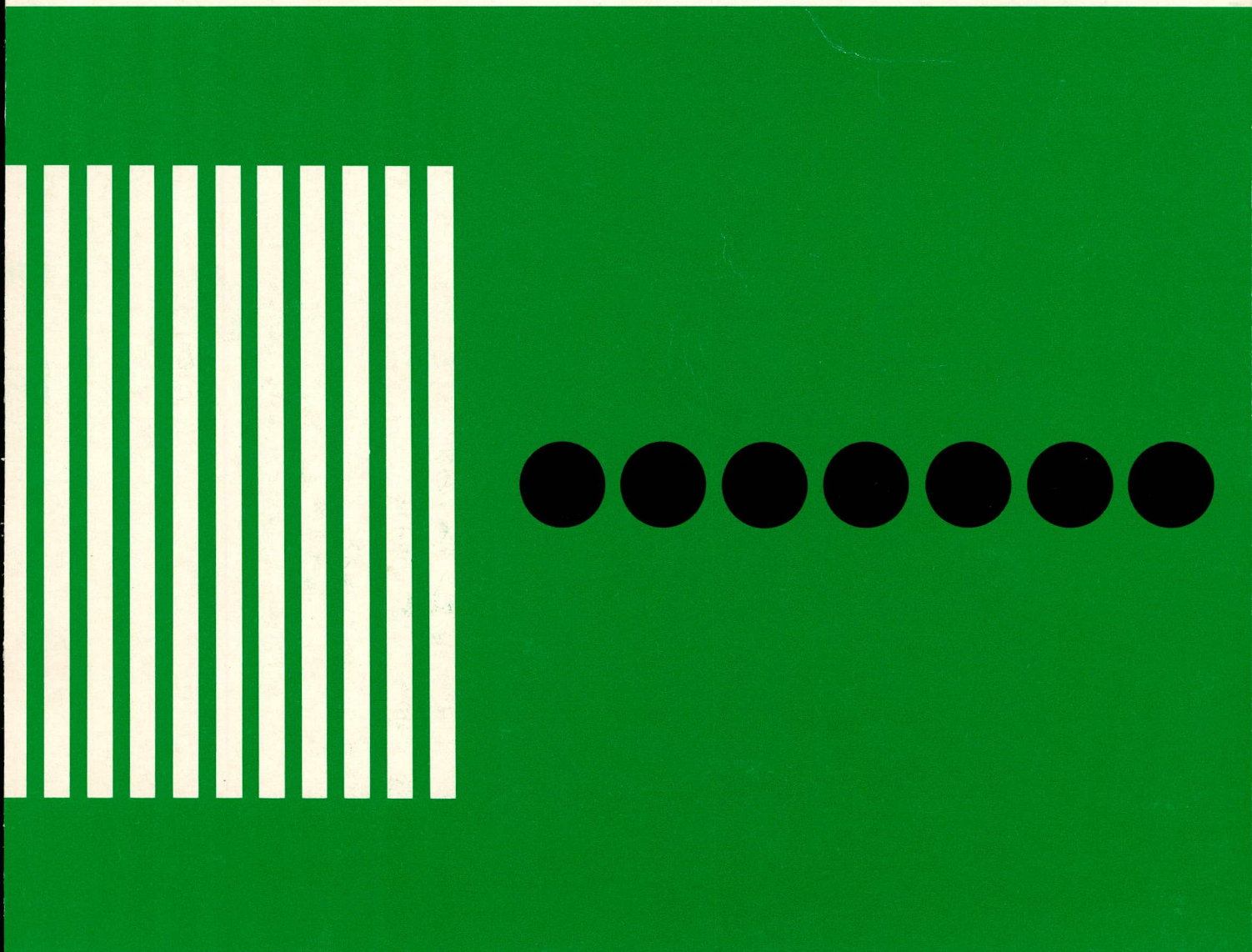


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION
Geneva, 1 - 12 July 1985



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome 1985



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1/ Adjourned sine die

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Appendix III	- Reply by the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA) to the Opening Address by the Director-General of WHO
Appendix IV	- Farewell Address by Mr. G.O. Kermode, former Chief FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Appendix V	- List of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
Appendix VI	- Resolution on Food Safety

1/ Adjourned sine die

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

PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva from 1 to 12 July 1985. The Session was attended by 280 participants, including the representatives and observers of 49 countries and observers from 38 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).

2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA) and for certain items of the agenda by the following Vice-Chairmen: Dr. Ms. A. Brincker 1/ (Denmark), Dr. A.A.M. Hasan 2/ (Iraq) and Dr. E.R. Méndez 3/ (Mexico). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO/WHO) and Dr. F. Kählerstein (WHO).

3. The Session was opened by the Director-General of WHO, Dr. H. Mahler, the text of whose address is contained in Appendix II of this Report. The response of the Chairman is contained in Appendix III.

MINUTE'S SILENCE IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR A. BHUMIRATANA, COORDINATOR FOR ASIA

4. The Chairman informed the Commission that Professor A. Bhumiratana (Thailand), Coordinator for Asia, had recently passed away. The Chairman referred to Professor Bhumiratana's active participation in Codex work since its inception and to his great contribution to Codex work on behalf of the developing countries, in the Commission and other Codex fora. The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of Professor Bhumiratana.

TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

MR. G.O. KERMODE

5. Mr. G.O. Kermode, former Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, who had recently retired from FAO was invited by the Chairman to address the Commission 4/. In his response, the Chairman stated that it was largely due to the initiative and managerial ability of Mr. Kermode that the Codex Alimentarius Commission had become the respected worldwide body it is today. The Chairman thanked Mr. Kermode, on behalf of the Commission, for all he had done for Codex over his more than 20 years as Chief of the Food Standards Programme and wished him a happy and long retirement. The Chairman also

1/ Items 27-29

2/ Items 24-26

3/ Items 30-32

4/ See Appendix IV

wished his successor Dr. R.K. Malik (FAO) every success in his new assignment.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

6. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the Session with a slight rearrangement of the order of items to enable item 21 (a) to be dealt with in conjunction with item 26 (b), under item 26.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

7. During the Session, the Commission elected Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Sixteenth to the end of the Seventeenth Session. The Commission also elected Dr. Mrs. A. Brincker (Denmark), Dr. E. Méndez (Mexico) and Dr. L. Twum-Danso (Ghana) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Sixteenth to the end of the Seventeenth Session.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS

8. The following persons were appointed by the Commission as Regional Coordinators for: Africa - Dr. A. Randolph (Togo); Asia - Dr. Roestamsjah (Indonesia); Europe - Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland); Latin America and the Caribbean - Minister Ing. R. Darias Rodés (Cuba), to serve from the end of the Sixteenth to the end of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission.

PART II

REPORT BY THE CHARMAN ON THE THIRTY FIRST AND THIRTY SECOND SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9. In introducing the reports of the Thirty First and Thirty Second Sessions of the Executive Committee contained in documents ALINORM 85/3 and ALINORM 85/4, respectively, the Chairman indicated that all items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under agenda items relating to the matters concerned. The Chairman invited the delegations present to give particular attention to the views of the Executive Committee on (i) the topic of future direction of the work of the Programme, (ii) the question of the establishment of a Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, and (iii) the issue of the name of the product where there is substitution of animal protein with vegetable protein.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

10. The Commission had before it a List of Members of the Codex Alimentarius. The Membership is set out in Appendix V to this report. The Commission noted that since its last session seven more countries had become members of the Commission, bringing the current membership to 129 countries. The seven new members were the People's Republic of China, Haiti, Lesotho, Mozambique, the Seychelles, Suriname and Zimbabwe. The Commission expressed the hope that these countries would find Codex work of value.

11. The Commission requested the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to increase membership and to stress the benefits of participation in Codex work.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

12. The Secretariat reported orally on this topic. Volumes II to XV of the Codex Alimentarius had now been distributed in the three languages of the Commission, English, French and Spanish. Volume XVI (Milk Products) had been printed in English and would be distributed as soon as possible after the current session of the Commission. It was the aim to have the French and Spanish versions of Volume XVI available in good time for the next session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products. Volume XVII (Contaminants) had now been printed in English, French and Spanish and would be distributed as soon as possible after the present session of the Commission. Volume I would need to cover certain matters likely to emerge from the present session of the Commission and it was hoped to have this Volume available by the end of the year.

13. All of the codes of practice adopted by the Commission had now been issued in English, French and Spanish.

14. The Summary of Acceptances, Part I - Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards (CAC/ Acceptances, Part I - Rev. 3), which showed, in detail, the position concerning all acceptances of Codex standards up to 3 December 1984 was available in English and would be distributed as soon as possible after the present session of the Commission (a limited number of copies were available to delegates at the current session). The French and Spanish versions of this publication were in the course of preparation.

15. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Commission to the recommendation of the Thirty Second Session of the Executive Committee that the Secretariat should review its distribution arrangements and report on progress to the next session of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat informed the Commission that it would probably be necessary to decentralize the distribution arrangements, in order to make the Codex standards, codes of practice, etc. more easily and readily available to all users, including regulatory authorities, industry and other interested parties.

16. The Commission requested the Secretariat to give urgent attention to determining how best to make Codex standards, codes of practice, etc. available easily and readily to all potential users. The Commission also requested the Secretariat to consider, in its review of the existing distribution arrangements, the merits of making the various volumes of the Codex Alimentarius priced publications, which they are not at present. The Commission noted that a progress report on this subject would be presented to the Thirty Third Session of the Executive Committee.

17. The Secretariat informed the Commission that it had received suggestions from two countries as to how the issue of amendments to Codex standards might be improved. The Secretariat indicated that these suggestions would receive the fullest consideration.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF CODEX STANDARDS AND CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND ON ACTION TAKEN IN MEMBER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

18. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/2 which contained information on replies received from countries since 1 February 1983 up to shortly before the current session of the Commission. As regards Codex standards, the replies came from Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Fiji, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. As regards the Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues, the replies came from Bolivia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Guyana, Iceland, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand and Yugoslavia.

19. In addition to the information contained in ALINORM 85/2, the Secretariat informed the Commission that further replies had been received from Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Mexico and Norway. Canada had notified Revised Acceptance with Specified Deviations in respect of three cheese standards and Acceptance with Specified Deviations for a fourth cheese standard. Cuba had notified Full Acceptance of the standards for Dextrose Monohydrate and Glucose Syrup and Acceptance with Specified Deviations of the Standards for White Sugar, Powdered Sugar and Lactose. Czechoslovakia had notified Limited Acceptance and a number of Full Acceptances for certain maximum limits for pesticide residues. Mexico had also notified Limited Acceptance of certain maximum limits for pesticide residues. Norway had notified free distribution or free distribution subject to certain specified conditions for standards for Sugars and Fats and Oils.

20. The Secretariat informed the Commission of discussions which had taken place between the EEC and Codex Secretariats in December 1984, with a view to encouraging a wider degree of acceptance or implementation by the EEC of Codex standards. Following on these discussions a letter had been sent by the Director-General of FAO to the President of the Commission of the European Communities proposing certain courses of action for consideration, with a view to increased acceptance by the EEC of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues.

21. The Secretariat also informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee for Europe, at its last session, had decided to embark upon a pilot study in the hope of promoting more acceptances in the European region. The Coordinating Committee for Europe had agreed that countries in the European region should be asked to study three Codex Standards (Cooked Cured Ham, Canned Tropical Fruit Salad and Edible Arachis Oil) and report back to the next session of the Coordinating Committee on any difficulties they had in accepting these standards.

22. The Secretariat also reported on the work being done by Hungary on the comparison of Codex standards and CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) standards.

23. The delegation of Iraq indicated that in Iraq the Codex standards were used as a guide by the regulatory authorities and by the food industry. There were some difficulties in accepting the Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues due to lack of technical personnel in this field.

24. The delegation of Cuba stated that in recent months Cuba had made an additional major effort to accept more Codex standards. Twenty one standards, twenty three codes of practice, four lists of additives and contaminants and six series of maximum limits for pesticide residues had been found acceptable by Cuba, as well as many maximum limits for pesticide residues. The delegation of Cuba referred to the information already supplied in document ALINORM 85/2.

25. The delegation of the Ivory Coast considered the work of the CAC to be very important and the Codex standards to be useful points of reference. The Ivory Coast hoped to be able to notify acceptances in due course and stressed the need for trading partners to accept standards.

26. The delegation of Thailand stated that the Codex standards were used as a basis in developing Thai food legislation. The standards also served as guidelines for the food industry. Thailand considered that there was a need for more countries to accept the Codex standards. Some Codex standards contained too much detail. More importing countries should accept the standards to facilitate trade. Thailand also thought that the codes of practice were very important.

27. The delegation of France considered that the question of acceptance of the Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues should be considered in depth by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session, which France was prepared to host in November 1986.

28. The delegation of Guinea stated that Guinea had no national food standards and that Guinea, therefore, applied the Codex standards. The delegation of Guinea stated that there was a need for assistance and training in regard to methods of analysis.

29. The delegation of Switzerland stated that in Switzerland formal acceptance meant the introduction of new legislation or modification of existing legislation. This presented a difficulty for some countries. The delegation of Switzerland considered that the influence of Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues was much greater than reflected in the Summaries of Acceptances. Switzerland hoped, in the near future, to be able to notify the Secretariat of some positive developments.

30. The delegation of India stated that 54 standards had been drawn up in India for fruit and vegetable products, including juices. For 40 of these commodities the Codex standards were followed. The Codex provisions on contaminants had been followed, but there had been slight modifications as regards styles. The delegation stated that many countries were asking India to supply in accordance with Codex standards. The Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods was being looked at in India. India was also looking to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for a standard for aseptic packaging of foods.

31. The delegation of Kenya stated that Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues had been used as a basis for developing regulations in Kenya.

Referring to Acceptance with Specified Deviations, the delegation of Kenya stressed that it should be borne in mind that deviations were the opposite of harmonization. The extent of the deviations would need to be analysed. The delegation thought it regrettable that some countries had not responded at all as yet on the subject of acceptances.

32. The delegation of New Zealand considered that there was a need for those countries which had been active in Codex work from the beginning to give a lead to others in the matter of acceptances. New Zealand now gave Full Acceptance to the standard for Whey Cheeses and Quick Frozen French Fried Potatoes and Acceptance with Specified Deviations to three cheese standards.

33. The delegation of Norway stated that the introduction of the concept of free distribution greatly helped the situation, because it was now possible to respond positively without introducing new national regulations.

34. The delegation of Argentina stated that certain chapters of the Argentine Food Code were being brought up-to-date. Codex standards were being used as a model in this exercise. Argentina was presently looking at the international cheese standards. Argentina attached great importance to the Codex standards.

35. The delegation of Mexico stated that the Codex standards were being studied in Mexico. Limited Acceptance had been given by Mexico to a certain number of Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues. Mexico hoped to be able to notify further acceptances before the next session of the Commission.

36. The delegation of Malaysia stated that although Malaysia had not yet accepted any Codex standards, still they were used as points of reference in the preparation of national food legislation. A Malaysian National Codex Committee was going to be established. The delegation of Malaysia considered that the developed countries should do more to accept the Codex standards.

37. The delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that the Codex standards and codes of practice were used in the development of national food law in the Republic of Korea. All Codex standards were going to be translated into Korean to increase awareness of Codex work. The question of acceptance of Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues was being studied.

38. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany associated itself with the view which had been expressed by the delegation of Switzerland. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that formal acceptance of the standards would lead to a vast amount of new legislation, at a time when there was a tendency to limit legislation to the minimum. The delegation thought that the acceptance provisions needed to be looked at, including possibly clause (b) of Full Acceptance in regard to Codex Commodity Standards. The delegation considered that the free circulation concept was one that was particularly useful as an alternative to formal acceptance.

39. The delegation of Ghana stated that Ghana had now decided to give Full Acceptance to the Codex standard for Edible Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed Oil instead of Target Acceptance. The delegation expressed disappointment that the developed countries had not accepted more Codex standards.

40. The observer from the European Economic Community stated that the Codex/EEC intersecretariat discussions which had taken place in Brussels in December 1984 had been very useful. The observer expressed the hope that such contacts would continue. The observer stated that the letter which had been sent by the Director-General of FAO to the President of the Commission of the European Communities had been welcomed and that a substantive reply would be sent as soon as possible. It was the intention of the European Economic Community to do everything possible to deal positively with the suggestions contained in the Director-General's letter.

41. The observer from the Council of Europe gave a brief outline of the Council's work in the area of pesticides. The Council of Europe had published the 6th edition of its brochure on pesticides, which took into account recommendations published by FAO and the EEC.

42. The Commission agreed that it was important for all members of the Commission to communicate to the Secretariat their position on acceptances. Every member country was requested to submit a report in writing on this topic for the Seventeenth Session of the Commission.

43. The Commission agreed that it would be good for the Codex Committee on General Principles to examine problems associated with acceptance of Codex Standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues at its next session. The Commission stressed that this exercise should not result in any slowing down of acceptances.

44. The Commission noted that there was increased use of Codex standards by member countries of the CAC in trade, regulatory activities and food control systems. The Commission decided to place on record the desire of developing countries that developed countries should do more to accept or otherwise implement the Codex standards, in order to help the trade of developing countries.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

(i) FINALIZATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1982/83; (ii) BUDGET FOR 1984/85; (iii) BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR 1986/87

45. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/5 which was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission noted that this paper had been reviewed by the Executive Committee at its 32nd Session (ALINORM 85/4, paras. 5-11). The Secretariat indicated to the Commission that it was expected that the Commission's programme of activities would be fully carried out within the budget ceiling for 1984/85. As regards the budgetary proposals for 1986/87, the Secretariat indicated that the overall level of the budget would be the same in real terms as that for 1984/85. The pattern of the proposed budget for 1986/87 was very similar to that for 1984/85 except that the provision for consultants had been increased to enable computer services to be made available. An increase had been provided for in the allocation for meetings, in order to provide for a session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products in 1986. A small increase had also been provided for in the allocation for duty travel. The above increases were being provided for by a corresponding decrease in the provision for external translation and printing.

46. The delegation of Spain expressed concern that the reduction in the allocation for external translation and printing in 1986/87 might adversely affect the provision of Codex documents in Spanish. The Secretariat pointed out that the total allocation (without cost increases) for documents (internal and external translation and printing) in 1986/87 was \$1 058 000. The Secretariat stated that requirements for 1986/87 had already been costed and that the decrease of \$53 000 in the allocation for documentation would not result in any diminution of the established pattern of distribution of documents in Spanish. The delegation of Cuba associated itself with the concern which had been expressed by Spain, but like the delegation of Spain, the Cuban delegation was pleased to learn that the above-mentioned adjustments in the budget would not adversely affect documentation in Spanish.

47. The delegations of Spain and France stated, respectively, that sometimes documents in Spanish and French were received rather late. The Secretariat explained some of the reasons for this and undertook to see what could be done to improve matters.

48. The delegation of USA stated that it supported the proposed budget for 1986/87, and that it was important to maintain in operation all the Codex General Subject Committees. The delegation of the USA also stressed the importance of timely distribution of Codex documents.

49. Mr. C. Sandstrom, Chief, Budget, WHO stated that the budgetary proposals for the Programme for 1986/87 had been approved by the World Health Assembly. On the FAO side, the Commission noted that the budgetary proposals for 1986/87 would be before the next FAO Conference for approval in November 1985.

PART III

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

50. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/6 which reported on Joint FAO/WHO activities; FAO activities; and WHO activities separately.

JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES

Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

51. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) which had taken place since the Commission's 15th Session. The JMPR had examined a total of some 100 pesticides including some 10 pesticides not evaluated previously. Principles of toxicological testing and evaluation and methods of arriving at estimates of pesticide residues intake were also discussed. Yearly sessions of JMPR would continue in the future maintaining the present rhythm of activity. Streamlining of the publication of the reports and 'Evaluations' of the JMPR using word processing and possibly adjustment of responsibility for publication were being considered in an attempt to ensure early issue of these documents.

52. The FAO had prepared an "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides" which had been endorsed by the FAO Committee on Agriculture and the FAO Council. The Code would be submitted to the FAO Conference for endorsement. The Code made reference to various FAO guidelines relating to pesticides.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

53. Since the 15th Session of the Commission two meetings of JECFA, the 28th in 1984, and the 29th in 1985 had been held. Relevant details of the 28th Meeting were available in document ALINORM 85/6. The Commission noted particularly that JECFA had considered the safety of certain substances migrating into food from packaging materials. (See also paras. 92-95). At its 29th meeting, JECFA had specifically considered certain matters referred to it by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and had devoted a section of its report to responding to these questions. The Commission welcomed the close cooperation between JECFA and CCFA in this regard.

54. It was also noted that arrangements had been made for the preparation of a brief summary report to be distributed shortly after each JECFA Meeting. This would provide accurate and up-to-date information for FAO and WHO Member States, Codex Contact Points, consumers and industry representatives and others who had need of the information arising from the JECFA meetings.

Irradiated Foods

55. The Commission noted that as a result of the invitation of the Directors-General of FAO, WHO and IAEA, an International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation had been established in 1984 in order to:

- (i) evaluate global development in the field of food irradiation,
- (ii) provide a focal point of advice on application of food irradiation to member states and the organizations, and
- (iii) furnish information through the organizations to the Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

56. At its first meeting in December 1984, the Group decided that priority should be given to the promotion of international trade in irradiated food and to this end a Task Force, consisting of food control officials, consumer organizations and irradiation control authorities, had been established to advise the Group on the appropriate means to promote trade in irradiated foods. The Task Force would meet in October 1985.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme

57. The Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme had been established under the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) of the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate and stimulate international monitoring activities at national, regional and global levels for the early detection and control of pollution in the environment. A description of the Programme's activities was contained in ALINORM 85/6. The Commission particularly noted the work on monitoring levels of certain pesticides, heavy metals and aflatoxins and also the publication of Guidelines for the Study of Dietary Intakes of Chemical Contaminants which had been prepared under the auspices of the Programme. It was noted in particular that the data collected under the Programme were available to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission for use in establishing maximum levels of contaminants in commodity standards.

Joint Publications

58. The Commission was informed that a publication entitled "Guidelines for Can Manufacturers and Food Canners", which was intended to assist food processors in developing countries to control problems of contamination of canned processed foods by lead and tin had been prepared and would become available towards the end of 1985.

Guiding Principles for Food Safety Evaluation

59. In order to assist Member States in developing and running food safety and control programmes, FAO and WHO were developing Guiding Principles for Food Safety Evaluation. This publication would deal more with managerial aspects and should be used in conjunction with the already existing and more technical Guidelines for Developing an Effective National Food Control System as well as the Guidelines for Establishing or Strengthening National Food Contamination Monitoring Programmes. The two organizations expected a provisional edition of the Guiding Principles to be available by the end of 1985 when it would be distributed to as wide an audience as possible. A final edition was expected to be published in 1987 to 1988, taking into account the experience of Member States during the use of the provisional document.

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

60. The Commission was informed of specific activities relating to cooperation with member governments particularly those of developing countries, which were described in detail in Part B of ALINORM 85/6 and which were carried out by the FAO Food Quality and Consumer Protection Group in the Food Quality and Standards Service;

- (i) Food Control Assistance to Developing Countries including promotion of coherent national food quality control systems and the organization of national food control strategy workshops remained a high priority. It had been proposed that the FAO Committee on Agriculture discuss in detail at its next session in early 1987 the "role of food quality control and standards in food security, health and trade".
- (ii) Food Contamination Surveys and Training in Food Contamination Control were carried out within the overall efforts to strengthen food control systems in developing countries. They also supported the activities of the FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme. Regional activities in Asia and Africa had been supplemented by additional activities in specific developing countries.
- (iii) Training which continued to receive high priority would be extended to include a course in maintenance and repair of laboratory equipment for technicians from Francophone Africa, and a training course on mycotoxin analysis and control for countries in the sub-region of Central America. A regional training course for food inspectors would be held within the biennium in Sri Lanka and approaches had been made to funding agencies to establish a regional network of food control training centres in South and South East Asia. Training at a specialized

level for persons working with mycotoxins had been carried out with UNEP support in the USSR in 1984 and 1985.

- (iv) Food handling activities were directed at ensuring safety, quality and wholesomeness of food at the village and household levels thereby improving nutritional status of the population and promoting consumer protection and reducing food losses. Workshops had been held in Asia and Africa to direct governments' attention to the priorities needed for action. Some projects had been initiated in Asia and Africa.
- (v) Publications of guidelines and manuals covering different aspects of food control and food safety continued to be prepared and issued widely, also through Codex Contact Points.

REPORT ON WHO ACTIVITIES

61. The Commission was reminded that WHO was a decentralized organization and that its headquarters was responsible for global and interregional activities while its regional offices were responsible for regional and country level activities. Accordingly, the Commission, being a global body, would receive a report on global and interregional activities while the Regional Coordinating Committees of the CAC would also be briefed on regional and country level activities.

62. The objective of WHO in the field of food safety was to cooperate with member states in an attempt to reduce, inter alia, foodborne mortality and morbidity. Some of the more recent major activities included the following:

- (i) Campylobacter jejuni had only recently been recognized as an important causative agent of foodborne enteric infection in man which was mainly transmitted via raw milk and undercooked or recontaminated poultry. Three programmes of WHO (Diarrhoeal Disease Control, Food Safety, Zoonoses) therefore organized a consultation to review this rather new problem and to identify technologies to prevent the disease in man. The report of the consultation was available from WHO/HQ (VPH/CDD/FOS/84.1).
- (ii) The Commission was informed that WHO had contacted several food industries to discuss possibilities for cooperation, mainly in the field of food safety education of consumers. The representatives of industry, during an informal consultation in Geneva on 1 and 2 May 1984, had welcomed this initiative of WHO and had indicated that they might be able to assist WHO in its efforts to improve the food safety at consumer level. WHO was now in the process of elaborating a programme and budget for consideration by the industry.
- (iii) The Commission was also informed that WHO/HQ, jointly with PAHO, had undertaken a pilot project, analysing hazards and critical points of domestic food preparation, with particular emphasis on weaning food preparation in Peru. This type of work was seen as the technical basis for the development of appropriate health education programmes, which had to be based on knowledge of prevailing food handling practices, current beliefs and the cultural values attached to these practices, as well as the social and economic roles they fulfill.
- (iv) Under the aegis of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, a surveillance programme for the control of foodborne infections and intoxications had been launched in 1980 with the overall objective of providing support to European countries in the prevention and control of foodborne diseases. Under this programme, a manual on surveillance of foodborne diseases had been prepared. Although this programme was essentially tailored to the needs and conditions of European countries, it could be seen as a model for several other (sub) regions of the world where epidemiological studies, and in particular surveillance of foodborne diseases were overdue.

- (v) Concerning Islamic requirements for food of animal origin, reference was invited to the report which had been given by the Secretariat to the 31st Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 85/3, paras. 171-175). The Executive Committee had, at that time, been informed that WHO and the Muslim World League were collaborating on this topic. The Commission was now informed that the meeting of internationally recognized Islamic scholars addressing this problem, which had originally been scheduled for December 1984, was now expected to take place in Saudi Arabia in the second half of 1985. The possibility of attendance of observers was still under consideration.
- (vi) Activities related to food safety/food hygiene had been carried out by WHO since the very early days of the Organization. Many technical papers, reports of meetings, monographs, etc., had been published since. The WHO catalogue of official publications listed several of these food safety publications, but by no means all. Therefore, the Secretariat had prepared a list of selected WHO and Joint FAO/WHO publications on food safety/food hygiene which was available to all members of the Commission.
- (vii) The Commission was reminded that several WHO programmes carried out activities which were of immediate interest to national food safety and food control staffs and in this way to the work of the CAC. In this context, reference had also been made to the Environmental Health Criteria Documents, to the International Digest of Health Legislation and to the follow-up work undertaken concerning the International Code of Breast-Milk Substitutes and the Resolution WHA 34.23 on Nutritional Value and Safety of Products specifically intended for Infants and Children.

63. The Commission took note of the FAO and WHO activities complementary to its work and stressed their importance for furthering the Commission's objectives. The special need for assistance to developing countries in the implementation of their national programmes for ensuring the safety and quality of food, consumer protection and the recommendations of the Commission was emphasized.

64. The Delegation of Algeria referred to the work on improvement of food handling as related to food quality and safety, and recommended that information and extension activities which could be used by governments in training food handlers and educating the public in regard to food safety, should be developed in order to ensure that the basic principles of food hygiene were known and understood at all levels.

REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FOODS AND RELATED MATTERS

The UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection

65. The Chief of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme reported that the General Assembly of the United Nations, at its last session, had adopted, through a Resolution, the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection and called on member governments to apply the Guidelines. The Commission was informed that the Guidelines referred to certain specific products of high significance, food being one of these. Under this section on food, the Guidelines recognized the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and stressed that Codex standards be implemented.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

66. The observer from ISO drew attention to a comprehensive report prepared by Hungary on the work of ISO/TC 34 relevant to the work of the Commission. This report was made available to members of the Commission. He pointed to the long-standing and close collaboration between ISO and Codex which had proved to be fruitful and had prevented duplication of work in areas such as analysis, sampling, terminology and specifications for foods not covered by Codex standards. ISO provided the Secretariat for the 'Inter Agency Meeting' an advisory body for the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. Other ISO technical committees working in the fields of starch

hydrolysis products, water quality and chemical methods of analysis were also related to the work of Codex. The ISO observer expressed his satisfaction that the question of possible future collaboration between ISO and Codex in the publication of Codex standards as ISO standards remained open.

67. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee at its 32nd Session had discussed this matter and had concluded that the Codex Secretariat should first review the distribution system of Codex documents before entering into further discussions with ISO on the question of ISO adopting and publishing Codex standards. The Commission concurred with this view.

68. The delegation of Hungary underlined the above statement of the observer from ISO and stressed the need for a continued and even closer collaboration between Codex and ISO/TC 34.

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

69. The observer from OAU stressed the importance of work in the field of pesticide residues and gave a brief outline of the work of his organization in making the 50 OAU member governments more sensitive to the need to control pesticide residues in order to protect consumers and treated crops; in the creation of regional infrastructures; in the formation of national plant protection services; in the organization of regional conferences and seminars on pesticide residue matters; in the organization of training courses; in the creation of a network of pesticide residue analytical laboratories through an inter-African project and in the establishment of an African committee of experts under the constitution of the Inter-African Plant Protection Council of the OAU.

70. He urged greater collaboration between FAO and WHO and all interested African regional organizations and his organization in the field of pesticide residue control. He also thanked the Commission for making efforts to find the means to assist developing countries in attending Codex sessions.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

71. The observer from IAEA pointed out that the adoption of a Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods had contributed greatly in stimulating governments in taking action concerning the regulation of food irradiation. However, it appeared that governments were not following the regulatory approach suggested by Codex and that action by governments was not harmonized. Furthermore, many governments were not taking any action at all. He informed the Commission of the recommendation of a Joint FAO/IAEA Advisory Group held in November 1984 which had recommended that countries should give a broad clearance to the process of food irradiation and should also consider ways of permitting the importation of irradiated foods, even if they themselves were not actually irradiating foods. Declaration of the fact of irradiation on the label should not be mandatory but should be left to individual countries. The report of the Advisory Group was made available.

72. The observer from IAEA indicated that IAEA was active in developing the irradiation process and had programmes either in progress or planned to transfer this technology to developing countries in the regions of Asia, Latin America and Africa.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

73. The observer of the UNECE expressed his organization's appreciation of the work of Codex and indicated that Codex standards were automatically taken into account by his Organization. Cooperation between Codex and the UNECE was good as evidenced by a close collaboration at the Secretariat level and the existence of Joint ECE/Codex Groups of Experts in the fields of fruit and vegetable products. The UNECE had decided to proceed with the standardization of certain tropical fresh fruits noting that the Codex Alimentarius Commission had decided earlier not to take up the subject for the time being. On the other hand, work on certain dry and dried fruits and vegetables had been suspended pending developments in the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes. He outlined briefly work undertaken by the UNECE in the standardization of food products.

European Economic Community (EEC)

74. The observer of the EEC gave a broad outline of the work of the EEC in attempting to remove technical barriers to trade, consumer information and monitoring and control of food. The aim of the EEC was to ensure the unimpeded movement of the large volume of food in European trade and the protection of the consumer.

International Dairy Federation (IDF)

75. The observer from the IDF pointed to the great number of international standards developed by IDF in the field of chemical and microbiological analysis as well as standards of identity for milk and milk products. These had been established through some 40 groups of experts in IDF which are still active in these fields. Many of the IDF/ISO/AOAC standards, made available to the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, had been taken over by Codex. The three organizations had established a high standard in international cooperation resulting in mutual benefit to all including the Codex Alimentarius.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

76. The observer of ASEAN informed the Commission of several on-going activities within ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) as good examples of technical cooperation among developing countries. These activities had the objectives to promote in the ASEAN region, the development of food processing technologies and industries, and of the quality and safety of food products, increasing the utilization of local food raw materials for local and export markets and facilitation of the transfer of food processing technologies through pilot studies and information exchange. He described some of the common projects being pursued by the ASEAN countries related to food quality evaluation, food analysis, raw materials, food standards and regulations.

Organization of Cocoa Producing Countries (COPAL)

77. The observer from COPAL indicated his organization's great interest in the work of the Commission. In view of the difficulties COPAL countries faced in attending Codex sessions for various reasons, the Secretariat of COPAL had been empowered to speak on behalf of these countries in representing the interests of cocoa producing countries. The observer of COPAL wished this to be noted in relation to the role of observers attending Codex sessions.

Council of Europe (CE)

78. The observer from the CE informed the Commission about recent work especially by the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) in the protection of the consumer and harmonization of national health regulations. CE recommendations could be in the form of declaration of policy or common directives aimed at those responsible for the establishment of such policies. The work of the Council of Europe in the field of natural flavouring materials (the Blue Book) was noted in relation to the work of Codex. The 6th Edition of a publication on 'Pesticides' containing recommendations directed at national authorities and the industry took into account Codex recommendations and those of FAO, the EEC and EPPO. This publication had been developed with the help of GIFAP and CEPA. Close collaboration existed between CE and the EEC as could be seen in the work of these two organizations in the field of packaging materials.

79. The observer from the Council of Europe indicated his Organization's interest in close collaboration with all interested organizations in order to avoid duplication of work.

80. The delegation of Kenya indicated that governments took into account the work of international organizations and that, therefore, overlapping of work must be avoided. The delegation referred to the work of the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO) which had the responsibility of elaborating African regional standards for food products and expressed the hope that the work of this organization

and Codex would be coordinated. The delegation expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the Commission in seeking ways and means of assisting developing countries in attending Codex sessions. It invited International Organizations to arrange seminars on food quality control such as those organized by IDF.

African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO)

81. The Secretariat informed the Commission of discussions between the Secretariats of ARSO and the Codex concerning arrangements for collaboration in order to prevent duplication of work while promoting food standards activities in Africa. In view of ARSO's general mandate to elaborate African regional standards on the one hand, and the activities of Codex on the other, the Secretariat was of the opinion that duplication of work in the food area might be difficult to avoid, particularly in view of the fact that ARSO wished to use Codex standards as an input in the development of ARSO standards.

82. The Commission was also informed of the views of Members of the 32nd Session of the Executive Committee on this subject. The Executive Committee had recommended that the Secretariat should continue to pursue the matter of collaboration with ARSO, in order to avoid duplication of work. The Executive Committee had also recommended that ARSO should explore the possibility of not entering into the field of establishment of food standards. The Executive Committee had also recommended that member states in Africa should be made aware of the problems which may arise in this area.

83. The Commission concurred with the recommendations of the Executive Committee and requested the Secretariat to take appropriate action to follow up the matter.

PART IV

ROLE OF OBSERVERS AT CODEX MEETINGS

84. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/25 containing a request from Sweden for clarification of the role of observers at Codex meetings. The delegation of Sweden requested that the matter be discussed at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. In referring to the document, the representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO recalled that the matter had been extensively discussed at the 32nd Session of the Executive Committee (paragraphs 12 and 13 of document ALINORM 85/4). He confirmed that, although from a strictly legal point of view, observers had no right to insist on having their views reflected in the report of the Commission, or - unless they were observers from countries - in the reports of subsidiary bodies, a much more flexible practice had, until now, been followed, whereby the views of participants from regional groupings of States have been reflected in the report of Codex meetings. He recalled that the Executive Committee had decided to recommend to the Commission that such practice be continued. Although the matter was entirely one of expediency on which the Commission had latitude to decide, the Commission felt that it would be useful if the various legal aspects related to that matter, could be restated in a document prepared by the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, for submission to the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles. In the meantime, the Commission intended to follow present practice on this issue, as had been decided by the Executive Committee.

RULE VI.3 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

85. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/37. In introducing the document, the FAO Joint Secretary provided the Commission with the background to the proposal which had been detailed in document ALINORM 83/9. The representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO pointed out that Rule VI.3, as drafted, certainly permitted the countries in a region or a group of countries to take the initiative to elaborate a regional standard and to decide on its contents, but that this function was subject to the more general functions of the Commission as a whole, which was to decide whether such a regional initiative was compatible or not with its overall programme, its aims and purposes as listed under Article I of the Statutes, and, if not, to set aside the decision taken by the region or group of countries concerned. The proposal to amend Rule VI.3 in order to clearly give such power to the Commission was therefore unnecessary. The Commission

decided that indeed Rule VI.3 should receive the above interpretation and that therefore the issue raised in document ALINORM 85/37 could be set aside. The Commission regarded the matter as now closed.

PART V

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATION ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

86. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/7, containing a summary of the report of an FAO/WHO Joint Expert Consultation on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods. The full report of the Consultation, as contained in FAO Food and Nutrition Paper No. 32, and the views of the Thirty-Second Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 85/4, paras. 18-32) were also available to the Commission. The Commission recalled that the Consultation had been convened by FAO and WHO at the Commission's request expressed at its last session, when the matter of residues of chemicals used in mass medication of animals and of drugs used in veterinary medicine had been raised by several Codex committees.

87. The Commission was informed that the Joint Consultation had discussed the subject in detail and in depth, giving the widest possible definition to the expressions "veterinary drugs" and "residues of veterinary drugs". Nevertheless, questions relating to the registration of veterinary drugs and veterinary practice had not been discussed in order to avoid duplication with other established bodies.

88. The Consultation had concluded that the question of the occurrence and safety of residues of veterinary drugs in foods of animal origin was of significance to public health and consumer concern, and posed potential problems to international trade. It had recommended to the Commission that a new Codex Committee should be established to deal with these problems and that the Committee should receive the advice of experts in the fields of veterinary medicine, animal science, toxicology, microbiology, immunology, analytical chemistry, and related sciences, from an independent body convened from time to time by FAO and WHO.

89. The Commission expressed its strong support for the recommendations of the Consultation, and agreed to establish a Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods under Rule IX.1(b) of its Rules of Procedure, with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) to determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods;
- (b) to recommend maximum residue levels of such substances;
- (c) to develop codes of practice as may be required;
- (d) to determine criteria for analytical methods used for the control of veterinary drug residues in foods.

90. The Commission recommended that the new Committee should liaise closely with the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in carrying out its mandate, and that the work already undertaken by other bodies, such as the Council of Europe, should be taken into account.

91. Two member countries of the Commission offered to host the newly established Committee. After the Chairman had established that there was a quorum, the matter was put to a vote by secret ballot. In the light of the result of the vote, the United States of America was designated by the Commission, under Rule IX.10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, to be the host country for the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, with the responsibility for appointing the Chairman.

92. The Commission called upon the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to give earliest consideration to the convening of an appropriate expert body to provide independent

scientific advice to the Committee, and noted that first steps had been taken in this regard. The Commission also endorsed the Consultation's recommendation that FAO and WHO should examine ways and means of providing training (particularly to analytical personnel), information and other support to developing countries in the area of control of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin. The delegation of Nigeria expressed its interest in participating in any proposed collaborative network which might be established in this area, through its national centre for zoonoses control.

FOOD PACKAGING - HEALTH AND TRADE PROBLEMS AND THE ROLE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

93. The Commission had before it a paper ALINORM 85/35 prepared by Prof. Dr. P.S. Elias (Consultant). It had been prepared in response to the proposal recorded in paragraph 539 of the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission (ALINORM 83/43). The Commission had also before it LIM 17 which contained the comments of governments on the paper ALINORM 85/35. There was general support from the member countries for Codex to undertake work on "Food Packaging".

94. Presenting his paper, Dr. Elias drew particular attention to the complexity of the subject of food packaging and described the existing regulatory approaches. The establishment of open-ended permitted lists of ingredients for the various types of food packaging together with appropriate global or specific migration limits were suggested as means of achieving a harmonized regulatory approach and of avoiding the creation of barriers to trade. The need for agreement on the methods for simulating food contact, and for agreement on the methods for estimation of migrants was stressed. Dr. Elias proposed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) be charged with the handling of the subject of food packaging and that JECFA be invited, with the agreement of FAO and WHO, to provide expert opinion on the ingredients that go into food packaging as well as the migrants from the packaging materials. Dr. Elias referred to the essential contribution of food packaging to food safety. He also considered it unlikely that acute or other significant hazards to the consumer would be created by migrants from food packaging materials.

95. Several delegations agreed that there was a need for the Commission to start considering the subject and that the Codex Committee on Food Additives was the appropriate body to carry out this task. Other delegations felt that, in view of the potentially large work load that would result from a full consideration of the subject of food packaging, attention should be given primarily to substances carrying a significant hazard for the consumer rather than establishing exhaustive lists of permitted ingredients. Some delegations pointed to the need for ensuring that administrative provisions would be adequate and that the CCFA should not be overloaded to the detriment of its other functions. They also urged that the work of other national and international bodies e.g. the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities in this area be taken into consideration. The delegation of Argentina and some other delegations suggested that the proposed control systems be kept flexible i.e. by not making them mandatory but by proposing only guidelines. They also counselled a cautionary approach in order to avoid unreasonable workloads being put onto the CCFA and JECFA.

96. The Commission decided that the subject matter was within the purview of the Commission and represented a potentially large work load. It agreed that the CCFA was the appropriate forum for dealing with the problems of food packaging materials and that the CCFA should consider the paper prepared by the consultant. At the same time the activities and proposals of other organizations should be taken into account, in order to avoid duplication of work. The CCFA should report on the subject to the next session of the Commission. The Secretariat was also requested to watch over the workload of the CCFA and to report back to the Commission, which would decide on what action to take, if it became apparent that by taking on this additional task the CCFA and JECFA would be faced with an undue workload.

CONSIDERATION OF NEED FOR DEVELOPING CODEX STANDARDS FOR TROPICAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

97. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 85/7, ALINORM 83/7 and LIM.13 as well as paragraphs 33-37 of the Report of the 32nd Session of the Executive Committee

(ALINORM 85/4). The issue before the Commission was to determine, in the light of further government comments and the views of the Codex Coordinating Committees, whether there was a need to develop Codex standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables and, if so, what should the nature of such standards be, what body should be charged with their development and what were the implications as regards their acceptance.

98. The Commission noted that only three additional replies from governments had been received following the 15th Session of the Commission and that there was still opposition to the standardization of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables by some countries and by the Coordinating Committees for Asia and Europe.

99. The Commission also noted that the Executive Committee had examined all available comments and, following discussion and expression of views, had supported in principle the need for standardization of these products. The Executive Committee had, however, stressed that duplication of work should be avoided and that there was a need to examine the nature of any standards which might be elaborated, and the obligations attaching to the acceptance of such standards. Concerning the need to avoid duplication of work, the Commission noted that the UNECE had long established European standards for a wide range of temperate zone fresh fruits and vegetables and had now started work on certain tropical fruits. There was also a need to define the meaning of 'tropical fruits and vegetables'. The Commission also noted with appreciation that Mexico had offered to host a Codex Committee should it be decided to set one up.

100. The delegations of Thailand and Iraq were of the opinion that it was premature to embark on the standardization of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables. The delegation of Thailand thought that the issue of obligations attaching to acceptance should first be clarified by the Codex Committee on General Principles. The delegation of the United Kingdom were also of the opinion that this matter should first be clarified by the Codex Committee on General Principles and that duplication of work should be avoided. The delegation of New Zealand considered that there was not a sufficiently wide interest in the development of Codex standards for these products to justify the establishment of a Codex committee.

101. The delegation of Mexico stated that for some time there had already existed a strong body of opinion in favour of the need for standardization of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables. The delegation of Mexico thought that objections at this stage should only be on procedural grounds. Statistical data showed that international trade in these products was very large, representing an equally large amount in money value. The delegation urged that the needs of exporting countries for standards of quality should be given consideration. The delegation considered that the establishment of European standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables might lead to the establishment of technical barriers to trade. The delegation, therefore, urged the Commission to agree that work should be undertaken in this field without delay. This view was shared by the delegations of Brazil, Cuba, Ghana and Kenya. The delegation of Switzerland was in favour, in principle, of undertaking work on the standardization of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables, as trade in these products was increasing and since there was lack of harmony in the standardization of these products. The Swiss delegation strongly favoured the establishment of a Joint UNECE/Codex Group of Experts to undertake the work. The delegation of Australia supported work to be undertaken by Codex on all fresh fruits and vegetables not only tropical ones, and suggested that existing UNECE and other regional standards could be used as a basis for developing Codex world-wide standards.

102. The Commission noted that the majority of delegations which had spoken on this topic were strongly in favour of commencing work on the standardization of tropical fresh fruits and vegetables. The Commission also noted that those delegations represented a wide geographical spread. Whilst the Commission did not think it appropriate to establish a Codex Committee on Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at this time, it did consider it would be very useful to look deeper into all of the issues involved. The Commission accepted therefore the offer of Mexico to host an ad hoc intergovernmental Codex meeting to give in-depth consideration to the question of need for standardization in this field, to define what types of products should be covered, and to identify the real issues (e.g. nature of standards, acceptance obligations, etc.) taking into

consideration work carried out already by other international organizations. The delegation of Argentina considered that the work should not include temperate zone products. The ad hoc meeting would report to the Seventeenth Session of the Commission and advise the Commission on whether or not work in this area should be embarked upon by the Commission. The report from the ad hoc meeting should also advise the Commission on whether any guidance is required from the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Commission would review this matter at its Seventeenth Session. It was agreed that the UNECE, OECD and any other interested international organizations should be invited to attend the ad hoc meeting, in order to ensure full collaboration between the interested bodies. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to bear the costs of hosting the above ad hoc meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THERE IS TOO MUCH DETAIL IN CERTAIN CODEX STANDARDS AND WHETHER SOME PARTS OF THESE STANDARDS SHOULD BE MADE OPTIONAL

103. The Commission had before it a paper (ALINORM 85/9) prepared by a consultant (D.S.Chadha). The paper had been prepared in response to the proposal recorded in paragraph 226 of the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission (ALINORM 83/43).

104. Presenting his paper, the consultant drew the particular attention of the Commission to the main objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which are to protect the health of the consumer and to ensure fair practices in food trade. He indicated that the inclusion of optional clauses in Codex standards to cover certain quality criteria, such as styles, cuts, defects etc. would render the standards, which are intended for adoption in national legislations, largely ineffective.

105. Attention was drawn by the consultant to the views of the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables that certain standards were, perhaps, over-elaborate and that efforts should be directed to the more essential matters of composition, hygiene, food additives and food labelling. However, the consultant emphasized that the Codex commodity committees concerned were the most competent bodies to consider the amount of detail to be incorporated in the standards they were developing. In determining such detail, each commodity committee should take into account international marketing practices, economic impact and related factors. The Codex committees concerned should not include unwanted excessive details in standards, but should try to simplify the standards without lessening their effectiveness from the consumer protection point of view.

106. The recent decisions of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products were brought to the attention of the Commission where matters were resolved by these two committees through the introduction of a provision entitled 'Other Styles' in certain standards for processed fruits and vegetables and a provision 'Other Representation' in some standards for fish products. The consultant pointed out, however, that the introduction of such provisions should not result in stricter discipline being applied in Codex standards with specific styles than in Codex standards with non-specific other styles. In any event, these were details to be considered by the commodity committees themselves.

107. The conclusions of the Commission were as follows:

- (i) Codex standards, being of a mandatory nature, should not include optional clauses providing for agreement between buyer and seller in regard to quality factors of an aesthetic nature, like styles, types of packs, etc. as this would not provide consumer protection and would not ensure fair practices in the food trade, especially when dealing with products where such criteria are important.
- (ii) The Committees concerned should review their standards periodically, in order to consider whether they could be simplified by omitting or modifying some of the details about styles, dimensions of sizes, uniformity of sizes, defect tables, keeping in mind the consumer protection, trade practices, changes in technological processing etc. However the initiative lies with the countries which wish to see changes made in the standards.

- (iii) For the future, it may be necessary for the commodity committees to direct their efforts to the more essential matters of composition, quality, hygiene, food additives and food labelling, taking into account the Work Priorities Criteria and any economic impact statements that may be submitted, but without sacrificing the details which are necessary for consumer protection, having regard to the nature of the products.
- (iv) The Member Countries of Codex should take urgent steps to notify acceptances of the standards to the Secretariat. Even if they are not in a position to notify Full Acceptance, they may be in a position to notify Acceptance with Specified Deviations, or Target Acceptance, or a declaration of so-called "Free Entry".
- (v) The Coordinating Committee for Asia is asked to identify those provisions in Codex standards which need reconsideration and amendment. Detailed amendments would need to be put forward together with reasons for them.

REQUEST FROM OECD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR CERTAIN CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES ON VARIOUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

108. The Commission had before it a paper (ALINORM 85/11) containing a request from the OECD Group on Fruits and Vegetables that the Codex Alimentarius Commission establish maximum limits for a number of chemicals on fruits and vegetables. The observer from OECD informed the Commission that the request had resulted from an investigation carried out by OECD into the post-harvest use of chemical preservatives and other substances for maintaining the quality of fruits and vegetables. It was found that more than 50 chemicals were being used in the countries investigated and that maximum legal limits varied considerably; also some chemicals were permitted in some countries while not in others. The OECD had concluded that this situation could result in technical barriers to trade.

109. A number of corrections were made to the above document as follows by the delegations of the countries mentioned:

Page 6 chlorprophame-prophame under France the limit of 0.5 mg/kg refers to unpeeled potatoes

Page 7 2-amino-benzimidazol: permitted in Austria only for citrus fruit and bananas

Page 8 phosphine: under New Zealand the limit for potatoes should read 0.01 mg/kg

Page 11 waxes - under New Zealand the limit should read 3 g/kg for citrus fruit, cucumbers and potatoes.

110. The delegation of the United Kingdom was of the opinion that it would be necessary to determine which substances included in the OECD paper were preservatives and which should be regarded only as post-harvest pesticides before referring them for consideration by the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues, as had been suggested in the paper. This was so since some chemicals could be used both as pesticides and as preservatives.

111. The observer from the IOCU indicated that consumers were not only interested in facilitating trade, but also in the safety of residues of chemicals such as those included in the OECD paper. In her opinion, the chemicals in question should all be regarded as food additives and be declared on the label. For example, consumers may have allergies to chemicals or may wish to be informed about the nature of the chemical on the fruit or vegetable for other reasons.

112. The delegation of the Netherlands undertook to arrange with the respective Chairmen of the Codex Committees on Food Additives and Pesticide Residues to study the OECD paper in the light of the above remarks and to handle the matter through the appropriate Codex Committees.

113. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Netherlands delegation and to OECD.

PART VI

FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

The Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Promotion of Primary Health Care

114. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/39 which had been prepared by WHO in response to a request made by the Executive Committee during its 31st Session (see ALINORM 85/3, paras 154 to 158). In introducing this paper, Dr. Kiferstein of WHO pointed out that the paper attempted to identify some precise actions which could be taken or initiated by the Commission in order to help implement Primary Health Care (PHC).

115. An International Conference held in Alma-Ata, USSR in 1978 had concluded that the goal of WHO and its Member States - Health for All by the Year 2000 - could be achieved only through the improvement and expansion of PHC. PHC consisted of several components, one of which was the promotion of (safe) food supply and proper nutrition and emphasized the need for joint action at the level of the individual, the family and the community. A Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety (Geneva, 1983; WHO TRS No. 705, 1984) had recommended that food safety should be considered as an integral part of the PHC delivery system. This recommendation had to be seen in the light of the following facts: (i) food safety programmes in developed countries, as commonly carried out (e.g. through official food control) had failed to reduce the incidence of foodborne disease and (ii) in developing countries only a very small proportion of food was subject to any form of control, be it for health or for trade reasons. It was therefore obvious that the following actions were needed to respond to the recommendation of the Expert Committee on Food Safety:

- (i) education of consumers;
- (ii) training of food handlers and of people working with the community (e.g. community workers, nurses, agricultural extension workers and others);
- (iii) development of appropriate technologies; and
- (iv) intersectoral coordination.

116. The Commission was reminded that the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was, after all, implementing a food standards programme and not a food safety programme, but that notwithstanding this, the CAC had certain outputs and established mechanisms which could help implement some of these necessary actions (see para 115 above) which are needed for the integration of food safety into the PHC delivery system. The paper under consideration had therefore made several proposals to this effect such as:

- (i) In addition to the efforts made by the Commission and its Secretariat to help increase the acceptance, or implementation of Codex standards and MRLs by Member States, special effort should be made to draw attention to the valuable advice available in the Codes of Hygienic Practice published in Volumes A to H in the Codex Alimentarius concerning the hygienic handling, storage and distribution of food. These Codes may also be useful as additional training material in food safety for community health workers, agricultural extension workers, home economists, nutritionists and similar staff working with the community who need a knowledge of the basic principles of food safety in order to be able to work with families and/or small food processors to improve the hygiene and nutritional quality of food and to reduce food losses.
- (ii) Government and NGOs (including the food industry) should be encouraged to translate at least selected parts of the Codex Alimentarius into their national languages in order for Codex texts to find their way to small industries and communities.

- (iii) The Secretariat should be requested to produce appropriate information material on the CAC, in conjunction with the information services of FAO and WHO.
- (iv) The Directors-General of FAO and WHO might wish to report, from time to time, to their Governing Bodies, the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly, on those activities of the CAC which are complementary to the promotion of Health For All/2000 and Agriculture towards 2000, in order for these Governing Bodies to better implement the work of CAC.
- (v) The Coordinating Committees of the CAC should be invited to consider the feasibility of introducing on their agenda a permanent item dealing with monitoring of national policies, programmes, services and institutions related to food safety and food control in order to stimulate action at the national level leading to increased technical cooperation activities in food safety between Member States themselves and between Member States, FAO and WHO.
- (vi) The Regional Offices of WHO and FAO should be requested to associate other relevant meetings, such as food safety workshops and seminars, by appropriate timing and venue, with sessions of Regional Coordinating Committees to improve the technical, scientific and practical experience shared among participants.
- (vii) Invitations to Regional Coordinating Committees should be sent by the Secretariat not only to Ministries of Agriculture and Health but also to a wider range of international or regional governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. Such wide participation would help to spread information on how to avoid and manage food hazards and on the need for a sufficient and safe diet.
- (viii) The Coordinating Committees should be invited to further discuss at their forthcoming sessions the possibilities to integrate food safety into the primary health care delivery system at the national level.

117. During the discussion of this topic, several delegations made the point that it was now also the time for Member States to put the valuable advice contained in the Codex Alimentarius into public health practice. For this purpose, a plea was again made concerning the urgent need for more ready availability of Codex texts. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Commission that the standards, codes of practice, methods of analysis and sampling, lists of food additives and pesticide residues had been translated into German by a private person and were available as priced publications.

118. The delegation of Canada suggested that Codex Contact Points thoroughly familiarize themselves with Codex documentation to ensure that appropriate distribution takes place. As an example of the value of Codex publications, the delegation reported that some 10 000 copies of the Codes of Hygienic Practice had been distributed throughout the country and formed the basis for interpreting good manufacturing practice. The delegation also suggested that consideration be given to shortening Codex reports in the interests of better utilization and understanding. However, it was felt that guidelines for National Codex Committees regarding the use of Codex documentation might be useful.

119. The delegation of Norway referred to the need for simplification of Codex texts and supported strongly the idea of reports at suitable intervals to the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO.

120. The delegation of Kenya made reference to a Resolution on Food Safety and Health, adopted by the Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa at its 6th Session, but felt that it was unlikely that Member States had taken steps to implement this Resolution. The delegation called upon developing countries to act and felt that regular monitoring at sessions of the Coordinating Committees of national policies, programmes, services and institutions related to food safety and food control would be a strong stimulus for national action.

121. The observer from the International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) spoke in support of the recommendations contained in the paper under consideration. It was felt that national consumer unions can make an important contribution for the improvement of food safety especially in the field of consumer education.

122. The Chief of the Food Standards Programme informed the Commission that it had been proposed that the FAO Committee on Agriculture, during its session in 1987, would discuss the role of food quality and standards for food security, health and trade. This would offer a unique opportunity to give visibility to the Food Standards Programme and other activities of FAO and WHO in these areas. Concerning the proposal to translate Codex texts into national languages he felt that what was needed at the national level was a simplified leaflet illustrating in a practical manner the provisions of Codex texts. In summing up, the Chairman said that obviously there were significant limitations to what the CAC could do to help in the implementation of PHC. He thought that such action lay more in the field of FAO and WHO. The Chairman considered that the proposals contained in the paper under consideration were worthwhile and should be acted upon in the Regional Coordinating Committees. The Commission agreed with those views.

Promotion of Acceptance or other Implementation of Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues - Role for the Codex Committee on General Principles

123. The Commission agreed that the suggestions contained in document ALINORM 85/40 should be brought to the attention of the Codex Committee on General Principles at its next session.

Utilization of Codex Codes of Practice in Member Countries

124. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/41 setting out replies to a questionnaire which had been issued by the Secretariat regarding the use of Codes of Practice/Hygienic Practice.

125. The Commission noted that the subject had already been discussed by the Executive Committee at its 32nd Session (see ALINORM 85/4, paras. 47-56).

126. In discussing the future work programme of the Commission at its 31st Session, the Executive Committee had stressed the need for an intensified campaign for the acceptance, implementation and utilization of Codex standards and had also noted the importance of Codes of Practice and in particular Codes of Hygienic Practice in furthering the goal of protecting the health of the consumers.

127. The Commission noted that to date more than 30 Codes had so far been elaborated and others were in progress. The more recent ones and those under revision took into account the hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) approach.

128. Unlike Codex Standards, Codex Codes were voluntary texts and were not subject to acceptance. It was therefore difficult to assess the results of the intended purpose, that is to assist governments to ensure that foods were prepared under conditions of good manufacturing practice, in particular under sound hygienic conditions and to facilitate international trade.

129. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee had, therefore, "agreed that it would be appropriate to obtain information on how the Codes of Practice are used in Member Countries" (ALINORM 85/3, para. 162).

130. In CL 1985/11 February 1985 governments had been invited to supply information on the ways in which the Codex Codes of Practice were used in their countries both by regulatory authorities and by industry.

131. The Executive Committee had learnt that replies were received from Argentina, Cuba, Greece, Ireland, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway and Thailand which, in general, showed that countries attached great importance to the Codes of Practice/Hygienic Practice for use in industry, by government regulatory authorities and in the drafting

of new laws on foods. Some countries were translating the Codes into their national languages before using them as instructions to Quality Control Services and Industry and, in some cases, countries had indicated that a large number of Codes were fully acceptable.

132. The Executive Committee had expressed its satisfaction with the positive reaction of governments to the usefulness of Codex Codes of Practice/Hygienic Practice in their countries. It was, however, regretted that comparatively few countries had so far replied to the Circular Letter.

133. The Executive Committee had further recommended that reports on the utilization of the Codes be regularly reviewed through the Regional Coordinating Committees and requested, in particular, that countries be encouraged to make some case studies on the effect of the Codes on improving their commodity distribution systems.

134. The delegation of Mexico informed the Commission that many of the Codes were of great interest, particularly those concerning meat and meat products: it was considered that all codes were invaluable reference documents and to a great extent their texts were reflected in the food legislation of the country.

135. The delegation of the USA stated that the Codes were widely used in the voluntary fish inspection services in the USA to improve processing efficiency and quality control. They were also of great service in adapting US Federal Regulations in the interests of international harmonization of food regulations as, for instance, processed meat products.

136. The Commission agreed that the codes of practice were valuable sources of information both to the developed and developing countries. The Commission agreed with the suggestion of the Executive Committee that countries be encouraged to embark upon some case studies on the effect of the Codes on improving their commodity distribution systems. Reports on the utilization of the Codes should be reviewed by the Regional Coordinating Committees.

Current and Likely Future Workloads of Codex Committees

137. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/42, which had been prepared by the Secretariat, with the object of assessing the current and likely future workloads of all Codex Committees, to enable an opinion to be formed as to how many more sessions of each Codex Committee it would be reasonable to envisage. In introducing the document, the Secretariat pointed out that it was basically an information document. The Secretariat stated that, in its view and for the reasons given in the paper, the work of the Codex General Subject Committees and the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees could be regarded as ongoing. It also appeared to the Secretariat that, on the basis of their current workloads some Codex Commodity Committees might be able to adjourn sine die after one or two more sessions (for details see ALINORM 85/42). The Secretariat also informed the Commission that the United Kingdom had agreed to hold one more session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils.

138. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, host country for the Codex Committee on Meat, proposed that this Committee, which had last met in 1973, be dissolved. In the light of the decision to establish a new Codex Committee - the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods - the dissolution of the Codex Committee on Meat would mean that there was no overall increase in the number of Codex Committees. The Commission accepted the proposal of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and decided to dissolve the Codex Committee on Meat.

Proposals of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)

139. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/17, which was introduced by the observer from the IDF. He referred to the Commission's decision, at its Fifteenth Session in 1983, that a further meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products could be held in 1986 to enable the Committee to complete work still outstanding, following which the

Committee would be expected to adjourn sine die. The observer from the IDF referred to changing technology and the need for revision of standards to avoid their becoming out-of-date. IDF was working on proposals to up-date certain standards and it was unlikely that this work could be completed in one session. There was also a need for codes of practice and guidelines in the dairy sector, for the benefit of developing countries (details were set out in document ALINORM 85/17). In addition, new standards were needed for a number of milk products which were becoming increasingly important in international trade and of special interest to developing countries. In the circumstances, the observer from the IDF requested the Commission to reconsider its decision that the Committee should adjourn sine die after its 1986 session. He proposed that the Committee should meet at least every four years.

140. The delegations of Norway, USA, Ireland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Kenya, France, Spain and Canada supported the request of the observer from the IDF that the Committee should not be adjourned sine die after its 1986 session. The majority of these delegations agreed with a proposal of the delegation of the United Kingdom that rather than meet every four years, the Committee should meet only when there was a real need in terms of work to be done.

141. The delegation of Australia was opposed to the proposal of the IDF. The delegation of Australia stated that continued sessions of the Milk Committee would be an undue burden on the budget of the Programme. The delegation of Australia thought that future sessions (after the 1986 session) of the Milk Committee should be held only if a country could be found to host the Committee.

142. The delegation of New Zealand stated that New Zealand had supported the Milk Committee since its inception. However, New Zealand thought that it should adjourn when it had completed its workload. The delegation of New Zealand thought that the question of whether there should be a further session after 1986 should be a matter for decision by the Commission.

143. Concerning the matter of budgetary support for sessions of the Milk Committee after 1986, the Secretariat informed the Commission that it would be possible to provide for a session of the Committee in every second biennium.

144. The Commission concluded by agreeing to revoke its earlier decision that the Milk Committee should adjourn sine die after its 1986 session. On the question of sessions of the Milk Committee after the 1986 session, it would be a matter for the Commission to decide in the light of the work programme of the Committee. Any future sessions of the Milk Committee after 1986 could, from a budgetary stance, be held not more frequently than one session in every second biennium.

Certification of Products that are in Conformity with Codex Standards

145. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/46 which was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission also had before it the views of the Executive Committee on this topic, as contained in the reports of its 31st and 32nd Sessions (ALINORM 85/3) and ALINORM 85/4).

146. The Commission noted that, at its Tenth Session in 1974, when discussing this topic it had come to the conclusion that "the feasibility of introducing a Codex mark or symbol was very doubtful, and that as any advantages that might be derived therefrom would be largely outweighed by the difficulties, this subject should not be pursued" (ALINORM 85/46, para. 2). The Commission also noted that at the 31st Session of the Executive Committee, a WHO consultant, who was the author of a new paper on this topic (see ALINORM 85/46, para. 1) had come to the conclusion that the position taken by the Commission at its Tenth Session "remained largely valid today" (ALINORM 85/46, para. 3). The author had gone on to state in his paper that "as the organizations are not themselves in a position to act as certifying bodies, this would mean that such certification would have to be exercised at the national level, based on the technical requirements of the Codex" (ALINORM 85/46, para. 4). Following on this, the author raised the possibility of the CAC developing guidelines or codes of practice on this subject, which might be of use to member countries.

147. The Commission further noted that the Executive Committee at its 31st Session had "decided to request the Secretariat to issue a circular letter to governments asking them whether they thought there was a need for a certification system, whether such a system should be an international one or a national one, and what matters should be covered in the certificates to be issued" (ALINORM 85/46, para. 5). The Commission noted that replies had been received from only five countries and that all but one had considered that the establishment of a certification and inspection system was unnecessary and not feasible.

148. The Commission agreed not to pursue this topic.

Views of the Executive Committee at its Thirty First and Thirty Second Sessions and Written Views of Member Governments concerning the Future Direction of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

149. The Commission noted the views of the Executive Committee as contained in the Reports of its Thirty First and Thirty Second Sessions (ALINORM 85/3 and ALINORM 85/4) and the written views of Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand as contained in ALINORM 85/38.

Future Work

150. The Chairman invited delegations to give their views on medium and long-term future activities of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The Chairman noted that membership of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was still increasing and that countries which had not yet become members of the Commission would be encouraged to do so. He also noted that the Secretariat was trying to identify sources of funding, to enable increased participation of developing countries at sessions of Codex Regional Coordinating Committees.

151. The Chairman informed the Commission that it had been proposed that the FAO Committee on Agriculture should, at its forthcoming session, have on its agenda the role of food quality control and standards in food security, health and trade.

152. The delegation of Kenya proposed that FAO, WHO and UNDP should find resources to enable governments to install the necessary laboratory and training facilities to implement standards. Provisions on food additives and pesticide residues were particularly difficult to control.

153. The Chairman reminded the Commission that requests for such resources must come from member governments and that they have to be addressed through the country representatives of the Organizations. The matter may also need to be raised in the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO and with UNDP.

154. The delegation of Canada thought that an action plan for making Codex technical documents better known was needed. The delegation stated that the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme had issued some of the finest technical material at present available, but that this was often not reaching interested audiences.

155. The delegation of Cuba recalled that possible improvements to the working mechanisms of the Commission had been discussed at the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. The basic proposals were to establish a technical programme for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the short, medium and long-terms: consideration of mechanisms for participation by developing countries in subsidiary bodies; mechanisms for accepting Codex documents: technical assistance to developing countries; the elaboration of guidelines for more effective participation in Codex Committees and the preparation of much clearer terms of reference for the work of the Regional Coordinating Committees than those currently in effect. The delegation of Cuba recalled that the Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean had also spoken on the topic at the Thirty Second Session of the Executive Committee, indicating that these problems would be considered at the next meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

156. The delegation of Mexico made several proposals related to the preparation of an annual programme of work and information on past and future activities of Codex Committees. The delegation also thought that an annual directory should be issued listing Codex Contact Points, auxiliary bodies and national and international bodies whose activities were related to Codex work and that an updated list of Codex documents should be issued bi-monthly. The delegation also spoke of the need to establish concrete assistance programmes between the developed and developing country members of the Commission and the need for regional and sub-regional and other bodies working in fields related to Codex work to allocate technical and financial support for seminars, training courses, workshops, etc. on specific topics of interest to be held in conjunction with Codex meetings. Mention was also made of the advisability of establishing as in other international standardizing bodies, an auxiliary body to deal with the problems and specific needs of the developing countries.

157. The delegation of Sweden pointed out that implementation and enforcement of standards was the responsibility of member countries and that inter-country exchange of information on Codex activities should be encouraged. The delegation thought that continued evaluation of Codex work was very important. The delegation also thought that there should be a continuous evaluation by member countries of their activities along the lines discussed in the report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety. The delegation supported the proposed role of the Codex Committee on General Principles in the promotion and implementation of Codex standards. The Regional Coordinating Committees also had an important role to play in promoting acceptance of the Codex standards.

158. The delegation of Guinea enquired whether Codex had undertaken any work on alcoholic beverages and mineral waters. The delegation was informed that no work had been undertaken on alcoholic beverages, but that a European Regional Standard had been developed for natural mineral waters.

159. The delegation of the United Kingdom thought that there was a danger that Codex standards could become outdated because of rapid advances in food technology. It was likely that in the future, instead of fixed compositional standards, more emphasis would be placed on more informative labelling. The delegation thought that over the next few years, Codex standards might require revision to provide more precise labelling provisions. Another topic that would grow in importance in the coming years was nutrition - both in developed and developing countries. The delegation thought that the CAC should see to what extent it could increase its role in promoting better nutrition. The delegation noted that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses had already been given a certain mandate in the area of nutritional considerations in Codex work.

160. The delegation of India stated that to implement Codex standards it would be necessary to find ways and means to provide proper training and equipment. Also it would be desirable to try and simplify the standards.

161. In summing up, the Chairman stated that some useful ideas and suggestions had emerged from the discussions regarding the future work programme, its organization and implementation and that these should receive careful consideration. The CAC should always be ready for changes that would make it more effective. Keeping in view the Commission's mandate, member countries were requested to submit further views in writing to the Secretariat on this topic, which should also be an item on the agenda of the Codex Committee on General Principles.

162. The delegation of the United Kingdom was requested to prepare a document on how the CAC might play a greater role as regards nutritional considerations in Codex work in the years to come. The delegation undertook to prepare such a document for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles.

Other Matters

163. There were no further suggestions or proposals put forward under this Agenda Item additional to those considered under Future Work.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD

Progress Report on Implementation of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food

164. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/44 Part I which reported progress by countries in the implementation of the Code of Ethics since its 15th Session.

165. The Commission was informed that, as a result of further circular letters on the subject, four further countries (Argentina, Canada, Ireland and Sweden) had replied indicating that the provisions of their national legislation were generally in line with the provisions of the Code or had otherwise indicated a positive attitude to the Code.

166. The Commission requested the Secretariat to continue to seek a greater degree of responses from governments regarding the implementation of the Code.

Proposed Amendment of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food (CAC/RCP 20 - 1979)

167. The Commission considered document ALINORM 85/44, Part II, which recalled the position taken by the Executive Committee at its 31st Session (June 1984) ^{1/} - reproduced in para. 6 of the document - and also contained the views of the Regional Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and for Europe, as well as the views of five governments (Argentina, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand).

168. The Commission also had before it the report of the 32nd Session of the Executive Committee (document ALINORM 85/4), which reflected its deliberations on the views of Regional Coordinating Committees and governments set forth in document ALINORM 85/44, Part II, as well as its decision to maintain the position it had adopted at its 31st Session regarding the draft amendments.

169. The amendments proposed by the Executive Committee read as follows:

(i) Add new paragraph (g) in the Preamble as follows:

" (g) The International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes sets forth principles for the protection and promotion of breast-milk feeding, which is an important aspect of primary health care."

(ii) Paragraph 5.9 to read as follows:

" 5.9 Food for infants, children and other vulnerable groups should be in accordance with standards elaborated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission."

(iii) Paragraph 5.10(b) to read as follows:

" (b) Information concerning the nutritional value of food should not mislead the public."

170. In presenting the aforementioned documents to the Commission at the request of the Chairman, the Legal Counsel of WHO recalled that, after the Code of Ethics had been adopted by the Commission in 1979, and the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes by the World Health Assembly in 1981, the question arose whether Section 5.9 of the Code of Ethics was fully compatible with the WHO Code. This question had been considered repeatedly by the Commission and Executive Committee and various amendments had been proposed and examined at various levels. A set of three draft

^{1/} ALINORM 85/3, para. 70.

amendments had been agreed upon by the Executive Committee and were now submitted to the Commission for a final decision.

171. The Chairman thanked the WHO Legal Counsel and stressed the point that the time had now come for the Commission to take a decision. He felt that the Commission should give favourable consideration to the adoption of the amendments proposed by the Executive Committee. He invited any delegations who might have doubts on the text proposed to express their views. The Swedish delegation, supported by the Norwegian delegation, stated that, in its opinion, it would have been preferable to maintain the following phrase (at present in Article 5.9(b) of the Code of Ethics):

"No claims in any form should be permitted that would directly or indirectly encourage a mother not to breastfeed her child, or imply that breastmilk substitutes are superior to breastmilk".

172. The Commission, having noted the above observations, decided to adopt the amendments in the form submitted by the Executive Committee.

PART VII

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

173. The Committee had before it the reports of the 17th and 18th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 85/22 and ALINORM 85/22A). Specific items requiring further action were outlined in ALINORM 85/21, Part I.

174. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R.H. McKay (Canada) introduced the two reports. He expressed satisfaction that the Committee had been able to advance the Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods as well as the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling to Step 8 of the Procedure.

Labelling Provisions (Name of the Food) in Codex Draft Guidelines for Products where part of the Animal Protein has been substituted by Vegetable Proteins or other Proteins (paras 232-241 of ALINORM 85/22A)

175. In referring to the other matters which had been considered by the Committee including endorsements, Mr. McKay informed the Commission that the following two guidelines at Step 5 had been submitted to the Committee under its revised terms of reference for endorsement:

- (i) Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Protein Products and Milk Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products (Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/16) and
- (ii) Proposed Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Proteins in Foods (Appendix II to ALINORM 85/30) which were being developed by the Committees on Processed Meat and Poultry Products and on Vegetable Proteins, respectively.

176. The Guidelines contained two alternative proposals concerning the name of the food where Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) partially or wholly substituted the animal protein ingredient of the food. The Commission was informed that this matter had been referred to the 31st session of the Executive Committee which, in turn, had agreed with the view which had been expressed in para 63 of the Report of the 6th Session of the Committee on General Principles. This paragraph, in substance, permitted the use of the name laid down in a Codex standard as part of the name of another similar product not covered by the standard under certain specific conditions (para 139 of ALINORM 85/3). The Commission was informed that while there had been considerable discussion on this matter in the Labelling Committee, member countries had reiterated their divergent points of view on the labelling provisions in the above two guidelines. The Committee on Labelling had, therefore, referred the matter to the 16th Session of the Commission.

177. The 32nd Session of the Executive Committee had made the following observations: regulations on the inclusion of VPP in foods varied widely at the national level; the

views expressed by the 31st Session of the Executive Committee were confirmed and would apply to the two Guidelines. The Executive Committee had recommended that the Commission should attempt to reach a consensus on this issue (paras 75-82 of ALINORM 85/4).

178. The Chairman of the Committee on Vegetable Proteins recalled the rationale for establishing the Committee on Vegetable Proteins, namely to facilitate trade in these products and, even more important, to improve the nutrition in countries where products containing the traditional protein ingredients were in short supply or too expensive and to ensure the safety of VPP. In conformity with the present trend to move food legislation away from recipe standards, comprehensive guidelines were being elaborated by CCVP. He indicated that member countries and especially developing countries should make every effort to participate in the work of the Committee to resolve the few problems still requiring attention.

179. The delegation of the United Kingdom, while not opposing the use of other protein products in foods, felt that Codex texts on this matter should ensure that consumers were properly informed of the composition of such products and expressed its disappointment with the views which had been expressed by the 32nd Session of the Executive Committee. The delegation was of the opinion that the statement in para. 63 of the Report of the 6th Session of the Committee on General Principles left too much scope for misuse. It offered its cooperation in the Committee on Vegetable Proteins. This view was supported by the delegations from France, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Thailand, Spain, Indonesia and Austria (in principle).

180. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany had the view that this matter was a fundamental problem and merited, therefore, more attention than reflected in the provisions now contained in the Guidelines. The delegation was of the opinion that the 6th Session of the Committee on General Principles had not come to a conclusion on this topic; however, the advice was not applicable to meat products or milk products. The latter point was supported by the delegation of Austria.

181. The delegation of Denmark supported the solution agreed to by the Executive Committee and pointed out that it did take consumers' interests into account. The three specified conclusions outlined in paragraph 139 of ALINORM 85/3 required that the name should be appropriately qualified and that the General Principles of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods should be complied with. Further the scope section of a Codex standard might indicate whether the name was reserved exclusively for the standardized product. The delegation also expressed the view that it was important to provide advice on this matter to developing countries which have not yet very detailed food legislation. This view was supported by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya, Canada, Ireland, Australia and the United States.

182. The observer of IOCU expressed the view that VPPs should be products in their own right and alternatives to traditional foods. They should not be promoted as substitutes; for new formulations, new designations should be found. The observer of IOCU suggested that guidelines on criteria for the proper description of such products be developed.

183. The delegation of the United States held the view that such new names might not be understood by the consumer and that the names for products containing VPP should relate to the traditional products to indicate their nature. The delegation also stated that VPP should be substituted only where appropriate.

184. The delegations of Hungary, Iraq and Brazil indicated maximum levels of use of VPP stipulated in their countries. The delegation of Iraq also pointed to the need for appropriate methodology to determine VPP in meat products. The delegation of Austria opposed maximum levels.

185. The Commission agreed that the views expressed by the Executive Committee in para 139 of ALINORM 85/3 might not be applicable to all Codex Committees concerned and decided to leave it to these committees to determine whether the labelling provisions for products under consideration, if elaborated in accordance with the views expressed in the Executive Committee, would not mislead the consumer. The Chairman of the Committee on Vegetable proteins indicated that the Committee would attempt to improve its guide-

lines in order to assist other committees to develop additional guidelines for specific foods.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/22A)

186. The Commission noted that the above standard had been finalized. It noted also that certain provisions, particularly these involving the labelling of irradiated foods might require further review.

187. The delegation of France stated its opposition to section 5.2.2 dealing with irradiated ingredients in a composite food.

188. The delegation of Thailand stated that it could not accept several provisions of the standard.

Status of the Standard

189. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/22A)

190. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction that the above guidelines had been finalized and recommended their adoption. However, attention was drawn to the fact that the RDA included in Section 3.3.4 had not been thoroughly discussed and had been referred to the CCFSU for review. The Secretariat indicated that it had referred the Committee's request to FAO and WHO that both organizations should continue with their work on internationally agreed recommendations for the intake of certain nutrients and that the response of the two organizations would be communicated to the CCFSU and the CCFL in due course.

Status of the Guidelines

191. The Committee adopted at Step 8 the Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling noting that further work was being carried out on appropriate methods of analysis for the determination of nutrients by a Working Group of the CCFL.

Consideration of Draft Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards (Appendix V to ALINORM 85/22A)

192. The Commission was informed that the above guidelines had been developed to assist Codex committees in applying the provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods in Codex Standards being elaborated or revised.

193. The Commission noted that the guidelines followed the provisions of the General Standard and contained, in addition, a provision on non-retail containers. The Commission agreed with a proposal by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to delete the last two sentences of section 4.2.4.1 (iii).

Status of the Guidelines

194. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that these guidelines be developed outside the Step Procedure and to distribute them together with the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards as amended.

Codex Guidelines on Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

195. The Commission also agreed with the recommendation of the Labelling Committee not to continue with the elaboration of Codex guidelines on the labelling of non-retail containers at the present time.

Advertising by Mass Media (paras 175-180 of ALINORM 85/22A)

196. The Commission had before it also ALINORM 85/21 Part I and LIM 16 containing the view of Sweden on this subject.

197. The Commission was informed that the CCFL had, as requested by the Commission at its 15th Session, considered a working paper on advertising as well as legal opinions of FAO and WHO on whether advertising was within the terms of reference of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Commission was informed that the CCFL had given consideration to the legal opinions as well as a draft Code on Advertising and had decided not to pursue this matter at this time. The Commission was also informed that the CCFL would continue with its revision of the General Guidelines on Claims which had been approved by the 15th Session of the Commission.

198. The delegation of Sweden, referring to LIM 16, stated that it was in favour of establishing ethical standards in food advertising for the benefit of consumer protection as well as fair trade practices. The delegation pointed out that food advertising and especially transnational advertising was increasing and that ethical standards should be elaborated within the Codex framework. The legal opinions of FAO and WHO had confirmed that such work was within the terms of reference of CCFL.

199. The delegation of Sweden also pointed out that the Guidelines on Claims elaborated by the Commission applied to labels only and not to advertising. The delegation of Sweden was of the opinion that work on ethical standards in food advertising should continue. Care should be taken not to duplicate the Code established by the International Chamber of Commerce. Sweden proposed that a study should be prepared by a consultant setting out the problems and how to resolve them for submission to the Labelling Committee.

200. The views expressed by the delegation of Sweden were supported by the delegations of Norway, Poland, Finland, Thailand, India, Kenya, Iraq, Ghana, Guinea and Australia. The latter delegation proposed that guidelines might be an appropriate format for Codex recommendations on advertising.

201. Several delegations pointed out that advertising was playing a major role in food promotion and exaggerated claims used in their countries and non-advertised foods were at a disadvantage. Therefore further advice was needed.

202. The delegation of Belgium supported the decision of the CCFL not to undertake work on advertising at the present time. This view was supported by the delegations of the United States, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Argentina.

203. The delegation of Canada stated that it had simply performed a secretariat function in drafting the working paper on advertising. The Government of Canada remained firmly opposed to the elaboration of a Code of Practice on Advertising.

204. The delegation of the United States felt that the development of a Code of Practice was not within the Committee's terms of reference.

205. The delegation of Austria had the view that a new study might be carried out and stated that in Austria food legislation covered advertising matters in that country: however, this did not apply to transnational advertising.

206. The observer of IOCU expressed concern as regards the possibility to control claims in advertising and hoped that the CCFL could identify the potential problems and consider them in connection with its work on claims. The observer also supported the Swedish proposal.

207. The Commission noted that about equal numbers of delegations had spoken for and against the Swedish proposal and decided not to prepare a paper at this time, but to refer the comments to the CCFL for evaluation. The Commission requested to be kept informed on this matter.

Other Matters arising from the Reports of the Committee

(i) Criteria for the Revision of Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards (paras 142-143 of ALINORM 85/22A)

208. The Commission noted that the CCFL had recommended to the Commission that the labelling sections of all Codex Standards should be reviewed and revised in accordance with the newly adopted revised General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and the Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards. For this purpose it had also submitted a specific work plan as contained in paras 142-143 of ALINORM 85/22A. The Commission agreed with the above recommendations.

(ii) Presentation of Mandatory Declarations on the Label (paras 172-174)

209 The Commission was informed that at several sessions the CCFL had considered the problem of trade barriers created by national labelling provisions established in addition to those contained in the Codex Standard, but that no conclusion had been reached. The Commission agreed with a proposal by the CCFL to refer this matter to the CCGP to be discussed by that Committee in connection with the acceptance procedure.

(iii) Editorial Amendment of Certain Terms for Date Marking in the Spanish Versions of Codex Documents (para 6 and Appendix IV of ALINORM 85/22)

210. The Commission agreed that all Codex documents should be reviewed and revised as appropriate to reflect the terminology set out in Appendix IV of ALINORM 85/22.

International Wine Office (IWO)

211. The delegation of France informed the Commission, on behalf of the IWO, of the following: the Group on regulations and quality control of the IWO had proposed a draft standard for the labelling of wines which took into account the principles of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The provisions on mandatory requirements, being referred to the next General Assembly of the IWO (September 1985) contained the following: designation of the product, name and address of bottler, nominal volume, country of origin, information concerning ingredients, alcohol content.

212. The Commission noted the IWO statement and instructed the Secretariat to inform the IWO that in reviewing the above standard it would be useful to take account of the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)

214. The report of the Seventeenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORM 85/12) was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. A. Feberwee of the Netherlands.

215. Mr. Feberwee informed the Commission that the CCFA, in addition to endorsement of provisions for food additives and contaminants in commodity standards, was carrying out work on the following subjects:

- Food Additive Intake
- Migrants from Packaging Materials
- Consideration of flavours
- Industrial and Environmental Contaminants in Food.

- Specifications for Food Additives
- International Numbering System of Food Additives.

Packaging Materials

216. The Commission noted the limited approach being made by the Committee into the field of packaging materials and reiterated the earlier decision that it had taken while discussing the subject of food packaging under Agenda Item 9.

Consideration of Flavours

217. The Commission endorsed the opinion of the Committee that there was a need to set up an ad hoc working group of experts to establish priorities for evaluation of flavours and requested both FAO and WHO to explore the possibilities for convening such a group at an early date. The Commission also agreed that in the meantime the current work in CCFA in this regard should be continued.

Maximal levels for tin

218. The delegation of Malaysia expressed the view that since the dietary intake of tin, as reported by the working group on food additive intake, was low, and that as there seemed to be no risk as regards long-term toxicity, the figures for maximal levels of tin in processed foods should not be lowered below 250 mg/kg. The views of Malaysia were supported by the delegations of India and Indonesia.

219. The Commission asked the CCFA to consider the question raised by Malaysia and supported by the delegations of India and Indonesia at its next session.

Report on developments concerning Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt held at Step 8

220. The Commission noted that the draft standard for Food Grade Salt had been held at Step 8 and that it had asked (i) the CCFA to re-examine the sections especially on contaminants and (ii) other relevant Codex Committees to review the sections on labelling, hygiene and methods of analysis with a view to endorsing them. The Commission agreed to reconsider the standard for adoption at the present session.

221. The Commission noted that the sections on labelling, hygiene and methods of analysis in the standard for Food Grade Salt had been endorsed by the relevant Codex Committees with minor changes in the text which were not considered substantial. The CCFA had considered the section on contaminants at its 17th Session, but had been unable to come to a consensus in making recommendations for maximum levels for contaminants (para 165, ALINORM 85/12). The Committee had agreed that the question of intake was a vital one in arriving at a proper decision on the maximum allowable contaminant levels in Food Grade Salt, and had sent out a circular letter (CL 1984/26-FA) to governments seeking more information on (i) contaminant content of salt, (ii) intake of salt and (iii) approach of governments to establishing maximum levels of contaminants in food. The Commission noted that, on the basis of the information gathered as a result of the circular letter, the CCFA hoped to arrive at internationally acceptable levels of contaminants at its 18th Session to be held in November 1985.

Status of the Standard on Food Grade Salt

222. The Commission noted that the standard for Food Grade Salt, work on which had been completed except for the provisions on contaminants, had been before the Committee for consideration for quite some time. Considering the urgent need for the standard by the industry and by many of the member countries, the Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt at Step 8 of the procedure, with the proviso that the provisions on contaminants be included later into the standard, when finalized by the CCFA.

223. The delegations of Thailand, Argentina and the Federal Republic of Germany reserved their positions regarding this decision. The delegation of Thailand expressed

a reservation, in view of the high amount (97%) of sodium chloride that the standard required. The delegations of Argentina and Federal Republic of Germany expressed reservations, in view of the long list of food additives included in the standard.

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives

224. The Commission adopted the specifications in categories I and II of Appendix IX of ALINORM 85/12 as advisory texts not subject to acceptance.

Others matters arising from the Report of the 17th Session of the Committee

225. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/21-Part I containing in paragraphs 12-16 a report on other matters arising from the Report of the 17th Session of the Committee, which were of interest to the Commission. The Commission agreed with the actions described in the above-mentioned report.

Codex Definition of Food Additive (para 38 of ALINORM 85/12)

226. In the English version of the Procedural Manual (5th Edition, Page 29), the definition of 'food additive' speaks of a substance which is not normally used as a "typical ingredient of the food". The reference should be to a substance which is not normally used as a "typical ingredient of food" in general.

227. The Commission agreed to the deletion of the word "the" from line 3 in the definition of "food additive" in the English version of the Procedural Manual, thus bringing the English text into conformity with the French and Spanish texts.

Action needed by CCFA resulting from a change in ADI status of Food Additives

228. The Commission agreed with the action taken by the CCFA (ALINORM 85/12, paras 93-97, Appendix III) to change the endorsement status of certain food additives to be in line with their revised ADI status.

Redraft of the Carry-Over Principle (paras 153-157, Appendix VII)

229. The Commission noted that the Committee had redrafted the Carry-Over Principle by combining the various texts adopted by the Commission into a single consolidated statement. Comments on the redraft of the Carry-Over Principle were being sought from member governments at Step 3.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

231. The Commission had before it the Reports of the 15th, 16th and 17th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) (ALINORM 85/24, 85/24A and 85/24B), respectively, and addenda to these documents. Amendments proposed to maximum residue limits (MRLs) at Steps 5 and 8 were contained in ALINORM 85/43 - Part I and Add. 1 and Conference Room Document LIM 19. The Commission also had before it the Report of the First Session of the Group of Developing Countries in Asia concerning Pesticide Residue Problems (ALINORM 85/31) and a document prepared by India on the need to label bulk food containers as regards pesticide residue content (Conference Room Document-LIM 2).

232. The Reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Ir. A.J. Pieters, who pointed out that participation in the Committee was increasing, reaching 46 countries in 1984. An examination of participation showed that a core of around 35 countries always participated at sessions of the CCPR. Continuity in participation was necessary in order to derive full benefits from the work of the CCPR. This is why the CCPR had recommended that international organizations, such as FAO and WHO, should identify sources

of funds to assist participation by developing countries. A large number of MRLs and several publications in a variety of related fields (Ref. CAC/PR series and Volume XIII of the Codex Alimentarius) illustrated the achievements of the CCPR. The Committee had, at its 17th Session, referred a number of recommendations relating to the needs of developing countries, the acceptance of Codex MRLs and the need to control PCBs to the Commission. Ir. Pieters expressed his disappointment with the number of acceptances of Codex MRLs so far received. He hoped that the document 'Recommended Regulatory Practices to facilitate Acceptance and Use of Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticide Residues in Foods' (ALINORM 85/24A-Add.2) would prove helpful in reaching harmonization of MRLs at the international level. Ir. Pieters then outlined briefly the on-going work of the CCPR, including work on environmental contaminants.

Consideration of MRLs at Steps 5 and 8, including Amendments to Codex MRLs

233. The Commission agreed to consider MRLs at Steps 5 and 8, substantive and non-substantive amendments to Codex MRLs together, without entering into technical discussion (see ALINORM 85/24 - Add.1, 85/24A - Add.1 and 85/24B - Add.1). In conformity with the established procedures and the recommendations of the CCPR, the Commission reached the following decisions:

- (a) All temporary MRLs being held by the Commission at Step 8 pending toxicological reevaluation of the pesticides by the JMPR should be returned to Step 7 of the Procedure. This was done for the sake of consistency, since other temporary MRLs were also being held at Step 7 by the CCPR for the same reason. (These were for: captafol, fenitrothion, paraquat, chlorothalonil, sec-butylamine, cyanofenphos, acephate and menthamidophos in ALINORM 85/24 - Add. 1).
- (b) All MRLs for cyhexatin (ALINORM 85/24 - Add.1) should be returned to Step 7 so that they can be considered by the CCPR together with MRLs for azocyclotin, a closely related pesticide.
- (c) All MRLs at Step 5 in ALINORM 85/24 - Add.1, 85/24A - Add.1 and 85/24B - Add.1 should be advanced to Step 6 of the Procedure, unless the omission of Steps 6 and 7 had been recommended by the CCPR.
- (d) All MRLs indicated in ALINORM 85/24B - Add.1 as being at Step "5/8" (i.e. MRLs at Step 5 where Step 6 and 7 have already been carried out by the CCPR) should be adopted at Step 5 and also adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs (these were for cypermethrin, permethrin, etrimfos, deltamethrin and bendiocarb).
- (e) All MRLs at Step 5 where the CCPR had recommended the omission of Steps 6 and 7 should be adopted as Codex MRLs, except temporary MRLs (i.e. where the temporary ADIs were pending reevaluation by the JMPR) which should only be advanced to Step 7.
- (f) All MRLs at Step 8 (i.e. those supported by firm ADIs) should be adopted as Codex MRLs.
- (g) Comments received from Governments at Step 8 should be indicated in the Report of the Commission and brought to the attention of the CCPR, where appropriate.

234. Comments had been received on the MRLs listed in ALINORM 85/24 - Add.1 from the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, The Netherlands and Thailand. Comments relating to safety aspects were as follows: objection was raised to the MRLs for carbophenothion in view of the very low ADI estimated for this pesticide. Similar objections were also raised in connection with methamidophos and fenthion. Results of toxicological testing of thiabendazole in progress should be referred to the JMPR in order to clarify certain questions. Recent tests carried out with chlorothalonil should be evaluated together with the results of further on-going studies. The results of recent toxicological tests on cypermethrin

should be clarified (see ALINORM 85/43 - Part I and Add. 1 and Conference Room Document 19). Comments had been received on the MRLs listed in ALINORM 85/24A - Add.1 from Ireland, Denmark, France and the Netherlands. The comments of the Federal Republic of Germany were received by the Secretariat too late for inclusion in a working document. Comments relating to safety aspects were as follows: in view of the high consumption of cereal products in some countries MRLs for etrimfos were not acceptable. The MRLs for isophenphos and phorate were not acceptable in view of the low ADI of the pesticide. Toxicological studies for aldicarb were considered to be deficient. Examination of the effects of chlorpyrifos and isofenphos on cholinergic reacting organs was considered necessary before further MRLs could be contemplated. Further study of deltamethrin, metalaxyl isofenphos, permethrin, pirimiphos-methyl, thiabendazol and thiomethon was considered to be necessary.

Consequences of Withdrawal of ADIs by the JMPR

235. The Commission noted that the withdrawal of ADIs or temporary ADIs by the JMPR affected Codex MRLs and that the Commission, at the present session, was facing two types of situation:

- (1) where ADIs had been withdrawn but where JMPR and/or CCPR would shortly reconsider the pesticide, and
- (2) where ADIs had been withdrawn and where no further toxicological data were to be expected.

236. The Commission therefore agreed as follows:

- (a) The Codex MRLs or temporary MRLs for binapacryl, sec.-butylamine, chinomethionat, folpet and demeton-S-methyl should be referred to the CCPR for reconsideration, and
- (b) The Codex MRLs for cyanofenphos, coumaphos and folpet should be withdrawn. As a consequence, these Codex MRLs would become 'guideline levels', except for cyanofenphos which is no longer manufactured and for which no guideline levels need be specified.

Non-Substantive Amendments to Codex MRLs

237. The Commission was informed of a number of non-substantive amendments to the definitions of the residues of certain pesticides as indicated in Conference Room Document LIM 7 (the new residue definitions will also be given in Part 2 of the Codex Guide Concerning Pesticide Residues, CAC/PR 2-1985). The Commission was also informed of certain editorial changes to the description of food commodities to which Codex MRLs applied.

238. The Commission agreed to the above changes being made.

Other Matters arising from the Reports of the CCPR

- Glossary of Terms

239. The Commission was informed that the CCPR had drawn up a glossary of terms required for its work. Some of these were revised versions of terms included in existing Codex documents, while others were new terms or terms adopted and used by the JMPR.

240. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should include these terms in Codex publications as appropriate.

- Recommended National Practice to Facilitate Acceptance and Use of Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues

241. The Commission had before it the above document (ALINORM 85/24A - Add.2) developed by the Working Group on Regulatory Principles of the CCPR. It also had before it a

Resolution adopted by the CCPR (Annex I to Appendix V, ALINORM 85/24B) urging governments to make use of the 'Recommended National Practice' document quoted above and to accept, as a matter of national policy, Codex MRLs in furthering the aims of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

242. The Commission endorsed both the 'Recommended National Practice' document and the Resolution quoted above as its own Recommendations.

- Resolution concerning PCBs

243. The Commission had before it a draft Resolution adopted by the CCPR (Annex I to Appendix VII, ALINORM 85/24B) urging governments to take such measures as would result in the reduction of contamination of food by PCBs.

244. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that the Codex Alimentarius Commission might not be the appropriate body to make such recommendations and that existing environmental contamination by PCBs required the establishment of appropriate maximum levels set for PCBs in foods by the CCPR. The delegation of the Netherlands pointed out that the recommendations in question were only a first step and that the CCPR intended to set appropriate maximum levels for certain foods. There were, however, many difficulties in this respect, including the matter of reaching agreement on the methods of analysis to be used (see paras 229-235, ALINORM 85/24B).

245. The Commission endorsed the draft Resolution as its own Recommendation.

- Pesticide Residues in Rabbit Meat: Statement by the Delegation of the People's Republic of China

246. As to pesticide residues in Rabbit meat, in the light of paragraph 282 concerning Rabbit on page 43 of ALINORM 85/24A indicating that the working group had concluded that rabbit meat could not be included in categories of carcass meat or poultry, the delegation of China suggested that pesticide residues in frozen rabbit and low fat meat should be treated in the same way as fish and fishery products. The reason for this was that the content of fat in frozen rabbit averaged about 2 percent and was very similar to fish products. The delegation of China requested that this matter be referred to the upcoming session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for further discussion.

Recommendation of the Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries

247. The Commission had before it Recommendations developed by the above Working Group and adopted by the CCPR (Annex I, Appendix IV, ALINORM 85/24B). The Recommendation covered various aspects relating to the needs of developing countries aimed at improving pesticide residue control.

248. The Commission endorsed the Recommendations and requested the Secretariat to bring them to the attention of governments and of interested international organizations.

Resolution on Acceptances adopted by the Group of Developing Countries in Asia concerning Pesticide Residue Problems

249. The Commission had before it the Report of the 1st Session of the above Group (ALINORM 85/31). The Secretariat explained that the Report of the Group contained a matter of fundamental importance relating to the acceptance by governments of Codex MRLs. The Group had recommended to governments to adopt Codex standards but, in any event, to apply Codex MRLs to imports of food products in the interest of facilitating trade. This meant either giving "limited acceptance" or applying national maximum residue limits where these were less stringent than the Codex MRL, or otherwise allowing free distribution of food in conformity with Codex MRLs.

250. Developing countries were ready to adopt Codex MRLs, but were hesitating because they were awaiting the adoption of Codex MRLs by other trading partners in the developed countries.

251. The Observer from EEC indicated that a communication from the Community concerning the updating of the 4th, 5th and 6th Series of Codex MRLs covering 13 pesticides (additional to the 16 pesticides communicated previously) had been distributed. This communication indicated the position of the Community and of certain of its Member States, its legislation in the matter being optional. The Commission endorsed the Resolution of the Group of Developing Countries in Asia relating to the acceptance of Codex MRLs and noted with satisfaction the statement of the Observer from EEC.

Labelling of Bulk Containers for Export/Import in Relation to Use of Pesticides

252. The Commission had before it a Conference Room Document (LIM 2) prepared by India. The delegation of India, in introducing the document, stressed the need for an indication on the label or in accompanying documents of the names of pesticides likely to be present in food commodities prior to their export. In view of the limited analytical capabilities available in developing countries, such information would facilitate the detection of pesticide residues in the importing countries. Furthermore analysis of pesticide residues to check for compliance with the MRLs of the importing countries was important to protect the consumer.

253. Several delegations stated that the Indian proposal amounted to a requirement for the mandatory label declaration of contaminants in food and that such declaration would also involve great practical difficulties.

254. The Commission agreed that this matter be referred to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Labelling for consideration.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

256. The Commission had before it the reports of the 19th and 20th Sessions of the above Committee (ALINORMS 85/13 and 85/13A) which were introduced by the rapporteur Dr. R.W. Weik (USA). The rapporteur with the concurrence of the delegation of Switzerland, reminded the Commission that the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collection, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters which the Committee proposed for adoption at Step 8 of the Procedure would be considered in conjunction with the European Standard for Natural Mineral Water since the End Product Specifications, which had been reviewed by an ad hoc Working Group of the Committee, were identical in both documents and could usefully be discussed together at that time (see paras 346-354).

257. The Commission noted that the Committee had endorsed the hygiene provisions for the following:

- Draft General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products
- Draft Standard for Soy Protein Products
- Draft Standard for Wheat Gluten
- Draft Standard for Certain Pulses
- Standard for Pulpy Mango Products
- Standard for Guava Nectars
- Standard for Whole Maize Meal
- Standard for Degermed Maize Meal and Grits

Amendment of the General Principles of Food Hygiene at Step 8

258. The Commission was informed that, at its 19th Session, the Committee had agreed to amend the General Principles to include certain provisions for "lot" and for building facilities.

259. At its 20th Session the delegation of the Netherlands had proposed a further series of amendments which the Committee agreed to consider. The agreed amendments were attached to ALINORM 85/13A as Appendix VI and were submitted to the Commission for adoption at Step 8.

Status of the Amendments to the General Principles of Food Hygiene

260. The Commission noted that the amendments were not extensive and adopted them at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Microbiological Criteria for Pre-Cooked Frozen Shrimps and Prawns at Step 5

261. The Commission noted that the above had been prepared for addition to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Pre-Cooked Frozen Shrimps and Prawns as end product specifications. The criteria had been discussed and agreed by both the Committee on Food Hygiene and the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the Committee now recommended that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted and the provisions adopted at Step 8.

Status of the Microbiological Criteria for Pre-cooked Frozen Shrimps and Prawns

262. The Commission agreed with the Committee's recommendation and adopted the Microbiological Criteria at Step 8.

263. The delegation of Poland was of the opinion that the Criteria should stay at Step 6 for further comment by governments.

Amendment to Section V of the International Code of Hygienic Practice for Dessicated Coconut to include Microbiological Specifications as End Product Specifications

264. The Commission noted that at its 31st Session, the Executive Committee had agreed to the amendments proposed by the Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 85/3 paras 143-149) and that subsequently the Committee had recommended that the microbiological specification be advanced to Step 5 and that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted. (ALINORM 85/13A paras 47-50)

Status of the Amendment

265. The Commission agreed to the measures recommended by the Committee and adopted the end product specification to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Dessicated Coconut at Step 8.

Amendment to Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products to include Mèlange

266. The Commission noted that the above amendments had been issued at Step 3 of the Procedure at the 19th Session of the Committee (see ALINORM 85/13 paras 99-110). At its 20th Session, the Committee had received no government comments and had concluded that the proposed amendment was acceptable.

267. It had, therefore, recommended to the Commission that the amended text should be advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure and that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted.

Status of the Amendment of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products to include Mèlange

268. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Committee and adopted the amended text at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Initiation of the Amendment of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Acid and Acidified Low Acid Canned Foods

269. The Commission was informed that a Working Group on Low Acid and Acidified Low Acid Canned Foods had met in Chipping Campden in April 1984 and had proposed a series of amendments to the Code which modified the introduction, the table of contents and sections 7, 8, 9 and 10 (see ALINORM 85/13A Appendix V Annex 1). The Committee had agreed that the amendments should be incorporated in the Code and requested approval to initiate the amendment procedure.

270. The Commission approved the Committee's proposal.

Statement by the delegation of China

271. The delegation of China, as a new member of the Commission, expressed its wish to participate fully in the work of the Commission in the interests of consumers and the promotion of international trade.

272. The delegation gave a brief account of developments in food hygiene and food control in China.

273. Along with the economic development as well as the improvement of the people's living standard, the food industry and trade in China are developing rapidly. In order to strengthen the management of food hygiene, to prevent contamination of food and to assure the safety and health of the people, the Provisional Law of the People's Republic of China on Food Hygiene was adopted on November 19th, 1982 by the Standing Committee of the 5th National People's Congress which stipulates precisely the hygienic conditions and requirements, the management systems surveillance inspection at each step of the procedure, including the production and processing of raw food materials as well as its consumption. The implementation of this provisional law on food hygiene, has functioned very well for improving the hygienic quality of food in China and also raising the level of management on food hygiene. At present, food hygiene surveillance agencies have been established at the health administration services at all levels. Simultaneously, these agencies have been established in transportation systems, factories, mines, farms and public dining rooms. Promotion and education on these aspects are in progress and have a significant effect in improving food hygiene and thus national welfare.

274. Appropriate systems, regulations and methods, state standards, professional standards and enterprise standards have all been established by production and commercial departments at all levels in the field of distribution. Standards for safe usage of pesticides, methods for testing the effectiveness of pesticides in the field (provisional) and regulations for the registration of pesticides have been developed.

275. The Ministry of Public Health and the State Administration of Import and Export Commodity Inspection, together with other relevant Departments have developed Provisions on the Administration of Imported Food Hygiene, Procedures for the Surveillance and Inspection of Imported Food Hygiene, Provisions of the People's Republic of China on Sanitation of Food for Export, Minimum Sanitary Requirements for Factories and Storehouses of Food for Export and Detailed Rules for Registration of Factories and Storehouses of Food for Export. All the above-mentioned regulations will be controlled by food surveillance and inspection stations (for import) and China Commodity Inspection Bureaux (for export) at respective ports.

276. The delegation stated that it would like to propose that authorities dealing with food import and export trade should require the importer to provide to the exporter the food hygienic requirements of the importing country, and, at delivery, the exporter provide the importer with official hygienic inspection certificates so as to foster the development of food trade between various countries.

277. China recognizes that there is still room for future improvement on food hygiene and is willing to exchange experience with colleagues and friends from different countries at this session.

278. It expressed its support of the aims of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and was ready to share efforts with all members of the Commission to protect the interests of the consumers and to promote the international trade.

279. The Commission noted with interest the above statement of the delegation of China.

Concluding Part of Rapporteur's Report

280. In concluding his report Dr. Weik informed the Commission that the Sub-committee on Microbiological Criteria of the Committee on Food Protection, Food and Nutrition Board, National Research Council, USA, had recently issued a publication entitled "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods and Food Ingredients" (National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 1985) which he considered could provide useful background material for many of the subjects considered by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEx COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

282. The Commission had before it the Report of the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) (ALINORM 85/23). The delegation of Hungary, in introducing the Report, pointed to the achievements of the Committee in clarifying the purpose and role of Codex methods of analysis and sampling and in establishing appropriate working relationships with other bodies. Criteria for the selection of Codex methods of analysis and sampling had been finalized and the obligations falling on governments accepting methods of analysis included in Codex standards had been clarified. Obligations consequent upon acceptance and other issues in relation to Codex methods of sampling were under discussion, and until these were resolved the CCMAS did not consider itself to be in a position to endorse sampling procedures in Codex standards.

283. Codex methods of analysis were under review both by Codex Commodity Committees and by the CCMAS and this represented an activity which should be accelerated.

284. Good cooperation existed between the CCMAS and international organizations as evidenced by the holding of regular sessions of the 'Inter Agency Meeting' (IAM) organized by the ISO Central Secretariat and the Hungarian National Codex Committee. The report of the IAM had been included as Appendix VI to the Report of the CCMAS.

285. The importance of the work of the CCMAS was evidenced by growing participation at sessions of the CCMAS both by developed and developing countries. The last session was attended by 30 countries, including the USSR and China, and by 11 International Organizations.

286. The Hungarian delegation drew attention to Appendix IV of the Report of the Committee which included recommendations to the Commission concerning the acceptance by governments of Codex Methods of Analysis. The CCMAS was considering this question in relation to Codex sampling methods and would report to the next session of the Commission.

Recommendations concerning the Acceptance of Codex Methods of Analysis

287. The Commission considered the recommendations of the CCMAS concerning the acceptance of Codex methods of analysis included in Codex standards (see Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/23). It noted that the CCMAS had identified the obligations which, in its opinion, should fall on governments accepting Codex methods of analysis included in Codex standards. As regards Codex 'defining methods' these should be subject to acceptance as integral parts of Codex standards. Codex 'reference' methods should be

obligatory, i.e. subject to acceptance, only for cases of disputes concerning the results of analysis. Codex 'alternative approved methods', on the other hand, were only advisory and there could be any number of such Codex methods listed in Codex standards. As regards the fourth category of methods, the 'tentative' methods, there was no obligation to use these and they were not even advisory, since they were still pending evaluation by the CCMAS.

288. The delegation of France was in agreement with the view of the Secretariat that the recommendations of the CCMAS concerning the obligations falling on governments accepting Codex methods should be considered by the Codex Committee on General Principles. This was so since there might be implications for the Codex Acceptance Procedures.

289. The delegation of India was in agreement with the CCMAS as regards the obligatory role of Codex 'defining' and 'reference' methods. However, it pointed out that it was precisely for this reason why attention must be given to the needs of developing countries for simplified methods. The Secretariat pointed out that Codex 'defining' methods were very often simple empirical methods not requiring sophisticated equipment. Any difficulties which might arise would be with Codex 'reference' methods the use of which, however, was obligatory only in cases of dispute.

290. The delegation of Guinea pointed out that the problem of methods of analysis was of great importance since results depended on the methods used. The continuously increasing number of food products on the market, authorized pesticides and food additives, made developing countries interested in simplified methods. The delegation expressed its appreciation to the CCMAS for its efforts in this direction. However, it wished to draw the Committee's attention to the choice of analytical materials which could help to attain the results expected. In view of the situation in many developing countries as regards laboratory equipment and reagents, the delegation of Guinea supported the proposals made concerning the need to provide assistance for developing countries to enable them to participate in the work of Codex committees.

291. The Commission agreed that the recommendations of the CCMAS concerning the acceptance by governments of Codex methods of analysis should be referred to the Codex Committee on General Principles. Comments should be requested from governments on the recommendations of the CCMAS for consideration by the Codex Committee on General Principles. The CCMAS was urged to take the needs of developing countries into account when selecting official Codex methods and also to identify simplified methods where appropriate.

Cooperation between the CCMAS and International Organizations

292. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Delegation of Hungary and to the ISO Secretariat for their support of Codex work in the field of analysis and sampling, especially through the 'Inter Agency Meetings' held in conjunction with sessions of the CCMAS.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

PART VIII

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

294. The Commission had before it the Reports of the Third and Fourth Sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALINORMS 85/36 and 85/36A), which had been held in Havana, Cuba, 27 March to 2 April 1984 and 17 to 22 April 1985 respectively, and ALINORM 85/21 Part II and LIM 15. The Reports were introduced by the Coordinator Ing. Ramon Darias Rodés, who reviewed the salient points of the two Reports. He informed the Commission that, in preparation for the two sessions, which had been held in consecutive years to readjust to the frequency of the Commission's sessions,

some 17 countries of the region had been visited to inform them of Codex work and to encourage the establishment of National Codex Committees. The Coordinator had also discussed with ITC, UNCTAD and GATT the question of harmonization of Regional and Codex standards. Prior to both sessions, workshops on Food Standardization and Health had been organized with the help of PAHO which had contributed greatly to the work of, and participation at, the Coordinating Committee.

295. At the Third Session, the main items discussed were:

- Broadening the use of Codex Standards in the region.
- The possibility of elaborating an Action Plan on a Harmonized System of Regional Standards with Codex Standards.
- Itinerant food sales and its repercussions in the region.
- Necessity to increase the cooperation of international bodies in national nutritional programmes and food safety.
- Continuation of the practice of holding workshops or seminars prior to the Coordinating Committee meetings, which contributed to the success of these events.
- Food Control and Urbanization.
- Activities regarding Pesticides and their residues in foods.

296. At the Fourth Session, the main topics were:

- Recommendations of the Sixth and Seventh meetings of the Working Group of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues concerned with the Problems of Developing Countries.
- Action Plan to elaborate a Harmonized System of Regional Food Standards and Codex Standards.
- Possible improvements in working mechanisms of the Commission.
- Possibility of Establishing a Data Bank or Regional Information Centre on Food Standardization and Certification Problems.
- Problems of Food Control in relation to Urbanization.
- Use of the Spanish language in Codex Committees.

297. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee supported the development of Standards for Tropical Fruits and Vegetables (see paras 97-102) and that some delegations were of the opinion that standards for Sorghum Grains/Sorghum Flour, if developed, should be world-wide and not regional.

298. The Coordinator also informed the Commission that the Committee wished to begin work on the elaboration of regional standards for raw sugar and for shark fins and a Code of Hygienic Practice for Aquaculture.

Need for Regional Standard for Raw Sugar

299. Some delegations at the Commission's session pointed out that this product was traded more as a commodity than as a food product, and that trade was world-wide rather than regional.

300. The delegation of Argentina indicated that raw sugar was an important commodity in international trade and that it was of the utmost importance that the product be standardized.

301. The delegation of Cuba stated that it had no objection to the product being standardized on a world-wide basis. Raw sugar was not covered by existing Codex Sugar standards and was an important trade item in the region.

302. The Commission did not think it opportune to begin work on a Regional Standard for Raw Sugar until more information was available. The Commission requested the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean to further study production, trade and consumption of the product and prepare a background paper for discussion at the next session of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee was requested to report its findings to the 17th Session of the Commission.

Need for a Standard for Shark Fins and a Code of Practice for Aquaculture

303. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee had proposed to begin work on the above subjects, because it was understood that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products could not undertake new work at the present time. The Commission was informed, however, by the delegation of Norway, that this was the opinion of some delegates, but that it did not represent the view of the Committee itself. The delegation of Norway stated that both of the above items would be included for consideration at the next session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (see also para 424).

Use of the Spanish Language in Codex Committees

304. The Regional Coordinator, in compliance with what was agreed at the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, drew the attention of the Commission to paragraph 221 of ALINORM 85/36A relative to the use of the Spanish language in some Codex Committees which have not as yet provided for translation into Spanish.

305. The delegation of Denmark informed the Commission that it had several times brought to the attention of the Danish authorities the requests made for the provision of Spanish language facilities at sessions of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products. The authorities had given sympathetic consideration to these requests, but, because of financial constraints, were unable to give an undertaking to provide such facilities at the next session of the above Committee. The delegation noted, moreover, that the Rules of Procedure of the Commission only required Host Governments to provide language facilities in at least two of the languages of the Commission.

306. The Commission noted the statement of the delegation of Denmark and encouraged Host Governments, which did not yet provide language facilities in the three languages of the Commission, English, French and Spanish, to make every effort to do so.

Appointment of Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

307. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean had unanimously nominated the present Coordinator Ing. Ramon Darias Rodés for a second term of office.

308. The Commission confirmed the nomination and appointed Ing. Ramon Darias Rodés as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean to serve from the end of the 16th Session to the end of the 17th Session of the Commission.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

309. The Coordinator for Africa, Dr. J.K. Misoi, introduced the Report of the 7th Session of the Coordinating Committee (ALINORM 85/28A). He informed the Commission that Kenya and Zambia had offered to host sessions of Codex Committees if suitable arrangements could be made with the Host Governments concerned. He outlined the regional food standards activities of the Coordinating Committee on cassava, millet, sorghum and coconut products. As regards sorghum products, the Coordinating Committee had agreed that they be developed further as world-wide standards as long as this did not result in delays in any way. The delegation of Ghana expressed appreciation to the Coordinator for Africa for his report.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft African Regional Standard for Gari

310. The Commission considered the above draft African Regional Standard (see Appendix VIII to ALINORM 85/28A) and noted that the Coordinating Committee had reached agreement on all essential sections of the standard and that it was ready for adoption. The delegation of Australia expressed its preference for world-wide standards rather than regional ones, which could represent technical trade barriers. The delegation of Togo indicated that eventually the African Regional Standard for Gari, at present traded particularly in West Africa, could be developed into a world-wide standard.

Status of the Draft African Regional Standard for Gari

311. The Commission adopted the Draft African Regional Standard for Gari at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standard for Pearl Millet and Pearl Millet Flour

312. The delegation of Kenya introduced these standards (see Appendix II and III to ALINORM 85/28A) indicating that the Coordinating Committee had extensively revised previous draft standards for these products. The delegation expressed the opinion that the standards were ready for adoption at Step 5.

Status of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standards for Pearl Millet and Pearl Millet Flour

313. The Commission decided to advance the above Proposed Draft African Regional Standards to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standard for Sorghum Grains

314. The Coordinator for Africa informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee had considered the views of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes and the views of Argentina and Mexico concerning the need to elaborate this standard as a world-wide standard (see para. 297 above).

315. The delegation of Argentina indicated, in reply to a question posed by the Coordinating Committee for Africa in para 69, ALINORM 85/28A, that there were significant differences between sorghum grown in Africa and Argentina and that the ultimate use of the product (i.e. whether intended for animal or human consumption) was not always known. For this reason, sorghum was usually certified as regards safety and quality prior to marketing. Argentina could not accept the maximum level of 13% moisture content, since 15% would be required to take varieties grown in that country into account. The delegation of France supported the need for the development of a world-wide standard for sorghum, in order also to take into account varieties cultivated in temperate zones.

Status of the Proposed Draft African Regional Standard for Sorghum Grains

316. The Commission decided that the above Proposed Draft African Regional Standard be further developed as a world-wide standard by the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes. It agreed that the draft Standard should be sent to governments for comments at Step 6 of the Procedure. The US Secretariat of the Committee was requested to review government comments received and to prepare a revised draft standard for discussion at the next session of the Committee.

317. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes undertook to take this matter up in that Committee and to give it high priority.

Consideration of the Need to Develop African Regional Standards for Sorghum Flour, Cassava Flour and Grated Coconut

318. Following discussion, the Commission agreed that the African Regional standards be developed for cassava flour and grated coconut and that these standards be submitted to governments for comments at Step 3 of the Procedure.

319. As regards sorghum flour, it was decided that a world-wide standard should be developed through the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes and that the existing Proposed Draft African Regional Standard should be distributed for comments at Step 3 of the Procedure.

Food Safety and Human Health

320. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee, at its 6th Session had endorsed a Resolution calling on governments to develop appropriate food safety programmes, bearing in mind that food could be an important vehicle for diarrhoeal and other diseases and also calling on FAO and WHO to continue to support governments in this field (see Appendix IV, ALINORM 85/28).

321. The Commission, noting that the Resolution had also been adopted by the Coordinating Committee for Asia, endorsed the Resolution as being applicable to most countries not only those in the African Region. The Resolution is included as Appendix VI to this Report.

Appointment of Coordinator for Africa

322. Noting that Dr. J.K. Misoi of Kenya was not eligible for reappointment as Coordinator for Africa having served two consecutive terms, the Commission appointed Dr. Ati Randolph of Togo as Coordinator for Africa to serve from the end of the 16th to the end of the 17th Session of the Commission. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Coordinator Dr. Misoi for his efforts in promoting African Regional food standards work.

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

323. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 85/15) which had been held in Phetchburi, Thailand from 28 February to 5 March 1984.

324. The Report was introduced by Mr. C. Sangruji of Thailand, who had provided continuity in the work of the Coordinator for Asia after the passing of Prof. Bhumiratana. He emphasized the interest of the countries of the Region of Asia in the work of the Coordinating Committee and reviewed the topics which had been dealt with by the Committee.

325. The Commission noted that following the request of the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables to the Coordinating Committee to identify certain sections of the standards for processed fruits and vegetables which might be made optional, the Coordinating Committee had dealt in general with the subject of the amount of detail in some Codex standards and with the question of whether some parts of the standards should be made optional. The Coordinating Committee had decided that a questionnaire be formulated to seek the views of member countries on this matter.

326. The Commission also noted that there had been a detailed discussion in the Committee of the technical cooperation projects in the region related to strengthening the infrastructure for national food control systems. The Coordinating Committee had recommended that steps be taken to establish a Regional Network for Training of Food Inspectors in Asia, which should also promote the concept of technical cooperation among developing countries.

327. As regards problems relating to the acceptance of the Codex standard for Infant Formula, the Commission noted that it was mainly the techno-economic problems facing the countries in the Asian Region which were standing in the way of their accepting the Codex standard.

328. The Coordinating Committee had also discussed the topic of street vending of food and had expressed the view that, despite the problems arising from street vending of food, this trade provided an essential service to the public. Furthermore, since it was not practicable to prohibit this trade, gradual improvement had to be introduced in order to reduce the health risks. At the request of the Coordinating Committee, FAO had provided the services of a consultant to study these problems in depth.

Matters arising from the Report of the 4th Session of the Committee

329. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/21 - Part III containing a report on other matters, as set forth below, arising from the Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee.

Food Safety and Human Health

330. The Commission considered and endorsed the Resolution on Food Safety as contained in Appendix V of ALINORM 85/15, which made certain recommendations for follow-up action as a result of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety held in Geneva in June 1983.

Code of Practice for Storage, Handling and Transport of Edible Oils in Bulk (paras. 186-187 ALINORM 85/15)

331. The Commission noted that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had supported a proposal of the delegation of Malaysia for the elaboration of a Code of Practice for the Storage, Handling and Transport of Edible Oils in Bulk. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) to undertake the work of developing such a Code. As, at the moment, the Host Government (UK) had agreed to only one more session of the CCFO, following which it would be expected to adjourn sine die, the Commission agreed that the work on the elaboration and adoption of the Code should be accelerated. In this connection the Commission was informed that a first draft of the Code of Practice was already available in Malaysia. The Secretariat was requested to circulate it to governments for comments at Step 3 well in advance of the next session of the CCFO. The Code with comments could then be considered by the next session of the CCFO.

332. The United Kingdom delegation stated that consideration of the above-mentioned Draft Code would be on the agenda of the next session of the CCFO, and agreed that the Draft Code should be sent out for comments at Step 3.

333. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the Fourth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia and also paid tribute to the late Professor Amara Bhumiratana, Coordinator, for his valuable contribution in promoting the work of the Commission in Asia.

Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

334. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Asia had unanimously nominated Dr. Roestamsjah (Indonesia) for appointment as Coordinator for Asia by the Commission at its Sixteenth Session, and that this nomination had the support of the Indonesian authorities. The Commission further noted that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, it had not been possible for Dr. Roestamsjah to be present at the current session of the Commission.

335. The Commission agreed without dissent to appoint Dr. Roestamsjah (Indonesia) as Coordinator for Asia, to serve from the end of the Sixteenth to the end of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission.

336. The Commission was informed by the delegation of Indonesia that the Government of Indonesia was prepared to host the Fifth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia in Indonesia, in early or late March 1986 (precise date to be agreed between the Indonesian authorities and the Secretariat).

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

337. The Committee had before it the Report of the 14th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 85/19). Additional information on matters which required action were contained in ALINORM 85/21. Proposals for amendment and comments on the Draft Standard for Vinegar were contained in ALINORM 85/43, Part IV, LIM 6 and LIM 9.

Consideration of Draft European Regional Standard for Vinegar (Appendix II to ALINORM 85/19)

338. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. P. Rossier, in introducing this item, pointed out that many difficulties had been encountered in defining the scope of the standard. It was now limited to fermentation vinegar and did not include diluted edible acetic acid. He also informed the Commission that full consideration had been given to comments received from countries which were not members of the Region of Europe. While the Committee, at its 14th Session, had decided not to include products derived from synthetic acetic acid, it had agreed to the use of raw materials of silvicultural origin, in addition to those of agricultural origin. The Committee had also agreed to permit distilled alcohols as raw materials.

339. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that, due to the timing of sessions, a few provisions on food additives (caramel colour by ammonia sulphite process and flavour enhancers) still required endorsement by CCFA and three methods of analysis were in the course of being finalized. He also pointed out that the matters raised as Step 8 comments had been fully discussed by the Committee.

340. Several delegations of the Region of Europe reiterated their comments which had already been considered by previous sessions of the Committee. The Commission agreed that an editorial amendment, as reflected in para 59, should be made to Section 8.1.3 of the standard.

341. The delegations of Sweden, France, Norway, Austria and Belgium supported adoption of the standard at Step 8. The delegations of Belgium, France and Portugal reiterated their reservations against the use of raw material of silvicultural origin.

342. The delegation of the United States stated that it had consistently opposed the elaboration of the above standard since it felt that vinegar was not an appropriate subject for a regional standard in that it was not traded exclusively or almost exclusively within the European Region. The delegation pointed out that the standard did not cover all products presently sold as vinegar and could therefore represent a barrier to trade. In the opinion of the United States major difficulties arose from the exclusion from the standard of products obtained through acetic fermentation of food-grade distilled alcohol of non-agricultural origin and from an excessive requirement for total acidity in section 3.3. The delegation of the United States proposed that the total acidity minimum be lowered to 40 grammes per litre since in many countries the trend was toward vinegar of lower concentrations. The delegation of the United States stated that if the standard remained unchanged, most vinegars in the USA would not be covered by it. The delegation of the USA proposed, therefore, to either discontinue work on the Standard or return it to Step 6 of the Procedure. The delegation of Thailand supported the above view on total acid content. The delegations of Kenya, Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the proposal made by the United States.

Status of the Standard

343. The Commission recalled that whereas the interpretation of Rule VI.3 earlier in the session (see para 85) confirmed that it was a matter for the Commission as a whole to decide whether a regional standard be elaborated, the adoption of a regional standard was a matter for the countries of the region concerned, according to the procedure for the Elaboration of Regional Codex Standards (see page 36 of the Procedural Manual, 5th Edition).

344. The Commission decided to return the Draft European Regional Standard for Vinegar to Step 6 of the Procedure, in view of the serious misgivings stated by several member countries of the Commission. It requested all member countries of the Commission to submit their comments on the standard for further consideration by the Committee.

345. The Chairman of the Committee expressed his disappointment with the Commission's decision. The delegations of Belgium and the United Kingdom also expressed disappointment and recalled that the 15th Session of the Commission had made a similar decision (see para. 241 of ALINORM 83/43).

Consideration of

- (a) Draft Code of Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (Appendix VII to ALINORM 85/13A)

and

- (b) Proposed Draft Amendment to the Regional European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981)

- Microbiological Requirements, Section 5.4

(Annex I to Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/19)

346. The Commission recalled that it had agreed earlier in the Session that the above draft code at Step 8, being elaborated by the CCFH, and the proposed draft amendment on microbiological requirements at Step 5, being elaborated by this Committee, be considered together.

347. The Coordinator for Europe indicated that the Coordinating Committee for Europe had advanced the proposed draft amendment on microbiological requirements to Step 5 of the Procedure. He also pointed out that subsequently the 20th Session of the Committee on Food Hygiene had, after extensive consideration within a special working group, been able to endorse the proposed draft amendment. The CCFH had also included identical provisions in the form of microbiological endproduct specifications in the Code of Practice which had been advanced to Step 8 by the CCFH.

348. The Coordinator expressed the view that the action taken by the CCFH on the Code of Practice justified omission of Steps 6 and 7 and advancement to Step 8 of the proposed draft amendment to the regional standard on microbiological requirements and recommended to the Commission to adopt at Step 8 the identical provisions as contained in Section VIII of the Draft Code and Section 5.4 - Microbiological Requirements in the Regional European Standard.

349. The Coordinator for Europe thanked the representatives of GESEM for their consistent support in drawing up the highly technical provisions in the Codex documents concerning natural mineral waters and for providing technological and scientific expertise on this matter.

350. Several delegations drew attention to a footnote in the text of the endproduct specifications which indicated that methods of analysis still needed to be developed. They felt that the numerical values in the specifications were closely linked to the relevant methods and that the microbiological requirements in both texts should not be adopted at Step 8.

351. Attention was drawn to a paragraph in the report of the Working Group on Natural Mineral Waters of the CCFH which confirmed that the methods of analysis for the microbiological requirements would be available in the very near future.

Status of the Amendment

352. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Amendment to the Regional European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters - Microbiological Requirements (Section 5.4).

Status of the Code of Practice

353. The Commission was informed by the rapporteur of the Committee on Food Hygiene, Dr. R.W. Weik of USA, that that Committee had finalized the Code and recommended its adoption at Step 8.

354. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Code of Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters.

Other Matters arising from the 14th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

(i) Proposed Amendments to the Codex European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) (paras 108-109 and Appendix IV)

355. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered a proposal that the provisions on Ra 226 Activity and on Beta-activity (Sections 3.2.16 and 4.2 respectively) of the above standard should be advisory and should be revised slightly to replace the available criteria for natural mineral waters, having regard also to the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water.

356. The Commission agreed with the request of the Committee and approved the amendment of the standard: the above amendment was adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe (paras 164-167)

357. On the proposal of the Coordinating for Europe, the Commission re-appointed Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland) as Coordinator for Europe, to serve a second term from the end of the 16th Session to the end of the 17th Session of the Commission.

PART IX

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

358. The Commission had before it the Report of the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 85/20 and Add.1). The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. G. Parlet (USA) introduced the Report, outlining the work carried out by the Committee and suggesting to the Commission a way of handling the numerous points under this agenda item. He also indicated that the USA was in agreement with the view which had been expressed by the Committee that there was some doubt as to whether a sufficient agenda could be drawn from the programme of future work of the Committee to justify a further session and that, therefore, the USA was proposing the adjournment of the Committee sine die.

359. The Commission was informed that Dr. R. Schaffner, previous Chairman of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, had retired. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Dr. Schaffner for his valuable contribution to Codex work and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Dates

360. The Commission had before it the above Draft Standard (Appendix II, ALINORM 85/20) which had been held at Step 8 by the previous session of the Commission, in order that certain questions (relating to Sections 2, 3, 4 and 7) could be further discussed by the Committee. The Commission noted that the Committee had been able to resolve the issues and that the Standard was ready for adoption at Step 8.

361. The delegations of the UK and Austria were not in agreement with the decision of the Commission to set a maximum limit of 30% for moisture content for certain types of soft dates since such a high moisture content could impair shelf-life. The delegation of the United Kingdom wished to have recorded its reservation concerning the question of moisture content in this standard. The delegation of Iraq informed the Commission of an extensive study carried out in that country regarding section 3.2.3 of the standard dealing with allowances for defects. It, therefore, had reservations on this

section and proposed that the standard be held until the results of the study carried out in Iraq could be considered by the Committee. The delegation of Switzerland also indicated that it had reservations on certain provisions regarding defects (e.g. 3.2.2(h) and (i)). The delegation of Argentina indicated that it had reservations regarding the provisions for moisture content and treatment using glucose.

362. The Commission discussed a proposal of Iraq to delete in section 2.1 (f) reference to dipping since other methods of humidification, e.g. spraying were also used. The delegation of France doubted whether spraying of dried dates would be sufficient to rehydrate the product. Noting that the important thing was that the product be in conformity with the standard, rather than how the correct humidity of the product should be achieved, the Commission decided to delete reference to dipping in section 2.1 (f).

Status of the Draft Standard for Dates

363. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Dates, as amended, at Step 8 of the Procedure. It noted the study carried out in Iraq in relation to the provisions for defects and also noted that there might be a need in the future to amend the Standard in the light of information to be provided by Iraq.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Canned Palmito

364. The Commission had before it the above draft standard (App. VIII, ALINORM 85/20) and noted that the Standard had been revised by Brazil and that the Committee had agreed that the Standard was ready for adoption at Step 8.

365. The Commission noted the objections of the delegations of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Argentina, Iraq and France to a maximum level of 250 mg/kg for tin. It was pointed out that this maximum level had been arrived at on the basis of extensive analytical data. The Commission's attention was brought to a recommendation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives that a level of 200 mg/kg should not be exceeded as this level might cause gastric irritation. The delegation of the Netherlands, supported by a number of delegations, therefore, favoured a reduction of the maximum level to 200 mg/kg, as a matter of principle. A number of other delegations were in favour of maintaining a maximum level of 250 mg/kg noting that this was a matter for the Codex Committee on Food Additives to consider.

366. The Commission, after a full discussion, decided not to change the maximum level for tin but agreed to include a footnote in the Standard indicating that the maximum level remained under review.

367. The delegation of Argentina was in favour of a mandatory declaration of the country of origin on the label and proposed that the pH level should not exceed 4.5. The delegation of France expressed a reservation concerning the food additives section of the Standard.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Palmitos

368. The Commission adopted the draft Standard for Canned Palmito, as amended, at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Canned Chestnuts and Canned Chestnut Puree

369. The Commission had before it the above draft standard (App. VIII, ALINORM 85/20). It was noted that the Committee had concluded that the Standard was ready for adoption at Step 8.

370. The Commission agreed to proceed with the maximum level for tin as with the Standard for Canned Palmitos (see para 366). The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed a reservation concerning the maximum level for contaminants.

371. The delegation of France pointed out that Section 6.1.4, which prescribed minimum drained weight requirements for all styles of presentation, did not apply to chestnuts prepared without liquid packing medium. The Commission agreed to amend Section 6.1.4 editorially by indicating that the drained weight provision did not apply to such styles of canned chestnuts. As regards products without packing medium, the Commission considered that Section 6.1.1 on minimum fill would ensure that the consumer would not be misled. In this connection the Commission noted that Codex method CAC/RM 45-1972 would be relevant.

Status of the Draft Standard for Canned Chestnuts and Chestnut Puree

372. The Commission adopted the draft Standard for Canned Chestnuts and Chestnut Puree, as amended, at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5, of the Proposed Draft Standard for Honey

373. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Parlet, informed the Commission that the Standard for Honey had been considered in detail by the Committee and that the only remaining controversial points were the provisions for HMF content and diastase value.

374. During the discussion of the Standard for Honey, a number of delegations expressed the opinion that the proposed draft world-wide standard represented a lowering in the minimum quality requirements for honey. This was stated to be so, since sections 3.9 and 3.10 were directly related to the quality of honey. Lowering of these requirements was considered by these delegations to be an unfortunate development since, as a result, a number of countries would not be able to accept the world-wide Codex standard for honey.

375. Other delegations were of the opposite view and considered that sections 3.9 and 3.10 of the honey standard required further consideration, since recent scientific work had demonstrated that the relationship between diastase activity and HMF content and the quality of honey was in doubt. These delegations stated that the present Codex European Regional Standard for Honey had an adverse economic effect on tropical and subtropical apiculture and trade in honey from these regions. In order to prevent adulteration of honey, provisions for dextrans and glucose could be included in the Standard.

376. Other delegations pointed to a need to reconsider certain other sections of the Standard, such as section 3.8 on acidity in connection with certain types of honeys, sections 3.4 moisture content and section 7 dealing with methods of analysis and sampling.

Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for Honey

377. The Commission decided to advance the Standard to Step 6 of the Procedure noting that there were still opposing views especially in relation to sections 3.9 and 3.10 which should be reconciled.

Consideration at Step 5 and Status of the Proposed Draft Standard for Cashew Kernels

378. The Commission agreed to advance the proposed draft standard for cashew kernels to Step 6 of the Procedure (see ALINORM 85/20 - Add.1).

Consideration of Substantive and Non-substantive Amendments to Codex Standards

379. The Commission had before it a number of amendments to Codex standards submitted by the Committee to the Commission for final adoption. These were as follows:

- (a) inclusion of a general provision on styles in certain Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables as given in App. III, ALINORM 85/20 (considered to be a non-substantive amendment by the Committee);
- (b) revision of the provision for packing medium in certain Codex standards for canned fruits as given in App. IV, ALINORM 85/20 (considered to be a consequential amendment by the Committee);

- (c) inclusion of a requirement for date of minimum durability in all Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables, as given in App. V, ALINORM 85/20 (considered to be a consequential amendment by the Committee);
- (d) revision of the standard on methods of analysis in certain Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables as given in App. IV, ALINORM 85/20 (at Step 5 with the recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted), and
- (e) inclusion of provisions on contaminants in Codex standards for canned fruits and vegetables as given below (at Step 5 with the recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted):

lead 1 mg/kg in all canned fruits and vegetables, except tomato concentrate

lead 1.5 mg/kg in tomato paste concentrate

tin 250 mg/kg in all canned fruits and vegetables.

Status of the Proposed Amendments

380. The Commission adopted the proposed amendments mentioned above and requested the Secretariat to take appropriate action to revise the Codex standards. As regards the provisions for contaminants it was agreed that a similar footnote should be provided as had been discussed under the Standard for Canned Palmito (see paragraph 366).

Consideration of Other Matters Arising from the Report of the Committee

381. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/20 and ALINORM 85/21 - Part I and a Conference Room Document (LIM 4) prepared by Thailand. The matters on which the Commission was requested to take action are given below.

- Amendment of the Codex Standard for Tropical Fruit Salad

382. The Commission noted that the Committee had reached agreement on the extension of the list of fruit ingredients and on the name of the product in order to accommodate the needs of producing countries. The addition of the following fruit ingredients had been proposed by the Committee: watermelon and carambola (in section 2.1.2 of the Standard, at 5% min, 15% max and 5% min, 20% max respectively). As regards the name of the product, the Committee had recommended the name 'tropical fruit salad', 'tropical fruit cocktail' or 'tropical fruit mix'. The delegation of Iraq did not consider the name 'tropical fruit salad' to be suitable.

383. The Commission adopted the amendments in paragraph 382 and requested the Secretariat to take appropriate action.

384. The delegation of Thailand expressed preference for grapes to be a basic fruit ingredient, i.e. not optional. The Commission took note of this remark.

Amendment of the Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods, at Step 8

385. The Commission had before it Appendix IX, ALINORM 83/20 (reproduced in App I to ALINORM 85/21 - Part I) and noted that the proposed amendment related merely to the size of the sample to be taken. A number of issues in connection with sampling still required to be clarified by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

386. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that a reduction in sample size should only be made on a sound statistical basis and was, therefore, not in favour of amending the Sampling Plans. The delegation of the United Kingdom was not in favour of amending the Codex Sampling Plans without first resolving issues such as the purpose and status of Codex Sampling Procedures.

387. The Commission adopted the proposed amendment to the Codex Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Proposal of Thailand to Amend the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple

388. The delegation of Thailand introduced Conference Room Document LIM4 and explained that pineapples grown in Thailand had a core material which was soft and edible and of conical form. Using present coring methods it was possible to be in conformity either with the provision for drained weight or with the limit for core material in the Codex standard, but not with both. For this reason the Codex standard could not be fully complied with. Thailand, therefore, proposed that the specification regarding content of core material be deleted from CODEX STAN 42-1981. In addition, Thailand requested that a more definite distinction should be made between the styles "broken slices" and "pieces".

389. The Commission decided to refer this matter to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables for consideration with a view to amending the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple.

Proposal for Deletion of Provisions for Colours and Flavours in Certain Codex Standards

390. The Commission noted that the Committee had considered a request of the Coordinating Committee for Asia to delete the provisions for colours and flavours from the Codex Standards for Canned Pineapple, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Canned Peas, and Canned Mature Processed Peas (see App. III, ALINORM 83/15). The Committee had agreed that the colours and flavours should not be deleted (paras 77-78, ALINORM 85/20).

391. The Commission accepted the view of the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

392. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee for Processed Fruits and Vegetables should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the USA.

393. As regards the proposal of the USA that the Committee should adjourn sine die, the Commission invited the views of delegations on this matter. Several delegations stressed the need for the Committee to complete the work still outstanding and since it appeared that there would be quite a substantial agenda based on the on-going work and from business which arose from the present Session, the delegation of the USA agreed to arrange for one more session of the Committee to be held in 1986. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the delegation of the USA and noted that the next session would be used to complete the work of the Committee.

394. The following is a list of items which represent outstanding work or which have been suggested during the Session:

- (a) Draft Standard for Honey (at Step 7)
- (b) Draft Standard for Cashew Kernels (at Step 7)
- (c) Amendment of the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple (proposed by Thailand)
- (d) Proposed Draft Standards for Canned Mango Products

395. The Observer from MARINALG suggested that Codex should address the problem of residues of pesticides, antibiotics and processing aids (e.g. phenols) in honey.

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

396. The Commission had before it the Report of the 16th Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 85/14) and ALINORM 85/43 Part V. The Chairman of the Group of Experts also indicated that ALINORM 85/42 contained an Outline of Future Work of the Group of Experts and that Proposals for Amendments of Codex Standards for Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars had been submitted by the International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers (IFFJP) (LIM 10).

397. The Chairman of the Group of Experts, Professor Dr. W. Pilnik (Netherlands) pointed out that increasing participation of developing countries reflected also increasing industrial fruit utilization in those countries and this, in his opinion, required a certain flexibility in the philosophy and format of standardization of fruit juices. The Chairman of the Group of Experts informed the Commission that the Group was now preparing General Standards for certain categories of products to cover those products which were not covered by individual standards. He also informed the Commission that the current programme of work of the Group of Experts included Guidelines for Mixed Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars, revision of methods of analysis and sampling and a survey of contaminants.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Guava Nectar Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means at Step 8 (Appendix II to ALINORM 85/14)

398. The Commission noted that the above Standard followed the usual format for fruit nectars and that the relevant provisions had been endorsed or temporarily endorsed by the respective Committees. The Chairman of the Group of Experts also pointed out that this was the first nectar standard which did not contain a minimum for total solids but a maximum requirement for total soluble solids; furthermore the use of lime juice as an acidifying agent had been permitted as an alternative to lemon juice.

Status of the Standard

399. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Guava Nectar Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means.

400. The delegation of France, while not opposing adoption of the Standard reiterated its reservations made at the 16th Session of the Group of Experts concerning the use of lime juice and of the food acids, malic and citric acid. The delegation of Thailand wished to record that the minimum fruit content should be lowered from 25% m/m to 20% m/m.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Liquid Pulpy Mango Products Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means, at Step 8 (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/14)

401. The Chairman of the Group of Experts informed the Commission that this Standard followed the usual format for nectars. However, the Standard contained a labelling provision in Section 7.1.1 which permitted the use of the name mango juice for products of not less than 50% m/m fruit ingredient in countries where the product was traditionally known as such. This accommodated those markets where these products had been introduced as "mango juice" without actually complying with the definition of fruit juice approved by the Group of Experts. The Chairman of the Group of Experts pointed out that a footnote required governments to state their requirements with regard to the name of the food and that the CCFL had already adopted section 7.1.1. He also drew attention to the amended name of the standard which represented a compromise.

402. The delegation of Switzerland stated that it could not accept such a compromise, especially since the designation "nectar" had evolved from the Codex standards and was now generally accepted.

403. The delegations of Switzerland, Belgium and France reiterated their reservations against the Standard.

404. The delegation of Austria shared the concern of the delegation of Switzerland but did not oppose adoption at Step 8 of the Standard.

405. The delegation of Thailand also did not oppose adoption but wished to have recorded that the use of beta-carotene be permitted and consequently the section on organoleptic properties be amended.

406. The delegation of Brazil felt that the Standard should be held at Step 8 to allow for further consideration.

Status of the Standard

407. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Liquid Pulpy Mango Products.

Discontinuation of Work on Proposed Draft Standard for Mango Juice

408. The Commission agreed to a request by the Group of Experts to discontinue work on the Proposed Draft Standard for Mango Juice, a product which was not produced in commercially significant amounts.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft General Standard for Fruit Nectars at Step 5 (Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/14)

409. The Commission noted that the Group of Experts was developing the above Standard with a view to providing for those nectars which were not covered by individual Codex Standards. It decided to refer the written comments by the delegations of France and Thailand to the next Session of the Group of Experts.

Status of the Standard

410. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the Draft General Standard for Fruit Nectars.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Certain Standards for Fruit Nectars (Consequential Amendments) (Paras 49-50 of ALINORM 85/21)

411. The Commission was informed that a summary of amendments consequential to the introduction of a maximum limit for total soluble solids content and of the use of lime juice in the Standard for Guava Nectar, was contained in para 50 of ALINORM 85/21. The Commission adopted at Step 8 these amendments as consequential amendments. The Commission noted further comments from the delegation of India concerning the use of sugar syrup in fruit juices and referred it to the Group of Experts.

Amendment of Codex Standard for Apricot, Peach and Pear Nectars (CODEX STAN 44-1981) - HMF

412. The Commission approved the initiation of the amendment procedure to delete the provisions for HMF and related methodology from the above standard and agreed that the amendment be considered to be at Step 3.

Proposals for the Amendment of Certain Codex Standards for Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars

413. The Commission noted that the proposals for the amendment of certain Codex standards for fruit juices and fruit nectars had been submitted by IFFJP as LIM 10 and referred this document to the next Session of the Group of Experts for consideration.

Need for a Codex Standard for Fruit (based) Drinks with a High Content of Fruit Juice (paras 170-175 and Appendix VIII)

414. The Chairman of the Group of Experts recalled that the 15th Session of the Commission had decided not to continue with the elaboration of a proposed standard for fruit-based drinks. He also recalled that due to the timing of sessions the Group of Experts had considered the proposal submitted by IFFJP only after the 15th Session of the Commission. The Group of Experts at its 16th Session had agreed to request the Commission to reconsider the Group's Terms of Reference and the elaboration of a standard for Fruit-based Drinks with a high content of fruit ingredient. The delegations of Belgium, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States had reiterated their opposition to the elaboration of such a standard as contained in paras 173 and 174 of ALINORM 85/14.

415. The Chairman of the Group of Experts provided comprehensive data which underlined the growing importance of these products and the need to inform the consumer adequately. He stated that no request was being made to amend the terms of reference of the Group

of Experts but that the Commission was requested to approve the elaboration of this specific standard only.

416. The delegation of Canada reiterated its opposition to developing a standard for soft drinks expressed at the 15th Session of the Commission and pointed out that para 52 of ALINORM 85/21 did not fully reflect the discussion which took place at the 15th Session of the Commission.

417. The delegation of Belgium also reiterated its views on this matter expressed at the 15th Session of the Commission as well as at the 16th Session of the Group of Experts. The delegation of the United States expressed the view that the terms of reference of the Group of Experts did not enable the Group of Experts to develop a standard for fruit based drinks with a high fruit ingredient content and informed the Commission that the Committee on Food Additives would revise the list of Food Additives in the light of JECFA decisions and publish the revised list in the Codex Alimentarius. The delegations of Ireland and the United Kingdom supported the views expressed by the United States and the delegation of Australia pointed to the technological difficulties in establishing such a standard.

418. The delegations of France, India, Switzerland, Iraq, Austria and Ghana supported the elaboration of a standard for fruit-based drinks with a high fruit ingredient content. The Chairman of the Group of Experts stated that it was not the intention of the Group to develop standards for soft drinks as such, but only for those fruit-based drinks which had a fruit ingredient content of more than 10% m/m.

419. The Commission recognized that views were about equally divided in the Commission. It also recognized that a decision of the Commission could be based only on full information on all aspects of the subject matter, having regard to the Commission's work priority criteria.

420. The Commission agreed that a paper should be prepared on the above and all other pertinent criteria and sent to governments for comments. It agreed also that the paper as well as the comments be submitted to the next Session of the Commission. The Secretariat was instructed to investigate the possibility of engaging a consultant for the preparation of the working paper.

421. Some delegations felt that the paper should first be discussed by the Group of Experts. However, the Commission decided that it should be submitted directly to the Commission as a policy-making body.

Vegetable Juices

422. The Commission was informed that the next session of the Group of Experts would consider the need for and feasibility of a General Standard for Vegetable Juices in the light of a working paper.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

423. The Commission had before it the Report of the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 85/18). It noted with great regret that because of illness the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Olaf Braekkan, was unable to attend the session. The report was introduced by Mr. Harald Pedersen of the Norwegian delegation.

424. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that although it had a full programme of work the Committee did not have the intention of closing its agenda to matters which were referred to it. In this respect he confirmed that the Committee would include in its next agenda the feasibility of developing a Draft Codex Standard for Shark Fins and a Code of Practice for Aquaculture which had been proposed by the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (see also para 303) and for which that Committee would provide the background documentation which it had considered at its fourth session.

Water binding agents

425. The Commission was informed that the question of whether the class name "water binding agents" should be included instead of "phosphates" in the existing list of class names had been discussed by both the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Food Labelling. The latter Committee had agreed that the term should not be included at the present time and that because of the multifunctional uses of phosphates, the matter should be further considered by the Committee.

Sampling Plans

426. The Committee had forwarded proposals for sampling plans for Fish Blocks to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. That Committee had made recommendations which would be further considered at the next session of the Committee.

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)

427. The Committee had noted that at its 31st Session the Executive Committee had examined the possibility of incorporating the above methodology into Codes of Practice/Hygienic Practice and had agreed that review and possible revision of some Codes might be required. The matter had also been considered by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene which had recommended that individual Commodity Committees should consider the codes which came within their programmes. The Rapporteur pointed out that the nine Codes so far developed by the Committee were combined Codes containing both technological and hygienic provisions of which the latter had been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. Incorporation of the HACCP approach might pose special problems and the matter would be reviewed at the next session of the Committee for further consideration by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Guidelines on Labelling Provisions in Codex Standards

428. The Rapporteur noted that the above had now been adopted by the Commission (see para. 194) and that the Standards elaborated by the Committee would require revision to bring them into line with the provisions of the Guidelines.

429. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that other items for consideration at the next Session of the Committee included:

- An objective method of determining the final quality of salted herring;
- Feasibility of developing a Standard for Frozen Squid and other Cephalopods;
- Review of Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Fish and Fishery Products.

Consideration of Standards and Codes of Practice at Step 8 and Step 5 of the Procedure Revised Codex Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon at Step 8 (ALINORM 85/18, Appendix II)

430. The Commission noted that the Standard had been revised over the last five sessions of the Committee and defects tables had been added.

431. The defects table had been tested extensively and the Committee was satisfied that it was workable. No Step 8 comments had been received.

432. The Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 85/22A) had referred the question of date-marking back to the Committee since there had been some expression of opinion that some form of date-marking might be required.

433. The Commission noted that the Standard would be reviewed in the light of the Guidelines on Labelling provisions in Codex Standards and that the Committee could reconsider the matter at that time.

Status of the Revised Codex Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon

434. Subject to the reconsideration of date-marking mentioned above, the Commission adopted the Codex Standard at Step 8 of the procedure.

Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish (Klippfish) of the Gadidae Fish Family at Step 5 (ALINORM 85/13A, Appendix V)

435. The Commission noted that the Committee had made considerable amendments and added a defects table to the above standard. The Committee had agreed to incorporate the defects table so that Governments could test it and report results to its next Session. Adoption at Step 5 was recommended.

Status of the Draft Standard

436. The Commission agreed to advance the Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish (Klippfish) of the Gadidae Fish Family to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Proposal for Harmonization of Recommended Defects Tables in Standards for Quick Frozen Fillets of Cod/Haddock, Ocean Perch, Flat Fish and Hake at Step 5 (ALINORM 85/15, Appendix VI)

437. The Commission was informed that the original defects table had been worked out by a Working Group at the 15th Session of the Committee and continued by the same Working Group which met in Bremerhaven before the 16th Session. The Committee had made further changes and decided that it was in a suitable state for testing by Governments and should be adopted at Step 5.

438. The Commission agreed with the point of view of the Committee and advanced the proposed Recommended Defects Tables to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Draft Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products at Step 8 (ALINORM 85/18, Appendix VII)

439. The Commission noted that the Code had been reviewed and revised by a Working Group of the Committee at its 16th Session. The Committee had accepted the revised text and advanced it to Step 8.

Status of the Draft Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products

440. The Commission noted that no comments had been received on the Code and adopted it at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Other Matters

Feasibility of Elaborating a Standard for Blocks of Whole Headless and Guttled Fish

441. The Commission was informed that the Committee had examined a background paper on the above prepared by Australia and in view of the substantial trade in such products had decided to ask the Commission for approval to commence work on the elaboration of a standard.

442. The Commission noted the discussions recorded in ALINORM 85/18 paras 279-282 and agreed that work on such a standard should be undertaken by the Committee.

Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CODEX STAN 94-1981)

443. The Commission was informed that the delegation of Portugal, supported by the delegation of Spain, France and Switzerland had proposed that only products obtained from Sardina pilchardus should be classified as canned sardines and products obtained from other species of fish included in the standard should be classified as sardine-type products.

444. The Commission noted that the matter had been thoroughly discussed at the 16th Session of the Committee (ALINORM 85/18 paras 283-286). It had been considered that the labelling provision of the Standard gave adequate protection to the consumer and the Committee had agreed not to take any further action on the matter.

445. The Commission agreed with the Committee's decision.

Confirmation of Chairman

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

447. The Commission had before it the Report of the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 85/26), which was introduced by the Chairman, Dr. H. Drews (Federal Republic of Germany) who outlined the work in progress.

448. Dr. Drews recalled that the Commission had extended the terms of reference of the Committee to cover nutritional aspects in Codex work, which had resulted in an increased participation at the 14th Session of the Committee. He also informed the Commission that the Committee did not recommend a change in the name of the Committee at the present time. The Chairman of the Committee further informed the Commission that work was in progress on a Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Low Energy and Energy-reduced Foods, on Guidelines for the Composition and Labelling of and Claims for Meat Replacers for Weight Reduction and on Guidelines on Medical Foods. The Commission noted that the Committee was elaborating guidelines on Supplementary Foods for Use for Infants and Children with an emphasis on locally available raw materials. Governments and Regional Coordinating Committees had been requested to submit information on raw material as well as on the definition of these products (Step 3).

449. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the Committee had decided to suspend work at the present time on the proposed Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods Claimed to be Suitable for Incorporation into a Prescribed Dietary Regimen for Diabetes, in view of new scientific developments in diabetes research. However, governments were being requested to submit information on their national requirements concerning specific food for diabetics.

Consideration of Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses at Step 8 (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/26)

450. The Commission recalled that it had not adopted the above standard at its 15th Session and had referred the standard back to the CCFSU with a request to align it with the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The Commission noted that this had been done and that the revised text of the above standard had also been endorsed by the Committee on Food Labelling.

Status of the Standard

451. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Amendments to Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children (Appendix IX to ALINORM 85/26) at Step 5 and Step 8

452. The Commission was informed that a number of amendments to the Codex Standard for Foods for Infants and Children had been considered by the 14th Session of the CCFSU; they were summarized in Appendix IX, Sections A to D. The Chairman of the Committee stated that the Committee had advanced these amendments to Step 5 and had recommended their adoption at Steps 5 and 8 with omission of Step 6 and 7. He pointed out that the maximum values for vitamin D in Section D should read 100 I.V. International

Units per 100 Assimilable Calories and 25 I.V. International Units per 100 Assimilable Kilojoules respectively as agreed to by the Committee.

453. Concerning Amendment A - Leavening Agents - the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed the view that maximum levels should be established for these ammonium compounds, since the residues received in the foods were not appropriate in a food for infants and children. This was supported by the delegate of Austria. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany also did not agree to the use of guar gum (Section C). The delegations of India and Australia felt that more comments were needed and that the amendments should be considered further. The delegation of India also proposed that the content of Vitamin D be expressed per 100 grammes or 100 ml of the food.

454. The delegation of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that JECFA had evaluated the leavening agents in Section A above, especially for their use in foods for infants and children and that the amendment had been fully considered by the CCFSDU and endorsed by the CCFA. The delegation therefore proposed adoption of the amendments at Steps 5 and 8.

Status of the Amendments

455. The Commission adopted at Steps 5 and 8 the amendments contained in section B of Appendix IX and adopted at Step 5 the amendments contained in Sections A, C and D. The delegation of Thailand stated that it could not take any action on the amendments, since it had not been in a position to accept the Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standard for Follow-up Foods for Infants and Young Children at Step 5 (Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/26)

456. The Commission was informed that full consideration had been given to the above standard, especially to its sections on scope and definitions. The Committee had decided that the products covered by the standard were appropriate for infants from 4 to 6 months onwards if given together with other complementary foods which provided part of the essential nutrients. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that all fundamental issues concerning the Standard had been discussed and that a number of technical points had still to be finalized. He recommended therefore that the standard be adopted at Step 5.

457. The delegation of India stated that the minimum age limit in the standard should be 6 months; this coincided with the Indian national recommendations.

458. The delegation of Thailand stated that the products covered by this standard were not of economic benefit to Thailand and informed the Commission of the three standards for foods for infants and children in force in Thailand. The delegation stated that it did not oppose adoption of the standard.

459. The Commission agreed that the technical comments made by the delegations of Italy and Austria should be submitted in writing to the Committee.

460. The delegation of Norway enquired whether the proposed Draft was fully compatible with the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Several delegations took the view that the follow-up food dealt with in Appendix IV was clearly in the nature of complementary food and could not be regarded as breast-milk substitute; in this connection, specific reference was made to section 9.9.2 which requires labelling to the effect that "Follow-up Food should be introduced only from 4 to 6 months on". The delegation of the Netherlands raised the question whether a provision might be included in the Proposed Draft, stating that the products covered are not intended as breastmilk substitutes.

461. The consultant who had prepared a report for the Committee on the question of compatibility of Codex standards with the WHO International Code, pointed out that the desirability of safeguarding the application of the WHO Code had already been examined

by the Committee in connection with the standards concerning Infant Formula, Canned Baby Foods and Cereal-based Foods. While the Committee had proposed an amendment to the first of these standards, which was now before the Commission, no conclusion had been reached on the question whether similar amendments containing a cross-reference to the WHO Code should be introduced in the other two standards. Since the Committee intended to resume consideration of this matter at a future session, this might provide an opportunity for the Committee to examine the same question also with respect to the Proposed Draft Standard on Follow-up Food for Older Infants and Young Children.

462. The representative of the WHO Legal Counsel pointed out that the scope of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes is contained in Article 2 of the Code. According to that provision "the Code applies to the marketing and practices related thereto, of ... breast-milk substitutes, including infant formula, other milk products, foods and beverages, including bottle-fed complementary foods, when marketed or otherwise represented to be suitable ... for use as a partial or total replacement of breast-milk ...".

463. Therefore, any of those products, irrespective of name, would be caught by Article 2 when it is being marketed or represented to be suitable as a replacement of breast-milk. He also pointed out that the International Code does not contain any age limit as to when Article 2 might not apply to such products.

464. Referring to Annex III, pages 35 and 36 of the International Code, the delegation of Switzerland was of the opinion that all fundamental matters had been thoroughly discussed by the Committee and should therefore not be reopened. This view was supported by the delegations of France and Kenya.

Status of the Standard

465. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the Proposed Draft Standard for Follow-up Foods for Older Infants and Young Children. The delegation of Norway stated its opposition to this decision and expressed the view that there was no real need for the products covered by the standard. New Zealand did not support elaboration or adoption at Step 5, as it believed that the most appropriate foods for the purpose were those of the country involved.

466. The Commission agreed that agenda items 30 (b) third indent and 30 (d) should be considered together.

Proposed Draft Amendments to Codex Standards for Food for Infants and Children (para 127 (a) and (b) of ALINORM 85/26)

467. The Chairman of the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses referred to the review paper mentioned in para 126 of the Committee's Report, in which the question of compatibility between the relevant Codex Standards and the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes had been examined in depth. He pointed out that the Committee had agreed with the conclusion of the review paper that there was no inconsistency between the WHO Code and the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned Codex Standards, and that it was, therefore, not indispensable, from a legal point of view, to amend these standards. After examining the question whether it would nevertheless be desirable to establish a link between the WHO Code and the Codex Standards by way of adding a suitable cross reference in the labelling provision of these Standards, the Committee had approved by consensus the following addition to section 10.10 of the Standard on Infant Formula, for consideration by the Commission:

"In this case, the provisions of Article 9 of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes of the World Health Organization should be duly taken into account."

468. There had been considerable opposition, however, to the introduction of a corresponding amendment to the Standards for Canned Baby Foods and Cereal-Based Foods, and the Committee had therefore decided to consider the matter further at a subsequent session, taking into account, as appropriate, any guidance that may be provided by the

Commission. During the Commission's deliberations, all delegates who took the floor supported the amendment prepared by the Committee with respect to the Infant Formula Standard. The Commission decided to adopt the amendment at Steps 5 and 8.

469. On the other hand, several delegates were opposed to the introduction of similar amendments (as worded in para 127 (b) of the Committee's report) to the Standards on Canned Baby Foods and Cereal-based Foods; they considered that these foods were clearly intended as complementary foods, not as breast-milk substitutes. A few delegates felt that, in view of certain marketing practices, the desirability of giving favourable consideration to appropriate amendments should be examined further by the Committee.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Guidelines for Use by Codex Committees on the Inclusion of Provisions on Nutritional Quality in Food Standards and Other Codex Texts (Annex 2 to Appendix V to ALINORM 85/26)

470. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the above Guidelines.

General Principles for the Addition of Nutrients to Foods (Appendix VII to ALINORM 85/26)

471. The Commission was informed that the Committee had considered a document on the addition of nutrients to foods. The Committee had recommended the Commission to approve that the text be developed in the format of general principles. The Commission was also informed that the Committee had agreed to a further round of comments prior to finalization of the text which would in turn be submitted to the next Session of the Commission. The Commission agreed with the action proposed by the CCFSDU and expressed its appreciation that the CCFSDU was dealing with this very important subject.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

472. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

473. The Commission commended the Committee for its efficient work under the revised terms of reference. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Drews, indicated that, in order to expedite work and facilitate consideration of the work carried out by the numerous working groups, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany were considering holding the meetings of the Working Groups several months in advance of the next Session of the Committee. A decision on this matter would be communicated in due course.

Proposal of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to amend Certain Codex Standards

474. The Commission had before it a Conference Room Document (LIM 1), prepared by the IAEA indicating that the prohibition of irradiation treatment included in certain Codex standards and the general clearance of the process of irradiation through the Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods represented an inconsistency.

475. The Observer from the IAEA informed the Commission that this question had been raised at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, but that time did not permit a discussion of the matter.

476. The Observer from IAEA pointed out that the present Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods recognized that the process of food irradiation had been established as safe for general application to food up to an absorbed dose level of 10 kGy. In his opinion, it was not the intention of the Codex General Standard to imply a need for clearance of the process on a food by food basis, or to restrict authorization of the process in any other way. A number of Codex standards (e.g. fruit juices and foods for infants and children) prohibited the application of irradiation either to the finished product, or to components used in the preparation of the food. Although the use of the irradiation process might not be relevant for

the treatment of food products such as fruit juices or canned foods for children, it was possible that components might have been treated by irradiation (e.g. cereals for insect disinfection purposes and the elimination of pathogens in spices or dried ingredients).

477. The Observer from IAEA, therefore, indicated that it would be highly appreciated if the Commission would bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate Codex Committees and the Joint UNECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices.

478. During the discussion of the proposal of the IAEA, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain were of the opinion that nothing would be gained by referring the matter to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, since the general clearance referred to the average adult and that there was no technological need for the irradiation of foods for infants and children. Other delegations supported the proposal of the IAEA that the matter be further discussed by the appropriate Codex Committees. The delegation of the United Kingdom was of the opinion that, as the issue raised by IAEA was a general one, it should be considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

479. The Commission agreed that the question raised by IAEA be referred to the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS (CCPMPP)

480. The Commission had before it the Report of the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products as contained in ALINORM 85/16. The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. A. Brincker, who gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last Session of the Commission.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat and Poultry Products including Annexes A and B

481. The Commission had before it the above Code of Hygienic Practice as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 85/16 and Step 8 comments, as put forward by Ireland and Thailand and contained in documents ALINORM 85/43 - Part VI, LIM 11 and LIM 22.

482. The delegation of USA informed the Commission of its concern about the Code regarding (i) definition of meat which was more appropriate to meat at the time of slaughter and did not cover meat which was processed; (ii) water temperature specifications, and (iii) mid-shift clean up requirements. It suggested that the Committee might review the above aspects and amend certain clauses of the Code, if considered necessary.

483. The Observer from the EEC stated that the EEC Member Countries agreed that the Code should be adopted at Step 8, but pointed out that EEC laws differed in certain aspects from the Code and that import of meat products into the Community would have to comply with more stringent requirements. The various points of divergence were explained in the Reports of the various CCPMPP sessions.

484. The Commission noted that the above Code, including Annexes A and B, which was a revision of an earlier version, presented as CAC/RCP 13-1976, took into account the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP).

Status of the Code

485. It was pointed out that the CCFH had expressed the opinion that the Code should be submitted for endorsement to that Committee. Doubts were raised as to whether the CCFH had wanted to review Annex C only or the entire Code. The Commission reconfirmed its earlier decision that Codes of practice elaborated by the CCMH and the CCPMPP would not have to be endorsed by the CCFH.

486. Noting that Thailand in its comments agreed to Annex A and that the comments raised by Ireland on Annexes A and B were adequately covered in the body of the Code, the Commission adopted the Code with Annexes A and B at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

487. The delegation of Argentina expressed a reservation regarding the definition of meat which in its view was too wide and would allow certain by-products of meat to be considered as meat.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Sampling and Inspection Procedures for Investigational Microbiological Examination of Meat Products in Hermetically Sealed Containers (Annex C to Recommended International Code of Practice for Processed Meat Products)

488. The Commission had before it the above Annex C as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 85/16 and Step 8 comments of Ireland and Thailand as contained in documents ALINORM 85/43 - Part VI and LIM 11.

489. The Commission noted that Annex C to the Code was being considered separately, since it was not a part of the former Code (CAC/RCP 13-1976). It also noted that it had been considered twice by the CCFH.

490. The delegation of the USA made a suggestion that Annex C be reviewed by the Committee at its next session in the light of a recently published book entitled "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Food Ingredients" published by the National Academy of Sciences, USA, and that the Code be amended, if considered necessary.

491. The Commission decided that it would not be necessary to return Annex C once more for consideration by the CCFH, since it had been revised in accordance with the proposals of that Committee and since no substantial Step 8 comments had been submitted.

Status of Annex C

492. The Commission adopted Annex C to the Code at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure with the editorial change in Section B2(e) as suggested by Ireland in document ALINORM 85/43 - Part VI.

493. The delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that it would prefer to have an incubation temperature of 37° instead of 30° as required by the ISO Standard (IS 2293), cited in Section III - Procedure B Non-Shelf Stable Meat Products, heat treated after packaging - Techniques (2d).

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) and Milk Protein Products (MPP) in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

494. The Commission had before it the above Guidelines as contained in Appendix IV of ALINORM 85/16.

495. Some delegations were opposed to the elaboration of the Guidelines for the use of VPP and MPP in Processed Meat and Poultry Products since, in their view, products where meat is replaced by VPP cannot be considered as meat products.

496. Noting that it had already authorised the elaboration of the Guidelines for the use of VPP and MPP in Processed Meat and Poultry Products (ALINORM 83/43, paras 388-391) and noting that commercial practices in this regard were established and were under further development, the Commission adopted the Guidelines at Step 5 of the Codex Procedure and advanced them to Step 6. The Commission expressed the wish that the development of these Guidelines should take place in close cooperation with the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins and that these should be consistent and go parallel with the General Guidelines developed by that Committee.

497. The Commission noted that the outstanding question in the Guidelines, which is the problem about the naming of the product in which meat has been partially substituted by VPP or MPP, had been discussed under Agenda Item 18.

Other Matters Arising from the Report of the 13th Session of the Committee

498. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/21 - Part 1 containing other matters of interest to the Commission arising from the Report of the 13th Session of the Committee.

Carry over Principle (paras 231-232)

499. The Commission agreed with the Committee that the Carry over Principle applied to all standards so far elaborated by it, Luncheon Meat (CODEX STAN 89-1981), Cooked Cured Chopped Meat (CODEX STAN 98-1981), Cooked Cured Ham (CODEX STAN 96-1981), Cooked Cured Pork Shoulder (CODEX STAN 97-1981) and Canned Corned Beef (CODEX STAN 88-1981).

Future Work

500. The Commission noted the following future work of the Committee:

- (i) Consideration at Step 6 of the Guidelines for Use of VPP and MPP in Processed Meat and Poultry Products
- (ii) Revision of existing Codex standards for Processed Meat and Poultry Products
- (iii) Consideration at Step 4 of Guidelines on the Preservation of Shelf Stable Cured Meat Products in Consumer Size Hermetically Sealed Containers as Annex D to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat and Poultry Products, and
- (iv) Establishment of Provisions for Contaminants (tin and lead) in standards for Processed Meat and Poultry Products on the basis of a survey to be carried out on the same lines as the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Animal Diseases through Meat Products in International Trade (paras 257-262)

501. The Commission noted that the Committee had considered to undertake work on this subject, if in the view of the Commission, it was an appropriate task to be undertaken by the Committee.

502. The Commission had before it a background document LIM 14 on the subject prepared by the Chairman of the CCPMPP. The Commission noted that since the Executive Committee at its 32nd Session could not discuss document LIM 14 because of lack of time, the views of the Executive Committee on the subject were not available.

503. Introducing document LIM 14, Mrs. Anne Brincker informed the Commission that the title of the Guidelines would perhaps convey better the intent of the Guidelines to the user if it were changed to read "Guidelines for Processing of Meat Products to Prevent Transmission of Animal Diseases". She informed the Commission that national requirements for the processing of meat from healthy animals originating from a country or area where an animal disease exists differ considerably and that this creates non-tariff trade barriers which are of significant economic importance. She informed the Commission that the elaboration of Guidelines, which included animal health aspects, seemed to be within the scope of the Codex Alimentarius, since provisions to such effect were included in the Draft International Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat (ALINORM 85/32) elaborated by the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene. The Commission was also informed that the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) was engaged in work in this field.

504. Many delegations expressed the need for the development of the Guidelines, but felt, however, that it might not be an appropriate task for Codex to undertake. The Commission agreed that such a task should rather be undertaken by FAO and recommended that FAO convene a meeting of experts to consider this subject for appropriate action. It was also proposed that OIE and other bodies that might have an interest in the matter should be invited. The Commission noted that if work was undertaken, the Codex

Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products might be able to assist with regard to processing technology.

505. The delegation of the USA informed the Commission that they had many years of experience in this field in their country and that they would be pleased to cooperate in any work which might be undertaken. The observer from the EEC also offered their cooperation.

506. The Codex Secretariat informed the Commission that the recommendation as above would be forwarded to the appropriate Division within FAO for consideration.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES

508. The Commission had before it the Report of the 4th Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (ALINORM 85/29) and matters requiring specific action in ALINORM 85/21. Proposals for amendments and comments at Step 8 were contained in ALINORM 85/43 Part II and Add.1 and LIM 23. The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. D.R. Galliard (United States of America).

Consideration of Draft Standard for Wheat Flour at Step 8 (Appendix II to ALINORM 85/29)

509. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that the 15th Session of the Commission had returned the above Standard to Step 6, since it had felt that numerous sections had not yet been completely finalized. He indicated that considerable improvements had been made to the standard and informed the Commission that the Committee had, therefore, advanced the Standard to Step 8. Referring to the written proposals for amendments, he informed the Commission that these proposals had been extensively discussed within the Committee.

510. The Chairman of the Committee recommended adoption of the standard recognizing that the section on food additives still remained to be endorsed, due to the timing of sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

511. The delegations of Austria and Iraq stated that they were not in favour of the general form of the provisions on contaminants. The delegation of Iraq was of the opinion that, since bread was a staple food in many countries, intake studies should be carried out in those countries and maximum levels for contaminants established.

512. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that a questionnaire for a survey of contaminants in cereals and cereal products had recently been sent to governments and that the delegation of Switzerland had kindly agreed to evaluate the replies and to present a paper to the next Session of the Committee.

513. The delegation of Argentina stressed that it could not agree with the hygiene provisions in 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 which, it thought, were very ambiguously worded and should, therefore, be deleted; in fact as a general matter, they should be deleted from all standards. The Secretariat indicated that an editorial amendment would be made to those provisions in the standards developed by this Committee, to clarify the meaning of the provisions.

514. Several French speaking delegations pointed out that the term "blé" as such should be used in the scope section of the standard; this was in accordance with the footnote to para 37 of ALINORM 85/29.

515. The delegation of France stated that it was opposed to the use of bleaching agents which had now been classified as processing aids. It was of the opinion that bleaching agents would deceive the consumer with regard to the quality of the flour and

might represent a health hazard. Furthermore, the use of these substances was not necessary in properly prepared flour from sound raw material. The delegation of France expressed its reservations on all flour improvers except ascorbic acid.

516. The delegation of Greece supported France with regard to many food additives. The delegation of Greece requested, however, that the use of tartaric and citric acid be permitted in the Standard. The points made by France were also supported by Switzerland, Togo and Portugal.

517. The delegations of Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany wished to limit the number of food additives permitted in the Standard. The delegation of India favoured the retention of flour improvers mentioned in the Standard. However regarding benzoyl benzoate, as this is permitted under Indian regulations for wheat flour, it could also be included in the Codex standard.

518. The delegation of the United Kingdom felt that the standard as presently drafted represented the best compromise solution which could be achieved. The delegation was of the opinion that there was a need in future to reconsider the method of analysis and the related value for fat acidity, since the present method required the use of benzene and was therefore not suitable. A new ISO method was being developed.

519. The observer of the EEC stated that the question of methods of analysis had not been examined in sufficient depth and that consequently the question should be reviewed by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

520. The Commission noted that none of the delegations that had spoken had opposed adoption of the Standard at Step 8 and concluded that the need for and importance of an international Codex Standard for Wheat Flour, one of the major staple foods, was such as to outweigh any possible improvements to the Standard that might be gained from further consideration of some aspects of the Standard by the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, which would mean a delay of a further two years at least in adopting the Standard, the elaboration of which had been proposed, in the first instance, by developing countries.

Status of the Standard

521. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Wheat Flour recognizing that most of the food additive provisions had still to be endorsed. Following established practice, any additives not endorsed by the CCFA would be deleted from the Standard before issue to governments.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Maize (Corn) Grains at Step 8 (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/29)

522. The Chairman of the Committee reminded the Commission that the draft standard for maize (corn) grains had been referred to the Committee from the Coordinating Committee for Africa. The Commission also recalled that the 15th Session had returned the standard to Step 6 for further work mainly on methods of analysis and sampling. The Commission was informed that specific working groups had revised the Standard in such a way that they now felt that the Standard was ready for adoption at Step 8.

523. The delegation of Brazil expressed its reservation on a moisture content of 15.5% m/m and stated that in countries with a tropical or subtropical climate the maximum moisture content should be 13.5% to prevent deterioration of the grains. The opinion of Brazil was supported by the delegations of Ghana, Mexico and Ivory Coast.

524. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that this matter had been discussed at great length in the Committee and proposed not to change the figure, recognizing that this was a minimum standard.

525. The delegation of Thailand was not opposed to the adoption of the draft standard, provided its proposals for amendment of sections 2.2.1.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.1.1 were accepted.

Status of the Standard

526. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Maize (Corn) Grains.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Whole Maize (Corn) Meal (Appendix IV to ALINORM 85/29)

527. The Commission noted the reservation of the delegation of Brazil on a maximum moisture content of 15% m/m which was considered too high in view of the high fat content of maize; it was proposed that under tropical and subtropical conditions the moisture content should not exceed 13.5% m/m. The Commission noted that Thailand had proposed to amend the value for protein content.

Status of the Standard

528. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Whole Maize (Corn) Meal.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Degermed Maize (Corn) Meal and Maize (Corn) Grits (Appendix V to ALINORM 85/29)

529. The delegation of Brazil, supported by the delegations of Cuba and Greece, stated that it could not agree with the moisture content of 15% m/m for reasons given in the previous standards. The Secretariat was instructed to correct the wording of section 4.4.1 in the Spanish version of the Standard.

Status of the Standard

530. The Commission adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Degermed Maize (Corn) Meal and Maize (Corn) Grits.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Certain Pulses at Step 5 (Appendix VI to ALINORM 85/29)

531. The Commission was informed that a minimum standard was being elaborated. The Commission noted that only two provisions remained in square brackets and that the ISO/ICC/AOAC Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for Cereals had agreed also to consider appropriate methods for inclusion in this Standard.

532. The Commission agreed that any technical comments should be submitted to the CCCPL for discussion at the next Session of that Committee.

Status of the Standard

533. The Commission adopted, at Step 5, the Draft Standard for Certain Pulses.

Other Matters Arising from the Report

Future Work

534. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Commission that the programme of work of the Committee included the following items:

- Milled rice: the ISO standard on milled rice will be reviewed when finalized with a view to determining whether a Codex standard is needed for this commodity.
- Sorghum grains and sorghum flour: as decided under Item 24, the Committee will elaborate world-wide standards for these products.
- Durum Wheat Flour and Semolina: a background paper and a first draft standard for these products will be discussed by the next session of the Committee.
- Contaminants: survey carried out by the delegation of Switzerland.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

535. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United States of America.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS

536. The Commission had before it the Report of the Third Session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins which was introduced by the Chairman, Dr. N.W. Tape (Canada) who reviewed the work in progress.

Consideration of the Draft International General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products at Step 5

537. The Commission noted that the General Standard was nearly complete and that there were no square brackets in the draft. The only areas remaining to be elaborated were one or two methods of analysis, the contaminant levels and Section 4 on "Food Additives". Action had been taken to facilitate completion of these sections at the Committee's next session - i.e., a Working Group to draft the section on food additives and a circular letter to member countries to obtain information.

538. The delegation of Japan was of the opinion that the General Standard should be developed for VPP not covered by individual standards, as was the case with the standards for fats and oils. The Commission noted that in the case of VPPs individual standards varied only for specific characteristics and otherwise followed the provisions of the General Standard.

Status of the Draft International General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products

539. The Commission adopted the General Standard at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Consideration of the Draft International Standard for Soy Protein Products at Step 5

540. The Commission noted that, as in the General Standard, the Soy Protein Product Standard had only a few areas to be completed. These related to the protein nutritive value, the elaboration of the section on food additives, the identification of a few methods of analysis and the level of some contaminants. Adoption, at Step 5, of the Draft International Standard for Soy Protein Products had been recommended.

Status of the Draft International Standard for Soy Protein Products

541. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Consideration of the Draft International Standard for Wheat Gluten at Step 5

542. The Commission was informed that this standard was also nearly complete. The only substantive matter to be resolved was the minimum protein content of wheat gluten. The present text had 80% in square brackets. In view of discussions since the last session, the Committee Chairman was of the opinion that agreement would be reached on this point at the next meeting of the Committee.

543. Adoption at Step 5 of the Draft International Standard for Wheat Gluten had, therefore, been recommended.

544. The delegation of France pointed out that there were relatively few ISO standards referenced in the above documents and undertook to send detailed information on this point for consideration by the Committee.

Status of the Draft International Standard for Wheat Gluten

545. The Commission adopted the Draft Standard at Step 5 of the Procedure.

Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods

546. The Committee had prepared an 8-part General Guideline for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods, and an Annex relating to testing the safety and nutritional quality of vegetable protein products. Elaboration of both the guidelines and the annex was nearly complete.

547. The only substantive matter to be resolved was the Guideline on the labelling of an animal food product in which part or all of the animal protein had been substituted by a vegetable protein product. This subject had received full discussion earlier in the Commission's session (see paras 175-185) and, therefore, did not need to be re-discussed at this juncture. Dr. Tape informed the Commission that, with the objective of moving towards resolution of this issue, he had invited the United Kingdom and the USA to prepare a revised text for sections 7.5 and 7.6 of the Guidelines for consideration at the next session of the CCVP. Both delegations had accepted the invitation to draft a joint text. As a result Dr. Tape was hopeful that the Committee would resolve this difficult issue at its next meeting.

548. Since this labelling issue was the only portion of the General Guidelines to be completed, and since considerable opportunity remained for government and observer comment, the Committee recommended adoption at Step 5 of the Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods.

Status of the Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products in Food

549. The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines at Step 5 of the Procedure.

550. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterated its previous position that it was against the use of vegetable proteins and milk proteins to substitute meat proteins and also against the use of vegetable proteins in milk products and for this reason opposed adoption of the Guidelines at Step 5.

Other Matters arising from the Report

551. The Commission noted that the Committee had received progress reports from working groups on:

- (a) Protein quality measurement; and
- (b) Quantitative methods for the differentiation of vegetable and animal proteins.

552. The Committee had been reviewing the possibility of alternate methods to the Protein Efficiency Ratio (PER) for the measurement of protein quality. The traditional PER method was costly and time-consuming and more rapid methods were therefore being developed. A Working Group was monitoring the new technology. At the last session, the Working Group had concluded that the preferred approach for evaluating protein quality was based on amino acid composition data. In view of research currently underway, it was possible that the Working Group would recommend to the next session of the CCVP, a new method for the measurement of protein quality. If accepted, the new method would then be incorporated into the standards and guidelines.

553. The CCVP had also identified the need for practical methods to differentiate vegetable and animal proteins in a mixture. A Working Group was assessing the adequacy of methods under development. However, at the present time, no single analytical method was adequate for product control purposes. A further report on this matter would be received at the next session of the Committee.

554. At its next session, the Committee would be considering reports from working groups established to review the need for standards for:

(a) Potato Protein products; and

(b) Soy-based beverages.

555. As had been requested by the Commission at its last session, the Committee would review the proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Protein Products and Milk Protein Products in Processed Meat and Poultry Products developed by the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products.

556. The Committee also agreed to up-date the 1978 report to the Commission describing the current status of vegetable protein production and utilization. In addition, the Committee would proceed with further elaboration of the three standards and the general utilization guidelines.

557. Dr. Tape informed the Commission that the next session of the CCVP, originally scheduled for September 1985, had been postponed until early 1987. This "gestation period" would facilitate further discussion and preparation on outstanding matters, with a view to completing the three standards and the general utilization guidelines at the Fourth Session. If successful, the Committee would have the standards and guidelines ready for consideration at Step 8 in 1987.

558. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

559. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins should continue to be under the chairmanship of the Government of Canada.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standard for White Chocolate/Cocoa Butter Confectionery

560. The Commission had before it ALINORM 85/10 containing relevant extracts from the Report of the 15th Session of the Committee and the above standard (ALINORM 83/10 and Appendix V).

561. The Commission noted that there had been long-standing discussions both within the Committee and the Commission regarding the inclusion of the term "White Chocolate" in the title and description section of the Standard.

562. At its last Session, the Commission had noted that opinions of whether or not to retain the term "White Chocolate" were equally divided (ALINORM 83/43 paras 466-476) and had agreed to hold the draft standard, as it appeared in Annex V, at Step 8 of the Procedure and reconsider the matter further at the present Session.

563. The delegation of Ghana and the delegations of the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Mexico supported by the Observer of COPAL, reiterated their fundamental opposition to the use of the term "White Chocolate" in the Standard. The above-mentioned group pointed out that the product in question did not conform to the essential composition and quality factors of the Codex Standard for Chocolate.

564. The delegation of Switzerland supported by the delegations of Austria, Belgium and the United Kingdom and the Observer from the EEC were of the opinion that the term should be allowed in countries where its use was traditional and supported the present provisions of the Standard. The delegation of the United Kingdom was, however, agreeable to the Standard being entitled as that for cocoa butter confectionery.

565. After some discussion, the Chairman noted that opinions remained unchanged and appointed a small group consisting of the Chairman of the Committee, two representatives of countries where the use of the term "White Chocolate" was traditional (United Kingdom, Belgium) and two representatives of the producing countries who were opposed to the use of the term (Ghana, Ivory Coast). The Chairman of the Commission was also a member of the Group.

566. Following a meeting of the above-mentioned Group, the Commission was informed by the Chairman that the Group had agreed on the following compromise proposal, which it recommended to the Commission:

1. Delete "White Chocolate" from the title and 2.1 Description.
2. Amend 7.1, "Name of the food" to read:

"Products described under Section 2.1 and complying with Section 3.1 of the Standard shall be designated Cocoa Butter Confectionery. In those countries where the name White Chocolate is widely used, the use of this name is permitted".

567. The Commission agreed to the compromise and congratulated the Group for having reached a solution to the problem.

Status of the Standard for Cocoa Butter Confectionery

568. The Commission adopted the Standard as amended at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

Reconsideration at Step 8 of Draft International Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat at Step 8 (ALINORM 85/32)

570. The Commission had available ALINORM 85/32 containing the above Code and LIM 12 containing government comments.

571. The subject was introduced by the Head of the New Zealand delegation (Mr. G.H. Boyd) on behalf of the Chairman, Mr. M.L. Cameron. The Commission noted that the Committee had adjourned sine die but that the above Code had not been adopted at Step 8 at the 15th Session of the Commission as had been hoped, chiefly because delegates had made comments on the public health/animal health aspects of the Code. It had, therefore, been advanced to Step 6 and written comments had been invited on the public health/animal health aspects of the Code. The views of governments had been collected and analysed by the FAO as a policy matter to ascertain whether there was justification for re-examining the Code. The "Judgement Code" had, therefore, been circulated at Step 6 with a Circular Letter (CL 1984/4 January 1984) requesting such comments.

572. At its 31st Session, the Executive Committee had noted that most of the comments were of a constructive editorial nature and that there was a substantial body of opinion that the high degree of international consensus already reached could not be bettered.

573. The Executive Committee had decided, therefore, that the best course of action would be to put the Code, editorially revised to take account of constructive editorial points made before this Session of the Commission, at Step 8. It would, of course, be open to any member country and interested international organizations to make Step 8 comments on the revised text.

574. The present version of the Code had, therefore, been amended as instructed by the Executive Committee. Comments on the amended Code had been received from Poland, Sweden and Mexico.

575. The Commission noted that, in the opinion of the experts in the FAO Animal Production and Health Division, the comments from Poland were not substantive and none of the points raised by Sweden would change the text substantially, since most had been

already discussed by the Committee. The FAO Animal Production and Health Division considered that one editorial change which would make an entry into the table of diseases more precise could be added.

576. The experts in the Animal Production and Health Division had been of the opinion that the comments from Mexico contained useful technical nomenclature which could be used to edit the Spanish version of the Code.

577. The Representative of the EEC informed the Commission that there was general agreement within the EEC that the Code should be adopted and pointed out that the present Code would not affect existing national or international provisions relating to non-zoonotic contagious animal epizootic diseases.

Status of the Draft International Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat

578. The Commission noted that there was general agreement that the Code should be adopted at Step 8 and so decided. It was understood that some editorial amendments would be made before the Code was published.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

AMENDMENT OF CODEX STANDARD FOR TABLE OLIVES (CODEX STAN 66-1981) - REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL (ALINORM 85/33)

580. The Observer from the IOOC, Mrs. B. Pajuelo introduced ALINORM 85/33, containing a report on two meetings convened by the International Olive Oil Council on the Revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives (CODEX STAN 66-1981).

581. She informed the Commission that at its 50th and 51st Sessions, the International Olive Oil Council had convened special meetings of the IOOC Committee of Experts on Table Olives. Member Countries of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been invited to participate for the purpose of revising the above standard, as had been agreed to by the 15th Session of the Commission.

582. Mrs. Pajuelo informed the Commission also that the International Olive Oil Council was offering to convene a similar meeting in connection with its 54th Session planned for May 1986, to give consideration to the revised standard at Step 7.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Revised Text of Codex Standard for Table Olives at Step 5 (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/33)

583. The Chairman of the IOOC Group of Experts Mr. P. Elmanowsky (France) informed the Commission that the above standard had been thoroughly revised to align it with the minimum requirements of the IOOC Standard for Table Olives and that only a few sections (on food additives, contaminants, tolerances for the drained weight and labelling) needed further consideration.

Status of the Standard

584. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the Draft Revised Text of the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

585. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the International Olive Oil Council for providing excellent facilities for the revision of the above standard and accepted the kind offer of the International Olive Oil Council to convene a further meeting to finalize the revision of the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

586. The Commission had before it progress reports on developments in the revision of methods of analysis for sugars and in the establishment of maximum limits for lead in sugars (ALINORM 85/27) and a report on the estimation of lead intake from sugars and from other sources by the Codex Committee on Food Additives (LIM 24).

587. The Commission noted that the question of the review of methods of analysis for sugars was still under consideration and that it was likely to be finalized at the next session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Observer from ISO, speaking on behalf of ISO TC/93 dealing with starch hydrolysis products, recalled that close cooperation existed between this ISO Technical Committee and the Codex Committee on Sugars as regards the establishment of methods of analysis for the various types of sugars.

588. The Commission also noted that the question of lead levels in sugars was still under consideration and urged governments to send information to the Secretariat as indicated in Circular CL 1985/7 as soon as possible. It expressed its appreciation to the United Kingdom for its contribution to the work of the Commission in the field of sugars.

589. The delegation of the United Kingdom indicated that the question of lead intake, especially by children, was still under review and that the JECFA would consider this matter at its next session. As regards the setting of legal limits for lead in sugars, the Codex Committee on Food Additives would reconsider this matter at its 18th Session in 1985 in the light of further comments from governments.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

591. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue to be under the Chairmanship of Switzerland.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

592. The Commission decided, on the proposal of the Host Government (Federal Republic of Germany), to dissolve the Committee.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

593. 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.

COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

595. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters should continue under the Chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

596. The Commission noted that there were several outstanding items of work that needed to be completed by the Committee on Fats and Oils. The Commission also noted the statement of the United Kingdom delegation that, additionally, it would deal with the elaboration of a Code of Practice for the Storage, Handling and Transport of Edible Oils in Bulk - a proposal which had been made by Malaysia supported by the Coordinating Committee for Asia.

597. The Commission heard a proposal from the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) (contained in LIM 5) that it should give its approval to the initiation of the amendment of the Codex Standard for Olive Oil, Virgin and Refined Olive-Residue Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981) in order to bring the minimum quality criteria of the Codex Standard into line with the minimum quality criteria of the trading standard for olive oil elaborated and adopted by the Council at its 52nd Session. The trading standard elaborated by IOOC differed from the existing Codex Standard for Olive Oils, particularly as regards the limits for certain fatty acids, the inclusion of limits for campesterol and cholesterol among the sterols and the peroxide value for refined oils.

598. The Commission agreed that the amendment procedure could be initiated and that the secretariats of IOOC and Codex together should prepare a draft of the amendments for consideration by the next session of the IOOC, to be held in November 1985. It was also agreed that subsequently the proposed amendment should be sent to governments for comments at Step 3 and that the 13th Session of the CCFO should consider them at its next session.

599. The delegation of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that it had agreed to convene one more session in London, to be held in early 1987 to complete the outstanding items of work. In addition, it agreed to put on the agenda an item on "Standard for Edible Black Currant Seed Oil" requested for consideration by Switzerland.

600. The Commission was informed that it was the intention of the United Kingdom to propose at the end of the 13th Session of the Committee, that the Committee be adjourned sine die and that matters that still remained unresolved be finalized by correspondence.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

601. 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.

PART X

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS FOR 1986-87

602. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 85/45. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the Indonesian authorities had proposed March 1986 as a suitable period for hosting the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia in Indonesia.

603. Concerning the date of the planned Codex ad hoc world-wide intergovernmental meeting to consider the need for international standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables, which would be hosted by the Government of Mexico in Mexico City, the Secretariat indicated that, on the basis of preliminary discussions with the Mexican delegation, early 1987 appeared to be convenient. The precise date would be agreed upon by the Secretariat and the Mexican authorities in due course.

604. The delegation of the USA indicated that the date 10-14 March 1986 for the Eighteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables should still be regarded as tentative. The delegation of the USA also indicated that the period 27 to 31 October 1986 was a likely date for the First Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, which would be held in Washington, D.C. Definitive information about the dates of the above two sessions would be sent to the Secretariat shortly.

605. The delegation of Cuba stated that there had been some discussions with the delegation of Canada concerning the possibility of holding the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins and the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in consecutive weeks in Havana. No dates had been worked out for these two sessions, but the first two weeks of February 1987 were a possibility. The delegation of Canada confirmed that discussions along the lines outlined above were going on.

606. The Commission noted that the period 8 - 16 January 1987 for the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses was firm. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterated, as had been stated by it earlier during the Commission, that it would be in the interest of advancing the work if the specialized working groups, which normally meet immediately before the plenary session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses, were to meet some months in advance of the Committee's January 1987 session. The Commission agreed to this proposal.

607. The delegation of Canada stated that it would advise, as soon as possible, on a suitable date for the Nineteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (earlier in the session the delegation had indicated that April 1987 appeared to be a suitable date).

608. Concerning a date for the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, it was noted that a date would be worked out by the Secretariat and the United Kingdom authorities as soon as possible.

609. The Secretariat indicated that it had been advised by the Hungarian authorities that the date 10 - 14 November 1986 for the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling was firm, but that it might be necessary to extend the length of the session somewhat to deal satisfactorily with the expected increased workload, especially in the area of sampling.

OTHER BUSINESS

610. None.

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

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APPENDIX II

OPENING ADDRESS BY DR. H. MAHLER

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization and my colleagues at the World Health Organization I extend to you all a very warm welcome to Geneva.

As in 1981, when you met last in Geneva, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm the World Health Assembly's continued recognition of the importance of the Organization's collaboration with FAO in supporting the aims of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, particularly the protection of consumers against possible health hazards in food.

In considering the report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety held in Geneva in 1983, we noted with concern the Expert Committee's view that illness due to contaminated food was perhaps the most widespread problem in the contemporary world and an important cause of reduced economic productivity. A strategy for the prevention and control of foodborne diseases by improvement of food safety has been proposed by this Expert Committee. This strategy recognizes the need for greatly increased community participation if foodborne morbidity and mortality rates are to be reduced to more acceptable levels, and underlines the need for strengthening food control, both regulatory and voluntary. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, through its internationally agreed commodity standards, its standards and guidelines for the labelling of foods and food additives, its maximum limits for pesticide residues in foods and its many codes of hygienic and technological practice has provided, and is still in the process of providing, food control authorities and the food industry with a wealth of most valuable advice and background information.

It has taken more than 20 years and a considerable investment in terms of manpower and money to elaborate what is now already published in the Codex Alimentarius. But we at WHO are also deeply concerned because in many Member States, in government and industry alike, these Codex standards and advisory texts are not implemented as widely as possible for the health and economic benefit of their people. We are informed that some Member States and economic groups use Codex standards and maximum residue limits (MRLs) as a point of departure for the development of their own, and in many instances, differing standards and regulations. The undesirability of parallel systems of standards was also expressed in 1981 by the WHO Executive Board. I therefore join the Executive Committee in its efforts to encourage members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to make better use of Codex standards, MRLs, and other texts, even though some countries might find it impossible to formally accept them. Member States who find it difficult to implement Codex standards and recommendations might wish to call upon their Organizations and establish technical cooperation activities in order to find solutions for a better utilization of these texts at the national level.

I understand from the report of the 30th Session of the Executive Committee and from the provisional agenda for this 16th session of the CAC that you will be considering the future direction of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. May I propose in this context that you consider reviewing and possibly amending some of your recommendations, especially the codes of hygienic practice, which some people claim are rather rigorous and expensive in relation to the health benefits they are expected to provide. In this way, these recommendations might become even more valuable, especially for small food processors in developing countries.

The matter of the safety of food packaging material is also of concern to us. The Expert Committee on Food Safety, to which I have referred earlier also made the point that considerable work needs to be done on packaging in order to reduce cost and to ensure food integrity. I know that you will be considering this item and I am expressing my hope that your Commission, which is so closely collaborating with the food industry, could provide leadership also in this field.

The Commission might also find it possible to provide leadership in the identification of simple and less expensive analytical methods for the qualitative and quantitative detection of hazardous substances and microorganisms in food. Many of the methods in general use today are not really applicable under conditions prevailing in many parts of the world.

These are just some of the ideas which you might wish to pursue.

The efforts of Member States to utilize the Regional Coordinating Committees of the CAC to promote food safety and food safety activities are greatly appreciated. I understand that your discussions will include the possibility of Coordinating Committees monitoring progress on the implementation of jointly agreed measures taken by Member States to improve food safety. This should be an effective tool to stimulate additional action at the national level which would, it is hoped, lead to increased technical cooperation activities in food safety between Member States themselves and between Member States, WHO and FAO. The association of WHO/PAHO workshops on food safety, by appropriate timing and venue, with sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean is another good example of the efforts required on all sides to promulgate Codex activities and to improve food safety. Member States in the regions of Africa, Asia and Europe might wish to come to similar arrangements with their respective WHO Regional Offices and possibly those of FAO.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thought it would be useful to re-state in my opening remarks that the World Health Organization, in collaboration with FAO, continues to be deeply involved and interested in the work of the CAC. I also take the opportunity of once more expressing the appreciation of FAO and WHO to those governments which have so generously hosted meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies since the last session in 1983. My appreciation goes also to the Geneva cantonal authorities for their generosity in offering the excellent

facilities of the CICG. Mr. Kimbrell, I believe that this is the first Commission at which you act in your capacity of Chairman and I extend my sincere and best wishes to you.

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

Before concluding, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Graham Kermode, the former Chief of the Food Standards Programme, who has recently retired from FAO. Mr. Kermode has been the Chief of the Programme since 1964, and it is largely due to his initiative, his organizational and administrative ability and his devotion to the achievement of the aims of the Codex that the Codex Alimentarius Commission is the respected worldwide body it is today. I want to thank Mr. Kermode for all he has done for Codex and to wish him a happy and long retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to wish his successor Dr. Malik of FAO every success in his new assignment.

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APPENDIX III

REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
TO THE OPENING ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO

Mr. Director-General,

It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to express, on behalf of all the Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, our thanks to you for having been kind enough to open this the Sixteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

I join with you, Sir, in extending a warm welcome to all participants at this session, particularly to those who are participating at a session of the Commission for the first time. Once again our sincere thanks and appreciation must go to the Geneva Cantonal authorities for their generosity in making available to us the excellent facilities of this International Conference Centre.

Before talking about the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its activities, I join with you, Sir, in paying tribute to Mr. Graham Kermode, the former Chief of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, who has very recently retired. Mr. Kermode has devoted more than 20 years of his life to the Codex ideal and has done a great job in building up the Codex programme from its inception. As I understand that he is around, I intend inviting him to say a few words to the Commission later in the morning. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate his successor Dr. Raj Malik and to wish him every success in his new post.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission continues to grow in membership and, I believe, in importance. As you will be hearing later this morning, seven more countries - all developing countries - have become members of the Commission since our last session in Rome two years ago. So far as the importance of the Commission's work is concerned, you only have to look at the agenda for this session to see what a range of subject matters of wide interest - some of them highly topical - are being dealt with by this Commission. But probably the best confirmation of the importance of the Commission's work is the large number of countries and international organizations which attend sessions of the Commission and the size of some of the delegations. But it is not only at sessions of the Commission that we see a large attendance. Many Codex Committees are also attended by a large number of countries and international organizations.

Many volumes of the Codex Alimentarius have now been published and sent to governments. Most, if not all, of you will be aware of the contents of these volumes, so I do not think it is necessary for me to go into specifics at this time. In any event, we shall be hearing more about the present position as regards the publication of the Codex Alimentarius under an early item of the agenda. What I do want to say, Sir, is what you

have so rightly emphasized: the Codex Alimentarius Commission has produced and continues to produce valuable recommendations of interest to all governments and industry. The standards, maximum limits for pesticide residues, codes of hygienic and technological practice and the recommendations and guidelines concerning food additives, labelling and other topics - all negotiated internationally in Codex fora - constitute a sound basis for national food legislation everywhere and should be of particular value to developing countries in building up their national food control systems. This material is also of great value to the food industry as a basis for maintaining the most efficient technological practices. The output of the Codex Alimentarius Commission has, I believe, great potential as an instrument for reducing health risks in food, with its attendant socio-economic benefits, and also as an instrument for removing technical barriers to trade.

I used the word "potential", Mr. Director-General, because I share your concern that more needs to be done by the member countries to implement the Codex recommendations. The Codex Alimentarius now exists, the product of years of patient effort and negotiation. Some countries have done a lot to implement the Codex Alimentarius, but others I am afraid, do not appear to have done very much as yet, speaking very frankly. This is a topic to which we should all attach the highest importance and we shall be considering under one of our agenda items how to improve the situation.

You mentioned, Sir, the matter of the safety of food packaging material and you expressed the hope that the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be able to provide leadership in this field. I have no doubt but that the Commission will be able, in due course, to make recommendations concerning the control of food packaging materials. For this purpose, however, it will be necessary to have continuing advice from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and inputs from the industry and from organizations which already have done some work in this field.

As you will no doubt be aware, Sir, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is being called upon at this session to give leadership in another important field which is of worldwide interest and which has both health and trading implications. I refer to the topic of residues of veterinary drugs in food and to the fact that a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on this subject has recommended that the Codex Alimentarius Commission establish a new Codex Committee to deal with this topic.

You made several other interesting comments, Sir, about such topics as the Codex codes of hygienic practice and the need for more simplified methods of analysis. These remarks will, I am sure, have been noted with particular interest by those countries which host the Codex committees working in these fields. In the area of simplified methods of analysis, I know that some work has already been initiated, for example for detecting pesticide residues in food and I hope this work can be extended to other areas.

I was very pleased to hear you refer appreciately, Mr. Director-General, to the efforts of the Regional Codex Coordinating Committees to promote food safety. The protection of the consumer against possible

health hazards in foods is, of course, a main objective of the entire Codex programme. The Codex Alimentarius Commission attaches particular importance to the needs and concerns of developing countries and one only has to look at the agendas and reports of many Codex committees to see the increased emphasis being laid on standards and codes of practice for products of interest to developing countries. The Regional Coordinating Committees in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are doing a lot Mr. Director-General to promote food safety. I know, because since the last session of the Commission I have taken particular care to attend meetings of each of the three Coordinating Committees, in order to have a better appreciation of the problems of the regions, through listening to the discussions and talking to the delegates. The Regional Codex Coordinating Committees are, in my opinion, Sir, an excellent platform for propagating the views and recommendations of WHO and its expert committees concerning the serious socio-economic consequences of not giving enough attention to the extent of illness caused by contaminated food. Like you, Sir, I also see the Regional Coordinating Committees as having an important role to play in stimulating greater awareness and more action at the national level in the area of food safety and food control and increased cooperation in this field between the countries of the regions concerned and also between them and WHO and FAO. We shall be discussing the very important topic of the role of Codex in the promotion of primary health care during the course of the session. Before leaving the subject of the Regional Coordinating Committees, I would just like to say that I agree with you that the holding of WHO/PAHO workshops on food safety immediately before the two most recent sessions of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean has been very helpful in making the wide range of Codex activities better known. I may add that these workshops have also helped to boost attendance at the Coordinating Committee sessions. I would agree with you, Sir, that similar workshops would be beneficial also in Africa, Asia and Europe. Having said this, I would not like to overlook the fact that a meeting of developing countries in Asia was held immediately before the last session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia to consider pesticide residue problems in the region. This meeting was very kindly hosted by the Government of Thailand and developed some important recommendations.

Although the Codex Alimentarius Commission places special emphasis on the needs and concerns of developing countries, it must always be remembered that the work of the Commission is for the benefit of all Member Nations of FAO and WHO. Every country can benefit from participation in Codex work. The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the recognized international forum for dealing with a wide variety of matters related to food safety. It is a forum which brings the regulatory officials, the representatives of the food industry and the voice of the consumer together. It is an authoritative forum which many countries look to for advice and guidance in the area of food control. But it is more than that: it is also the recognized international forum for dealing with technical barriers to trade arising from diverse national food legislations or with diverse national approaches to problems which could result in non-tariff barriers to trade.

I believe that the work of the Commission and the benefits to be derived from participation in that work need to be publicised to a greater extent than has been the case up to now. This view was also expressed in the Executive Committee, and I hope, therefore, that the Secretariat will think about this and see what can be done to make our work better known.

We were pleased to hear you say, Mr. Director-General, that the World Health Organization, in collaboration with FAO, continues to be deeply involved and interested in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We know very well, Sir, that the World Health Assembly recognizes the importance of the contribution of the Codex programme to the social goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. On the FAO side, you, Sir, and the Members of the Commission may be interested to know that FAO's Committee on Agriculture recommended, at its Eighth Session held in Rome in March of this year, that, under its standing agenda item Food and Nutrition, it should discuss at its next session in 1987 the "Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health". Another item which may be of interest is that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted an important resolution on consumer protection which supports the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

It only remains for me to join with you in expressing sincere thanks, on behalf of all of us, to those Member Governments who so generously host our Codex Committees and to thank you, Sir, for your good wishes to me in this my first Session as Chairman.

Before concluding, however, I have some sad news to bring to the attention of the Commission. Since our last session, the Codex Coordinator for Asia, Professor Bhumiratana of Thailand - known to his friends as Professor Amon - passed away. Professor Amon was active in Codex work from the early days of the Commission. He brought a wealth of experience of the problems of developing countries to bear on the Commission's deliberations and on the deliberation in other Codex fora. He was a man who combined great knowledge with great modesty. He also had a very good sense of humour. All in all he was a great character, and the Codex will miss him. I and many others will miss him also as a friend. I would ask you all to rise and to observe a minute's silence in memory of Professor Bhumiratana.

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APPENDIX IV

Farewell Address by Mr. G.O. Kermode, former Chief FAO/WHO

Food Standards Programme

It is a sad occasion for me to address the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the last time from the Secretariat. It has been a great privilege to have been head of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for more than twenty years. During that period I have attended all the sessions of the Commission and have seen its Membership grow from zero to 129 countries, representing more than 95 percent of the world's population.

Several landmarks in the Commission's history come to mind. The first session when the rules of procedure, work priorities and programme of work were established. The willingness and effectiveness of Members in hosting Codex Committees has demonstrated a sound and efficient means of organizing intergovernmental meetings. The adoption of the Commission's first food standard some time later. Even later the first governmental acceptance of standards from the Republic of Argentina, thanks to our colleague and friend Ing Jorge Piazzi, which started rolling the ball of acceptances. Other notable recollections are those of the different styles of presidency by the Chairmen of the Commission. All contributed greatly to the development of progress and a harmonious atmosphere in the Commission.

Many times over the years participants at Codex meetings have asked what is the value of both FAO and WHO being involved in the Commission's activities. The reply is constant. The programme receives from both organizations a wealth of technical and professional support. Moreover it enables the Membership of the Commission to be greater than if only the Member States of one Agency were involved.

I would also like to say that although I have been involved with many other international governmental and non-governmental organizations over the years the atmosphere of constructiveness, cooperation and amity in the Codex Alimentarius Commission is perhaps unique. This, in large measure, is due to the widely accepted objectives of the protection of the health of the consumer and the promotion of freer trade internationally in foods. This consensus embraces representatives of government, consumer associations and trade and industry interests. This consensus is demonstrated not only within delegations but among delegations.

Finally I go into retirement from the UN System knowing confidently that your Commission will continue to go from strength to strength. The Programme will be in good hands in the Joint Secretariat. In thirty years of service as a national and international civil servant I have never worked with such enthusiastic, professional and dedicated colleagues and friends as in your Secretariat. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Director-General of WHO for your kind words and good wishes. I wish to reciprocate these to you all and will continue to follow the Commission's activities with great interest.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

AFRICA

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

ASIA

41. Bahrain
42. Bangladesh
43. Burma
44. China, People's Republic of
45. Democratic Kampuchea
46. India
47. Indonesia
48. Iran
49. Iraq
50. Japan
51. Jordan
52. Korea, People's Dem. Rep. of
53. Korea, Rep. of
54. Kuwait
55. Lebanon
56. Malaysia
57. Nepal
58. Oman, Sultanate of
59. Pakistan
60. Philippines
61. Qatar
62. Saudi Arabia
63. Singapore
64. Sri Lanka
65. Syria
66. Thailand
67. United Arab Emirates
68. Viet-Nam
69. Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of

EUROPE

70. Austria
71. Belgium
72. Bulgaria
73. Cyprus
74. Czechoslovakia
75. Denmark
76. Finland
77. France
78. Germany, Fed. Rep. of
79. Greece
80. Hungary
81. Iceland
82. Ireland
83. Israel
84. Italy
85. Luxembourg
86. Malta
87. Netherlands
88. Norway
89. Poland
90. Portugal
91. Romania
92. Spain
93. Sweden
94. Switzerland
95. Turkey
96. United Kingdom
97. U.S.S.R.
98. Yugoslavia

LATIN AMERICA

99. Argentina
100. Barbados
101. Bolivia
102. Brazil
103. Chile
104. Colombia
105. Costa Rica
106. Cuba
107. Dominican Republic
108. Ecuador
109. El Salvador
110. Grenada
111. Guatemala
112. Guyana
113. Haiti
114. Jamaica
115. Mexico
116. Nicaragua
117. Panama
118. Paraguay
119. Peru
120. Suriname
121. Trinidad and Tobago
122. Uruguay
123. Venezuela

NORTH AMERICA

124. Canada
125. U.S.A.

SOUTH-WEST
PACIFIC

126. Australia
127. Fiji
128. New Zealand
129. Samoa

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APPENDIX VI

RESOLUTION OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COORDINATING
COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION 1/

The Coordinating Committee,

- having considered document CX/AFRO 83/13 on Food Safety and Human Health and also a summary report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety, Geneva 1983;
- recognizing the essential role of safe food for reaching the social target of Member States and WHO, namely, Health for all by the Year 2000;
- recognizing the fact that food-borne diseases, often in the form of acute diarrhoea, contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality rates, especially in developing countries;
- recognizing the fact that the great public health significance of food-borne diseases is often insufficiently appreciated by health authorities; and
- recognizing the vast economic losses and the great social consequences due to contamination of food;

1. RECOMMENDS that National Governments:

- (a) assess national needs for the further development of food safety;
- (b) develop food safety as an integral part of the primary health care delivery system as well as the food production and distribution system; persons working in these programmes should be informed about the role of food as an important vehicle of diarrhoeal and other diseases and about appropriate intervention measures;
- (c) develop an effective system for coordination and collaboration of food safety between responsible ministries and other authorities;

2. REQUESTS FAO and WHO to continue to support Governments in developing and improving integrated national food safety programmes by:

- (a) cooperating in the assessment of national needs;
- (b) cooperating in elaborating national action plans aimed at reducing food-borne morbidity and mortality as well as food losses;

3. REQUESTS countries as well as FAO and WHO to report to the next Session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on progress made in implementing the provisions contained in this Resolution.

1/ Endorsed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (see paras. 320-321)

