this office should be established on January 1, 1949, after a meeting of European Members of WHO.

Delegates from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India and Siam agreed to meet in New Delhi in October 1948, to discuss the establishment of the Southeast Asia regional organization and programs for raising the health standards in individual countries of the area.4

The existing Sanitary Bureau at Alexandria, which is to be integrated with WHO, is to serve as the WHO regional organization in the Eastern Mediterranean area.

The American area is to be served by the Pan American Sanitary Organization, which is to be incorporated as the WHO regional organization when fourteen of its 21 members have ratified the WHO Constitution.5 The WHO regional organization for the Americas is to co-operate with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America to ensure that adequate health measures are provided in the area concurrently with economic development. Similar co-operation is to be carried out by WHO with other regional United Nations organizations.

D. ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1947

The Interim Commission held three sessions during this period, in July and in November 1946, and during 1947 from March 31 to April 12.

On October 16, 1946, the Interim Commission assumed the responsibilities of the Health Organization of the League of Nations concerned with biological standardization and epidemiological reporting. In April 1947 it began operating the Singapore Epidemiological Intelligence Station. The epidemiological services of UNRRA in connection with the International Sanitary Conventions of 1944 for maritime and aerial navigation were transferred to the Interim Commission on December 1, 1946. Numerous technical responsibilities of the Office international d'hygiène publique, relating to the administration and revision of existing sanitary conventions, were also taken over by the Interim Commission.

As a result of the transfer of UNRRA's health activities in Europe as from January 1, 1947, and in the Far East as from April 1, the Interim Commission continued field service programs in Austria, Byelorussian S.S.R., China, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. These services included funds for fellowships, visiting lecturers, and the acquisition of medical literature, as well as mission operations in Greece and Italy for the control of tuberculosis and malaria, and in China and Ethiopia to deal with special health problems in those countries.

Other activities undertaken by the Interim Commission before July 1, 1947, included, inter alia, preparatory work in connection with the international lists of diseases and causes of death, and special studies on venereal diseases, infant mortality and biological standardization.

E. ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 1, 1947, TO SEPTEMBER 21, 1948

During this period the Interim Commission held three sessions: its fourth, from August 30 to September 13, 1947; its fifth, from January 22 to February 7, 1948; and its sixth and final session, from June 18 to 23, 1948. At its fifth session, the Interim Commission felt assured that the required number of states would shortly accept the WHO Constitution, and therefore decided to convene the first World Health Assembly in Geneva on June 24, 1948.

The Health Assembly met in Geneva from June 24 to July 24, 1948. It elected the states to designate the members of the Executive Board, which then held its first session in Geneva, from July 16 to 26, 1948.

On the nomination of the Executive Board, the

4 This organization was established in New Delhi on January 1, 1949.
5 This condition was fulfilled early in 1949.