not only to the EEC, but also on a broad international basis.

UN Economic Commission for Europe (ALINORM 68/27 (Part II))

52. The Commission received a progress report on the activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The report which had been prepared by the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture Division of the UNECE was introduced by the ECE representative.

53. The Commission was informed that the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs had considered the Commission's request that consideration be given to the possibility of drawing up World-Wide Standards at a meeting in Geneva in June 1967 on Apples and Pears between ECE countries and non-European exporting countries. The meeting had noted that it was extremely difficult to develop meaningful world-wide standards due to the widely varying conditions in different countries, but decided to discuss the principal divergent points in the European Standard for Apples and Pears in the belief that agreement on these points would help the situation considerably. The proposals of both non-European and European countries had been examined and both points of view had been brought closer together. It was envisaged that the existing

European Standard for Apples and Pears would be amended so as to incorporate all the proposals and it should then be acceptable on a much broader, if not world-wide, basis. The next meeting would take place in May 1968 at which it was hoped that a large proportion of the remaining problems would be solved.

54. The Commission was also informed that the Working Party had agreed to include within its terms of reference the question of standardization of conditions of sale for some agricultural products and that comparative studies had already begun on existing rules and conditions of sale for fresh fruits and vegetables and dried fruits. At its last session held in November 1967 the Working Party also adopted two new European Standards, for Scorzonera and Ware Potatoes, and a Revised Standard for Seed Potatoes.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO TC/34)
(ALINORM 68/27 (Part III))

55. The Commission had before it a report which had been prepared by Technical Committee 34 of the International Organization for Standardization. The ISO representative briefly reviewed the contents of the report which set out the state of development of the work in ISO on methods of testing and sampling agricultural food products. The attention of the Commission was drawn in particular to the work of ISO on methods of testing for organoleptic criteria. The Commission noted the broad range of products mentioned in the report and recommended that the Secretariat, in cooperation with ISO, should try to ensure that there was no overlapping of work as between ISO and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program.

Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC)(ALINORM 68/27
(Part IV))

56. The Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretariat of the Commission of the European Economic Community concerning the harmonization of food legislation in the Member States of the Community. The Commission was informed by the representative of the EEC that two sets of regulations were already in force relating to colours and preservatives, including criteria for the purity of the ingredients. The regulations prescribed a list of those colours and preservatives which may be used. The Commission was also informed that regulations on anti-oxidants were to be applied shortly. An account of the state of the work on other additives and on methods of analysis for the detection and identification of food additives was also given to the Commission. The Commission was also informed that draft regulations were being prepared on packaging materials, labelling preserved or canned foods and dietetic foods. The position with regard to regulations going forward for adoption or work in progress for various commodities or commodity groups was also defined.

The Commission was informed that the question of the position of members of the Community so far as acceptance of Codex standards was concerned was currently under examination by the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community and the Codex Alimentarius Commission would be advised of the outcome of this examination.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (ALINORM 68/27 (Part V))

57. The Commission had before it a paper which had been prepared by the Secretariat of the OECD, summarizing the standardization activities of the OECD in the field of livestock products and fresh fruits and vegetables. It was noted that close cooperation existed between the OECD and the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products, and that the OECD had elaborated a Descriptive System for Carcasses of Bovine and Porcine Species as well as a Draft Code of Sanitary Regulations for International Trade in Slaughter Livestock and Fresh Meat. As regards fruits and vegetables, the Commission was informed of the close cooperation which existed between the UNECE and OECD. The Commission noted that the purpose of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables was to achieve a common interpretation of the European standards elaborated by the UNECE and to achieve a harmonization of quality control methods. In addition, work had been undertaken on the standardization of packaging.

58. The Commission noted with interest the reports of the above organizations and expressed its appreciation for the work and cooperation which it was receiving from them and many other international organizations interested in the field of international food standards.

Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Interested Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

59. The Commission was informed of the recent decisions of the FAO Conference concerning the invitation to Codex Sessions of international non-governmental organizations not having formal status with either FAO or WHO. The FAO Conference had requested the Secretariat of the Commission to prepare a list of those organizations with no formal status which were considered to have an important interest in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and to place this before the FAO Council for approval. The Secretariat informed the Commission that such a list was being prepared for submission to the FAO Council and that the approved list of those organizations which do not have formal relations with either FAO or WHO would be made available to the Chairmen of Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points.

PART VI

FINANCE OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAM

Accounts for 1966/67

60. The Commission examined the provisional accounts for the biennium 1966/67. Expenditure for the biennium had totalled US \$ 235,000. This expenditure had been met by US \$ 181,000 from the Regular Budget of FAO and US \$ 54,000 from the Regular Budget of WHO. The distribution of expenditure had been as follows: salaries \$ 101,100, common service costs \$ 29,000, duty travel \$ 11,700, meetings \$ 40,800, and documents \$ 52,400. The Commission noted that the expenditure had exceeded the original budget of \$ 204,000 proposed by the Commission due to a pay award to United Nations staff, which had amounted to \$ 11,000 for the staff of the Food Standards Program, and an increase in budget of \$ 20,000 recommended by the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Conference.

Budget for 1968/69

61. The Commission noted that it had not been possible to proceed with the original proposals of the Commission for the budgetary contributions of FAO and WHO for the biennium 1968/69. It had been originally intended that FAO would contribute \$ 416,000 and WHO would contribute \$ 175,000. The Director-General of WHO informed the Director-General of FAO that it would not be possible for WHO to contribute more than \$ 42,000 in 1968 towards the joint costs of the Program. This sum was subsequently approved by the governing body of WHO and similar provision has been made for 1969. In the light of these developments the Director-General of FAO was obliged to reconsider the level of contribution of FAO in order to maintain a relationship with the contribution of WHO.

62. The governing bodies of FAO and WHO had approved a total budgetary provision for 1968/69 of \$ 402,000, \$ 318,000 coming from the Regular Budget of FAO and \$ 84,000 coming from the Regular Budget of WHO. The Commission noted and concurred with the view of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference which had drawn attention to the importance of the public health aspects of the Program and had expressed the hope that WHO could participate more fully in it. The FAO Conference had also noted that, while the total financial resources available to the Program had increased, there had been a decline in the percentage contribution from WHO. The FAO Conference had expressed the hope that Member Nations of FAO and WHO would show the same interest and support of the Program in the governing bodies of both Organizations.

63. The Commission was informed that a large part of the difficulties which were likely to have arisen concerning documentation had been accommodated by a greatly increased allocation of the internal printing and translation services of FAO being made available to the Program. This assistance was not reflected in the

budget of the Program which only contained the provision for external services required for documentation. The Commission noted that the main problem stemming from the reduction of the overall budgetary provision would be the increasing difficulty which the Commission's Secretariat would have in keeping pace with the progress of the work arising from the Commission's subsidiary bodies and government comments on a rapidly increasing number of draft standards. The Secretariat was requested to prepare, for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next session, estimates of the total additional cost and extra staffing which would be necessary if it were requested to assume responsibility for (1) translation, printing and distribution of all working documents for Codex Committees, and (2) translation, printing and distribution of reports of Codex Committees.

Program of Work and Budgetary Implications 1970/71

64. The Commission was informed that the Directors-General of FAO and WHO would be jointly examining the apportionment of costs of the Joint Program between the two Organizations as requested by the FAO Conference. The Executive Committee and the Commission would be kept informed of the budgetary proposals of the Directors-General.

PART VII

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Period of Office of Members of the Executive Committee Representing Geographic Locations

65. The Executive Committee at its tenth session had recommended that the officers of the Executive Committee representing geographic locations should remain in office until the end of the second session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which followed the session at which they were elected. Similar arrangements already existed regarding the offices for the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen in order to ensure that at no time official posts of the Commission would be vacant.

66. The text of the new Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure is as follows (new parts are underlined and deleted parts are in square brackets):

"The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, together with six further members, elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, South-West Pacific; it being understood that not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office for two years from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election, but after having served two successive consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term."

67. A consequential amendment would also have to be made in Rule II.1, line 7, where the word "regular" would have to be inserted between the words "following" and "session". The Commission agreed to the amendments set out above.

Proposal by Canada Regarding Regional Standards

68. At its eleventh session, the Executive Committee had examined a request by the Canadian delegation concerning the way in which a formal amendment to the Rules of Procedure regarding regional standards could be made during the Commission session (see paragraph 11 of Appendix III to this Report).

69. In support of the proposal the Canadian delegation drew attention to the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius as set out in the General Principles which aimed at ensuring fair practices in the food trade and facilitating international trade. The Canadian delegation pointed to the possibility that standards developed on a regional basis for commodities which in fact moved in world trade might operate in restriction of international trade.

70. During the course of the discussions, the Canadian delegation pointed out that certain clarifications were needed with regard to the use of the expressions "countries constituting a given region", "group of countries specifically enumerated by the Commission", "geographic locations". The Commission recommended:

- (1) that the Canadian proposal for the amendment of Rule VI.3 should be sent to governments for comments and should be considered at the next session of the Commission in the light of these comments;
- (2) that the Executive Committee should, at its next session, examine the Canadian proposal and also the matters referred to above concerning the expressions "regions", "group of countries" etc. and submit its views and any proposals for amendment of the Rules of Procedure to the Commission at its next session.

71. The text of the new proposed Rule VI.3 submitted by the delegation of Canada reads as follows:

"At the request of a majority of countries from a geographic location described under Rule III.1, a regional standard for a food or foods produced exclusively and consumed mainly

within that geographic location shall be elaborated. When a vote is taken on the elaboration, amendment or adoption of a regional standard, only Members belonging to the geographic location for which the standard is intended shall be eligible to vote. The adoption of the standard may, however, take place only after submission of the draft text to all Members of the Commission for comments. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prejudice the elaboration or adoption of a corresponding standard with a different territorial scope."

72. The Cuban delegation reserved its position concerning the need for regional standards for the following reasons:

- (a) Regional standards could be justified only in the case of foods produced in a region and consumed there exclusively.
- (b) The number of products which would be covered by a regional standard would be so small that it would not warrant work by a regional group of countries, within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- (c) Any draft regional standard regarding foods also produced and consumed outside the region concerned could only lead to disturbances in the international trade in such products.
- (d) Cuba would be willing to collaborate on any draft standard, even where it concerned products which it did not itself produce, in order to promote world-wide standardization.

PART VIII

INFORMATION ON FOOD STANDARDS WORK IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

73. At the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission the Secretariat had been requested to prepare a survey of the needs of African countries in respect of food legislation and standards. The Commission was informed that the Secretariat had obtained some information from African countries and that a certain amount of data had also been received through the offices of the FAO Regional and Country Representatives stationed in Africa. The Commission was also informed that the document which the Secretariat had prepared had been found useful by other services in FAO whose function was to advise developing countries. The Commission was informed that in the main the food legislation of these countries was based either on British or French legislation but some progress had been made recently in drawing up national food laws in some countries. The Commission noted that there had been an increase in the membership of African countries in the Codex Alimentarius Commission from 4 to 9 countries and again emphasized the importance of the participation of all the developing countries in the work of the Commission. Such membership was also useful to establish contacts with the authorities

responsible in these countries for health, sanitary and other matters connected with food legislation and to enable those authorities to receive useful information from FAO and WHO on the activities of the Commission. It was emphasized that membership did not involve any financial contribution additional to that which countries were already making to the Regular Programs and Budgets of both Organizations, and that participation in the work of the Commission could also be carried out by way of correspondence. It was decided that a similar survey of food standards needs in Asian countries should be carried out.

74. With regard to Latin America, it was noted that Argentina had had for the last 40 years a national code and that a Latin American Food Code had also been adopted by a number of countries of this region. The Argentine delegate informed the Commission that a new edition of the Latin American Food Code would be issued shortly. The Commission agreed that in order to complete the picture of food standard needs in the main developing areas of the world, an appropriate survey should also be made for Latin America.

PART IX

REPORT ON PACKAGING MATERIALS

75. On the request of the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Secretariat of the Commission prepared a paper on packaging materials, outlining the subject. The Commission noted that the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) had established a Working Party to deal with the control of packaging materials. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that before packaging materials were considered, a large amount of preliminary work would have to be done on compiling information for consideration by a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee.

76. The Commission then examined the priority which should be given to the consideration of this subject. In view of the fact that the existing Expert Committees and the Codex Committees still had a number of classes of food additives, contaminants and pesticide residues with high priority to consider, the Commission decided that no action should be taken at this time, and that the outcome of the investigations of the Working Party of the Council of Europe should be awaited before further action was taken on this subject. The Commission was of the opinion that meanwhile the Secretariat of FAO and WHO should collect data on the migration of packaging material components into food and on the toxicity of the substances migrating.

PART X

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Report of the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

77. The Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria), introduced the Report of the Fifth Session which dealt with the following commodities: honey, natural mineral waters, soups and broths, edible fungi and dietetic foods. The discussions of the Commission on these subjects are recorded separately later in this Report, except for edible fungi and soups and broths which follow:

Edible Fungi

78. As recommended by the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission the Proposed Draft Provisional Standards for Edible Fungi and Fungus Products, for Dried Edible Fungi and for Fresh Fungus Chanterelle, which were prepared by Poland, had been sent for comments to governments. These comments were taken into account by Poland and incorporated in the standards. At the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, the general standard was briefly considered and the two other standards were made available to the Commission. The Commission was informed that work on cultivated mushrooms had progressed considerably in the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's Committee on Agricultural Problems and that a revised draft would shortly be presented to that body. The Commission was also advised that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables was dealing with canned mushrooms. At the above-mentioned session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, Japan had presented a draft on Shiitake, a special wood or forest mushroom cultivated on trees.

79. The Commission considered the various possibilities of continuing the important work which Poland had carried out in the elaboration of Standards for Edible Fungi and noted the interest in these products of the many countries which had sent comments to Poland. The Committee decided that the general standard and the two individual standards dealing with dried fungi and Chanterelle should be considered as having attained Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards. After taking into account any further comments which might be made on these three standards, the Commission requested that the Standard for Chanterelle be put in the Format of Codex Standards and be considered at the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe at Step 4. The Secretariat of the Commission was requested also to send the Shiitake Standard to governments for comments at Step 3. All mushroom standards could then be brought to the same level of advancement in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards. It was hoped that at the next session of the

Coordinating Committee governments would include in their delegations experts on mushrooms, so as to enable the standards to reach Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards. The Commission could then, at its next session, decide whether the General Standard, the Standard for Dried Edible Fungi and the Standard for Shiitake should be widened to become world-wide standards. Standards for fresh mushrooms would, in all probability, have to remain regional standards.

Soups and Broths

80. The Commission was informed by the delegation of Switzerland that Switzerland would be willing to assume the chairmanship of and financial responsibility for a Codex Committee on Soups and Broths. The usual facilities given by host countries would be made available for this Committee. The significant expansion in international trade in soups and broths was noted by the Commission. During the discussion on this matter, it was pointed out that regulations varied widely in the various countries and that new products such as frozen soups were gaining increased importance. There were, however, a number of reasons which led the Commission to decide not to proceed at this time with the establishing of a new Committee. First there was the question what would be appropriate terms of reference and scope of work for such a Committee, in view of the fact that most of these products were proprietary manufactures. It was pointed out that in view of the widely varying composition of soups and broths in the different countries, the adoption of a standard might present difficulties and that it might not, in fact, be necessary to provide for more than labelling and additive requirements. In this connection it was mentioned that the draft directive of the European Economic Community on soups and broths appeared to go beyond the scope of these two products, and that it would be necessary to define exactly what was understood by the terms "soups" and "broths". It was further pointed out that the Fourteenth Conference of FAO had recommended that the Codex Alimentarius Commission should first complete some of the work in hand before embarking on new projects. Standards for soups and broths could not claim a high position in the Commission's work priorities as they were also at present of little interest to developing countries. The Commission decided, therefore, to proceed further only after a thorough investigation had been made and full information had become available on the regulations on broths and soups in the various countries and the importance of these products in world trade. The Secretariat of the Commission undertook to prepare such a study in conjunction with the delegation of Switzerland and to examine the situation in the various countries as regards legislation and trade. The Secretariat undertook to distribute this paper to governments for comments and place this subject on the agenda of the next session of the Commission.

PART XI

CODEX GENERAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES

Report of the Codex Committee on General Principles - ALINORM 68/9

81. The Commission noted that the main features of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles had been dealt with as separate items on its agenda and confined itself to discussing other matters arising from the Report. Drawing attention to paragraph 10 of the Report concerning responsibility for the enforcement of Codex standards in relation to acceptance, the Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles indicated that this would involve the setting up of a control service. With regard to paragraph 14 of the Report, the Commission was informed that the paper which the United Kingdom had been asked to prepare and which is entitled "The Idea of a General Standard" was available and would be distributed to governments for comments which would be considered at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

82. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling - ALINORM 68/22

83. The Commission received a report from Mr. H.V. Dempsey (Canada) on the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The Commission noted that at its next session the Committee would be considering comments on the General Standard for Food Labelling, matters referred to it by Codex Commodity Committees, and other items which the Committee had not been able to deal with at its previous session, such as claims on labels. The delegation of Canada, as chairman country of the Committee, expressed its willingness to extend the duration of the session in order to deal with and finalize these matters. The paragraphs of the Report on which specific government comments were sought were paragraphs 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. The delegation of the Netherlands stated that in their opinion the work on a General Standard for the Labelling of Food should be stopped and the Codex concepts of labelling be presented in the form of guidelines.

84. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene - ALINORM 68/13

85. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, introduced by Mr. G. Grange of the U.S.A. It was drawn to the attention of the Commission that a new body had been established in the field of food hygiene - the WHO Expert Committee on Food Hygiene (Food Microbiology). The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food

Hygiene had expressed its concern over a possible duplication of work in this field. The WHO representative explained that the Expert Committee on Food Hygiene would deal primarily with the overall problems of the prevention of the transmission of pathogens by food; it would take into consideration the newly recognized pathogenic agents, their origin and ways of spreading, the effect of new food manufacture procedures on the survival of pathogens, and the changing patterns of food-borne disease outbreaks. The WHO representative considered that the activity of the Expert Committee on Food Hygiene would not duplicate the work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and therefore there appeared to be no necessity for making any changes in the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, which was primarily concerned with problems of food standards and codes of hygienic practice. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene could receive from the Expert Committee any recommendation which was applicable to its field and might refer back, if it wished, unsolved problems to the Expert Committee on Food Hygiene. In these cases, to expedite the work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, additional smaller WHO meetings, consisting of three to four specialists, might be necessary to cover specific requests from the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. It was pointed out to the Commission that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene consisted of experts highly competent in the field of food hygiene who might participate at both Codex and Expert Committee meetings on food hygiene. The Commission noted that there could be a slight area of overlap of functions by the Expert Committee and the Directors-General of the two Organizations were requested to keep a close watch on this matter.

86. 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 U.S.A.

Report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives - ALINORM 68/12

87. The Commission received a report from Dr. P. Berben (Netherlands). The Codex Committee on Food Additives had requested the Commission to indicate whether the question of irradiation of foods as a controlled process for the preservation of food should be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission noted that a definition of food additives would be discussed at the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Commission decided that in this connection the Committee should also consider whether in their view the irradiation of food should fall within their terms of reference, taking into account work being done in related fields by FAO/WHO/IAEA. The Commission drew attention to paragraph 4 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives in which it was stated that it was not the function of that Committee to examine food additives proposed by Commodity Committees from a technological point of view.

88. As a number of standards containing food additives provisions might be sent out to governments for acceptance in the near future, the Commission decided that for food additives which had only been temporarily endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives a footnote would be required according to the appropriate decision of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, as follows:

- (1) Temporary pending toxicological evaluation
- (2) Temporary pending assessment of the total food load

The Commission instructed the Secretariat to incorporate these footnotes, where appropriate, when preparing standards to be sent out for government acceptance at Step 9. With respect to the estimation of the total food load, the Codex Committee on Food Additives had recommended that governments should collect information on the consumption of foods in their own countries and in particular on the actual intake of food additives.

89. The Commission was informed that it would be essential to link the food additive provisions in Codex standards with the appropriate FAO/WHO specifications of identity and purity of food additives. It decided that reference to this should be made in the Format. The following amendment to the Format of Codex Standards was agreed by the Commission:

"The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in Section of the Codex Alimentarius, are subject to endorsement /have been endorsed / by the Codex Committee on Food Additives."

90. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues - ALINORM 68/24

91. The Commission received a report from Dr. P. Berben (Netherlands). The Commission agreed with the view of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues that the Committee should consider the pesticide residues in food arising from all uses of the pesticide.

92. The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had requested the Codex Alimentarius Commission to modify paragraph 36(a) of the Report of the Third Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission slightly to permit toxicological data to be sent by governments to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The US and Canadian delegations did not consider that the sending of the complete toxicological data to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues would serve any practical purpose in view of the responsibility of this Committee. The Commission agreed that paragraph 36(a) should be modified so that governments would send also a copy of toxicological data to the Chairman of the Codex Committee

on Pesticide Residues for reference purposes.

93. The Commission noted with satisfaction that budgetary provision had been made to hold a Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues in 1969. The Commission agreed with the view of the Codex Committee that it was essential to hold the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues on an annual basis.

94. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling - ALINORM 68/23

95. The Commission had before it the Report of the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, which was introduced by the Chairman, Professor Franck (Federal Republic of Germany). It was pointed out to the Commission that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had a full program of work and that for this reason no additional work could be envisaged at this time. It was also pointed out to the Commission that there existed certain procedural inconsistencies and difficulties in connection with the work of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling which would be examined by the Executive Committee in the coming year. The Committee had considered the question of referee methods as had been requested by the Tenth Session of the Executive Committee and had concluded that the methods of analysis contained in the Codex Alimentarius should be referee methods, but that methods proved to be equivalent could be regarded as alternatives. The Commission endorsed the following text to be inserted in the Format of Codex Standards under the heading "Methods of Analysis and Sampling".

"Methods of Analysis and Sampling

This section should include, either specifically or by reference, all methods of analysis and sampling considered necessary and should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(c) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. If two or more methods have been proved to be equivalent by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling these could be regarded as alternatives and be included in this section either specifically or by reference. The following statement should also appear:

'The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are international referee methods which are to be endorsed have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling'."

96. The Commission considered that the responsibility for deciding whether a method of analysis was in fact equivalent to the proposed referee method rested with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

97. The question was raised whether the methods of analysis and sampling appearing in Appendix X to the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Sugars had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Commission was informed that, although these methods of analysis and sampling had been examined and endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, government comments had been invited on them and they would be again examined in the light of the comments received.

98. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling pointed out that in view of the fact that a great number of methods of analysis and sampling had been referred to that Committee, it had found it necessary to invite comments according to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

99. 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 the Federal Republic of Germany.

PART XII

CODEX COMMODITY COMMITTEES

Codex Committee on Poultry Meat

100. The Commission was informed by the delegate of the U.S.A. that while there did not appear to be a need at this stage for convening a meeting of the Codex Committee on Poultry Meat, the U.S.A. would have no objection to convening such a meeting should the Commission so decide. The Commission agreed that there was no need at present to convene a meeting of the Codex Committee on Poultry Meat and confirmed under Rule IX.10 that this Committee should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the U.S.A.

Report of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils - ALINORM 68/11

101. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils introduced by the Chairman, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom).

102. The representative of the International Olive Oil Council indicated that the designations of olive oils had been determined by the Conference on Olive Oils of the United Nations and that they appear in an annex to the International Agreement of 1963. This

text concerned international trade and a number of countries producing olive oil as well as importing countries have legally adopted these designations for their internal commerce. It would therefore be necessary to consider how to reconcile this situation with the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius when the Codex Standard for Olive Oil was issued for acceptance by governments.

103. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate - ALINORM 68/10

104. The Commission received a report from the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, Professor Dr. O. Högl (Switzerland). The Committee had asked the Commission to consider the question whether among the permissible ingredients and additives for chocolate, flavours which imitated the chocolate or milk flavour might be included, and also to examine the general issue of the use of imitative flavours in products which comply with Codex standards. The Commission decided that it could not give a general ruling on this question but that the problem of imitative flavours should be dealt with by Codex Commodity Committees as each standard was discussed. The Commission would then consider any specific cases which were referred to it.

105. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Sugars - ALINORM 68/21

106. The Commission received a report from the Chairman, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom), who indicated the progress made by the Codex Committee on Sugars at its fourth session.

107. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables - ALINORM 68/20

108. The Commission received a report from Mr. G. Grange, the U.S. delegate, who reviewed the progress made by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables at its fourth session. As requested by the Commission at its fourth session, the Committee had re-examined the question of a General Standard for Canned Fruits and a General Standard for Canned Vegetables. The

Committee again decided that individual commodity standards would be more useful and, therefore, such an approach would be best even though some repetition would be involved. A General Standard might be developed later for minor products for which individual standards had not been developed. On the subject of food additives, he indicated that the Committee considered that it might be desirable to elaborate standards for processed fruits which were artificially sweetened. The elaboration of such standards would be carried out with appropriate endorsement from the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Codex Committee on Food Additives. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that additives proposed in processed fruit and vegetable standards were based initially on national legislations on this subject. It was only at a later stage that technological need for such food additives would be examined by the Committee.

109. The delegate of the U.S.A. stated that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables was empowered under its terms of reference to elaborate standards for all types of processed fruit and vegetables including dried products. He referred to the fact that the Economic Commission for Europe was elaborating standards for certain dried fruits and that this should not inhibit the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables from elaborating Codex standards for the same products. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe pointed out that the Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the UNECE had been developing a Standard for Dried Prunes which was now nearing completion. He further indicated that the Working Party mentioned had also decided to elaborate standards for other dried fruits. The standards in question were graded quality standards. The representative of the UNECE indicated that the U.S.A. was a Member Country of that Organization and that non-European countries could be invited to attend sessions of the Working Party and its subsidiary Expert Groups under Article XI of the UNECE's terms of reference. He indicated that members of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables interested in the work on standards for dried fruits being elaborated by the UNECE would be welcome to send representatives to meetings organized by the UNECE on this subject.

110. On the subject of table olives, the delegate of the U.S.A. indicated that a Draft Standard for this commodity had been elaborated by the U.S.A. in liaison with the International Olive Oil Council. The representative of the International Olive Oil Council indicated that certain differences still existed between the Standard for Table Olives elaborated by the IOOC and the proposed Standard elaborated by the U.S.A. These differences concerned mainly sizing and the fact that the IOOC Standard contained commercial quality grades. He indicated that the IOOC had recast its Standard in the Codex Format and stated that it would be desirable if agreement could be reached between the IOOC and the U.S.A. on a Standard to be put before the Codex Committee on

Processed Fruits and Vegetables for consideration. He stressed the importance which the IOOC attached to having a United States expert on table olives at meetings on the standardization of this commodity organized by the IOOC and indicated that a meeting on table olives could be arranged by the IOOC to take place in November 1968. The delegate of the U.S.A. stated that the possibility of sending an expert to such a meeting would be carefully examined.

111. 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 U.S.A.

Report of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products -
ALINORM 68/18

112. The Commission received a report from the Chairman, Dr. O. R. Braekkan (Norway) who reviewed the progress made by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products at its second session. The Commission noted that the Committee had agreed on the need for a General Standard for Fish and Fishery Products and that this would be one of the main items on the agenda for the next session of the Committee. The General Standard for Fish and Fishery Products would be sent to the Norwegian Secretariat by the end of March 1968 for distribution to members of the Committee for comments. The draft, together with these comments, would be before the Committee at its next session. The Chairman of the Committee raised the question of the applicability of the General Standard for all Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods being developed by the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods to standards for frozen fish being developed by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. This matter has been dealt with under the section of the Report relating to the activities of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods.

113. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products and of
Sub-Committee I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses -
ALINORM 68/15

114. The Commission received a report from Dr. F. Krusen (Federal Republic of Germany) on the Report of the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products, and on the Report of the Second Session of Sub-Committee I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses. Dr. Krusen reviewed the contents of both reports, drawing particular attention to the close collaboration of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the field of meat hygiene and the description of carcasses of bovine and porcine species. The Commission agreed that

the Draft Descriptions of Cutting Methods of Commercial Units of Carcasses Moving in International Trade (Appendix II to the Report of Sub-Committee I) should not be regarded as standards intended to be submitted ultimately to governments for acceptance, but should be treated in the same way as codes of hygienic practice. The Commission further agreed that the Draft Descriptions of Cutting Methods should be sent out for government comments at Step 3 of the Procedure. The Commission agreed with the view expressed by the majority of the Committee that, in order to give the Committee Secretariat adequate time for the preparation of the substantial amount of documentation necessary for the further advancement of the work of the Committee, a meeting of the Committee should not be held in 1968. The Commission also took the view that, because of the close inter-linking of activities between the main Committee and Sub-Committee I, a meeting of Sub-Committee I should not be held either in 1968.

115. The Commission agreed with the view expressed by the Committee that the omission of a meeting of the main Committee in 1968 should not have any adverse effects on the continuance of activities of Sub-Committee IV on Processed Meat Products and Consumer Packaged Meat, for which the Government of Denmark was responsible and which could in 1968 report directly to the Commission.

116. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat and Meat Products, and Sub-Committee I on Cutting Methods and Cuts of Carcasses should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Report of Sub-Committee IV on Processed Meat Products and Consumer Packaged Meat - ALINORM 68/16

117. The Commission received a report from Dr. V. Enggaard (Denmark), the Chairman of Sub-Committee IV. The Commission noted that Standards for (i) Canned Hams, (ii) Canned Corned Beef, and (iii) Canned Luncheon Meat, had been sent out to governments for comments at Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. The Commission also noted that at its next session, the Sub-Committee would be considering Preliminary Draft Standards for (i) Canned Chopped Meat, (ii) Salami-Type Sausages, (iii) Canned Sausages in Brine (Frankfurter Type), and (iv) Canned Stewed Steak with Gravy. The Commission also noted that this Sub-Committee intended to elaborate a definition of meat and would be considering how to determine the meat content of meat products.

118. The Chairman of Sub-Committee IV referred to the provisions of full acceptance under which a country undertook to ensure that

a product to which a Codex standard applied would be permitted to be distributed freely within its territorial jurisdiction under the name and description laid down in the standard, provided that it complied with all the relevant requirements of the standard, and also undertook to ensure that a product not complying with the standard would not be permitted to be distributed under the name and description laid down in the standard. He raised the question whether this provision would prevent the distribution of a product substantially the same as that covered by the standard but bearing a name slightly different from that laid down in the standard. The Commission thought that problems of this kind could be taken care of in a general standard and that Commodity Committees experiencing any difficulties of this kind could refer them to the Codex Committee on General Principles for guidance and advice.

119. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Sub-Committee on Processed Meat Products and Consumer Packaged Meat should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Denmark.

Report of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses - ALINORM 68/26

120. The Commission received a report from the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, Dr. h.c. Edmund Forschbach (Federal Republic of Germany) who reviewed the progress made by the Committee at its second session. The Commission took note that the Committee had examined its scope of activity in relation to its terms of reference and came to the conclusion that the latter covered both special foods for certain categories of healthy persons and also dietary foods, the use of which was connected with morbid conditions of the human body. As shown in the Guidelines for the Elaboration of Codex Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Appendix II, ALINORM 68/26), the Committee dealt with both these categories of food. The Committee however decided that the term "Dietetic Foods" should be broadened to "Foods for Special Dietary Uses" to overcome linguistic problems as well as to cover the two categories of foods referred to above. The delegate of Israel reserved his Government's position regarding the terms of reference and the new designation of the Committee since, in his opinion, the Committee should be dealing only with dietetic foods in the strictest sense, i.e. foods which were designed for persons with morbid conditions of the body. The question arose as to which Committee should deal with foods which were covered by standards under elaboration by other Commodity Committees. The Commission considered that such standards, if they contained provisions for special dietary purposes, should be referred to and endorsed by the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses. It might be necessary in some cases for

that Committee to work in cooperation with other Codex Commodity Committees in drawing up food standards of a special dietary nature or to elaborate standards itself for persons suffering from morbid conditions. The Secretariat pointed out that in paragraph 33 of the Report of the Committee, the words "artificial colours, chemical preservatives and ..." had been erroneously left out and that these should be inserted after the second line in that paragraph. The Commission agreed that the Committee be re-named as indicated above.

121. 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.

Report of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters -
ALINORM 68/17

122. The Commission received a report from the Chairman, Professor Dr. O. Högl (Switzerland) and noted that a Proposed Draft Provisional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters had been prepared by the Committee and that subsequently the Coordinating Committee for Europe had agreed that this Standard should be sent out at Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards. The Commission noted that the next meeting of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters would be taking place before the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. The Commission agreed that, although the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards required that comments received at Step 3 should be referred to the Coordinating Committee, it would be helpful, in the present instance, if the comments were to be examined by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters prior to formal consideration at Step 4 by the Coordinating Committee.

123. 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.

Report of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on
the Standardization of Fruit Juices - ALINORM 68/14

124. The Commission received a report from the Secretariat on the Fourth Session of the Joint Group of Experts. It was noted that good progress was being made in the elaboration of Standards for physically preserved Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars, Apple Juice, Orange Juice, Grape Juice, Tomato Juice, Lemon Juice and Grapefruit Juice, and Concentrated Apple, Orange and Grape Juices. These standards had been sent out for government comments and would be considered at the next session of the Joint Group of Experts at Step 4 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. The Commission also noted that the Joint Group of Experts would have a Standard for Pineapple Juice before it at its next session at Step 2 of the Procedure.

125. The representative of CLAM indicated that the organization he represented had actively participated in the work of the Joint Group of Experts and expressed his appreciation of the way in which the views of this organization had always been taken into account by the Joint Group of Experts.

126. The Commission also noted that the Joint Group of Experts would be considering methods of analysis for fruit juices in the light of a synopsis on methods of analysis for these products prepared by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and of a digest of government comments thereon to be supplied to the Joint Group by the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

127. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Joint Group of Experts should consider adopting the Codex Alimentarius Commission's procedures by electing at the end of each session its Chairman for the next session.

Report of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods - ALINORM 68/25

128. The Commission received a report from the Secretariat on the Third Session of the Joint Group of Experts. The Commission noted that the General Standard for Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods, together with Standards for Quick (Deep) Frozen Strawberries and Quick (Deep) Frozen Peas, were before it at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, and that these standards would be considered at a later stage in the agenda. In considering the General Standard at Step 5, the Commission would also have to consider how to regard it taking into account the decisions taken with regard to codes of practice. The Commission noted that Standards for Quick (Deep) Frozen Spinach, Raspberries, Brussels Sprouts, Peaches and Bilberries were being redrafted by the author countries and that the redrafts would be sent out for government comments at Step 3. In addition, the Commission noted that the Joint Group of Experts would have before it at its next session, redrafts of the Standards for Quick (Deep) Frozen Cauliflowers, Broccoli and Sour Cherries. The future work program of the Joint Group included Standards for Quick (Deep) Frozen Green Beans, Blueberries and Leeks, the Standards for the two last-mentioned items being redrafts.

129. While recognizing that individual Commodity Committees were experts in their own fields, the Commission stressed the need for ensuring that provisions drawn up for quick (deep) frozen foods were compatible with the provisions of the General Standard applicable to all quick (deep) frozen foods. It was agreed, however, that a sensible interpretation of the terms of reference of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods and the terms of reference of Commodity Committees dealing with specific kinds of frozen foods should remove any difficulties which might arise.

130. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Joint Group of Experts should consider adopting the Codex Alimentarius Commission's procedures by electing at the end of each session its Chairman for the next session.

PART XIII

CODE OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products - SP 10/105 and SP 10/105(1)

131. The Commission received a progress report from the Chairman, Mr. Th. C.J.M. Rijssenbeek (Netherlands), concerning the Tenth Session of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products. At that time, 71 countries had accepted the Code of Principles, 65 countries had accepted the Standard for Milk Powder, 46 countries had accepted the Standards for Butter and Sweetened Condensed Milk, 45 countries had accepted the Standards for Butteroil and Evaporated Milk, 33 countries had accepted the General Standard for Cheese and 18 countries the Standard for Whey Cheeses. On average, some 45 countries had accepted the Standards for Sampling and Analysis. In addition, the Commission noted that International Individual Standards for the cheese varieties Cheddar, Danablu, Danbo, Edam, Gouda, Havarti and Samsøe had been accepted by 10 to 16 countries and that governments had been asked to accept Standards for the varieties Cheshire, Emmentaler and Gruyère. The Chairman of the Committee briefly referred to other matters which had been considered at the Tenth Session.

132. Some delegations during the Commission's discussions questioned the need to elaborate too great a number of individual standards for cheeses, particularly as regards cheeses with very similar characteristics. The Chairman of the Committee reported that widespread interest had been shown in the cheese standards, emphasizing on the one hand the need to protect the consumer especially as regards the practice of marketing cheese with different characteristics under the same name, and on the other hand the Committee's intention to limit the number of standards to the minimum necessary.

133. Some delegations further expressed their doubts as to whether the experts attending the meeting of the Committee were in a position to discuss the problem of "appellation d'origine" with sufficient authority because of the close link which existed between this matter and the international law of industrial property. With regard to "appellation d'origine", the Chairman of the Committee reported that this problem had been under discussion by the Committee for many years. This subject would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee possibly for the last time. Any conclusions proposed by the Committee on "appellation d'origine" would be submitted to governments for their consideration.

Relationship between the Commission and the Committee of Government Experts

134. The Commission had before it the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee which had been held at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 19 February 1968, and which is set out in Appendix III to this Report. The Committee generally approved the contents of the Report, and drew the particular attention of Chairmen of Codex Committees to the recommendations of the Executive Committee regarding the operation of the Guidelines (paragraph 12 of Appendix III). On the subject of the relationship between the Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, the Commission noted that the Executive Committee had redrafted paragraph 10 of the Report of the First Session of the Commission in order to clarify its meaning which had been found to be obscure, and in order to take account of existing practice in the relationship between the Committee of Government Experts and the Codex General Subject Committees. It was pointed out to the Commission by the Executive Committee that the redraft which it proposed did not contain any change of substance. The original text of paragraph 10 reads as follows:

"The Commission decided to treat the present Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products as a Committee of the whole of the Commission, under Rule IX.1(a) of its Rules of Procedure, having exclusive competence for all questions concerning milk and milk products. Decisions of this Committee, which is already open to all Member Countries of FAO and WHO, would therefore be decisions of the Commission in this specified field, subject to review in plenary if requested. In this way the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards (see its Report, para. 39) were given full effect. The costs of the Committee were already met from the regular budget of FAO. At its Second Session, the Commission would take up the possible republication in the Codex of the Code of Principles and its associated standards."

The following was the text proposed by the Executive Committee at its Eleventh Session:

"The Commission decided to treat the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products as a Committee under Rule IX.1(a) of the Rules of Procedure. The Committee would have the right to consider all standards relating to milk and milk products, to pass them through all the steps of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards and to submit them to governments for acceptance, except that all decisions of the Committee, whether on standards or not, would be subject to review by the Commission at the request of any Member of the Commission. Standards formulated by the Committee of Government Experts are subject to the procedure for endorsement of certain provisions by Codex General Committees as laid down in

paragraph 13 of the Guidelines for Codex Committees, pp. 47 and 48 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the exception of those for Sampling and Methods of Analysis."

135. The delegation of the U.S.A. proposed that the redraft be amended in the following way: insert the words "first eight" in place of the word "all" between the words "...through the" and "Steps of the Procedure..." in the sixth line of the English version, and delete the words "and to submit them to governments for acceptance" in the seventh line. The delegation of France proposed that the redraft be amended in the following way: delete all that follows after the words "...milk and milk products ..." in the fifth line (English version) and insert a new sentence to read as follows: "When a sufficiently wide measure of agreement has been reached in the Committee on a specific standard, the Committee will report to the Commission, and the Commission will then be responsible for applying to the standard the appropriate acceptance procedure provided for in the Rules of the Commission". The delegation of Denmark questioned the statement by the Executive Committee that the redraft did not contain any change of substance regarding the competence of the Committee. They suggested that the question be discussed further in the Committee of Government Experts before the Commission made its final interpretation.

136. Since a number of delegations considered that governments should be given an opportunity to reflect on the matter, the Commission decided to take no final decision on the redraft at this stage. It was agreed that advice should be sought from the next session of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, and that the contents of the present report, together with the views of the Committee of Government Experts, should be referred to governments for consideration. In the light of government comments, the whole subject would be reviewed by the Commission at its next session.

Edible Ices

137. The Commission had before it a paper, prepared by the Secretariat, on the subject of Codex standards for edible ices: The Commission was generally of the opinion that, on the basis of information presently available to it, the international trade in edible ices did not appear to be such as to warrant the elaboration of a Codex standard or standards for these products. In consequence, the Commission generally took the view that the elaboration of Codex standards for edible ices would have to be justified by considerations relating to the protection of the health of consumers. Although noting the recommendation contained in paragraph 8 of the Report of the Tenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products as to the procedure to be followed in the elaboration of standards for edible ices based on milk fat and edible ices based on non-milk fat, the general view of the Commission was that one body should be responsible for the development of standards for

both types of ices. The Commission decided to defer taking any decision on the establishment of a Codex Committee on Edible Ices and noted that the Government of Sweden would still be willing to undertake responsibility for such a Committee should it be decided to set one up at the next session of the Commission. The Commission noted that the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products would, at its next session, be discussing the latest Draft Standard of the International Dairy Federation for Ices Based on Milk-Fat, and agreed that the Commission's views on the subject of edible ices generally, particularly on the need to establish a justification for the elaboration of a standard for edible ices, whether based on milk fat or on non-milk fat, should be brought to the attention of the Committee.

PART XIV

CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDS AT STEP 5 OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS

138. The Commission considered standards at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods

139. The Commission considered the following:

- (i) General Standard for Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods
- (ii) Standard for Quick (Deep) Frozen Strawberries
- (iii) Standard for Quick (Deep) Frozen Peas

As regards the General Standard, the Commission noted that some delegations in the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods had taken the view that the General Standard should be mandatory in its entirety, that others had taken the view that it should be regarded as a code of practice and thus advisory, and that still others considered that it should be part mandatory and part advisory. The Commission agreed with the Joint Group of Experts that governments should be asked to state in their comments on the General Standard the reasons why they would consider the entire standard or individual paragraphs in it mandatory or advisory. Pending an examination of these comments by the Joint Group of Experts, the Commission considered that it would be premature to pronounce on the status to be ascribed to the General Standard. While the Commission decided to advance the General Standard to the next step in the Procedure, it noted that it would be always open to it to hold the standard at Step 8 in the Procedure or to return it for further work at any appropriate previous step in the Procedure, should this be considered necessary.

140. The Commission noted that the General Standard covered only quick (deep) frozen foods as distinct from other kinds of frozen foods and that it would be desirable for the scope of the standard to be more clearly defined. The Commission also deferred deciding on how to deal with products which would not meet the minimum temperature requirements laid down in the General Standard,

pending consideration of government comments on the General Standard by the Joint Group of Experts.

141. The Commission decided that the Standards for Quick (Deep) Frozen Strawberries and Peas should be advanced to Step 6 in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards.

Tolerances for Pesticide Residues

142. The Commission examined a list of pesticide residues in raw grain and flour at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. Some delegations were of the opinion that the proposed levels for some of the pesticide residues were higher than permitted in their countries. The Secretariat drew the Commission's attention to the fact that in the case of methyl bromide and ethylene dibromide, the tolerances were for inorganic bromide and not for the unhydrolysed compounds.

143. The delegation of Australia proposed that Steps 6, 7 and 8 of the Procedure should be omitted. Other delegations pointed out that as other tolerances were being proposed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for residues of these pesticides in other foods, the total food load from all sources would need to be taken into consideration. The Commission decided not to omit Steps 6, 7, and 8 in view of the fact that the matter was not entirely uncontroverial.

144. The Commission adopted the following list of tolerances for pesticide residues at Step 5 of the Procedure and decided that it should be sent to governments for comment at Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

For raw grain

- Malathion	8 ppm	
- Hydrogen cyanide	75 ppm	
- Methyl bromide	50 ppm	inorganic bromide determined
Ethylene dibromide		and expressed as total bromide from all sources

For flour

- Hydrogen cyanide	6 ppm
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The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reserved its position regarding the tolerance proposed for hydrogen cyanide on raw grain.

Flour Treatment Agents

145. The Commission examined a list of flour treatment agents at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. During the discussion, the delegations of Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Poland and Switzerland indicated that there

was no technological need for most of these agents in the treatment of flour. In connection with benzoyl peroxide, chlorine dioxide and potassium bromate, the Commission was of the opinion that more information was needed on the application of these flour treatment agents in order to be able to specify the "special purpose" for which they were intended. The Austrian delegation pointed out that a finite tolerance for sulphur-dioxide was needed since trace amounts of this substance would probably be found in the baked product manufactured from flour treated with sulphur-dioxide, in view of the high sensitivity of modern analytical methods. Even if no residues of sulphur-dioxide were found in the baked product, the possibility always existed of the formation of interaction products between the treatment agent and flour.

146. The Commission noted that differing food habits in the various countries made it necessary for some countries to use these flour treatment agents and that the acceptance of such a list did not mean that these additives would have to be used.

147. The Commission adopted the following list of flour treatment agents and decided that it should be sent to governments for comment at Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| - Ascorbic acid | 0 to 200 ppm | |
| - Azodicarbonamide | 0 to 45 ppm | |
| - Benzoyl peroxide | 0 to 40 ppm | 40 to 75 for special purposes (e.g. certain biscuit flours) |
| - Chlorine dioxide | 0 to 30 ppm | 30 to 75 for special purposes (e.g. certain biscuit flours) |
| - Potassium bromate | 0 to 20 ppm | 20 to 75 for special purposes (e.g. certain biscuit flours) |
| - Sulphur dioxide | The level of treatment of flour for the manufacture of biscuits should be in conformity with good technological practice, leaving no residue of sulphur dioxide in the final product. | |

General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

148. The Commission considered the above Standard and decided to advance it to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards. During the discussion on this item a number of countries referred to the points in the General Standard which they thought would still need further consideration. Among these were the question of the listing of ingredients in general and, in particular, the listing in standardized products for which, it was suggested, an exception should be permitted. Some countries queried the provisions of the standard requiring declaration of net content on the label. It was also suggested that it would be helpful if labels should, in addition to the units of measurement used in the producing country, also show the measurements in S.I. Units. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission that only the declaration of S.I. Units was allowed in their country. The Commission noted that government comments were being sought on these points and that they would be discussed again at the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

149. The Commission considered the Standards for Canned Asparagus and Canned Pineapple. The Commission noted that in the Standard for Canned Asparagus, stannous chloride had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and this should be clearly stated in the Standard when it was sent to governments at Step 6.

150. The delegation of Cuba drew attention to the fact that, in the Standard for Canned Pineapples, uniformity of size was based on weight instead of some appropriate measure of size such as diameter.

151. The Commission decided to advance both Standards to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

Canned Pacific Salmon

152. The Commission considered the Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon and advanced it to Step 6 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. The Chairman of the Committee stated that it had not yet been possible to find an appropriate common name for the species "oncorhynchus masou" which had been included within the scope of the Standard on the request of Japan. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission that they would undertake further consultations with the interested countries and would be submitting proposals regarding the common name of this species to the Committee. The Commission stated that the temperature provisions of the Standard should be expressed in Celsius rather than in Fahrenheit.

Fats and Oils

153. The Commission examined the General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils and individual Standards for Soya Bean Oil, Arachis Oil, Cottonseed Oil, Sunflower Oil, Rapeseed Oil, Maize Oil, Sesameseed Oil, Safflowerseed Oil, Lard, Rendered Pork Fat, Premier Jus, Edible Tallow. The Commission decided to advance all the standards to Step 6 of the Procedure. It was pointed out to the Commission that the General Standard would apply to all fats and oils which were not covered by specific standards. With regard to the General Standard, it was drawn to the attention of the Commission that under paragraph 1.2 of the English and Spanish texts, the expression "physical procedures" would permit solvent extraction which would be at variance with the intention of the standard in respect of virgin fats and oils.

154. In the opinion of some delegations, there appeared to be no need for separate Standards for Rendered Pork Fat and Lard since these two products could be covered by a single standard. As regards the acid and the peroxide values in the standards for fats and oils, some delegations were of the opinion that these should not be stated at different points of enforcement. The delegation

of Portugal made a number of comments on edible fats and oils. As regards the determination of fatty acid composition by gas-liquid chromatographic methods, it was pointed out to the Commission that these methods have been included for information and would be examined again by the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. The Secretariat was requested to make editorial changes to the standards on fats and oils in the light of the adopted Format of Codex Standards.

Sugars

155. The Commission had before it for consideration at Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Standards a Standard for White Sugar and a Standard for Powdered (Icing) Sugar. The Committee had concluded that there should be only one White Sugar Standard but in order to meet the principal requirements of the consumers and trade in different countries the standard had been drawn up with two sets of specifications. One set referred to white sugar at a moderately high level; the other to lower grade white sugar which would have to be suitably labelled. The Committee decided to advance the White Sugar Standard with the two sets of specifications to Step 6 and invite government comments, particularly in respect of the name to be given to the two white sugars for which specifications were provided in the standard. During the discussion of the standard, the delegation of Japan informed the Commission that special type of sugar called "korizato" should also be included in the exemption for loss on drying in the standard and that they would provide information and samples on this type for the next meeting of the Committee.

156. The Commission was informed that the Standard for Powdered (Icing) Sugar depended upon the specifications for white sugar, and that the question of the measurement of particle size had still to be clarified. As regards the anti-caking agents in the Standard for Powdered (Icing) Sugar, these had to be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement.

157. The Commission decided to advance the Powdered (Icing) Sugar Standard to Step 6.

Draft Provisional Standards for Cocoa Products and Chocolate

158. The Commission examined 19 Definitions and Standards for Cocoa Products and Chocolate. In respect of cocoa (cacao) beans "merchantable quality", it was pointed out to the Commission that the Committee had decided that this product should conform to at least Grade Two of the FAO Draft Model Ordinance and Code of Practice for Cocoa Beans. In the opinion of some delegations, there appeared to be no need to include provisions for cocoa beans in the standards for these products. The delegation of Ghana was of the opinion that cocoa beans described in the above Ordinance

as 'sub-standard merchantable' were unlikely to be exported but that they were suitable for manufacturing purposes in cocoa bean producing countries, especially for cocoa butter.

159. The delegation of the U.S.A. pointed out that many proprietary cocoa and chocolate products existed and that it would be difficult to elaborate standards for each different formulation. The Commission considered that the standards could not be advanced to Step 5 until they were in the new Codex Format, and that the Committee should consider them in the new Format at its next meeting. It was pointed out to the Commission that a number of very controversial matters of substance still needed to be reconsidered by the Committee as well as the Format and content of standards for these products.

160. The Commission agreed that these standards be sent to governments as they appeared in Appendix 2 of the Report of the Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate and that comments be sought on the outstanding matters requiring settlement by the Committee. The Secretariat was requested to consider the possibility of bringing the standards into the adopted Format in the light of government comments and submit these to the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate for further consideration at Step 4 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

PART XV

CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS

Margarine

161. The Commission had before it for consideration the Proposed Provisional Standard for Margarine at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards. The Commission examined the standard section by section. In view of the divergence of opinion among Members of the Commission regarding a number of basic provisions of the standard, the Commission decided not to advance the standard beyond Step 8, to instruct the Secretariat to redraft the standard in the Codex Format, to send the redrafted text to governments for comments, and to submit the text and the comments to the Executive Committee which would decide whether to refer the standard back to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils or to recommend that the Commission re-examine it at Step 8 at its next session. The delegation of the Netherlands, supported by other delegations, was of the opinion that the different opposing statements made were not new, that the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils had actually made allowance for them, and for that reason the standard should not be held up.

162. The principal aspects of the standard which were discussed by the Commission were: the use of milk or milk products in margarine; the application of the standard; minimum percentage fat content and possible introduction of a specific limitation on moisture content; the provisions concerning vitamins and food additives and the provisions of the labelling section, in particular those relating to the application of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods to margarine and claims which might be made for the presence of milk fat or butter in margarine.

163. The question of the use of milk or milk products in margarine and the presence of milk fat in the product gave rise to considerable discussion on the wording of the definition, the sub-section on raw materials and claims for the presence of milk fat or butter on labels for margarine. The delegations of Australia, Denmark, France, Ireland, New Zealand and Poland expressed the view that their countries could not accept any standard which permitted the presence of milk fat in margarine other than very small or trace amounts which would arise from the use of skimmed milk in the aqueous phase of manufacture of the product.

164. Regarding the application of the standard, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterated its objections to the inclusion of this section in the standard for the reason given in paragraph 31(a) of the Report (ALINORM 68/11). The delegation of the U.S.A. also considered that this section should be deleted from the standard. The delegation of Ghana reserved its position on the definition as it would wish to consider whether it should prohibit the import of a similar product containing less than 80% fat. The delegation of Switzerland indicated that it could not accept the figure of 80% as did also the delegation of France which expressed the view that the figure should be raised to 82%. Some delegations considered that it would be desirable to introduce into the standard a maximum moisture content limitation of 16% in the standard. Other delegations were not in favour of the introduction of a maximum moisture content into the standard as this would present certain difficulties in respect of the amount of salt or ingredients which could be added to the product, and in their opinion it was of greater importance from the point of view of the consumer to ensure an adequate minimum percentage fat content.

165. Concerning the permissive provisions relating to the vitaminization of margarine, the delegations of Portugal and the Federal Republic of Germany drew the Commission's attention to possible dangers regarding the excessive use of vitamin D. The delegation of Portugal also drew attention to the preserving agents in the standard and stated that there was a need to indicate the processes to be allowed for the treatment of the fats used in margarine. The Commission was informed of the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition and the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Commission that it would not be possible to prescribe international standards for the vitaminization of foods because of variations in the vitamin requirements of different countries, and even different sections of population within a single country.

166. The Commission was informed of those additives mentioned in the standard which had been either endorsed or temporarily endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. Many delegations stated that their national regulations contained different provisions concerning food additives which were permitted in margarine. The delegations of the U.S.A. and of Trinidad and Tobago emphasized that the different climatic conditions of countries resulted in different technological requirements for the use of food additives in margarine. The delegation of the U.S.A. drew the Commission's attention to the need to make provision in the standard to accommodate the differing technological requirements of Members of the Commission particularly in view of the fact that Codex standards would only permit the use of those food additives which had been cleared from the point of view of their safety by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee and Codex Committee on Food Additives. Members of the Commission were requested to bear in mind the differing technological requirements of countries and also to consider seriously the need to accept the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Food Additives regarding safety of food additives if progress towards international agreement on food additives were to be achieved.

167. Regarding the section of the standard on labelling, the delegation of the Netherlands considered that the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods could not be satisfactorily applied at this stage because the standard had not yet been adopted by the Commission. In view of the Commission's earlier decision concerning the labelling section of the Format of Codex Standards, the Secretariat was requested, in addition to the specific provisions already contained in the Standard for Margarine, to make specific reference to those provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods which should apply to margarine when putting the standard into the Codex Format. The delegation of New Zealand proposed that section 6.3 as contained in paragraph 78 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be reinstated in the labelling section of the Standard for Margarine. Paragraph 6.3 reads as follows:

"6.3 Margarine shall not be described or designated on any label or any labelling by words or pictorial device or be presented in such a manner as to refer to or be suggestive of milk, butter, other milk products or other dairy term, if likely to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the product is butter or any other milk product, or any other product of which milk or any milk product forms an essential part."

In support of this proposal, the delegation of New Zealand drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the similar provision contained in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods would have no application to the Standard for Margarine until such time as the General Standard had been accepted by countries which also accepted the Standard for Margarine. In the opinion of the delegation of New Zealand, this matter was of major importance if the possibility of consumers being misled as to the

true nature of margarine was to be prevented. The Commission decided by 17 to 11 with 4 abstentions not to reinstate paragraph 6.3 in the standard. The Commission decided by 19 to 12 with no abstentions to retain paragraph 7.3 in the standard. It was agreed on a proposal of the delegation of the U.S.A. by 21 to 5 with 4 abstentions to amend paragraph 7.3 to read as follows:

"Except as provided in 7.5 no reference shall be made to the presence of milk fat or butter in margarine."

Honey

168. The Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria), informed the Commission of the work of the Coordinating Committee for Europe on the Standard for Honey. The Commission at its Fourth Session had agreed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe should continue its work on the Honey Standard on a regional basis at that time. The Commission had asked the Coordinating Committee for Europe to recommend whether the Standard for Honey should be developed on a regional or world-wide basis. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe at its Fifth Session had completed its consideration of the Draft Provisional Standard for Honey and had recommended that the standard should be submitted at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards, together with the decisions on methods of analysis for honey of the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Commission was also informed that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had taken into account views of interested non-European countries with the result that differences between the European and non-European countries regarding the provisions of the Honey Standard had been considerably narrowed. The Coordinating Committee for Europe considered that the standard as amended could possibly serve as a world-wide standard.

169. The Commission considered as a general issue the question of whether a Standard for Honey should be elaborated on a regional or world-wide basis. It was also suggested that regional standards might also be developed for only those types of honey in which interest was confined to a specific region. In support of the view that a Standard for Honey should be elaborated on a world-wide basis, the delegation of the U.S.A. quoted international production and trade figures for honey. These showed that the largest producers and exporters were in general non-European countries. The largest importers were in general the countries of Western Europe. These countries accounted for 80% of world imports.

170. The main provisions of the standard which appeared to give most difficulty for the non-European producers of honey were the diastase activity and the HMF content. The delegation of Argentina indicated that it would be satisfied with the standard as presently drafted except for very minor points of detail. The delegation of Australia stated that HMF content and diastase activity would create serious problems for certain Australian honeys being

exported at the present time. The delegations of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.A. were of the opinion that if some derogation could be made regarding diastase activity, reducing sugar content and some other criteria, then the other provisions of the standard would in general be acceptable to them. The delegation of Canada enquired whether granulated honey would be covered by the terms of the description of the honey relating to consistency. The delegation of Hungary enquired whether an acacia honey could be included in section 4.1.3 of ALINORM 68/19 with an apparent sucrose content of 6% maximum. The delegation of Austria pointed out that the present description of honey would cover granulated honey and also it was quite possible that acacia honey would not encounter any difficulty in conforming with the standard as differences in the methods of analysis used might be the explanation as to the figures quoted by the delegation of Hungary. The delegation of Japan indicated that it would not be able to accept the present Standard for Honey as a world-wide standard.

171. The Commission decided by 16 to 13 with 4 abstentions to accept the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee for Europe that the Honey Standard should be a regional standard for Europe. The Austrian delegation was of the opinion that the standard should go to Step 9 as a regional standard for Europe. The Commission decided that the standard should not be advanced beyond Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Standards and the Secretariat should redraft the standard in the approved Codex Format. The standard should then be sent to governments for comments on the main issues outlined above in the report of the Commission's discussions. The standard together with the comments should be placed before the next session of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, in the light of the comments received, would examine whether the standard needed to be referred to the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe to be held in November 1968 if any amendment were necessary. The Commission would then re-examine the standard at its next session.

172. Regarding the methods of analysis for honey, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed the methods of analysis contained in the standard and recommended that Steps 6, 7 and 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards be omitted. The Committee was further of the opinion that the methods of analysis were generally applicable and were uncontroversial within the framework of the European standard. The Secretariat was requested to make certain editorial corrections to the methods of analysis, paying particular attention to the French and Spanish texts, before the standard was sent out to governments for comment, and to replace the reference in the section on labelling to the General Standard on Labelling by specific provisions on the lines laid down in paragraph 36 above in view of the fact that the General Standard had not yet been adopted by the Commission. The delegation of the U.S.A. stated that it had several unresolved questions concerning the method of analysis for honey.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

173. The Commission considered Draft Provisional Standards for Canned Tomatoes, Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, Canned Peaches, Canned Applesauce, Canned Grapefruit and Canned Sweet Corn at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Codex Standards. The Commission adopted certain amendments to the standards as indicated hereunder and agreed that the standards as amended should be advanced in the Codex Format to Step 9 of the Procedure. The following amendments to the standards under consideration were adopted by the Commission:

- (i) In all the standards the provision "processed by heat before or after being sealed in a container, so as to prevent spoilage" should read "processed by heat in an appropriate manner before or after being sealed in a container, so as to prevent spoilage". The words "in an appropriate manner" have been added to restrict processing by heat before sealing in containers to aseptic canning techniques.
- (ii) In the Standards for Canned Green and Canned Wax Beans, and Canned Sweet Corn, modified starch should be deleted from the list of additives because it had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.
- (iii) In the Standard for Canned Tomatoes under definition 1.1.(a) insert the words "the fruit of" between the words "characteristic of" and "Lycopersicum esculentum P. Miller" and add "(cultivars)" after "varieties".
- (iv) In the Standard for Canned Green Beans and Canned Wax Beans, sub-sections (b) and (c) under 2.2 - Additives, should be deleted.
- (v) In the Standard for Canned Applesauce, sub-section (c) "Colouring Matter" under 2.2 - Additives, should be deleted because it had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

174. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should examine a proposal from the delegation of Austria which requested that the Standard for Peaches include under 1.3.2 "Colour Type" a fourth colour type, namely "Green", although green in colour these peaches were ripe peaches.

175. In the Standard for Canned Grapefruit, the Commission agreed that where appropriate the addition of lemon juice should be declared on the label. The Commission noted that this was in harmony with its decision regarding the way in which labelling provisions should be dealt with under the new Codex Format.

176. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should examine the standards before issue to governments for acceptance to ensure that weights and measures were expressed in S.I. Units, that there were no errors in translation, and that necessary changes in headings and sequence be made to conform with the approved Codex Format.

Sugars

177. The Commission examined the Draft Provisional Standards for Glucose Syrup, Dried Glucose Syrup, Dextrose, Dextrose Monohydrate, Dextrose Anhydrous and Lactose, and decided to advance them to Step 9 for acceptance by governments with the following amendments.

178. In the case of Glucose Syrup, the Commission agreed to insert a footnote in the standard indicating that the maximum limit for lead of 1 mg/kg had been temporarily endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives pending assessment of the total food load. With respect to the section under labelling, the Commission requested the Secretariat to replace the reference to the General Standard on Food Labelling by specific provisions in view of the fact that the General Standard had not yet been adopted by the Commission. However, reference to the paragraphs of the General Standard would be permitted.

179. The delegation of Japan indicated that the Standards for Dextrose Monohydrate and Dextrose Anhydrous might not be fully accepted since in this country these products were purified using ion-exchange resins yielding products containing 98.5% dextrose with a maximum sulphated ash content of 0.05%, and that in the case of dried glucose syrup products containing 15% dextrose equivalent with a maximum of sulphated ash content of 0.1% were widely consumed in Japan. The delegation of Yugoslavia considered that the dextrose equivalents in Glucose Syrup and Dried Glucose Syrup were too low. The delegation of Denmark expressed concern about the level of 400 mg/kg sulphur dioxide in Glucose Syrup for manufacture of sugar confectionery since this might lead to high levels of intake of this additive. It was pointed out that this level of sulphur dioxide was permitted only in Glucose Syrup used in the manufacture of sugar confectionery and that the actual residues of the additive would be low in the final product. Furthermore, the levels of sulphur dioxide in the individual foods such as sugar confectionery products and soft drinks would be controlled by specific permitted levels of use. The delegation of France expressed some concern about the tolerances of heavy metal contaminants in these products.

Food Hygiene

180. The Commission had before it a Code of Practice dealing with the General Principles of Food Hygiene, and a Code of Hygienic Practice prepared in conjunction with the General Principles and covering Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products. These two documents had been adopted by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at its Fourth Session in a final form with the recommendation that they be placed before the Commission at Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide Standards. It was stressed that these codes of practice were advisory in nature and it would be up to individual governments to decide what use they would wish to make

of these codes of practice. The Commission noted that the General Principles covered a large field and that in some respects it would be difficult to apply these provisions in their entirety. These codes of practice could also fulfill a useful function as checklists of requirements for national enforcement authorities. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the "end-product specification section" of the General Principles and of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products. Such end-product specifications when developed could be included in Codex standards for individual commodities and could then become mandatory.

181. With regard to section II of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products, it was pointed out that laminated plastics were permeable to gases and that therefore it would be more appropriate to define "hermetically sealed" as being "tight against microbial contamination".

182. In the opinion of the Federal Republic of Germany, there appeared to be no need for a specific Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products since most of its provisions were covered in the General Principles of Food Hygiene and that specific requirements could be incorporated into the hygiene section of the commodity standard concerned.

183. The Commission adopted the General Principles of Food Hygiene and the Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products at Step 8 of the Procedure. The Secretariat would arrange for the publication of these codes of practice and send them to all Member Governments of FAO and WHO.

PART XVI

CODEX SESSIONS

Scheduling of Codex Alimentarius Commission Sessions

184. The Commission discussed the most suitable time for holding Commission sessions. It was pointed out that these must not coincide with sessions of the FAO Conference and of the World Health Assembly and its Executive Board. It was therefore considered that the first three months of the year, and in particular the latter part of this period, would be the most suitable time, but the exact date would have to be determined separately for each session. The Secretariat advised that tentative arrangements had already been made to hold the Sixth Session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in the last two weeks of January 1969.

Recommended Timetable of Meetings for 1968

185. The Commission discussed the provisional timetable which had been submitted by the Secretariat, following consultations with the Chairmen of the various Codex Committees and the appropriate authorities in the UNECE so far as the next session of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods was concerned. The timetable was agreed to, subject to confirmation of the dates of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and to a date being fixed for the Third Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. In reply to a request that the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling be arranged to take place in the same period as the two other North American meetings, the Canadian delegation explained that it would not be possible to arrange this in the current year. The Commission thought that in future it would be desirable to hold the meetings of Codex Committees in North America consecutively. The Commission agreed that while the next session of the Commission, to be held in Geneva, would take place at the end of January 1969, arrangements should be made to have subsequent sessions meet in February/March, alternating between Rome and Geneva. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee that Chairmen of Codex Committees should not overload agendas with too many standards to be considered.

VALEDICTION

Mr. J.H.V. Davies, on behalf of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, expressed the appreciation of the Commission and of its Members to the retiring Chairman, Professor Dr. M.J.L. Dols, Cabinet Adviser to the Government of the Netherlands. The Commission gave Professor Dols a standing ovation for his leadership and active support of the Commission since its establishment in 1963.

Reservation of the Government of Peru

The Government of Peru, by letter of 1 March 1968 from its Permanent Representative to FAO addressed to the Director-General, reserved its position regarding the conclusions of the Fifth Session of the Commission until it had had the opportunity to examine such conclusions.

ALINORM 68/35
APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS *
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

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

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

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

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APPENDIX II

REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Tenth Session, 16-18 May 1967, FAO, Rome

1. Introduction

The Executive Committee held its Tenth Session at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 16 to 18 May 1967. The Committee was presided over by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Prof. Dr. M.J.L. Dols, and in the presence of the three Vice-Chairmen, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom), Mr. H.V. Dempsey (Canada) and Mr. G. Weill (France). The representation of the geographic locations was as follows: for Africa, Mr. W.F.K. Christian from Ghana; for Asia, Mr. J.S. Mongia from India; for Europe, Mr. J. Serwatowski from Poland; for Southwest Pacific, Mr. I.H. Smith from Australia; for Latin America, Mr. C. García Díaz from Cuba; for North America, Mr. R.F. Anderson from the U.S.A.

2. Adoption of agenda

The Committee adopted with a slight rearrangement of items the provisional agenda.

3. Consideration of paragraph 3(2)(a) of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission - Quality Criteria

The Executive Committee, as requested by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fourth Session, discussed the question of the inclusion of quality criteria in Codex Standards. Comments had been received before the meeting from Australia, Poland, United Kingdom and United States of America and these were taken into account in the discussion. The Executive Committee noted that its task was to decide the form in which this question should be put before the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles and in particular how this question should appear on the provisional agenda of the meeting. The Executive Committee agreed that the Codex Committee on General Principles should be asked to define as clearly as possible the meaning of "quality criteria" in the context of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius (see paragraph 3(2)(a) of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius). The Executive Committee wished to draw to the attention of the Codex Committee on General Principles the problem caused by the different meanings which had been given to "quality criteria" by some countries and by some of the Codex Commodity Committees. These are covered by one or more of the following:

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- (i) the quality of raw material, with the object of protecting the health of consumers;
- (ii) criteria such as taste, odour, colour and texture which may be apprehended by the senses;
- (iii) basic quality standards for the finished product, with the object of preventing fraud, i.e. the deception of the consumer;
- (iv) the notion of grades or quality classes (Class I, Class II, etc.);
- (v) provisions distinguishing different products of substantially similar type (e.g. soft brown sugar, soft white sugar).

The Executive Committee recommended to the Codex Committee on General Principles the following course of action:

- (a) a working paper should be prepared by the Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles posing the problem along the lines set out above;
- (b) the implications arising out of the different interpretations placed on the term "quality criteria" should be set out clearly in the paper referred to, from the point of view of acceptance of the standards;
- (c) the views of the Chairmen of Codex Commodity Committees should be sought by the Secretariat on the problem sufficiently in advance of the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles for them to be included in the working paper for the meeting;
- (d) the comments of governments received in reply to the Secretariat's circular letter of 30 March 1967 (CL 1967-19) should be collated and contained in the working paper for the meeting.

The Executive Committee also recommended that a clear distinction and separation of items on the agenda of the General Principles meeting should be made between the question of the inclusion of "quality criteria" in Codex Standards and the problem of how to deal with "sub-standard" products. The representative for Africa stated that the developing countries were interested particularly in quality grades and class standards for exports and in compositional standards for imported food and domestically produced food for internal consumption. The representative of Africa also expressed the view that, where quality grades or classes of standards already existed for primary commodities which were the raw materials for foods in respect of which Codex Standards were being elaborated, it would be necessary to ensure a proper integration of the Codex Standards and such grades or classes of quality. This was a problem which had already arisen in the case of cocoa beans as raw material for the Codex Standards for chocolate and cocoa products.

The Executive Committee emphasized the need for the Codex Committee on General Principles to give careful consideration to the implications and possible consequence of their recommendations on "quality criteria" for both developed and developing countries. Governments would have a further opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Codex Committee on General Principles when they were submitted to the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

4. Metrological aspects of Codex Standards

The Executive Committee had before it a paper on the metrological aspects of Codex Standards (EXEC/1967/5) prepared by the Cuban delegation. The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fourth Session had requested the Executive Committee to examine this problem and to make recommendations on this matter. The Executive Committee examined the proposals in this paper which it considered to be important. It decided that it would not be necessary to recommend the establishment of a Codex Committee on Metrology. As regards the proposal concerning the use of the S.I. units, the Executive Committee agreed that Codex Standards should be drafted using these units and recommended that the Secretariat of the Commission be charged with the task of ensuring that the Codex Standards be presented in the S.I. units. In the case of standards which include provisions for the sale of products in standardized amounts, S.I. units should be used, but this would not preclude additional statements in the standards of these standardized amounts in approximately similar amounts in other systems of weights and measures. This would have the advantage of avoiding inconvenience to countries whose production was geared to any one particular system of units. The Executive Committee considered that the declaration of net contents was adequately covered by paragraph 26 of the Report of the Second

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Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling which reads as follows:

"The net contents may be declared in the metric or Avoirdupois system of measurement according to the requirements of the country in which the food product is sold. No objection should be taken to the use of both systems on the same label."

5. Report on budgetary arrangements for 1968/69

The Executive Committee took note of the budgetary arrangements for 1968/69, as set out in document EXEC/1967/6. The Secretariat indicated that the WHO Executive Board had recommended to the World Health Assembly which was now meeting a contribution of \$ 42,000 for 1968. The amount of the WHO contribution for 1969 was still to be discussed between the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. Regarding the proposed recruitment of an additional staff member in the FAO Food Standards Branch at the P.4 level, the Executive Committee was informed that the person to be recruited would be second-in-charge of the Food Standards Branch and would be expected to have a basic discipline in chemistry coupled with wide experience of the food industry or to have worked with a governmental authority concerned with food standards. The Executive Committee also noted that, while the duty travel of professional staff members of the Food Standards Branch would be approximately the same as in 1966/67, it would be necessary, in connection with meetings of certain Codex Committees, particularly those which were the responsibility of countries whose mother tongue was not one of the official working languages of the Commission, to provide for the attendance of a bilingual shorthand-typist drawn from the Branch to facilitate the preparation of the draft reports for adoption at Committee Sessions.

6. Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Executive Committee had before it a paper concerning the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (EXEC/67/7).

(a) Official and working languages of the Commission and Coordinating Committees

It was recalled to the Executive Committee that the Commission was advised at its Fourth Session that the Directors-General of FAO and WHO were giving further consideration to the meaning of Rule XII.1. Since that time, the World Health Executive Board has received requests concerning greater use of Spanish and Russian within WHO along similar lines to the arrangements which already exist in respect of English and French. This subject is currently being examined by the World Health Assembly and pending the outcome of the decisions of the Assembly the Executive Committee agreed that no proposals could be made at this time regarding Rule XII.1 concerning the working languages of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Executive Committee was informed that FAO had similarly received a request for the use of Arabic in certain regional bodies and that this

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matter would be taken up by the FAO governing bodies during the course of the year and any decisions which might have implications for the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies will be notified to the Executive Committee.

Similarly, in response to the request in Part VII, paragraph 13 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Commission concerning the working languages of Coordinating Committees, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that no proposals for the possible amendment of Rule XII.3 should be considered pending the outcome of the decisions of the governing bodies of FAO and WHO on the working languages to be used by these Organizations. The Executive Committee agreed that in the meantime the question of which two official languages of the Commission should be used by the Coordinating Committees should be resolved ad hoc in the light of requests for language facilities made known by the intending participants.

(b) Period of office of members of the Executive Committee representing geographic locations

The Executive Committee noted that the period of office of members of the Commission elected at the Third Session to represent the six geographic locations in the Executive Committee would expire on 27 October 1967, but that no new elections could be held until February 1968 when the Fifth Session would convene, whereas the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, elected in accordance with Rule II.1, remain in office until the end of the Fifth Session. To deal with this matter for the future, the Executive Committee decided to propose that the text of Rule III.1 should be amended to read as follows:

"Rule III.1

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, together with six further members, elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, Southwest Pacific; it being understood that not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term."

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As a consequence of this proposed amendment, the Executive Committee agreed that it would be necessary to propose also the amendment of Rule II.1 as follows:

In the seventh line insert the word "regular" between the words "following" and "session".

It was agreed that if the Chairman of the Executive Committee considered it necessary to hold a meeting of the present Executive Committee after 27 October 1967 but before the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, he would advise the Directors-General to call a meeting of the officers of the Commission with the other members being invited to attend.

(c) Clarification of procedure for the conduct of elections of officers of the Commission and members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee noted that there might be a considerable number of elections to be conducted at the Fifth Session of the Commission. There might be elections for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, and for all the positions on the Executive Committee representing geographic locations. The procedure for election was covered by Rule VI.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and by Rule XII of the General Rules of FAO which applies mutatis mutandis to matters not specifically dealt with under Rule VI of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. The Executive Committee recommended that Rule XII(12) of the General Rules of FAO should be used for the purposes of elections, that only governments which had indicated their membership of the Commission not later than the day before the commencement of the Fifth Session of the Commission should be eligible to vote. Because concurrence may be needed from the head of delegations for nominations of the other members of the delegations of Member Countries, the time for nominations should be announced by the Chairman at the beginning of the session. Because of the operation of Rule III.1 it would be necessary to hold three separate elections (1) for Chairman, (2) for three Vice-Chairmen and (3) for members representing the geographic locations. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat of the Commission to prepare a paper setting out clearly the voting procedures, the Rules of the Commission which would apply and the ineligibility of individuals and certain countries to be re-elected.

(d) Chairmanship of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products

It was pointed out to the members of the Executive Committee that all Committees under the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have in one way or another a regular chairman, with continuing functions from one session to the next, except the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products. The Chairman of this body is elected at each session of the Committee

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and remains in office until the end of the session. This means that the Secretariat has no Chairman or Vice-Chairmen with whom it might communicate in between sessions concerning arrangements for the following sessions on such matters as agenda, work program, etc. The fact that elections of officers take place at each session also tends to place the Chairman of the meeting and the delegation to which he belongs somewhat at a disadvantage when he has had no prior notice of the possibility of his election. The Executive Committee noted that no amendment of the Rules of Procedure would be necessary if the Committee on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products wished to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen with continuing functions to facilitate the Committee's work. It could be done in line with the procedure followed by the Commission for the election of officers. It was recommended that the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products should be asked to consider this matter at its next session and if it so wished it could then elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen during the session to serve as the officers for the following session of the Committee.

7. Attendance of Coordinators for regions at meetings of the Executive Committee

At its Fourth Session, the Commission had decided not to amend the Rules of Procedure to include coordinators for regions as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee, but had recommended that coordinators for regions should be permitted to attend meetings of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat pointed to the need for instructions as to how effect should be given to the second part of the above sentence, since it constituted a recommendation of the Commission rather than a decision. The Executive Committee agreed that coordinators should receive an invitation to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, together with the provisional agenda and working documents, and that they could attend throughout the entirety of meetings. Not being members of the Executive Committee, coordinators would not have the right to vote. In accordance with Rule XI.4, any expenses incurred by coordinators in connection with attendance at meetings of the Executive Committee would have to be borne by their national governments.

8. Relations with international governmental and non-governmental organizations

The Executive Committee considered document CL 48/26, prepared by an FAO Interdivisional Working Party for the Forty-Eighth Session of the FAO Council, on the subject of invitations to non-governmental organizations which do not have status with FAO. The Executive Committee decided, in the interests of accuracy, that certain corrections should be made in the document by way of a corrigendum. The corrections decided upon were as follows:

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- (a) Paragraph 6 The words - "The Directors-General of FAO and WHO have, on the advice of the Commission or its Executive Committee, extended invitations to" appearing at the beginning of the second sentence should be deleted, and the sentence should begin "Invitations have been extended to a number of specialist international organizations"
- (b) Paragraph 7 - centre of paragraph. The words "The Executive Committee of the Commission" appearing at the beginning of the sentence which ends " which would make them eligible for attendance at sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies" should be deleted and the sentence should begin as follows: "The Secretariat of the Commission has drawn up a preliminary list"
- (c) Annex B The Executive Committee agreed that the title should be deleted.

The Executive Committee agreed that it would be necessary to await the outcome of the deliberations of the FAO Council on document CL 48/26 before the Commission could go any further into the matter.

9. Date and Provisional Agenda of the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Executive Committee examined a draft provisional agenda for the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission drawn up by the Secretariat. The order of items of business on the agenda was slightly rearranged and items arising under other sections of this report were included in the agenda for consideration by the Commission. The Executive Committee discussed whether it would expedite the deliberations of the Commission if facilities were arranged for the Commission to split into Sub-Committees to consider the standards at Steps 5 and 8. The Executive Committee however concluded that, in view of the considerable number of proposed and draft provisional standards requiring to be examined by the Commission at Steps 5 and 8 respectively, it would probably be more expeditious for the Commission to consider these in plenary. In the light of its examination of the items of business and assessment of the likely time required to complete the agenda, the Executive Committee recommended that the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should commence on 19 February and continue until not later than 1 March 1968. It was also agreed that the session should be held in Rome, because of difficulties in obtaining satisfactory accommodation for the session in Geneva early in 1968. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission, in order to facilitate the flow of work between the Commission and Codex Committees, that the Commission should in future hold its regular session in the second half of February.

10. Acceptance of Codex Standards. Consideration of Amendment to paragraph 4 of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Executive Committee had before it comments on the above subject from Australia, Canada, India, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Executive Committee decided that there would be no purpose in entering into a detailed discussion on this question since it would be examined in detail by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session. The Executive Committee agreed that the question of acceptance of standards should be treated separately from the subjects of quality criteria, substandard products and the enforcement of standards. The question of the acceptance procedure pertaining to standards developed under the Code of Principles on Milk and Milk Products was raised. The Executive Committee noted that this matter as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been put on the provisional agenda for the next session of the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, which would be held from 25 to 31 August 1967. The Executive Committee recommended that the conclusions of this Committee should be transmitted to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

11. Responsibility for enforcing Codex Standards in relation to formal acceptance

The question had been raised concerning the responsibility falling upon governments to ensure proper enforcement of Codex Standards which they had accepted. The Executive Committee agreed that this item should be put on the provisional agenda for the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, in connection with acceptance.

12. Procedure for the revision of Codex Standards

The Executive Committee noted that a question regarding the procedure for the revision of Codex Standards had been raised during the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. The Executive Committee directed attention to paragraph 4 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards, as qualified by paragraph 2 thereof, (Report of Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Appendix IV) which indicated the procedure to be followed.

13. Codes of Practice in relation to the Codex Alimentarius

The Executive Committee agreed on the importance of non-mandatory Codes of Practice to complement the Codex Standards, but noted however that the Statutes of the Commission did not appear to provide for the elaboration of Codes of Practice. Codes of Practice should be regarded as being in the nature of advice to governments, formulated by an international body of experts, as to procedures which might be followed in the handling, processing, packaging, storage and distribution of foods, which will contribute materially to their meeting the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius and the Codex Standards. Such Codes of Practice might not, however, be submitted to governments for

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formal acceptance although it might be preferable that they should be published in relation to the Codex Alimentarius and distributed to governments through the Codex Procedure. The Executive Committee asked the Secretariat to draw up a paper on the subject for the next session of the Commission.

14. Packaging materials

In accordance with the request of the Commission, the Secretariat had looked into the problem of the migration of chemicals into food from packaging materials. The Executive Committee, after considering the fact that a number of countries were contemplating or had in fact recently introduced legislation to regulate the use of packaging materials and their components, concluded that it might be opportune for the Commission to examine what priority this subject might be given in the Commission's future work. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a paper for consideration by the Commission at its Fifth Session on the subject of packaging materials. This should include information concerning the approaches which had been adopted by various governments to regulate the components of packaging materials.

15. Standard for salt

As requested by the Executive Committee at its Eighth Session, the Secretariat of the Commission had prepared a paper discussing possible approaches which could be considered for standards for salt. The Executive Committee concluded that it would be difficult to elaborate a Codex Standard for salt and that there seemed no need to standardize individual ingredients, such as salt, in a food provided it was fit for human consumption. The Executive Committee noted the paper prepared by the Secretariat and considered that a standard for salt did not appear to be desirable at this time in view of the priorities which had to be followed.

16. Report on Cocoa Beans, Coffee and Tea

The Executive Committee took note of a progress report, which had been prepared by the Secretariat, on standards work concerning cocoa beans, coffee and tea. As regards cocoa beans, the Secretariat indicated that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate, at its last session, had agreed that the definition of merchantable quality of cocoa beans should be at least the requirements of Grade 2 of the FAO Model Ordinance and Code of Practice for Cocoa Beans. As regards tea, the Executive Committee agreed that tea was not a commodity for which standards could easily be developed in view of the importance of organoleptic considerations in the determination of quality. However, it agreed that standardization from the standpoint of protection of consumers' health could be considered if the Commission so decided. Such standardization could cover aspects such as

limits on extraneous materials, stalk, dust, heavy metal contaminants, labelling and pesticide residues. As regards ISO activities of interest to the Commission, the Executive Committee was informed that the Chief of the Food Standards Program had been appointed FAO Liaison Officer for ISO affairs and that a member of the staff of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Branch would be attending the annual sessions of ISO/TC 34 and its sub-committees. It was also noted that ISO was working on standards for coffee.

17. Format for Codex Commodity Standards

The following draft layout, with accompanying notes on the headings, was adopted by the Executive Committee. It was recommended that this be used by the Codex Commodity Committees as a guide in presenting their standards, subject to any comments by the Codex Committee on General Principles and final approval by the Commission. This layout also included statements in a standard form which should appear under the relevant headings as appropriate. The basis for the discussion of this paper was SP 10/30 - Format, and the annexes and comments on this document.

NAME OF THE STANDARD

SCOPE

DESCRIPTION

COMPOSITION AND MINIMUM QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

FOOD ADDITIVES

CONTAMINANTS

HYGIENE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

LABELLING

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Notes on the headings

Name of the Standard

The name of the standard should be clear and as concise as possible. It should usually be the common name by which the food covered by the standard is known or, if more than one food is dealt with in the standard, by a generic name covering them all. If a fully informative title should be inordinately long, a subtitle could be added.

Scope

This section should contain a clear, concise statement as to the food or foods to which the standard was applicable unless this

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was self-explanatory in the name of the standard. In the case of a general standard covering more than one specific product, it should be made clear as to which specific products the standard applied.

Description

This section should contain a definition of the product or products with an indication, where appropriate, of the raw materials from which it was derived and any necessary references to processes of manufacture. It could also include references to types and styles of product and to type of pack. There could also be additional definitions when these were required to clarify the meaning of the standard.

Composition and Minimum Quality Requirements

This section should contain all quantitative and other requirements as to composition including, where necessary, identity characteristics, provisions on packing media and requirements as to compulsory and optional ingredients. It could also include quality criteria⁽¹⁾, such as organoleptic properties (colour, flavour, odour, texture, etc.) and tolerances for defects, such as blemishes or imperfect material.

Food Additives

This section should contain the names of the additives permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food. It should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13 (b) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees and could take the following form:

"The following provisions in respect of food additives are subject to endorsement /have been endorsed/ by the Codex Committee on Food Additives." Then should follow a tabulation, viz:

"Name of additive, (maximum) level of use (in percentage or mg/kg)"

Contaminants

If any levels for pesticide residues had been laid down by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for the product concerned, they should be included by reference. If any levels for other contaminants had been laid down by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, they should be included either by reference or specifically if they did not apply to food in general. /The

(1) Subject to the decisions to be taken by the Commission at its Fifth Session on the basis of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

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approach suggested in the last sentence has yet to be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.]

Hygiene

A reference should be made to any hygiene standard applying to the food and any specific mandatory hygiene provisions considered necessary should be included in this section. They should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(d) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. Reference could be made to applicable Codes of Practice, but these references would not form a mandatory part of the standard. The following statement could also appear:

"The following provisions in respect of the food hygiene of this product are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene."

Weights and Measures

This section should include all provisions, other than labelling provisions, relating to weights and measures, e.g. where appropriate, fill of container, weight, measure or count of units determined by an appropriate method of sampling and analysis.

Labelling

This section should refer to the General Standard on Food Labelling in the following terms:

"The provisions of the General Standard on Food Labelling apply, and the following specific provisions for this product in respect of food labelling are to be subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling:

'The name(s) of the food shall include ...' etc."

This section should only include provisions which were exemptions from, additions to, or which were necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned. This section should include all the labelling provisions contained in the standard. It should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

This section should include, either specifically or by reference, all methods of analysis and sampling considered necessary and should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(c) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. The following statement should

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also appear:

"The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are international referee methods which are to be endorsed have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling."

18. In connection with the previous item, it was suggested by the representative of North America that a statement should appear in the Guidelines in the section relating to methods of analysis and sampling to the effect that as well as the international referee methods mentioned above, any other acceptable method which was a proven equivalent could also be used, but in the event of doubt or dispute, only the methods endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should be considered official. The Executive Committee asked the Secretariat to draft a suitable sentence, for presentation to the Commission at its next session and for subsequent inclusion in the Guidelines.

19. Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards for Fruit Juices

The Executive Committee was informed that at its last session the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices had agreed that draft standards for certain fruit juices should be sent out to governments for a second round of government comments and that draft standards for other fruit juices should be sent out to governments for a first round of comments. In the light of information furnished by the Secretariat concerning this matter, the Executive Committee was of the opinion that procedurally the draft standards which were to be sent out for a second round of government comments should be regarded as being held at Step 4 of the Codex Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards and that the draft standards which were to be sent out for a first round of comments should be regarded as being sent out at Step 3.

20. Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters

It was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee that the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Mineral Waters wished to hold a session of the Committee in July 1967. Under the previous Rule XII.3 this Committee has been operating satisfactorily using French and German as its languages. Although Rule XII.3 had been amended to provide for at least two of the official languages of the Commission at the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Mineral Waters considered that this Committee could still operate satisfactorily in the two languages quoted above. The Secretariat wished to know how this difficulty could be overcome. The Executive Committee recommended that in drafting the invitations, governments should be informed that due to limited interest in the subject of mineral waters, French was proposed as the working language unless intending participants indicated by a given date their wish to

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have either English or Spanish, whichever had been selected, as the second official working language, in which case this would have to be provided. If no request was received for an official language of the Commission other than French, then the Chairman of the Committee could proceed as at the first session.

21. Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards

The Executive Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that in Step 8 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-Wide and Regional Codex Standards a consequential amendment had been overlooked which stemmed from the decision of the Commission to elaborate in place of minimum platform and trading standards only Codex Standards. The Executive Committee recommended that in Step 8 the words "of the type determined by the Commission" be deleted.

22. Recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition concerning Vitamins, Minerals and Dietetic Foods

The Executive Committee examined the relevant quotations from the Report of this Expert Committee. It was noted that vitamins should be treated as optional ingredients. The Executive Committee noted the remarks of the Expert Committee concerning the usage of the term "dietetic foods". In the light of these comments a new name should probably be sought for the Codex Committee on Dietetic Foods to indicate that its Terms of Reference cover both special foods for certain individuals and also dietary foods, the use of which was connected with morbid conditions in the human body.

23. Recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning Contaminants

The Executive Committee examined extracts from the Report of this Committee and also noted that the approach suggested, concerning a general limit with exceptions for specific products, would be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

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REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Eleventh Session, 19 February 1968, FAO, Rome

1. Introduction

The Executive Committee held its Eleventh Session at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 19 February 1968. The Committee was presided over by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Prof. Dr. M.J.L. Dols, and in the presence of the three Vice-Chairmen, Mr. J.H.V. Davies (United Kingdom), Mr. H.V. Dempsey (Canada) and Mr. G. Weill (France). The following observers from the geographic locations mentioned were in attendance: for Asia, Mr. J.S. Mongia from India; for Europe, Dr. T. Buczma from Poland; for Latin America, Dr. A. Parados Alvarez from Cuba; for North America, Mr. G.R. Grange from the U.S.A.; for South-West Pacific, Mr. I. Smith from Australia. Also in attendance was the Coordinator for Europe, Dr. R. Wildner (Austria).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda, with the addition of one item.

3. Progress Report by the Chairman of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee agreed that there were no matters arising from the Report of the Tenth Session of the Executive Committee other than those put down on the provisional agenda for the present session which required attention at this session.

4. Nomination Procedure for the Election of Officers of the Commission and Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission the following timetable for the nomination and election of the officers of the Commission and the members of the Executive Committee. The time for nominations for Chairman of the Commission would close at the end of the session of the Commission on Wednesday, 21 February, and should an election be necessary it would be held during the morning of Thursday, 22 February. The closing time for the nomination of Vice-Chairmen of the Commission would be the end of the Commission session on Friday, 23 February, and an election, if necessary, would be held during the course of the afternoon of Saturday, 24 February. The closing time for nominations for members of the Executive Committee representing the geographic locations would be the end of the Commission session on Monday, 26 February, and an election, if necessary, would be held during the morning of Tuesday, 27 February. Nomination Forms would be available to Members of the Commission upon request to the Secretariat. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, only participating Members of the Commission can nominate or vote during the session.

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5. Recommendations of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference on the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

The Executive Committee noted that the above recommendations mainly concerned the following points:

- a) The Directors-General of FAO and WHO should consider ways and means of apportioning the joint costs of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Program on a more equitable basis.
- b) No further Codex Committees should be set up or no new work undertaken until some of the work already in hand had been completed. However, the FAO Conference did agree that should the Commission decide to proceed with the establishment of Codex Committees for Edible Ices and Packaging Materials, they could do so during the current biennium.
- c) The FAO Conference had recommended that the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products should align its procedures with those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- d) The FAO Conference had also recommended that the Commission should establish guidelines for determining its work priorities.

The Executive Committee asked to be kept informed of the outcome of the discussions between the two Directors-General regarding budgetary provisions of the two Organizations for the Program. The Executive Committee concurred that new work should not be commenced until some of the existing work had been completed. The Executive Committee considered that in the main the Committee on Milk and Milk Products was following the practices and procedures of the Commission, but considered that a clarification of paragraph 10 of the Report of the First Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be made, so as to indicate precisely the role of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products within the overall procedural framework of the Commission. The Executive Committee agreed to propose the following text to replace paragraph 10 of the Report of the First Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Paragraph 10

Former text:

"The Commission decided to treat the present Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products as a Committee of the whole of the Commission, under Rule IX.1(a) of its Rules of Procedure, having exclusive competence for all questions concerning milk and milk products. Decisions of this Committee, which is already open to all member countries of FAO and WHO, would therefore be decisions of the Commission in this specified field, subject to review in Plenary if requested. In this

way the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards (see its Report, para. 39) were given full effect. The costs of the Committee were already met from the regular budget of FAO. At its Second Session, the Commission would take up the possible republication in the Codex of the Code of Principles and its associated standards."

New text proposed by the Executive Committee

"The Commission decided to treat the FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products as a Committee under Rule IX.1(a) of the Rules of Procedure. The Committee would have the right to consider all standards relating to milk and milk products to pass them through the Steps of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards and to submit them to Governments for acceptance, except that all decisions of the Committee, whether on Standards or not, would be subject to review by the Commission at the request of any member of the Commission. Standards formulated by the Committee of Government Experts are subject to the procedure for endorsement of certain provisions by Codex General Committees as laid down in paragraph 13 of the Guidelines for Codex Committees, pp. 47 and 48 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the exception of those for Sampling and Methods of Analysis."

The Secretariat was requested to prepare a paper containing draft guidelines for work priorities for the next session of the Executive Committee.

6. Invitations to Codex Sessions

The Executive Committee was informed of the recent decisions of the FAO Conference concerning the invitation of international non-governmental organizations not having formal status with either FAO or WHO to Codex Sessions. The Secretariat, as requested by the Conference, was preparing a list of those organizations which were considered to have a legitimate interest in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies and would be placing this before the FAO Council for approval. This list would be made available to the Chairmen of Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points.

7. Attendance of Members of the Public at Codex Sessions

The Secretariat drew to the attention of the Executive Committee the increasing number of requests that were being received from representatives of food and chemical manufacturers to attend sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as members of the public. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the Commission's decision as contained in the Guidelines for Codex Committees that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission should work in closed sessions. Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission would remain open to members of the public in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, unless the Commission decided otherwise.

8. Publication of the Codex Alimentarius

The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to examine with the appropriate persons of both Organizations the question of how arrangements could be made for the sale of the Codex Alimentarius, on the understanding that Member Governments would continue to receive a number of free copies.

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The Secretariat advised the Executive Committee that budgetary provision had been made for the publication of the procedural handbook which had been requested by the Commission at its second session. It was hoped to issue this simultaneously with the Report of the Fifth Session and it would be distributed free of charge.

9. Copyright in respect of Methods of Analysis

The Executive Committee concluded that any difficulties arising through the operation of copyright should be dealt with on a case by case basis. It was recommended that when questions of copyright might be involved the Secretariat should write to the holder of the copyright enquiring if it could be waived on behalf of the Commission.

10. Idea of a General Standard

The Executive Committee considered what action should be taken regarding a paper prepared by the UK delegation which had been requested by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its Second Session on the "Idea of a General Standard". The Executive Committee decided that the paper should be sent to Governments for comments. If it should be decided by the Codex Alimentarius Commission during its Fifth Session that it would be necessary to hold a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles in 1968, then the Government comments on the Idea of a General Standard should be sent to the Chairman of the Codex Committee on General Principles. In the event of there being no meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles in 1968, the comments should be sent to the FAO Secretariat in Rome. In the light of Government comments the Commission could decide at its Sixth Session whether to set up a Subcommittee during the session to prepare a general standard.

11. Regional Standards

The Executive Committee examined a request by the Canadian delegation concerning the way in which a formal amendment to the Rules of Procedure regarding regional standards could be made during the Commission session. The Executive Committee advised that such an amendment would require to be in the hands of members of the Commission 24 hours prior to the discussion of the agenda item 17 "Amendments to the Rules of Procedure". If the Canadian delegation wished to propose a separate item concerning regional standards, then it would have to appear on a supplementary list of agenda items and be considered under "Any other business" by the Commission.

12. Operation of the Guidelines

The Executive Committee recommended in the light of the sessions of Codex Committees held during 1967 that the Chairmen of Codex Committees should avoid overloading their agendas with more draft standards than could be reasonably dealt with during the session of the committee concerned. On the other hand, some Codex Committees, especially those dealing with general subjects, may on certain circumstances wish to extend their meetings beyond one week. The Executive Committee further recommended that the FAO/WHO Secretariat should try to ensure that when comments from Governments were requested on draft standards Governments had at least a minimum of three months in which to consider the comments after receipt of the appropriate documents.

The Executive Committee noted that most Governments responsible for running Codex Committees were not providing full secretarial facilities as required under the Guidelines. Moreover, many of the host Governments were still continuing to call upon the FAO/WHO Secretariat to prepare the draft report of the committee sessions. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission should bring to the attention of the Chairmen of Codex Committees that in accordance with the Guidelines the host Government was responsible for providing a secretary to the Committee and adequate secretarial facilities. The role of the FAO/WHO Secretariat was mainly to advise on procedural and other relevant matters decided by the Commission or other subsidiary bodies. They would be available to assist in drafting the report but should not be asked to carry the main responsibility for it at Codex Committees.

13. Chairmanship of ECE/Codex Groups of Experts

The Executive Committee recommended that the Groups of Experts on Fruit Juices and on Frozen Foods should consider adopting the Codex Alimentarius Commission procedures by electing at the end of each session its Chairman for the next meeting.

14. Provisional Agenda of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Executive Committee considered that, in future, subjects requiring a decision of the Commission (e.g. edible fungi, broths and soups) should be shown as separate items on the Provisional Agenda of the Commission. It was noted that on this occasion these two subjects would be considered in conjunction with the Report of the Coordinating Committee for Europe and that the Chairman should advise Members of the Commission of this at the opening of the session.

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APPENDIX IV

GENERAL PRINCIPLES
OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES
OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Purpose of the Codex Alimentarius

1. The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally adopted food standards presented in a uniform manner. These food standards aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. Their publication is intended to guide and promote the elaboration and establishment of definitions and requirements for foods, to assist in their harmonization and in so doing to facilitate international trade.

Scope of the Codex Alimentarius

2. The Codex Alimentarius is to include standards for all the principal foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, for distribution to the consumer. Materials for further processing into foods should be included to the extent necessary to achieve the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius as defined. The Codex Alimentarius is to include provisions in respect of food hygiene, food additives, pesticide residues, contaminants, labelling and presentation, methods of analysis and sampling.

Nature of Codex Standards

3. Codex standards contain requirements for food aimed at ensuring for the consumer a sound, wholesome food product free from adulteration, correctly labelled and presented. In particular a Codex standard for a given food product lays down the special requirements for that product, it being understood that the general provisions contained in the Codex Alimentarius shall apply except to the extent otherwise expressly provided for in a specific standard.

A Codex standard should, therefore, for any food or foods:

- (1) incorporate by reference the applicable hygiene, labelling, methods of analysis and other general provisions adopted by the Commission, and
- (2) specify in whole or in part the following criteria, as appropriate:
 - (a) Product designation, definition and composition
These should describe and define the food (including its scientific name when necessary) and cover compositional requirements which may include quality criteria.

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- (b) Hygiene requirements
These should include such factors as specific sanitary and other protective measures and safeguards to assure a sound, wholesome and marketable product.
- (c) Weight and measure requirements,
such as fill of container, weight, measure or count of units based on appropriate method or criterium.
- (d) Labelling requirements
These should include specific requirements for labelling and presentation.
- (e) Sampling, testing and analytical methods
These should cover specific sampling, testing and analytical procedures.

Acceptance of Codex Standards

4.A. A Codex standard may be accepted by a country in accordance with its established legal and administrative procedures in respect of distribution of the product concerned, whether imported or home-produced, within its territorial jurisdiction in the following ways:

(i) Full acceptance

Full acceptance means that the country concerned will ensure that a product to which the standard applies will be permitted to be distributed freely within its territorial jurisdiction under the name and description laid down in the standard, provided that it complies with all the relevant requirements of the standard. The country will also ensure that products not complying with the standard will not be permitted to be distributed under the name and description laid down in the standard. It also means that the distribution of any sound products conforming with the standard will not be hindered by any legal or administrative provisions in the country concerned relating to the health of the consumer or to other food standard matters except for considerations of human, plant or animal health which are not specifically dealt with in the standard.

(ii) Acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements

Acceptance with a declaration of more stringent or supplementary requirements means that a country will include in its acceptance full details of all its requirements which it considers to be more stringent than or supplementary to those included in the standard

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concerned, it being understood that it accepts all the other provisions of the standard in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 A(i).

(iii) Target acceptance

Target acceptance means that the country concerned indicates its intention to accept the standard after a stated number of years and will meanwhile not hinder within its territorial jurisdiction the distribution of any sound products conforming with the standard by any legal or administrative provisions relating to the health of the consumer or to other food standard matters except for considerations of human, plant or animal health which are not specifically dealt with in the standard.

(iv) Acceptance with Minor Deviations ^{1/}

Acceptance with minor deviations means that the country concerned gives full acceptance to the standard concerned with the exception of minor deviations which are accepted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and which are not more stringent or supplementary requirements. The country concerned will include in its acceptance statement of such deviations, the reasons for them, and also indicate:

- (a) whether products fully conforming to the standard may be distributed freely within its territorial jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 4 A(i).
- (b) whether it expects to be able to give full acceptance to the standard and, if so, when.

B. A country which considers that it cannot accept the standard in any of the ways mentioned above should indicate:

- (i) whether products conforming to the standard may be distributed freely within its territorial jurisdiction;
- (ii) in what ways its present or proposed requirements differ from the standard, and, if possible, the reasons for these differences.

C. (i) A country which accepts a Codex standard according to one of the provisions of 4A is responsible for the uniform and impartial application of the provisions of the standard as they apply to all home-produced and imported products distributed within its territorial jurisdiction. In addition, the country should be prepared to offer advice and guidance to exporters and processors of

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products for export to promote understanding of and compliance with the requirements of importing countries which have accepted a Codex standard according to one of the provisions of 4A.

- (ii) Where, in an importing country, a product claimed to be in compliance with a Codex standard is found not to be in compliance with that standard, whether in respect of the label accompanying the product or otherwise, the importing country should inform the competent authorities in the exporting country of all the relevant facts and in particular the details of the origin of the product in question (name and address of the exporter), if it is thought that a person in the exporting country is responsible for such non-compliance."

1/ Footnote

The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Fifth Session decided that the section of the Acceptance of Codex Standards entitled "Acceptance with Minor Deviations" should be sent to governments for comments. This section would then be re-examined in the light of government comments by the Third Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. Please see paragraphs 19-21 of the Report of the Fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 68/35).

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APPENDIX V

FORMAT
OF
CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS

FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS
INCLUDING STANDARDS ELABORATED UNDER THE CODE OF
PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Introduction

The Format is intended for use as a guide by the subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in presenting their standards, with the object of achieving, as far as possible, a uniform presentation of commodity standards. The Format also indicates the statements which should be included in standards as appropriate under the relevant headings of the standard. The sections of the Format require to be completed in a standard only insofar as such provisions are appropriate to an international standard for the food in question.

NAME OF THE STANDARD

SCOPE

DESCRIPTION

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

FOOD ADDITIVES

CONTAMINANTS

HYGIENE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

LABELLING

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Notes on the Headings

NAME OF THE STANDARD

The name of the standard should be clear and as concise as possible. It should usually be the common name by which the food covered by the standard is known or, if more than one food is dealt with in the standard, by a generic name covering them all. If a fully informative title should be inordinately long, a subtitle could be added.

SCOPE

This section should contain a clear, concise statement as to the food or foods to which the standard is applicable unless this is self-explanatory in the name of the standard. In the case of a general standard covering more than one specific product, it should be made clear as to which specific products the standard applies.

DESCRIPTION

This section should contain a definition of the product or products with an indication, where appropriate, of the raw materials from which it is derived and any necessary references

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to processes of manufacture. It may also include references to types and styles of product and to type of pack. There may also be additional definitions when these are required to clarify the meaning of the standard.

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

This section should contain all quantitative and other requirements as to composition including, where necessary, identity characteristics, provisions on packing media and requirements as to compulsory and optional ingredients. It should also include quality factors which are essential for the designation, definition or composition of the product concerned. Such factors could include the quality of the raw material, with the object of protecting the health of the consumer, provisions on taste, odour, colour and texture which may be apprehended by the senses, and basic quality criteria for the finished products, with the object of preventing fraud. Such factors do not, at this stage, include grades or quality classes. This section may also include tolerances for defects, such as blemishes or imperfect material.

FOOD ADDITIVES

This section should contain the names of the additives permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food. It should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(b) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees and may take the following form:

"The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section ... of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement /have been endorsed/ by the Codex Committee on Food Additives."

Then should follow a tabulation, viz:

"Name of additive, (maximum) level of use (in percentage or mg/kg)"

CONTAMINANTS

- (a) Pesticide Residues: This section should include, by reference, any levels for pesticide residues that have been laid down by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for the product concerned.
- (b) Other Contaminants: In addition, this section should contain the names of other contaminants and where appropriate the maximum level permitted in the food, and the text to appear in the standard may take the following form:

"The following provisions in respect of contaminants, other than pesticide residues, are subject to endorsement /have been endorsed/ by the Codex Committee on Food Additives."

Then should follow a tabulation, viz:

"Name of contaminant, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg)"

HYGIENE

Any specific mandatory hygiene provisions considered necessary should be included in this section. They should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(d) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. Reference should also be made to applicable codes of hygienic practice. Any parts of such codes, including in particular any end-product specifications, should be set out in the standard, if it is considered necessary that they should be made mandatory. The following statement should also appear:

"The following provisions in respect of the food hygiene of this product are subject to endorsement have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene."

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

This section should include all provisions, other than labelling provisions, relating to weights and measures, e.g. where appropriate, fill of container, weight, measure or count of units determined by an appropriate method of sampling and analysis. Weights and measures should be expressed in S.I. units. In the case of standards which include provisions for the sale of products in standardized amounts, e.g. multiples of 100 grams, S.I. units should be used, but this would not preclude additional statements in the standards of these standardized amounts in approximately similar amounts in other systems of weights and measures.

LABELLING

This section should include all the labelling provisions contained in the standard and should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(a) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. Provisions should be included either specifically or by reference to the appropriate paragraphs of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The section may also contain provisions which are exemptions from, additions to, or which are necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned. The following statement should also appear:

"The following provisions in respect of the labelling of this product are subject to endorsement have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling."

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

This section should include, either specifically or by reference, all methods of analysis and sampling considered necessary and should be prepared in accordance with paragraph 13(c) of the Guidelines for Codex Committees. If two or more methods have been proved to be equivalent by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, these could be regarded as alternatives and be included in this section either specifically or by reference. The following statement should also appear:

"The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are international referee methods which are to be endorsed have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling."